

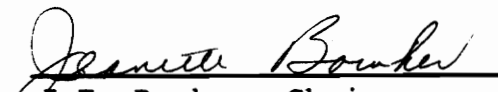
THE MARTHA WASHINGTON INN 1830-1983  
A DOCUMENTED HISTORY WITH ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTIONS/

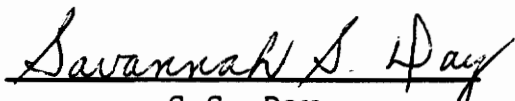
by

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Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
MASTER OF SCIENCE  
in  
Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management

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March, 1985

Blacksburg, Virginia

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by

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Committee Chairperson: Jeanette E. Bowker  
Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management

(ABSTRACT)

It was the purpose of this study to develop a documented history of the structures of the Martha Washington Inn. The study also sought to answer specific questions posed by the Virginia Landmarks Commission and the management of the Martha Washington Inn concerning the construction, and the historical and architectural significance of the structures.

The history includes the purpose for which the buildings were constructed, how the buildings were utilized, and detailed architectural descriptions. The history was developed through examination of both primary and secondary sources. These sources included minutes of organizations, personal journals, deeds, wills, genealogies, published memoirs, and a bill of work. The architectural descriptions were developed through readings in architectural history, historic photographs and illustrations, and direct observation.

The history of the Martha Washington Inn, as developed within this study, is comprised of two basic parts; historical background and architectural descriptions. The history contains information specifically requested by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the management of the Inn. The information can be used for application to state and national landmarks registers, as well as for promotional purposes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge Dr. Jeanette Bowker, major professor, for her guidance and encouragement in the development of the degree program and thesis. Her contributions and understanding are greatly appreciated. The assistance and suggestions of committee members Dr. Savannah Day, Professor of Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management, and Dr. George Shackelford, Professor of History, are also appreciated.

Mrs. Margaret Davis of the Washington County Historical Society, and Miss Mary Preston Gray, descendant of the Preston family, merit a special thanks for their untiring interest in this study, and their invaluable assistance in the location of sources.

Finally, the author wishes to thank her family for their continued support and encouragement. Without the assistance of her parents, Harold and Carol VanHook, and her husband, Gary Hall, this study could not have been completed.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In 1966, national preservation policy was established through the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Congress declared "that the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people" (Fowler, 1980, p.5). Prior to the passage of this legislation, a comprehensive preservation program at the national level did not exist. Previous legislation had been designed merely to inspire patriotism, and included the 1906 Antiquities Act and the Historic Sites Act of 1935. Specifically, the 1906 Act extended protection to antiquities and most prehistoric and Indian burial sites located on Federal property. In addition, the act allowed the President to establish national monuments on portions of the public domain. The legislation passed in 1935 established a program for identifying, enhancing, and preserving national historic sites.

The passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 provided "... the basis for the bulk of the administrative apparatus, protective devices, and financial incentives employed by the government to carry out the

national historic preservation policy" (Fowler, 1980, p. 7). Contained within this Act are all the elements of today's national preservation programs.

Since the passage of the 1966 legislation, the historic preservation movement has undergone a shift in focus and interpretation. Today, "historic preservation" has become a catchall phrase for activities that can be variously classified as preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation. It is the concept of rehabilitation, also commonly referred to as recycling, renovation, and adaptive reuse, which best fits the directive of preserving historical and cultural foundations "as a living part" of our communities. As defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (1977), rehabilitation is "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use" (p. 22).

In The Rise of an American Architecture (Kaufman, 1970), James Biddle and Thomas P. F. Hoving indicate that preservationists are "no longer merely content to enshrine pieces of the past ..." (p. v), but are instead utilizing preservation as a tool for shaping the total environment. They write that cities all across the United States are recognizing the aesthetic and economic contributions provided by historic structures adapted for use as homes,

restaurants, offices and other businesses. Carol M. Rose (1981), in her article on concepts and legislation in preservation, also comments upon the increasing numbers of rehabilitated historical buildings. The author writes that this trend in historic preservation "... stresses the sense of place that older structures lend to a community, giving individuals interest, orientation, and a sense of familiarity in their surroundings" (p. 490). Echoing the same theme, Biddle and Hoving write that landmarks can help provide emotional security and that 20th Century America "must realize that its national past is an indispensable part of its present" (Kaufman, 1970, p. vi).

The Martha Washington Inn is an example of a structure which has been continuously rehabilitated to remain a "living part" of its community. Over its existence of 150 years it has played an active part in both the cultural and economic development of the Abingdon, Virginia area. Located in Washington County and situated on Main Street in Abingdon, the Martha Washington Inn has grown from a single structure to a complex of four interconnecting buildings. The initial structure was erected in 1830-1832 and served as a private residence for General Francis Preston and his family. In 1858, the Preston family house was purchased by the Holston Valley Methodist Conference for the purpose of establishing a school for women. The school, named the

Martha Washington College, remained in operation until 1931 when insufficient funding forced college administrators to close its doors. In 1937 the structures were again put to use, this time as a hotel. Under a series of different owners and managements, the hotel has continued to operate to this date.

By 1980, the Inn was in a state of disrepair and faced the possibility of being closed again. A group of Southwest Virginia businessmen formed a partnership known as Martha's Venture and purchased the Inn. Under new management, extensive rehabilitation efforts were begun. Located within the Abingdon Historic District, the Inn was eligible for rehabilitation tax credits provided in the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

In 1982, the general manager of the Martha Washington Inn, Mr. Ellison Ketchum, expressed a strong interest in obtaining an individual listing for the Inn on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Inquiries were directed to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission (VHLC) and the response indicated that the Inn merited nomination to the Registers. An architectural historian at the VHLC noted that, "In the case of commercial properties such as the Martha Washington Inn, individual recognition that the property has cultural significance often creates wide public interest in the

property which in turn produces great economic benefits" (Mickler, personal communication, April 1982). Preparation of the nomination forms for application to the landmarks registers requires extensive historical and architectural research. This study was initiated as an instrument for completing the necessary research.

Two factors in particular gave direction to the development of this study. First, the application for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places required well documented statements of historical significance and detailed architectural descriptions. Second, architectural historians have placed great emphasis on the societal and cultural forces which existed when particular structures were constructed and/or inhabited. Lewis Mumford (1941) observed that it was not enough to merely describe or duplicate an architectural form, but that it was necessary to understand "the life that once supported it" (p. 14).

#### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was the development of a documented history of the four interconnected structures which comprise the main body of the Martha Washington Inn, in an effort to substantiate the buildings' historical and architectural significance. The history was to include the

purpose for which the buildings of the Martha Washington Inn were constructed, how the buildings were utilized, and detailed architectural descriptions.

With regard to the interests of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the management of the Martha Washington Inn, this study specifically sought to answer the following questions:

- 1) What individuals or companies were responsible for the construction of the buildings of the Martha Washington Inn?
- 2) What factors influenced the design of the Preston Mansion?
- 3) Was the establishment of the Martha Washington College historically significant?

The history of the Martha Washington Inn, as developed in this study, is comprised of two basic parts; historical background and architectural descriptions. The study contains information requested by the management of the Inn, which can be utilized for listing on the landmarks registers.

#### Significance of the Study

The development of this study was significant for the following reasons:

- 1) No comprehensive or documented history of the Martha Washington Inn was available.
- 2) The owner and manager of the Inn desired a comprehensive history for the purpose of informing guests and promoting business.
- 3) Statements of historical significance and architectural descriptions were necessary should the Inn management decide to apply for individual listing on the landmark registers.
- 4) The study would add to the value of the Abingdon Historic District by having the buildings within the district well researched and documented.
- 5) The owner and manager of the Inn were undertaking an additional rehabilitation, and it was important to record the appearance of the Inn before any features were altered or destroyed.

#### Procedure

This investigation included a study of data in records maintained by the Martha Washington Inn. These files were not extensive, and few of the sources were documented.

The Washington County Historical Society and Mary Preston Gray, a descendant of the Preston family, were contacted for assistance in the search for primary and

secondary documents. The search resulted in the location and examination of the following resources.

1. Collections of personal papers. Papers which were examined included the Draper Manuscripts and Preston Papers located at Newman Library, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) Library; the David Campbell Papers at the Emory and Henry University Library; Francis Preston's journal and other family documents owned by Mary Preston Gray of Bristol, Virginia; and, a bill of work/materials for the Preston Mansion. Correspondence with the Filson Club Library in Louisville, Kentucky, indicated that no pertinent information was available in the Joyes and Davie Collections of Preston Papers housed by that library. (See Appendix A.)

2. Minutes of organizations. The Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Martha Washington College were obtained from the WCHS Library. Because this source was kept in a safe, photocopies were made and examined at a later date. The original minutes of the McCabe Lodge and the Holston Valley Methodist Conference were not examined, but excerpts from each were located in secondary sources.

3. School records. The only Martha Washington College records (other than the minutes previously mentioned) which could be located were account books which are in a special collection of the library at Emory and Henry University,

Emory, Virginia. Several years of accounts were missing. The books, in general, listed tuition payments.

4. School memorabilia/publications. Martha Washington College catalogs, yearbooks, and Views (a photograph collection), were found at the Washington County Historical Society Library, the Martha Washington Inn, and through private citizens of Abingdon, Virginia. A number of editions of each were examined, photocopied, and photographed.

5. Newspapers. The two local newspapers, The Abingdon Virginian and The Washington County News, were contacted to ascertain the location of back issues. Microfilm copies of old issues were available at Newman Library, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Copies were obtained and examined. In addition, files of newspaper clippings maintained by the WCHS Library were also examined.

6. Photographs/Illustrations. Extensive collections of photographs at the Inn and the WCHS Library were examined. Pertinent information was recorded, and important photographs and illustrations were copied and included in this thesis.

7. County records. A deed search was conducted on the property of the Martha Washington Inn. When located, the deeds were copied. The wills of both Francis and Sarah Preston were located and copied. An inventory included with

Francis Preston's will was also copied. No inventory was included with Mrs. Preston's will.

8. Census records. The U.S. Census of Virginia for the years 1810-1850 were examined. Pertinent names, dates, and other information was recorded.

9. Interviews. Mary Preston Gray, a descendant of the Preston family, was interviewed. Topics of the interview included the Preston family history, the construction of the Preston house, and the possible location of additional family records. The interview was tape recorded.

In addition to these sources, literature searches were conducted on the topics of architectural history, women's education, and Washington County, Virginia history. Preston family genealogies, biographies, and memoirs were reviewed. To gather details on rehabilitation efforts and application to the landmarks registers, Martha Washington Inn newsletters, rehabilitation records, and correspondence with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission were examined. Architectural descriptions were developed by utilizing architectural histories, architectural style manuals, direct observations, photographs, and illustrations.

As each source was examined, all necessary or available bibliographical information was listed on an inch index card and was filed alphabetically under the category "primary" or "secondary". Any additional information taken from a source

was also recorded on index cards. These cards were properly noted as to the source of the information, and then filed according to the overall outline of the study.

### Organization of the Study

To provide background information pertinent to the history and growth of the Martha Washington Inn, the findings of this study have been organized in the following manner. The first chapter has discussed the purpose, significance, and procedure of the study.

A historical setting is established for the construction of the Preston Mansion in the second and third chapters by including information on early Abingdon, the Preston family, and the mansion's architectural style. An architectural description of the original structure is also included within Chapter Three.

A historical review of women's education and a history of Martha Washington College is included in Chapter Four, while Chapter Five provides a brief history of the Martha Washington Inn from 1932-1983.

In Chapter Six, architectural descriptions are given for the four main structures comprising the Martha Washington Inn, and the final chapter presents the summary, conclusions, and recommendations of this study.

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORICAL SETTING

#### Abingdon

In 1748-1750, Dr. Thomas Walker, a surveyor and explorer for the Loyal Land Company, led one of the first groups of white men into the Valley of the Holston River, into the area now known as Abingdon, Virginia. Dr. Walker surveyed for himself 6870 acres of land, for which he secured a patent in 1753. In the same year, Daniel Boone camped overnight at the location of Abingdon. He and his company were attacked by a pack of wolves and, as a result, he named the spot "Wolf Hills". This name remained until 1774 when a fort was erected on the land of Joseph Black. The community then took the name "Black's Fort" and retained the name for four years, until 1778.

On December 6, 1776, the Virginia Assembly passed an act incorporating the county of Washington. According to Lewis Preston Summers (1939) this was "the first locality in the world named for the great General of the Revolution" (p. 29). Two years later in 1778, Black's Fort was named Abingdon and was chosen as the seat of Washington County. The town's name is believed to be derived from Abingdon Parish, the home of Martha Washington, the wife of General George Washington (Summers, 1939). Summers (1939) described

the town as follows:

This, the first incorporated town west of the Alleghany mountains, for more than two generations was the white man's frontier; and through this community went innumerable hosts of immigrants, through Cumberland Gap to Kentucky, to the west, to Tennessee and the southwest....  
(p. 29)

Abingdon is the oldest incorporated town in Southwest Virginia, and for more than 25 years (1793-1818) it was the home of the westernmost post office in the country. Some citizens even claim that the first brick house west of the Blue Ridge Mountains was constructed in Abingdon in 1803 for William King, a prominent merchant and citizen (Preston, 1900).

A brochure entitled Abingdon, Virginia: 200 Years (Hendricks) notes that in the 1830s Abingdon had almost 200 houses, a male and female academy, 2 hotels, 3 taverns, 9 mercantile houses, and 3 grocers. In addition to goods which were brought from Baltimore by wagon, the citizens could purchase the goods and services of 4 saddle and harness makers, 10 blacksmiths, 6 wagonmakers, 2 cabinet warehouses, 3 bricklayers, 2 stonemasons, 3 house carpenters, 3 jewelers and watchmakers, 2 boot and shoe factories, and 1 hat manufacturer. By 1856, a railroad line had been completed as far as Abingdon.

During its long history, Abingdon suffered three major fires. Most of the town was destroyed by fire in 1812, and

in 1848, what was known as the Craig Addition to the town was burned. During the Civil War, the courthouse and a large part of the town was destroyed by fire during Stoneman's Raid on December 15, 1864.

L. P. Summers (1939) writes that Abingdon in the 1830s was the center of the religious, educational, political, and economic life of the western portion of the state. Both great fortunes and great families were to be found in Abingdon. One of these families was that of General Francis Preston, the gentleman who had constructed the building which is the subject of this study.

#### The Preston Family

On August 2, 1765, Francis Smith Preston was born at his family's estate "Greenfield" in Botetourt County, Virginia (see Figure 1). The son of Colonel William Preston and Susanna Smith Preston, Francis was raised comfortably in the southwestern district of Virginia. His father, William Preston, was a respected member of the military and considered an authority on frontier matters such as land and Indian warfare. A surveyor as a young man, William met another surveyor, George Washington. Their friendship developed as both served as Burgesses in the Virginia Assembly, and continued throughout their lives.

While active in both military and political matters,



Fig. 1. General Francis Smith Preston 1765-1838  
(Photograph from Reminiscences of William C. Preston)

Colonel William Preston continued to expand his land holdings in both Virginia and Kentucky. In 1774, William Preston moved his family to "Smithfield", an estate now in Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia.

Francis Preston spent his youth at the Smithfield and Greenfield estates, and obtained his early education from tutors placed in the home by his father. In November of 1784, at the age of nineteen, Francis Preston traveled to Williamsburg to attend the College of William and Mary and to study law under George Wythe. He was graduated in March of 1787, and returned home to Montgomery County. The following month (April 4, 1787), he was admitted to the bar and began practicing in the counties of Southwest Virginia (Dorman, 1982).

In 1788 and 1789, he served as one of Montgomery County's two members of the Virginia House of Delegates. During this time, he also served as Deputy Commonwealth Attorney and as an agent of the Loyal Land Company. He resigned these positions in 1793, following his marriage on January 10, 1793, to Sarah Buchanan Campbell. Shortly afterward, Preston and his new wife moved to Washington County, Virginia.

Sarah Buchanan Campbell, Preston's new wife, was born April 21, 1778, at "Aspenvale", Smyth County, Virginia (see Figure 2). Sarah was born of a wealthy and respected



Fig. 2. Sarah Buchanan Campbell Preston  
1778-1846  
(Photograph from Reminiscences of William C.  
Preston)

family. Her father, General William Campbell, was a Revolutionary War hero at the battle of King's Mountain. Sarah's mother, Elizabeth Henry Campbell, was a sister to Patrick Henry.

General Campbell died in 1781, when Sarah was only three years old. He left his widow an ample income from several estates. Ownership of "The Salt Works" and over five thousand acres of land in Southwest Virginia devolved upon his only surviving child, Sarah. Originally, the Salt Works had been a marshy, briny lake to which the animals of the wilderness had established trails. The land was later ditched and drained to provide dry land. Owners later dug wells and began the manufacture of salt. This made the property invaluable, for it was the only site for the production of salt in the western portion of the state (Runyon, 1943).

In 1783, Elizabeth Henry Campbell took as her second husband General William Russell. The family remained at Aspenvale until 1788, when they moved to the Salt Works so that General Russell could better manage their development.

In 1789, Colonel Arthur Campbell, Sarah's uncle, requested that the Washington County Court remove Sarah from General Russell's guardianship. Colonel Campbell was concerned about General Russell's harsh discipline of Sarah, and the management of the young girl's inheritance. Captain

Thomas Madison, Sarah's uncle-in-law, was appointed her guardian and she moved to Madison's home in Montgomery County (Runyon, 1941). Four years later, not yet 15 years old, Sarah married Francis Smith Preston, who was 28 years of age.

In December of 1792, the Virginia General Assembly apportioned the Third Congressional District to include Wythe, Greenbriar, Kanahwa, Lee, Russell, Montgomery, Grayson and Washington counties. In March of 1793, Francis Preston was elected to serve as the representative from the district as it was then constituted (Pendleton, 1927). The election campaign was apparently a very close and bitter one. Preston won the election by a majority of only ten votes, and his opponent, Abram Trigg, contested Preston's win. Charges of troops harassing the electors and of sheriffs manipulating the opening and closing of polls to prevent Trigg's supporters from voting were presented to the Election Committee of the House of Representatives. Finally, in April of 1794, this committee reported in favor of unseating Preston. The report was debated by the House for several days and after a final vote was taken, the report of the Election Committee was rejected and Colonel Preston was declared duly seated. The first contested election to the House of Representatives had been resolved (Pendleton, 1927).

Having moved to Philadelphia so that Francis could assume his seat in the House of Representatives, the newlywed couple was received in the home of President and Mrs. George Washington. They also developed a close and continuing friendship with James and Dolley Madison. When the Preston's first child, William, was born, Dolley was the first to hold him because she had helped Sarah at childbirth. In his memoirs, William wrote that his mother, Sarah, had imprinted upon his mind that he was the "first born of a government official at the seat of government" and that Washington had called in order to see "the new born citizen" (Yarborough, 1933, p. 1).

Francis Preston served two terms as the representative of the Third Congressional District. In 1796, he declined re-election and returned with his wife and child to the Salt Works in Washington County. In September of that year he was appointed a justice of the Washington County Court. Two years later, November 21, 1798, Preston was recommended as captain of a company of the Washington County militia. Within another year he was commissioned colonel of the 70th Regiment (Light Infantry) of the county. He was appointed sheriff of Washington County in 1808 (Dorman, 1982).

Two years after his appointment as sheriff of the county, Francis Preston moved his family to Abingdon. However, during the War of 1812, he was lieutenant colonel

of the 5th Regiment of Virginia Militia and was stationed at Norfolk (Dorman, 1982). His wife, Sarah, moved the family back to their previous residence at the Salt Works so that she might be nearer her aged mother, Elizabeth Russell (Gray, 1938). Even while fulfilling military duties, Francis remained active in political affairs. John Frederick Dorman (1982) records that during the session from 1812-1813, Preston represented Washington County in the Virginia House of Delegates, and was absent from his military command from December 21, 1813, to February 20, 1814, while serving a second term in the General Assembly. Shortly afterward, on October 22, 1814, he was elected Brigadier General, and was subsequently commissioned Major General of the Virginia Militia. He served as a member of the state senate from 1817 to 1820. Thomas Lewis Preston (1900), sixth son of Francis and Sarah Preston, wrote that his father's "impressive style of speaking and ability in debate placed him in the front rank among his contemporaries" (p. 134).

Both Thomas Lewis Preston and William C. Preston wrote of their parents, and the influence which Francis and Sarah had upon their lives. Thomas L. Preston (1900), in his book Historical Sketches and Reminiscences of an Octogenarian, describes his father as a fine specimen of manhood, as comfortable in the frontiers of Southwest Virginia, as in

the Congressional sessions in Philadelphia. Thomas believed that his father's strength, manners, and honesty were the basis of his friendships with Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Marshall and others with whom he worked and corresponded.

William C. Preston, the first born son of Francis and Sarah, wrote in his memoirs that his father was a cultured and educated man who maintained a large library. He described his mother as "a lady of beautiful person, a strong mind and a lofty character." He noted also that his mother's manner and wealth tended to segregate the family from the poorer people of the area. Sarah saw to it that her family understood their "position" in life (Yarborough, 1933, pp. 1-2).

Francis Preston and Sarah B. Preston, both strong, wealthy, and cultured individuals in their own right, had a large and illustrious family. The Prestons had 14 children, 4 of whom died in infancy. Dorman (1982) also lists a 15th child, a son, born to Francis Preston in 1793, but not by his wife Sarah. The Preston's children continued the legacy of prominence in the matters of social, financial, and political importance that their parents had established. Among the children were a U.S. senator, a state senator and U.S. general, and the wives of two U.S. generals and three governors. A specific listing of Francis and Sarah Preston's children and their accomplishments, drawn from

Mary Preston Gray's The Family Tree and Francis Preston's personal journal, can be found in Appendix B.

The Preston family was very large and exerted great social, political and economical influence. The head of this illustrious family, Francis Preston, built a house that reflected his prominence and his accomplishments.

## CHAPTER III

### THE PRESTON MANSION

#### Architectural Style

The Preston Mansion was constructed between 1830 and 1832, during a period of national prosperity. A large and pretentious house, the mansion was constructed in an era of overlapping architectural styles. While Greek Revival styles thrived in Northeastern cities, buildings in the South were often constructed in the Federal or Georgian style. For an understanding of the style in which the Preston Mansion was constructed, the following overview of the Federal architectural style has been developed.

Some architectural historians have utilized the end of architect Benjamin Latrobe's career in 1820 to mark the transition from the Federal architectural style to the Greek Revival style (Andrews, 1978). James M. Fitch (1966) asserts that Greek Revival was the dominant architectural style of the period 1820-1840. However, it was dominant only in the North. During this time period, 1820-1840, the cultural center of the nation gravitated from Virginia to Boston, and it was in the North that one looked for advancement in architecture. Fitch theorized that the North became the leader in architecture due to the development of two distinct cultures. The North developed a culture with

strong industrial drive. The South clung to its slavery based culture, and resisted both industrialism and changes to its architectural forms. The Federal style, therefore, maintained its popularity throughout the South.

Historian Wayne Andrews (1978) contends that the Federal Period, from 1776 to 1820, was a time when American architecture "came into its own" (p. 23). According to Carole Rifkind (1980), the clearly defined goal of American architecture was "to bring comfort, dignity, and quality to all classes" (p. 29). Kimball (1928) and Fitch (1966) state the same concept: that all classes were united upon programs of expansion and national reconstruction.

The new American identity demanded an architecture suitable for both the common man and the privileged. Asher Benjamin proclaimed that American architecture must be different from architecture in Europe because "Americans had different materials to work with, less use for decoration, and a need to economize on labor and materials" (Rifkind, 1980, p. 29).

Most architectural guides or reference books pay only modest attention to the societal forces which inspired or coexisted with architectural styles. Instead, they confine themselves to brief discussions of the physical or visual characteristics of particular styles, often relying more on numerous photographs than on written description of the

characteristics. General architectural histories of this variety include: Marcus Whiffen's (1969) American Architecture Since 1780, Wayne Andrews' (1960) Architecture in America: A Photographic History from the Colonial Period to the Present, G.E. Kidder Smith's (1976) A Pictorial History of Architecture in America, and John J.-G. Blumenson's (1981) Identifying American Architecture: A Practical Guide to Styles and Terms 1600-1945.

Through examination of numerous architectural histories and style manuals it becomes obvious that all architectural historians do not utilize the same time references, style characteristics, and/or terminology when developing their works. In A Field Guide to American Architecture, Carole Rifkind (1980), views the Federal style as a refined version of the Georgian style, that developed to meet the demands of "self-made merchants, bankers, traders, and shipbuilders" (p. 29). Rifkind's (1980) descriptions of the materials, plans, and characteristics of Federal style structures concentrate on the external elements.

William H. Pierson (1970) also wrote that few, if any changes occurred in the exteriors of structures from the Georgian style to the Federal style. However, according to Pierson (1970), "the greatest innovations appeared in the interior decoration..." (p. 211). He viewed the Federal style as an interior, rather than an exterior style.

Pierson (1970) viewed the Federal style as part of a broader movement in architecture called Neoclassicism, an archeological movement which stressed function and structure. The Federal style is called the Traditional Phase of American Neoclassicism because it developed from, rather than revolted against, the previous architectural style.

While both Pierson (1970) and Rifkind (1980) utilize the term "Federal style", Virginia and Lee McAlester (1984) classify structures of the period 1780 to 1820 as Adam. The McAlesters also view this phase of architecture as "a development and refinement of the Georgian style" (p. 158). Architecture of the period drew heavily on the work of the Adams brothers, who had one of the largest architectural practices in Britain. As a result of the Adams' influence, the Federal style is viewed as the American phase of the English Adam style. The McAlesters (1984), therefore, refer to it simply as the Adam style. The following description of a Federal/Adam style structure has been compiled from a variety of sources, many mentioned previously.

Most high style and/or urban Federal structures were built of brick, commonly utilizing flemish bond. When brick was not used, structures were covered with overlapping clapboard or smooth-filled matchboard, and were painted white or pastel colors. Brass and iron were used in

combination for hardware; the hardware being more delicate than during the preceding period. The fence and/or iron rail were used as decorative features.

The most elaborate dwellings consisted of a central block with flanking wings. This is particularly true of Federal style structures in the South. When the structure was freestanding, the long side of the rectangular plan faced the street and featured a central entrance. When the structure was located within a row, the short side faced the street and the entrance was to one side. The interiors began to show more variety in the size, location, and shape of the rooms. The oval or elliptical shape could have appeared as a stair hall or projecting bay, and was considered a hallmark of the Federal style.

In Federal structures, the doorway was typically wide and tall. It usually had an elliptical fanlight, and was flanked by sidelights. There might have been a portico with a complete classical order. Surfaces were treated as being thin and featured shallow projections of refined proportions.

The hipped roof was characteristic of Federal Period dwellings. Roofs were tall in the South for coolness, and in New England tended to be low and concealed by a balustrade. The cornice projected just slightly from the eaves with moldings reduced in size and scale from the

previous period. Chimneys were rectangular in shape, smaller than in previous styles, and usually located on end walls.

Window openings were spacious and were sometimes set within a recessed arch. Window lights were larger and muntins were slender. Lintels were often cut stone, having splayed ends and projecting keystones. As an alternative, windows were sometimes capped by an entablature.

The architectural style of the Preston Mansion, the original structure of the Martha Washington Inn, can be variously classified depending upon the author or architectural history consulted. A comparison of these various classifications is made in the chart on page 44.

#### The Original Structure

Although the Preston family had resided alternately in Abingdon and at the Salt Works for several years, it was not until approximately 1830 that Francis Preston had their mansion home built just outside the Abingdon town limits. When it was completed in 1832, the Prestons and their unmarried children resided there. According to Lewis Preston Summers (1939), "It was the most pretentious and handsome residence in all of the western country at that time, and was built at great cost, even by modern standards" (p. 35).

In speaking of Francis Preston, the Reverend David Robinson Preston said, "His hospitable dwelling was ever open, not only to friends, but the distinguished and worthy stranger was sure of a welcome" (Gray, 1938, p. 14). Being a politically prominent family, the Prestons entertained such important travellers in Southwest Virginia as President Andrew Jackson (Campbell Papers, 1781-1890). Conversations with Mary Preston Gray, a descendant of the Preston family, revealed her belief that many important individuals visited the Preston household, and that this, in part, accounted for the "good marriages" of the Preston daughters (Gray, 1983).

Only three years after moving into his fine new home, General Francis Preston died on May 26, 1835, while visiting his son, William Campbell Preston, in Columbia, South Carolina. Preston left his entire estate to his wife, Sarah (Washington Co., Va., Will Book 7, pp. 63-64). An inventory of the estate, completed on August 29, 1835, showed a valuation of \$22,731. This included a total of 41 slaves valued at almost \$14,000 (Washington Co., Va., Will Book 7, pp. 66-67).

Sarah Preston continued to reside in the family mansion with the two children of her deceased daughter, Maria, and her widowed daughter, Sarah B. Floyd. Upon Mrs. Preston's death on July 23, 1846, her will directed the Abingdon mansion and half her furnishings to her son Thomas Lewis

Preston (Washington Co., Va., Will Book 10, pp. 126-132). Mrs. Preston's daughter, Sarah B. Floyd, continued to reside in the house until 1858 when Thomas Preston sold the property to the trustees of the Martha Washington College (Gray, 1938, p. 13).

When constructed in 1832, the Preston Mansion and its dependencies cost \$14,986.68. This cost estimate is taken from two sources. One of these sources is a bill of work and materials believed to have been drawn up by a Mr. William Rodefer (Bill of work/materials, c. 1832). A second document, drawn up by George Winniford and H.M. Ledbetter is a valuation of the materials in the house and outbuildings, and a compilation of all the bills for the house. It is the second document which lists the final cost at almost \$15,000 (Valuation, c. 1832).

The origin of the above mentioned documents is not known. Photocopies were found in a file located at the Martha Washington Inn. The bill of work and materials is a room by room listing of the materials and their cost. For example, one line would list three locust door frames and one locust window frame at a total cost of \$9.75. Materials such as architrave, lintels, doors, locks, blinds, flooring, joists, staircases, and cloakstrips are all included within the bill.

The valuation document, developed by Winniford and

Ledbetter, is headed by the statement "A bill of work not measured by us, but charged by Mr. Rodefer as extra, for which we think he is entitled to pay." This document compiled the costs for each room and established a total cost, corrected for errors in the bill of work. A copy of both documents is included in Appendix C.

William Rodefer was a carpenter and operated a carpentry shop in Abingdon which he and others utilized (Cosby, 1971). The U.S. Census for the state of Virginia lists a William Rhodefer {sic} living in Abingdon in the year 1830. There were 3 males in the household listed as between the ages of 20 and 30, and 1 male between 15 and 20 years of age. In 1840, the census lists no family by the name of Rodefer or Rhodefer in Abingdon or Washington County. There were, however, two men listed under the name Rodeheifer; William and Samuel. In the following census, in 1850, the spelling is again changed and reads as Rodifer. There was no listing for William Rodifer, but Emanuel (age 30), Jacob (age 27), and John (age 18), were all listed as carpenters.

The valuation by Winniford and Ledbetter indicated that William Rodefer procured and dried the lumber for the Preston Mansion at a cost of \$500. The valuation also indicates that Rodefer was entitled to payment for all the materials and work listed. It is therefore, reasonable to

assume that he was responsible for the construction of the house.

A second individual who could have been involved in the construction of the Preston Mansion was a man named Francis Irby. Mr. Irby was a carpenter who in 1795 constructed an addition to the Preston house at the Salt Works. Thomas Lewis Preston (1900) noted that Irby was an inmate of the Preston family for nearly 40 years. The 1830 U.S. Census for Washington County, Virginia listed Francis Irby. His age was recorded as between 60 and 70 years. Therefore, it may be unlikely that he had a major responsibility in the Preston Mansion construction.

A description of the Preston house as it was originally constructed follows. The costs of some of its important architectural features have been included.

#### Architectural Description

The original building of the Martha Washington Inn complex was constructed in 1830-1832, as a private residence for General Francis Preston and his wife, Sarah Buchanan Campbell Preston (see Figure 3). The Preston home was of Federal style with a symmetrical facade. The original structure had two full stories above a raised basement. An additional passageway and two small rooms were located in the attic. The house was built of brick, the north facade

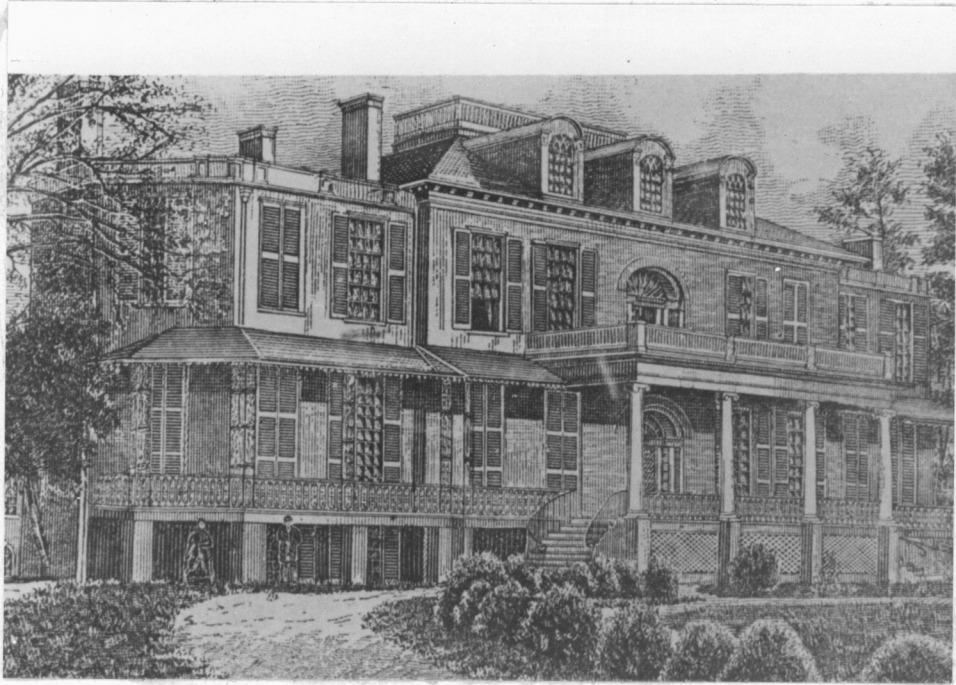
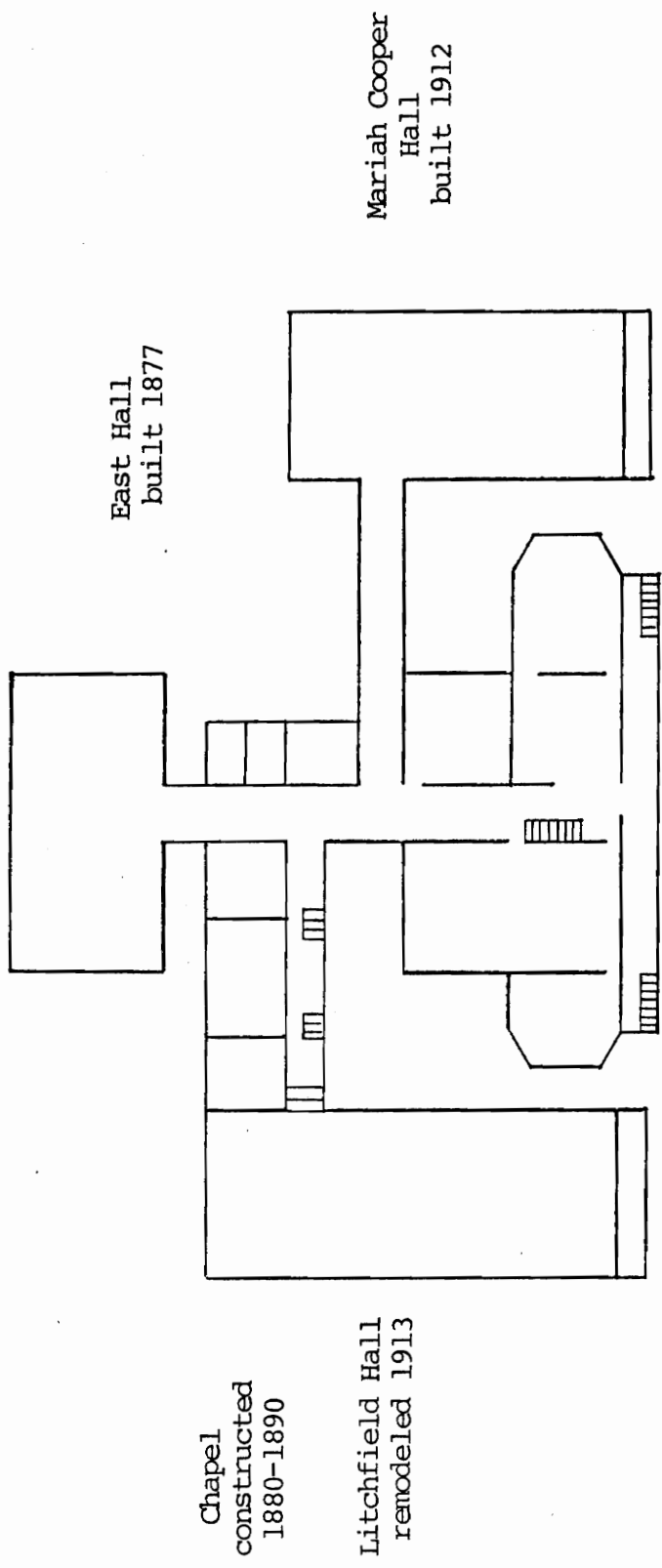


Fig. 3. Preston Mansion c. 1880 (Photograph courtesy of Martha Washington Outlook).



Preston Mansion  
1830-1832

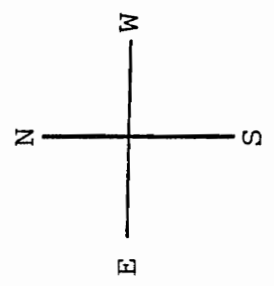


Fig. 4. Basic Floor Plan -  
Martha Washington Inn

of flemish bond and the south facade of common bond. The structure had a modest hipped roof capped with a balustrade or a "widow's walk". Access was available to the widow's walk from the attic passage. This detail was documented in the bill of work for the Preston house which listed "1 stare case to the top of the house" valued at \$40. Three narrow dormers with semicircular arched windows and pediments projected from both the front and rear roof. The projecting roof cornice was decorated with low modillions.

The central block of the building projected out slightly from the east and west wings, which were structured octagonally (see Figure 4). The front porch roof was supported by four ionic columns and capped by a wooden balustrade. Curving steps led from the porch down to ground level. A veranda continued from the wider front porch across the north facade of the building.

A distinctive feature of the Preston residence is the broad paneled double door entrances located on the first and second stories. Listed as "Venetian doors" on the bill of work, their cost was \$100 apiece (see Figures 5 and 6). The entrances were crowned by a wide elliptical fanlight. Engaged ionic columns supported the entablatures upon which rested paneled arches. On each side of the doors were slender multi-paned sidelights. Both doors had brick lintels. The double door entrance on the first level led



Fig. 5. Front Entrance to Preston Mansion. The "Venetian Doors" were originally valued at \$100 each.

Photograph by G. Hall

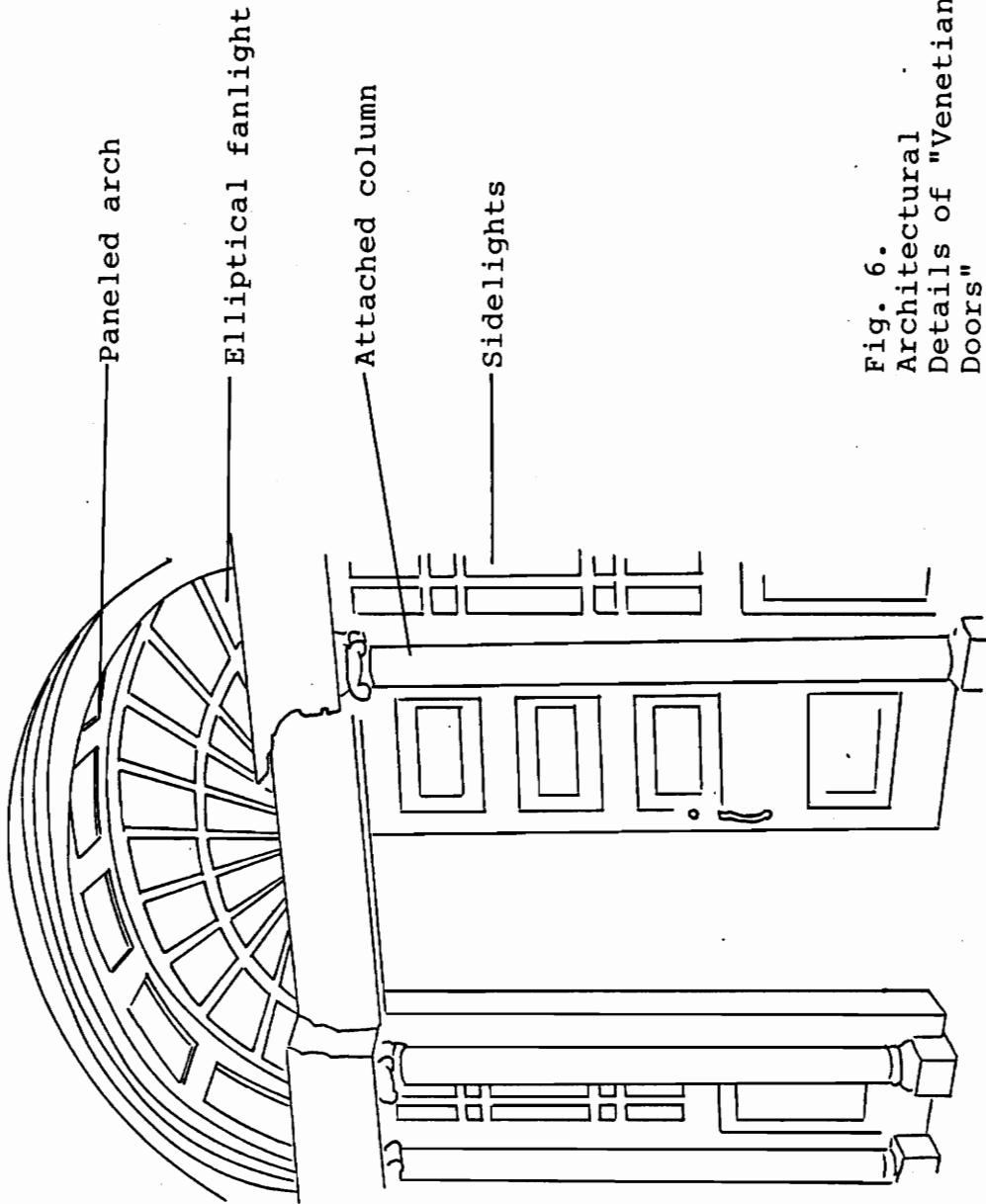


Fig. 6.  
Architectural  
Details of "Venetian  
Doors"

from the porch into the entrance hall. On the second level, the doors opened to allow access to the roof of the porch.

Large triple sash windows were utilized throughout the original Preston house. Like the doors, the windows also had brick lintels. On the first story, the windows had eight "lites" (panes of glass) in the upper sash, over eight lites in the middle sash, over twelve lites in the lower sash (8/8/12). On the second level the windows had eight lites in each sash (8/8/8). Each lite of glass was purchased originally at a cost of 18 to 20 cents.

The interior of the Preston home has been altered as its function has changed from a private residence, to a college, to its present use as an inn. However, many of the original design elements remain intact. One of the most attractive features of the interior of the Preston home is the curving half-turn open well stair that leads from the entrance hall to the upper floor of the building (see Figure 7). The bill of work for the Preston mansion listed the value of the "fine geometrical stare case" with its solid cherry balustrade at \$400. A decorative niche is located in the curving wall of the first landing and is visible from the main entrance. It is not known if this niche is original to the house, however, the bill of work does list "2 nitches at \$13.50 e." within the entrance hall.

On the first floor two large rooms, or parlors ( an



Fig. 7. Entrance hall and staircase of central structure. Staircase was originally valued at \$400.

Photograph by G. Hall

interior and an exterior), opening into one another are located on each side of the entrance hall (in the east and west wings). In the east wing, a set of ceiling to floor "pocket doors" installed in the interior parlor makes it possible to divide this room into two smaller parlors. The exterior parlor reflects the octagonal shape of the building. There are three fireplaces located in the east wing; one in the exterior parlor and two in the interior parlor. All are relatively small and of dark marble. Each has pilasters which support an entablature on which rests the mantle.

In the west wing the interior parlor has a small fireplace without elaborate trim or mantle. The exterior parlor has the octagonal shape of the wing. The fireplace, which is located in the west wall, has simple wooden trim and mantle. On either side of the fireplace are floor to ceiling closets.

Large triple sash windows (8/8/12) starting at floor level are located in all of the first floor parlors (see Figure 8). Folding "interior shutters" are located in the recessed paneled window jambs. Recessed doors and wide entrances have paneled jambs like those of the windows. All doors and window openings have wooden trim utilizing rose corner blocks and plinths. Within the bill of work are also listed pilasters and cloakstrips for nearly every room.



Fig. 8. Triple sash windows (8/8/12) with interior shutters on first floor of Preston Mansion  
Photograph by G. Hall

The chart on page 44 lists a number of the major exterior architectural features of the Preston Mansion. The style of each particular feature is then classified according to the works of three different authors; Carole Rifkind (1980), William H. Pierson (1970), and Lee and Virginia McAlester (1984). This chart illustrates the variety of classifications into which a structure, like the Preston Mansion, can be placed.

The Preston Mansion was a large and imposing structure, built for a large and important family. When it passed from the Preston family, its size and special features made it appropriate for use as a school for women.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE CLASSIFICATION CHART

Features	Rifkind	Pierson	McAllister
1. Elliptical fanlight	Federal	Neo-classic-- Traditional-Federal	Adam (1780-1820, locally ca. 1840)
2. Sidelights (door)	Federal	Neo-classic-- Traditional-Federal	Adam
3. Balustrade (widow's walk)	Federal/Georgian	Neo-classic-- Traditional-Federal	Adam (variant of Georgian)
4. Hipped roof	Federal	Neo-classic-- Traditional-Federal	
5. Modillions	Georgian		Adam (variant of Georgian)
6. Flemish bond brick	Federal		Adam
7. Central block with octagonal projections	Federal		Adam (variant)
8. Dormers (semicircular windows)			
9. Curving stairs to ground	Federal		Georgian (1700- 1780, locally ca. 1830)
10. Brick lintels	Georgian (1735- 1790)		
11. Triple sash windows			

Fig. 9. Architectural Style Chart

## CHAPTER IV

### MARTHA WASHINGTON COLLEGE

#### Women's Education in America

It occurred to me that woman, having received from her creator the same intellectual constitution as man, has the same right as man to intellectual culture and development.

Mathew Vassar (Newcomer, 1959)

Prior to the Revolutionary War, the American woman was generally viewed as intellectually inferior to her male counterpart. Frederick Rudolph (1962) writes that the female was considered "incapable, merely by reason of being a woman, of great thoughts. Her faculties were not worth training. Her place was in the home, where man had assigned her a number of useful functions" (pp. 307-308).

Following the Revolution, the American public strove to establish a national culture and way of life. A Philadelphia physician, Benjamin Rush, recognized the importance of the American woman's role in the shaping and nurturing of the nation. This, he believed, required that a more substantial education be made available to the American female, and he supported his views with the following arguments. (1) American women married early, leaving limited time for their education. (2) American men desired educated wives to help them take advantage of the numerous opportunities which this new country offered. (3) American

fathers were more frequently absent from home in their efforts to advance in life. This placed greater responsibility upon the mother for the education of her children. (4) American women were more responsible for the domestic duties of their households than were their British counterparts. They needed a greater emphasis on domestic studies (Rudolph, 1962).

Thomas Woody (1929) writes that Rush's enthusiasm for an education suited to the unique needs of the American female might have spurred the rapid growth of educational institutions for women in the United States. He notes that the years between 1750 and 1850 witnessed a great change in attitude towards women's education promoted by staunch supporters like Emma Willard and Catherine Beecher. Individuals like Rush, Willard, and Beecher spoke out for "a more substantial education for girls" to better prepare them for their responsibilities in the home (Woody, 1929, p. 303).

As a result of the newly developing ideas for education of women, small private schools for females began to appear upon the American landscape. Mabel Newcomer (1959) notes that prior to 1820, very few private schools for females existed, and that only six were incorporated in the period 1790-1820. She writes that these schools often offered classes in painting, music, elocution, and occasionally

French. The schools did at least insure literacy, and some exposure to science.

During the following thirty year period, 1820-1850, nearly 200 schools for women were established. Emma Willard founded a seminary in Troy, New York, in 1821, and seven years later, in 1828, Catherine Beecher founded her school in Hartford, Connecticut. Woody (1929) observed that through the promotion of a "new ideal of women's education", by individuals like Catherine Beecher and Benjamin Rush, a great movement in the establishment of academies and seminaries had begun (p. 329). He noted that one school was not more important than the other; merely that "academy" was a preferred name in the early stages, while "seminary" was utilized more commonly during the later years.

The growth of the female seminary movement continued at a rapid pace and many young ladies rushed to take advantage of the opportunity for a more liberal education. For nearly three quarters of a century, few found fault with the schools and programs which were available. Eventually, however, criticism of the seminaries and academies did arise. The critics fell into two groups: (1) individuals who wanted to completely reform the seminary, and (2) those who favored the establishment of new institutions for women. The first group did not desire a college education for females, but they did want the seminary to teach

"substantial" subjects, rather than accomplishments. This group was lead by Emma Willard. The second group, which was led by Catherine Beecher, wanted "an institution which would imitate the men's colleges" (Woody, 1929, p. 138). The idea of the female college gained importance and stature through criticism of the female seminary.

By 1850, with secondary education available in academies and/or seminaries, the colleges were better enabled to compete with seminaries and to establish programs of collegiate study more similiar to what was offered in men's colleges. Woody (1929) writes that this was, however, difficult to achieve because so many colleges found it necessary to provide preparatory departments.

A major problem in determining the exact rise and establishment of the "female college" movement has been the lack of regulations concerning the use of the title "college". Mable Newcomer (1959) writes that although higher education for women began in the first half of the nineteenth century, it is impossible to determine the earliest schools due to fragmented records and the lack of standards in the days prior to government officials and accrediting agencies. E. W. Thompson (1947) writes that many seminaries were often called colleges, "college" being a courtesy title. Thomas Woody (1929) stated that early colleges were often colleges in name only, existing

basically as seminaries. For the year 1855, the American Almanac of Useful Knowledge listed the Wesleyan College of Macon, Georgia as the one female college in the United States (Thompson, 1947).

The growth of women's education continued, and by 1855, attempts to create colleges for young women had been made in all sections of the United States. Many of these colleges for women, and for men as well, were often sponsored by the church and/or community. Though generally deficient in admission standards or degree requirements, or both, "they probably compared favorably with many of the numerous institutions accepted as of college status at the time" (Newcomer, 1959, p. 11). The problems with which women's colleges were faced were common to all colleges of the period. However, these problems generally plagued women's colleges to a much greater degree. The largest obstacles to be overcome were insufficient preparatory education and insufficient funding.

Most colleges were forced to operate preparatory departments for two basic reasons. First, college admission requirements were neither regulated nor well defined. Second, academies and seminaries provided varied standards of preparation. In 1870, of 140 institutions reporting to the Commissioner of Education, 114 were operating preparatory departments (Newcomer, 1959).

Financial problems plagued all colleges, even the older, well established men's schools. Newcomer (1959) states that just prior to the Civil War, so many colleges were founded that the preparatory schools could not provide enough students, and as a result, many colleges failed entirely. This was a result of competition between churches, and to a degree, competition of communities. The founding of a college within a community was sometimes seen as an economic asset. But in most cases, neither the churches nor the communities could provide adequate funding for new colleges.

The first woman's college to be generally accepted as equal to those of men was Vassar. Women of the Northeast had been encouraged by their admission to coeducational programs at Antioch and Oberlin, but the opening of Vassar greatly increased their sense of accomplishment and advancement. Thompson (1947) wrote that "it was the first college for women not to be known as a 'female college'. Vassar was a victory in nomenclature and in academic standing" (pp. 71-72).

By 1875, over 209 institutions for the education of women had been reported to the Bureau of Education. According to Woody (1929), many of those reporting "were not more than secondary schools; and the vast majority were not equipped to do standard college work" (p. 185). He believed

that there were actually no more than a half dozen acceptable standard colleges in the entire United States.

The 1887-1888 report of the United States Commission of Education defined colleges and universities as "institutions whose admission requirements, standards of instruction, and general organization accord with those that have long been characteristic of colleges of liberal arts" (Lange, 1895, p. xxix). The report listed only nine schools meeting the necessary requirements. These schools were:

Smith College.....	Northhampton, Mass.
Wellesley College.....	Wellesley, Mass.
Wells College.....	Aurora, N.Y.
Elmira College.....	Elmira, N.Y.
Ingham University.....	LeRoy, N.Y.
Rutgers Female College.....	N.Y., N.Y.
Vassar College.....	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Bryn Mawr.....	Bryn Mawr, Pa.
Mt. Holyoke College.....	South Hadley, Mass.

The report also listed "superior institutions" for the education of women. According to the report, these schools provided an academic and professional education. Listed in the state of Virginia, was the Martha Washington College in Abingdon, the subject of this study (Lange, 1895).

While schools in the North were gaining recognition as quality collegiate institutions for women, a great deal of confusion arose in the South over the quality and standing of schools which claimed to be colleges for women. In 1918, Elizabeth Avery Colton, then president of the Southern Association of College Women, released a bulletin entitled

The Various Types of Southern Colleges for Women. Colton (1918) was concerned because the term "college" was being utilized in the South to refer to private secondary schools, special study schools, normal schools, and liberal arts colleges. She feared that southern women would mistake "nominal colleges for real colleges" (p. 3). According to Colton's (1918) report, only seven standard colleges for women existed in the South. (Additional information from Colton's (1918) report is located in Appendix D.) Woody (1929) noted that the inability of many southern women's colleges to obtain a "standard" rating was the result of poverty. Compared with women's colleges in the North, "all Southern colleges for women were poor; and compared with the best men's colleges, the women's colleges of the North were poor" (Woody, 1929, p. 188).

Such was the status of women's education. It had advanced from learning domestic duties at home, to seminary and academy programs, to "standard" liberal arts colleges. Still, even in the 1920s, women's colleges faced enormous obstacles in the form of insufficient funding, inadequate preparatory education, and lack of regulations regarding admission and graduation requirements.

#### Women's Education in Virginia

After 1860, the seminary movement declined rapidly in

the North. Even though a decline began in the South, the southern states continued chartering special schools for girls. In Virginia, often considered representative of southern educational growth, there were at least ten special institutions chartered for females as late as the decade of the 1880s (Woody, 1929).

Initial efforts for the establishment of collegiate education for the women of Virginia began in 1840, when several members of the Methodist church obtained a charter for a college under the title of Buckingham Female College. According to Cornelius Heatwole (1916) this was "the first attempt ever made in Virginia to establish a school of high grade for girls" (p. 28). The school remained in operation only two years.

In 1842, two more schools for the higher education of women were founded. Mary Baldwin Seminary in Staunton, and Hollins College in Roanoke. Although founded during the rise of the seminary movement, when courses in literature, art, and music were offered instead of languages and mathematics, these schools, early in their history, offered advanced courses to parallel the offerings in men's colleges (Heatwole, 1916).

In 1893, the Methodist church founded and began operation of Randolph-Macon. According to Heatwole (1916), "This was the first college for women south of the Potomac

and Ohio rivers recognized as an A-1 college by the United States Bureau of Education" (p. 296).

In 1916, Heatwole noted that there were about 30 schools and colleges for women in Virginia offering varied degrees of secondary and college work. Listed among the more important was Martha Washington College in Abingdon. Established prior to the Civil War by the Holston Valley Methodist Conference, this college acquired a long history which witnessed the evolution of women's education. The history and significance of this college in Southwest Virginia will now be addressed by this study.

#### Martha Washington College 1860-1931

It was in the year 1853, that plans were projected for "the erection of a first class female college in Abingdon..." (Summers, 1903, pp. 567-568). Initially the project had been discussed by a committee of the Holston Valley Methodist Conference, but when the Conference did not decide to found a school, the effort was undertaken by another group in Abingdon. This group was the McCabe Lodge No. 56 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Lodge's effort spent itself in 1855, when the partially constructed college building, in which \$30,000 had been invested, was damaged during a heavy snowfall.

In 1858, the Holston Conference purchased the land and

the unfinished building, and assumed the obligations of the Martha Washington College. The damage to the existing building was deemed irreparable, so the Conference "disposed of the existing property for a sum equal to the debts against it" (Stevenson, 1963, p. 103). After the sale of the original property, the Conference purchased, from Thomas Lewis Preston, the home of General Francis Preston, and an additional twelve acres of land for \$21,600.

The General Assembly of Virginia incorporated the school on February 22, 1860, and in less than a month, on March 15, 1860, the school opened for its first session. The first session lasted for 20 weeks, closing on July 4, 1860. One hundred and fifty students had attended, fifty of them boarding at the college (Curtis, 1928). Seven years after its inception, the college had begun operation, and it continued to educate students even during the Civil War. Raids upon the town sometimes made it necessary to place the students in the homes of citizens of the town. When possible, classes continued and students helped nurse wounded soldiers occasionally housed at the college (Curtis, 1929). A committee composed of members of the Board of Trustees, in a report filed upon the closure of the 1864 session, commended the president and teachers of the college for continuing operations under such difficult conditions. The report read:

The committee feel that they can safely commend Martha Washington College to the public. Situated in one of the most salubrious and enlightened sections of the State with a president and teachers well worthy of their high vocation, it offers much that can be asked for in educational advantages. (Curtis, 1928, pp. 24-25)

Following the Civil War, the college continued to operate under a series of administrators, all of whom were responsible to the Board of Trustees and the Holston Valley Methodist Conference. In 1872, Major R. W. Jones of Petersburg, Virginia became the president of the college. Under Jones' administration, "The system of instruction employed in the College department was the same as that used at the University of Virginia, as far as it could be adapted to the instruction of women" (Curtis, 1928, p.56). Curtis (1928) noted that a member of the faculty of the University of Virginia evidently thought well enough of the college to enroll his daughters at Martha Washington College.

In June of 1876, a committee was appointed to determine the cost of constructing a second building. The committee was instructed, in July of the same year, to advertise and receive bids for the construction of this second building. On August 17, 1876, the sealed bids were opened and the Board agreed to a contract with the firm of Fields and Fulcher, provided the costs did not exceed \$8,815 (Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Martha Washington College, 1857-1887). The building was completed in 1877 and was

called East Hall. According to Claude D. Curtis (1928), the building housed an auditorium, music rooms, and sleeping apartments.

In 1890, the Committee on Education of the Holston Methodist Conference reported that the Trustees of Martha Washington College had leased the property to the president, Rev. S. N. Barker, for a number of years. The same report also indicated that a brick building to be used as a chapel had been constructed. By 1902, two wings had been built to connect the existing buildings, and steam heat had been installed. By 1905, electric lights and modern bathrooms had been added (Curtis, 1928).

It was during the period from 1905-1907 that changes were made to Preston hall, the original structure of the college plant. A third floor was designed and added to the building. Curtis (1928) wrote, "The building of this third floor destroyed the perfect colonial form of architecture for which the Main building was noted. The front porch was also remodeled..., and between \$10,000.00 and \$12,000.00 was spent in equipping and enlarging the plant" (p. 76). Shortly afterwards, about \$3,000 was spent in adding a new kitchen (Curtis, 1928).

In 1912, Mariah Cooper Hall, the western wing was completed. The building was named in honor of the individual making the largest contribution to the building

fund. Mrs. Cooper and her children gave \$5,000 toward financing the building and equipment which cost almost \$40,000. The building was utilized to house boarding pupils, and one year after its completion, the increased enrollment was enough to fill the new building (Curtis, 1928).

In 1913, the chapel building was remodeled at a cost of about \$12,500. Newly remodeled, it was renamed in honor of Mr. George V. Litchfield, an original charter member of the college board, and his family. The chapel building became Litchfield Hall. This building housed the dining room, the ballroom, domestic science classrooms and art classrooms.

During this flurry of construction and remodeling, studies continued and the college sought an "A" classification from the Methodist Conference Board of Education, which was received in May of 1913 (Curtis, 1928). However, just after the college received a class "A" rating, the rating system was changed. The General Conference divided class A into two classes: A and B, based not on educational programs, but on the incomes of the schools within the Methodist Conference. However, both classes were still authorized to offer the standard Bachelor of Arts degree. Due to its income, the Martha Washington College was given a "B" classification. Even though the college's rating had been reduced by the Methodist

Conference, other organizations rated the college as standard. According to Curtis (1928):

On November 14, 1914 the Board of Education of the State of Tennessee gave recognition to Martha Washington as a Standard College and on May 23, 1914 the Board of Education of Virginia granted the college the same rating. This authorized the graduates of Martha Washington College to teach in the high schools of these two states without examination. The diplomas of the college were also recognized in the State of West Virginia and other southern states as well. (p. 86)

In 1914, a plan was presented for combining all the colleges under the auspices of the Holston Valley Methodist Conference. This plan was not approved, but work continued to join Martha Washington College with Emory and Henry College. The Martha Washington College was falling increasingly into debt and experiencing more and more problems with its operations. In June of 1919, all the property of Martha Washington College was transferred to Emory and Henry College. The schools were to be of equal standing, and the debt of Martha Washington would be paid by the new corporation (Curtis, 1928). The schools continued to operate as they had, Emory and Henry as a college for men and Martha Washington as a college for women. While the joining of the two schools was beneficial for Martha Washington College, the administration of Emory and Henry resented being burdened with the responsibility of the Martha Washington debt.

By 1919, many considered the Martha Washington College as not much more than a finishing school. Many area students, rather than attending the last two years of high school, "enrolled at the college where they would get special instruction in music, art, expression, and other cultural subjects of the fine arts department" (Stevenson, 1963, p. 123).

In 1921, the Board of Trustees of the two colleges adopted a resolution to operate Martha Washington College as a junior college and the charter of Emory and Henry was changed to permit the entrance of women to the junior and senior classes (Curtis, 1928). By 1923, the Martha Washington College was over \$70,000 in debt. However, the college continued to operate and to fall deeper in debt each year. In 1927-1928, there was enough optimism to publish the Sixty-Seventh Annual Catalogue of Martha Washington College and Fine Arts School. Under the heading of "Rating of Institution" was the following statement:

Martha Washington College is an active member of the American Association of Junior Colleges, the Southern Association of Colleges for Women, is recognized by the Board of Education of the State of Virginia and by the General Board of Education of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, South, as a standard junior college. The graduates of Martha Washington College who have taken the classical courses are permitted to enter the junior class of leading colleges and universities of the country.  
(p. 19)

Offerings in the school's liberal arts department included

mathematics, modern languages, biology and chemistry, Latin and Bible, home economics, history and political science, psychology and education, and English. Courses such as piano, violin, voice, art and expression were available through the fine arts department. The college also offered special courses in secretarial science and physical education.

In spite of the variety of course offerings and the school's standing as a junior college, the debts continued to climb and the number of students to fall. The school was closed permanently in 1931 due to insufficient enrollment. The college property and liabilities were absorbed by Emory and Henry (Stevenson, 1963).

The establishment of Martha Washington College represented a major step forward in the education of women in Southwest Virginia. Utilizing an educational program adapted from the University of Virginia curriculum, the college represented an early attempt to provide quality collegiate education, and drew students from all over the South. When finally forced to close its doors due to insufficient funding and enrollment, the empty structures of the Martha Washington College were put to practical use as an inn.

## CHAPTER V

### MARTHA WASHINGTON INN

It was in 1937 that the doors of the Martha Washington College were again thrown open to the public. It was, however, no longer an educational institution. Emory and Henry officials had leased the structure to the Barnhill Hotel Corporation and the facilities began operation under the name of the Martha Washington Inn.

In actuality, the doors of the College had not remained locked the entire time since its closing in 1931. In the summer of 1934, an unemployed actor named Bob Porterfield brought a group of actors from New York to Abingdon. Porterfield's goal was to establish an experimental summer stock theatre called Barter Theatre. The plan was to barter farm produce or goods for admission to the performances. The rooms and facilities of the Martha Washington College were standing empty, so Porterfield worked hard to convince Emory and Henry officials to allow his theatre group to utilize the structures. He got the buildings "free of charge, with just utility bills and upkeep to worry about" (Dawidziak, 1982, p. 10). Porterfield himself described the situation as follows:

The trustees of the Martha Washington Female Seminary had given us their gracious, white columned buildings, large enough to house two hundred with ease, and its surrounding estate

complete with lovely old trees, golf course, swimming pool and tennis court. But their generous hospitality had had its limitations. All the beds and bedding had been removed to the sister institution, Emory and Henry University, eight miles away. So had the china and cutlery. We were literally camping in a vast and empty hotel resort. (Porterfield/Hale, 1961, p. 22)

The Barter Theatre group used the buildings for their housing, rehearsals, tourist accommodations, and even used some of the school furnishings for props in their productions (Dawidziak, 1982). Porterfield taught some classes in fine arts on an informal basis and then developed a plan for a school of fine and applied arts to be operated jointly by the theatre group and Emory and Henry. However, the project was put aside because of insufficient funding and the inability of the college administrators and the theatre group to work out the necessary arrangements (Stevenson, 1963). In 1935, the Barter company left the college and moved to the empty facilities of the Stonewall Jackson Institute, which was located approximately one mile from the Martha Washington College buildings. However, within two years, the empty college became "The Martha Washington Inn".

Although Emory and Henry leased the Martha Washington buildings to the Barnhill Hotel Corporation, Emory and Henry realized little profit because the rents were utilized for improvements and maintenance (Stevenson, 1963). Mrs. J.S.

French, in a lecture about Sarah Preston's mother (Madam Russell), noted that the college buildings had been leased to Mr. R.G. Barnhill and that he was operating the Inn as a quaint and interesting establishment similar to those in Williamsburg, Virginia (French, Bulletin 6).

A publication titled Picturesque and Historic Abingdon, Virginia, produced during Mr. Barnhill's management (approximately 1937 to 1962), touted the Martha Washington Inn as "A Hotel of Distinction" boasting 150 rooms; 110 of which had combination tub and shower. Rates for a single room were \$1.50 to \$3.00, and double rooms were available at a cost of \$2.00 to \$5.00 (p. 1). In describing the Inn, the brochure further noted that the Inn was thoroughly modern and offered "every convenience found in a first-class city hotel" (p. 5). Recreational activities offered by the Inn included swimming, tennis, shuffleboard, archery, golf, and even skeet shooting. The pamphlet beckoned travelers by stating that "Martha Washington Inn gathers together many good friends from all parts of the country. You will enjoy it here" (p. 5).

In January of 1966, the Barter Foundation again began to influence the operations and usage of what was now the Martha Washington Inn. For the sum of \$200,000, the Barter Foundation purchased the Inn from Emory and Henry College (Washington Co., Va., Deed Book No. 416, p. 259). A

brochure titled The Charm of History explained that the Inn was operated by Abingdon Inns, Inc., a fully-owned subsidiary of the Barter Foundation. The brochure read as follows: "Famous the world over for its charm, Martha Washington Inn in Abingdon is also one of the outstanding historic landmarks of the area...associated with the social life, culture and educational progress of Southwest Virginia."

In 1966, the Abingdon Preservation Zone was accepted for inclusion on the Virginia Historical Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. In the second edition of The Virginia Landmarks Register the Abingdon Historic District was described as follows:

Abingdon's Main Street presents an exceptionally fine collection of nineteenth century domestic and commercial buildings, illustrating the variety of architectural styles and forms that appeared on the main thoroughfare of a rural Virginia town in the last century. The town, founded in 1778, grew in the linear fashion characteristic of Western Virginia. (VHLC, 1976, p. 198)

Listed within the statement of significance section of the district's application were a number of buildings, the Martha Washington Inn among them (Abingdon Preservation Zone Application, 1969).

Another change in the ownership of the Inn occurred June 2, 1980, when the Barter Foundation sold the Martha Washington to a group of Southwest Virginia businessmen

which formed a corporation called Martha's Venture (Washington Co., Va., Deed Book No. 626, p. 799). Under this new ownership, extensive renovation efforts began. A newsletter produced monthly at the Inn and titled Outlook, detailed what it called the "continuing saga" of the renovation of the Inn (May, 1981). Work on the parlors, lounges, lobby, and guest rooms was described, and area residents with Martha Washington College or Inn memorabilia were asked to contribute their knowledge to the renovation efforts. The April, 1981 issue stated that the management of the Inn was "very aware of the importance of preserving the history that surrounds the property" (p. 2). The following month, the newsletter reported that notification had been received from the U.S. Department of Interior that the Inn contributed to the significance of the Abingdon Historic District. As a result, the Inn qualified for rehabilitation tax incentives under the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

Renovation work continued, and in May of 1982, the Outlook reported that after two years of work, the renovation program was nearly completed. Ellison Ketchum, the General Manager of the Inn, wrote, "{T}he renovation program has been a long and expensive process, but we are pleased that we have been able to bring new life to this grand old hotel" (p. 2).

The Martha Washington Inn continues its operations, offering southern hospitality to its guests and visitors, just as Mrs. Francis Preston did over 150 years ago. Beginning as only one structure built to house a prominent Southwest Virginia family, the Martha Washington complex has been expanded and adapted to meet the many varied needs of its occupants.

## CHAPTER VI

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTIONS

One purpose of this study was the development of architectural descriptions of the four interconnected buildings of the Martha Washington Inn complex. The following paragraphs describe the current (1983) appearance of the structures, and include basic style classifications as well as the buildings' past and present utilizations.

#### Preston Hall

When Martha Washington College began operation, the Preston Mansion became Preston Hall. To accommodate the needs of the students, alterations to the structure began (See Figure 10). The second story windows on the north facade were altered. Based on examination of photographs and engravings, it is believed that the windows were altered some time between 1877 and 1890. Today these windows are double hung sash (1/1). Above each pair of windows is one large fixed pane surrounded by small multi-colored panes of glass (see Figure 11).

The major alteration to the exterior of Preston Hall occurred in 1905, while Martha Washington College was under the administration of Dr. M. D. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell's brother was an architect and builder, and under his



Fig. 10. Central structure of Martha Washington Inn (Preston Mansion) c. 1983.  
Photograph by G. Hall



Fig. 11. Second story window of Preston Hall.  
Photograph by G. Hall

direction, the hipped roof, dormers, and balustrade were removed. A full third floor and mansard roof were added to the structure. The new roof was covered with pressed tin and painted white. The new windows projected slightly from the roof, were double hung sash (2/2), and had a semicircular arch with a keystone. Small pilasters capped by rosettes flanked each window, and supported the semicircular arch which formed a small pediment over the window. All the window details were carved of wood. The roof and windows remain the same today (see Figures 12 and 13).

At approximately the same time that the roof renovation was undertaken, the porch of Preston Hall was altered. The porch was widened and the original angle of the veranda roof was flattened so that it matched the central porch. Additional fluted ionic columns were installed to support the roof of the new veranda. These porch details remain today (see Figure 14).

Currently, the first floor parlors of the central building are used as the hotel lobby and as meeting rooms for conventions or local organizations. Second and third story rooms are used as guest suites. A lounge is housed in the basement of the original structure.



Fig. 12. Full third floor and mansard roof of Preston Hall following 1905 renovation.  
Photograph by G. Hall

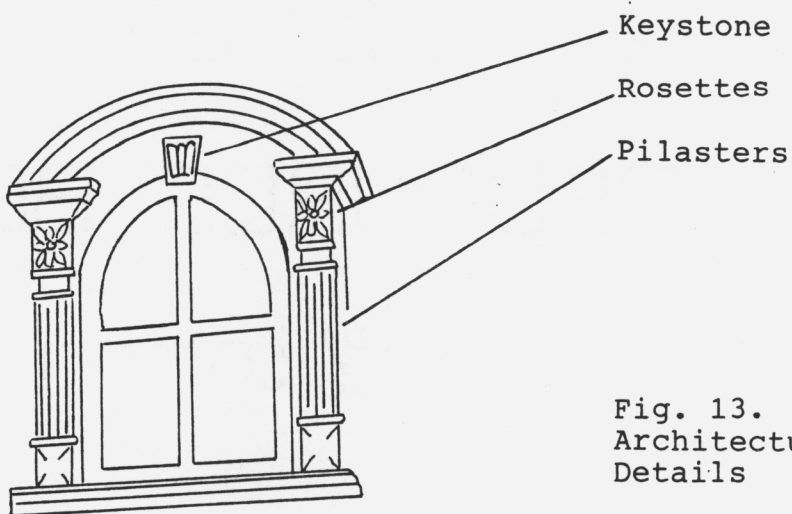


Fig. 13.  
Architectural  
Details



Fig. 14. Porch of the central building of Martha Washington Inn.  
Photograph by G. Hall

### East Hall

Claude D. Curtis (1928) in his Three Quarters of a Century at Martha Washington College refers to the southern building of the Inn complex, completed in 1877, as East Hall (see Figure 15). According to John J.-G. Blumenson's (1981) Identifying American Architecture, many of the building's architectural features can be classified as being either Italianate (1840-1880) or Second Empire (1860-1890) style. Blumenson (1981) notes that both styles utilized an almost square, two to three story plan, eaves supported by brackets, tall first floor windows, and pronounced window and door moldings. While East Hall has the hipped roof of the Italianate style, rather than the mansard roof of the Second Empire style, its other architectural features could fall into either classification.

Rifkind (1980) makes note of the often paired arched door and window openings, the heavy moldings, and paired brackets which characterize the Italianate and Second Empire styles. Virginia and Lee McAlester (1984) write that below the distinctive mansard roof line of the Second Empire style, the architectural details of such structures are closely related to the Italianate style. Due to the hipped roof, rather than a mansard roof, East Hall might be more appropriately classified as an Italianate style structure.

The south side of the building was probably designed as



Fig. 15. East Hall c. 1877 (South facade).  
Photograph by G. Hall

the major entrance of the three story common bond brick structure due to its access to the railroad. In the center of the south facade is a shallow projection. Located within the projection are double doors (approximately 10 feet high) with a semicircular fanlight. The upper panels of the doors are glass. The second and third floor windows, located directly above the entrance, are paired. The pediment topping this projection is unadorned.

The first floor windows are triple sash (6/6/6) with the top sash forming a semicircular arch. The windows rise from about two feet off the floor to a height slightly greater than the doorway. The second story windows also have a semicircular arch and are double sash (6/6). The third floor windows have a segmental arch and are double sash (6/6). The doorways and windows have wooden hood or "eyebrow" molding with a keystone and corbel stops (see Figures 16 and 17). The hipped roof has paired bracket eaves. A change in the appearance of the south facade occurred when a boiler room was added and a chimney was built up this wall. The date of this change was approximately 1925 (Curtis, 1928).

On the first floor of this building was a room which extended its entire length and was used as an auditorium (Curtis, 1928). This room has since been divided and currently houses a maintenance shop, a storage room, and an



Fig. 16. East Hall - Window Detail  
 Photograph by G. Hall

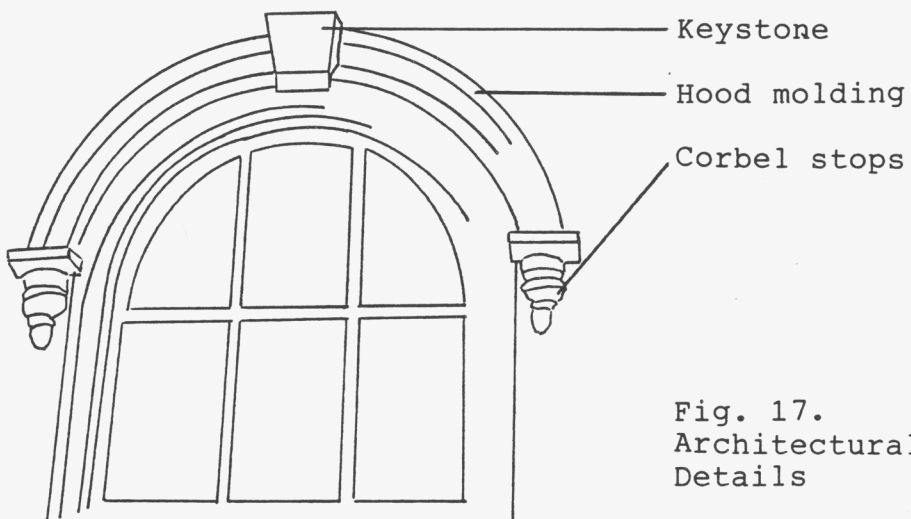


Fig. 17.  
 Architectural  
 Details

employee lounge. The second and third floors were initially used for classroom and dormitory space. Currently, these floors are used for office space and guest rooms.

### Mariah Cooper Hall

Mariah Cooper Hall (see Figure 18), the west wing of the Inn, was constructed in 1912 (Curtis, 1928). This building could be classified as Neo-Classic (1900-1920) according to Blumenson's (1981) Identifying American Architecture. He noted that the style was "distinguished by symmetrically arranged buildings of monumental proportions" and that "colossal pedimented porticos" often highlighted the facade of such structures (Blumenson, 1981, p. 69). The McAlesters (1984) cite a "facade dominated by full-height porch with roof supported by classical columns" as a major identifying feature of the Neo-classic style (p. 343). They also note that the front-gabled roof subtype, like Mariah Cooper Hall, was a relatively uncommon subtype (McAlester, 1984).

Mariah Cooper Hall is a common bond brick building which rises four stories (including basement). It has a gabled roof and a cornice with dentils. On the north facade, a brick exterior staircase conceals the basement entrance from direct view. Four fluted doric columns rise three stories from brick supports just above the basement



Fig. 18. Mariah Cooper Hall - constructed 1912.  
Photograph by G. Hall

level to support the portico. A palladian window is located in the pediment of the portico and in the pediment of the south facade. A wooden balustrade decorates the edges of the front porch on each level of the building.

A shallow projection is located on both the east and west sides of Mariah Cooper Hall. The projections are pedimented and each pediment is pierced by a lunette. The windows of the building are double sash (6/2). The entrance from the lower porch is a single door with one large glass panel in the upper portion.

Mariah Cooper Hall was designed and built as a dormitory hall. It presently houses approximately 25 guest rooms.

#### Litchfield Hall

Litchfield Hall, the east wing of the Inn, was initially the chapel for Martha Washington College (see Figure 19). The original structure was built sometime between 1886 and 1890. The building was completely remodeled in 1913 to give it an appearance more similiar to Mariah Cooper Hall. Like Mariah Cooper Hall, this structure could be classified as being of the Neo-Classic style (1900-1920). At the time of the remodeling, a third floor was added and the building was extended to the rear several feet. In 1947, a new kitchen was added to the rear of this



Fig. 19. Litchfield Hall - originally the chapel and built sometime between 1880 and 1890, this structure was remodeled in 1913 to its present appearance.  
Photograph by G. Hall

wing.

Much like the west wing, a brick exterior staircase, which provides access to the porch, also blocks the view of the basement entrance. A wooden balustrade adorns the edges of the porch. Four fluted doric columns rise from the basement level supports to hold the portico of the common bond brick building. Litchfield Hall has a gable roof and a cornice with dentils. A palladian window is located in the pediment of the north facade. The south facade is not pedimented, as the roof slopes inward like a hipped roof.

On the front of the building and sheltered by the portico, is a small balcony which is reached through a third floor exit. The windows of the building are double sash (2/2) and have segmented arch window heads. The windows on the main level, where the ballroom is located, are much larger than those on the other floors. The entrance of the building consists of double paneled doors. The upper panel of each door is glass. Above the doors is a rectangular fanlight. The treatment of the doors, like that of the windows, is a segmented arch head.

The basement of this structure housed the dining room of the Martha Washington College. This room has a pressed tin ceiling which is 12 feet high and is supported by round, unadorned metal columns. Today this room is the public dining room of the Martha Washington Inn.

The second floor houses a ballroom which is approximately 68 feet long by 48 feet wide. The ceiling is 18 feet high and is supported by round, unadorned metal columns. The hardwood floor is maple.

The upper level initially housed domestic science and art classrooms. This level now houses office space and guest rooms.

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Summary

During its history of over 150 years, the Martha Washington Inn has grown from one structure to a complex of four connecting buildings. It has served as a residence for an influential family, as a college for women, and presently as an inn. The purpose of this study was to develop a documented history of the structures of the Martha Washington Inn in an effort to substantiate their historical and architectural significance. The study included the purpose for which the buildings were constructed, how the buildings were utilized, and architectural descriptions.

As a basis for the development of the documented history, a search for primary and secondary documents was conducted. The search resulted in the location and examination of a variety of resources. These resources could be classified generally as collections of personal papers, organizational minutes, school records and memorabilia, newspapers, county records, census records, Martha Washington Inn records and memorabilia, photographs, illustrations, and interviews.

In addition to these sources, literature searches were conducted on the topics of architectural history, women's

education, Southwest Virginia and Washington County histories, and Preston family genealogies, biographies, and memoirs. Martha Washington Inn newsletters, rehabilitation records, and correspondence with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and other related agencies were examined to gather details on rehabilitation efforts and application to landmarks registers. Architectural descriptions were developed by utilizing architectural histories, direct observations, and photographs and illustrations.

This study also sought to address three specific questions posed by the management of the Martha Washington Inn and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. These questions were: (1) What individuals or companies were responsible for the construction of the buildings of the Martha Washington Inn?; (2) What factors influenced the design of the Preston Mansion?; and (3) Was the establishment of the Martha Washington College, a school for women, historically significant? Based upon the research which was conducted, the following answers to the previously stated questions are offered.

Strong evidence indicates that the construction of the original building of the Martha Washington Inn (the Preston Mansion) was completed under the supervision of a Mr. William Rodefer. A resident of Abingdon, Rodefer was a

carpenter, and operated a carpentry shop for himself and others. The bill of work for the Preston home indicates that Rodefer procured and dried the lumber, and was entitled to payment for all the items on the bill. It is possible that he not only procured the materials needed for the construction of the house, but oversaw the construction as well.

General Francis Preston had a large number of slaves and it is therefore likely that some of them may have labored on the house. A carpenter named Francis Irby had constructed an addition to one of the Prestons' earlier homes. Thomas Lewis Preston (1900) noted that Irby was an inmate of the family during the time of construction of the mansion. Therefore, Irby could also have been responsible for part or all of the construction of the Preston Mansion, but due to his advanced age, it is unlikely.

The Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Martha Washington College 1758-1888 indicate that the firm of Fields and Fulcher was responsible for the construction of the second Martha Washington College building in 1877. This building, called "East Hall" is the current south wing of the Inn. The renovation of the roof and addition of the full third floor and mansard roof to the Preston home was accomplished during the time period 1905-1907. The design and construction were done by an architect who was the

brother to the president of the college. The president was Dr. M. D. Mitchell; his brother's name is not known.

The inability to locate additional college records prevents an answer being developed concerning who was responsible for the design and/or construction of the chapel (built 1886-1890), Mariah Cooper Hall (built 1912), and the remodeling of the chapel (in 1913), which is now Litchfield Hall.

In regard to the second question posed in this study, numerous factors could have influenced the design of the Preston Mansion. The time which the Prestons lived in the capitals of the nation and state, Philadelphia and Williamsburg, would certainly have influenced the Prestons' awareness of and tastes in architectural style. The social circle in which the Prestons moved would have insured their exposure to a number of elegant homes in varying architectural styles. An example of one such home might be Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

Francis Preston was an educated and cultured man who maintained a good library. It is possible that within his collection he possessed books or manuals of architectural style, one example being Asher Benjamin's (1798) Country Builder's Assistant. From such books, Francis and Sarah Preston could have selected the architectural features they desired for their home.

William Rodefer could have designed the house. Maintaining a carpentry shop, which he and others utilized, it is likely that Mr. Rodefer possessed books and manuals on architectural style and construction technique. Any of these factors, singly or in combination, could have determined the final design of the Preston Mansion.

In response to the third question posed by the study, it can be stated that the founding of Martha Washington College was significant. The initial effort by the citizens and organizations of Abingdon, which was continued by the Methodist Conference, to establish a women's college was an attempt to expand the educational and cultural growth of the women and citizenry of Southwest Virginia. Founded in 1860, prior to the Civil War, the college was one of the few schools in Virginia that continued its operations during the war, even while housing and nursing wounded soldiers.

The founding of Martha Washington College is historically significant because it was an early attempt to provide a quality program of higher education for women, and therefore was an important part of the evolution of women's education, especially in Virginia. Use of a similar system of instruction as that utilized at the University of Virginia illustrates that during its early years, the Martha Washington College was a school offering quality educational instruction to its students, many of whom traveled from

other states to attend. In addition, it provided a forum for educational and cultural events for the citizens of Abingdon and Southwest Virginia until its closing in 1931.

### Conclusions

As a result of the research and findings of this study, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. The Francis Preston family was influential in social, political, and financial spheres.

2. William Rodefer was responsible for procuring the materials for the construction of the Preston Mansion.

3. The style of the Preston Mansion can be basically classified as Federal/Adam.

4. The establishment of Martha Washington College in 1860 was historically significant, and represented a major step forward in the educational growth of the Abingdon area.

5. The ability of Robert Porterfield and his actors to use the Martha Washington College buildings free of charge was fundamental to the establishment and success of the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia.

### Recommendations

The boundaries of a historical study are by necessity established by the researcher. Historical studies, by their nature, branch out in many directions even though only one

topic has been defined. As a result, some avenues of research and some possibly important topics or sources must be postponed or examined in future research efforts. Due to this characteristic of historical research, the following recommendations are made for continued research of the history of the Martha Washington Inn.

1. A continued search for additional records in an effort to learn who designed and/or constructed Mariah Cooper and Litchfield Halls.

2. A continued search for Preston family records in an effort to reconstruct the interior of the Preston home as it would have existed in the 1830s.

3. A detailed documentation of the rehabilitation efforts under the ownership of Martha's Venture in an effort to determine how it complied with the U.S. Department of the Interior's guidelines for rehabilitation, and what benefits were derived from the rehabilitation efforts.

4. A documentation of the rehabilitation efforts under the current ownership of the United Coal Company to determine the commercial and aesthetic success of this rehabilitation.

5. A survey to determine the extent of local acceptance of the rehabilitation efforts conducted by the Martha Washington Inn.

This study has sought to compile the varied aspects of

the history and architecture of the Martha Washington Inn in an attempt to provide a comprehensive, documented record of the evolution of a structure from a personal residence, to a college, to an inn. It also provides a detailed description of each of the four connecting structures of the Inn. These two elements, the history and the architectural descriptions, are presented in order to establish both the historical and architectural significance of these structures which have figured so prominently in the social, political, educational, and cultural development of the Abingdon area.

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## APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A  
FILSON CLUB LIBRARY CORRESPONDENCE

Friday, Sept. 21, 1984

Martha VanHook Hall  
Drawer E  
Rosedale, VA 24280

The Filson Club  
118. Breckinridge Street  
Louisville, KY 40203

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a student of Housing and Design at Virginia Tech and I am conducting research on the Preston family for my master's thesis. I have read The Prestons of Smithfield and Greenfield in Virginia by John Frederick Dorman, and wish to inquire about other information and documents the Filson Club might possess.

Specifically, I am studying General Francis Preston (1765-1835) of Abingdon, Virginia. General Preston built a large home on Main Street in Abingdon during the years 1830-1832. The original structure became Martha Washington College in the 1850's. Other buildings were added over the history of the college until it closed in the early 1930's. The buildings were converted to an inn and are still in use as the Martha Washington Inn. For my thesis I am developing a written history of these structures.

I am searching for information about the original structure. Any descriptions, household ledgers, inventories, personal letters in which the house or furnishings were discussed, contracts for goods or services for its construction, ect., would be most helpful.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could let me know if you have any such information, and if possible, what the charges for copying and mailing would be. Any materials sent to me and utilized in my thesis would be appropriately documented and the source (The Filson Club) noted. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*Martha VanHook Hall*

# The Filson Club

INCORPORATED

ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING  
HISTORICAL MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY

118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40203

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
JAMES R. BENTLEY

September 24, 1984

Martha Hall  
Drawer E  
Rosedale, Virginia 24280

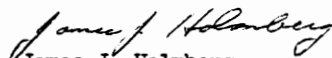
Dear Ms. Hall:

I have checked our Preston Family papers here at The Filson Club (both the Joyes and Davie collections) but found nothing regarding the Francis Preston house at Abingdon, Virginia. John Frederick Dorman's book relates the information on it that we have here. The only additional information I can add and which you most likely already know is that the house was brick and of Georgian architecture and in the 1920s was occupied by Martha Washington College. That information comes from folder 181 of the Preston Family Papers - Davie Collection, the same source Dorman cited for the information he gave regarding the house in his book.

Our other listings in the card catalog for Francis Preston indicated nothing regarding his home in Abingdon. Other than Virginia Historical or other such institutions in Virginia I don't know of other sources you might check. The Special Collections Department at the University of Kentucky has some Preston Family papers but what relation they have to Virginia Prestons, especially Francis Preston and Abingdon, I don't know.

Good luck with your research. If The Filson Club can be of further assistance do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
James J. Holmberg  
Acting Head of Manuscripts

## The Filson Club

INCORPORATED

118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET

LOUISVILLE, KY 40203

September 26, 1984

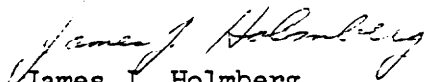
Ms. Martha VanHook Hall  
Drawer E  
Rosedale, Virginia 24280

Dear Ms. Hall:

The library referred your letter of September 21, to me. Since I'm not sure whether you wrote it before or after our phone conversation of that same day I did not want to ignore it.

As I stated in my letter to you of September 24, We don't have anything along the lines you need. After receiving your letter and checking the library's holdings Mrs. Rush passed it on to me. As I have already mentioned to you, among all our Preston papers we do not have any information on Francis Preston's Abingdon, VA house. The information I had said the house was built in 1809. However, we don't have anything on the 1830-32 house either. I'm sorry we weren't able to be of more help but if you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
James J. Holmberg  
Acting Head of Manuscripts.

APPENDIX B  
THE CHILDREN OF FRANCIS AND SARAH PRESTON

WILLIAM CAMPBELL PRESTON was born December 27, 1794 in Philadelphia and died May 22, 1860 in Columbia, South Carolina. William received an A.B. degree from South Carolina College in 1812. He studied law in Richmond, and saw brief military service in the War of 1812. After the war, he made a grand tour of Europe where he continued his studies in philosophy and law at the University of Edinburgh. In 1820, he returned to Virginia and began his law practice. Upon moving to South Carolina, he established a new practice, and, in 1828, was elected to the South Carolina Legislature. In 1833 he was elected to the United States Senate, and was re-elected in 1837. In 1846 he assumed the position of President of South Carolina College and served until he suffered a stroke in 1857. William was noted as an orator, and about him S. F. Hunt (1938) wrote,

His natural talent and gift of speech soon made him famous. He was elected U.S. Senator from South Carolina, where he held his own with Calhoun, Clay, Webster and other great men in the long and bitter Nullification Debates, and earned the soubriquet of 'The Golden Tongued Orator of the South'. (p. 6)

ELIZA HENRY PRESTON (1796-1872) married, in May of 1820, Edward C. Carrington, a captain in the United States Army during the War of 1812. Captain Carrington also served as a representative in the Virginia House of Delegates 1819-1820, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of

Hampden-Sydney College from 1829 until 1840.

Three of the Preston daughters married relatives of important social and/or political standing. SUSANNA SMITH PRESTON (1800-1847) married her cousin James McDowell who was Governor of Virginia from 1843-1847. SARAH BUCHANAN PRESTON (1802-1879) also married a cousin, John B. Floyd, who also served as Governor of Virginia. ANN SOPHONISBA PRESTON (1803-1844) married a distant relative, Reverend Robert Jefferson Breckinridge of Kentucky.

MARIA THORNTON CARTER PRESTON (1805-1842) married John Montgomery Preston, a successful merchant of Abingdon. John M. Preston served two terms as Mayor of Abingdon and was an early supporter and large contributor to Emory and Henry College.

CHARLES HENRY CAMPBELL PRESTON (1807-1832) was educated at Hampden-Sydney College, 1821-1825, and at the University of Virginia from 1825-1827. In 1830 he assumed possession of the Preston estate, the Salt Works, and began the management of salt manufacture from that estate. He died shortly afterwards.

JOHN SMITH PRESTON was born April 20, 1809 and died May 1, 1881. He attended Hampden-Sydney from 1823-1825 and also attended the University of Virginia from 1825-1827. He briefly studied law at Harvard, then traveled in Europe before marrying and settling in Abingdon. For ten years he

practiced law and managed the Preston salt licks. In 1840 he moved to Columbia, South Carolina, then on to Louisiana where he owned a large sugar plantation. He returned to South Carolina and from 1848 to 1852 served in the State House of Representatives. He served as a member of the State Senate from 1854 until 1858, then lived in Europe until 1860. With the outbreak of the Civil War, John Preston became a volunteer aide to General Beauregard. After being commissioned lieutenant in 1861, he rose in rank to become Brigadier General in June of 1864. After the war he again traveled overseas, and according to L. P. Summers (1939) and Elizabeth Gray (1938), he served as Minister to France.

THOMAS LEWIS PRESTON (1812-1903) attended Washington College from 1824-1825, and then attended the University of Virginia from 1830-1833. After an extended tour of Europe and the Holy Land, he settled in Smyth County, Virginia. For five years he took charge of the family salt works (1845-1850). Renting out the salt works, he returned to Smyth County and served in the state legislature for two sessions. When the Martha Washington College was incorporated in 1854, Thomas Preston became President of the Board of Trustees. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Emory and Henery College from 1836 until 1860, a member of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Military

Institute from 1856 through 1857, and as a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia from 1849 through 1852. He served as Rector of the University of Virginia 1864-1865.

MARGARET BUCHANAN PRESTON (1818-1852) married General Wade Hampton III in October of 1838. General Hampton served as Governor of South Carolina from 1876 to 1879 and then was elected to serve two terms in the United States Senate (1879-1891). He also served as the Commissioner of Pacific Railways from 1893 until 1897.

APPENDIX C  
WINNIFORD AND LEDBETTER VALUATION  
BILL OF WORK/MATERIAL

Bill of work not measured by Mr. [unclear] charged by  
 Mr. Rodger as extra, for which we think  
 he is entitled to pay.

		Mrs. S. B. Pocaton Sr	
		In procuring & drying lumber &c	
			\$ 500—
Basement	Cent. East office	no. 1	190 76
"	" N. E. Basement	" 2	101 01
"	" S. E. " "	" 3	112 44
"	" Basement Passage	" 4	107 70
"	" N. W. Basement	" 5	48 91
"	" S. E. do	" 6	118 67
"	" West End entry	" 7	67 7
"	" West end Basement	" 8	71 4
2 <sup>d</sup> floor	" East end 2 <sup>d</sup> floor	" 9	509 10
"	" East end center building N. & S.	" 10 & 11	420 25
"	" South west room	" 12	222 62
"	" North west room	" 13	242 10
"	" West wing & entry	no. 14, 15 & 16	516 43
"	" Large Passage 2 <sup>d</sup> floor	" 17	313 4
3 <sup>d</sup> floor	" East wing	" 18	85 40
"	" N. E. Room	19	183 01
"	" S. E. Room & passage	20 & 21	233 09
"	" Large Passage	" 22	573 99
"	" N. W. Room	23	210 73
"	" Center & S. E. Room	24 & 25	318 6
"	" West wing & entry	26 & 27	123 9
4 <sup>th</sup> floor	" East end	28	127 28
"	" Large passage & small room	29 & 30	137 16
"	" 2 Rooms West end	31 & 32	138 72
"	" Ruff of House	( $\frac{1}{2}$ 1619.62 = 1619.62)	
Basement building	" Kitchen Room	no. 1.	83 83
"	" S. end Room	" 2	60 82
"	" Celler	" 3	11 88
2 <sup>d</sup> floor	" N. Room or Pantry	4	113 92
"	" S. Room	5	79 05
"	" Large Back Porch	6	177
			carried forward \$ 7821

Am't brought forward			\$ 7821.13
Most back Porch	no. 7		57-
Back building Roof			230.50
Smoke House + Privy	no. 8 + 9		138.44
Front Porch			1029.24
Ragans House		- 121.43 =	121.43
Omitted in measurement			770
Negro House			386.08
Lipshey & Co. Exp. Front Porch & <del>Back Porch</del>			<del>388</del>
Winniford & Ledbetter Statement			\$ 9791.52
As valued by Winniford & Ledbetter			
Sub for error in addition	no. 6		\$ 1.00
" " " " extending	11 <sup>th</sup> line no. 104.11		4.00
" " " " " "	1 " " 12		.12
" " " " " "	1 " " 13		1.00
" " " " addition	" " " 14, 15, 16		2.00
" " " " extending	1 line " 17		4.02
" " " " " "	12 " " 20		1.00
" " " " " "	2 " " 18		.10
" " " " " "	1 " " 19		2.38
" " " " " "	5 " " "		.08
" " " " " "	1 " " 20 & 21		.66
" " " " " "	2 " " "		1.00
" " " " " "	7 " " "		1.05
" " " " " "	9 " " "		.37
" " " " " "	9 " " 23		1.00
" " " " " "	1 " " 24 & 25		.65
" " " " " "	2 " " "		1.00
" " " " " "	5 " Back Porch		10.00
" " " " addition	Ragans House		40.04
			<u>71.47</u>
			9862.99
Subduct error in extending	3 <sup>rd</sup> line no. 7		\$ 0.06
" " " " " "	2 " " 9		20.00
" " " " " "	2 " " 10 & 11		11.33
" " " " " "	2 " no. 14, 15, 16		2.00
" " " " " "	13 " " "		.10
" " " " " "	5 " no. 18		4.00
" " " " " "	1 " " 23		.19
			<u>37.68</u>
			9825.31
Amount carried over			

Mrs Sarah B. Preston Jr  
 To William Roddiffer  
 To amount Winniford & Ledbetter valuation  
 brought over - \$9825 31  
 amount of credits on Genl. Prestons books, 1996 34  
 " " " on Mrs Prestons books 640 82  
 amount bill no. 1 . . . . 574. 37 = 574 37  
 " " " 2 . . . . . 64 -  
 " " " 3 Runway bill. . 64 36  
 " " " 4 . . . . . 724 41  
 " " " 5 . . . . . 1079 07  
 \$ 14968 68

No. 6. 111. 111

85 ft 6 in of architrave at 6. c 3 lintels at 1/9	5 75
37 ft of doors at 18. c 2 carpet sills at 10 c	4 70
3 window sills at 2/3 1 stand of shelves at 7. 8.	9 75
48 lines of sash at 1/9 hanging and booting 3 pair at each at 2/3	12 00
49 ft 6 in of blinds at 1/8 hanging and booting 3 pair at 2/3	12 00
	<u>\$118.67</u>

West. E. entry No. 7.

261 ft blind partition at 6/12 261 ft ceiling at 12/12	7 75
3 locust door frames at 13/6 1 window frame of 50 7/3.	7 75
2971 feet of architrave at 6. c 17 ft 6 in of panel joints 16 in wide 3/4	5 75
17 ft of panels 4 in wide at 5. c 2 lintels at 1/9	1 75
46 ft of doors at 18. c hanging 2 doors and 2 locks 2/3	7 75
16 ft 6 in panel panels at 20 c 1 window sill 2/3	3 68
16 lines of sash and hanging and booting 1 pair at 1/6	2 25
16 ft 6 in of blinds at 1/6 hanging and booting 1 pair 2/3	4 50
1 stone case and trimming and hole at 7. 25-	25 00
	<u>\$67.75</u>

West end. B. No. 8.

2 common window frames 7/3 2 locs grates 4. 50. all locust	15 00
86 ft of architrave at 6. c 70 ft of ceiling at 12/12	6 57
23 ft of roofing at 2 c 60 ft of cloak strips at 2. c	1 66
4 lintels at 1/9 1 stand of shelves at 7. 6.-	6 50
56 ft of panel panels at 20 c 4 window sills at 2/3	14 70
66 ft of blinds at 25 c hanging and booting 4 pair at 2/3	18 00
64 lines of sash at 1/9 hanging and booting 4 pair at 1/6	9 00
	<u>\$71.45</u>

East end no 9 second floor		
	2826 ft 6 in framing joist at 7/6	35 33
X	2526 ft 6 in of flooring at 7/4 - mistakes	105 00
	90 ft of base at 20c 6 box window frames at 7/9.50	75 00
	318 ft of blinds at 1/6 6 pair hinged & boated at 4/6	84 00
X	171 ft of panel window sashes at 20c	34 20
	306 ft of inside shutters at 20c hanging 24 pair at 1/6	67 20
	57 ft of doors at 20c hanging 2 door putty on 2 locks at 4/6	11 70
	8 carpet sills at 1/9 16 plinth blocks 6c 216 rose do at 1/6	4 62
	225 ft pilaster grounds at 6c 193 ft of pilaster at 1/9	37 63
	8 lintels at 1/9 1526 ft of furring at 6/6	16 26
	168 lbs of sash at 20c / weights to 6 windows at 4/6	38 10
		<u>509 10</u>

2 <sup>d</sup> floor East end of Center Building Rooms Nos 5, 6, 10, 11		
	989 ft of framing joist at 7/6 989 ft of flooring at 7/4	51 91
	6 window frames at 7/9.50c 236 ft 6 in of blinds at 20c	106 13
	hinging and boating 5 pair of do at 4/6	3 75
	56 lbs of sash at 20c 78 lbs of do at 18c	24 16
	weights to 5 windows at 4/6 - 120 ft panel window sashes at 20c	102 15
	102 ft of inside shutters at 20c	48 15
	hanging 8 pair of do at 4/6 - finish of 3 recesses at 7/6	11 00
	60 ft 6 in of panel sashes at 20c - 50 ft of doors at 20c	22 10
	locks and hinges to 2 doors at 4/6	1 50
	270 ft of pilaster grounds at 6c 273 ft of pilaster at 1/9	50 82
	22 plinth blocks at 6c 22 rose blocks at 1/6	5 00
	4 carpet sills at 1/9 142 ft of base at 20c	28 90
	100 ft of oak strips at 3c sliding doors and sashes at 7/30	33 00
	588 stud partition at 9/12 10 lintels at 1/9	10 07
	588 ft of lining partition at 6/6 - 1678 ft of furring walls at 1/6	22 76
	4 corner beads at 1/6	1 00
		<u>420 25</u>

South West room 2<sup>d</sup> floor no 12

509 ft of framing joist at 7/6 - 509 ft of flooring at 4/26	73
91 ft of base at 16c 182 ft of cloak slips at 3c	20 32
2 window and 1 door frame at 7 9.50	28 00
95 ft of blinds at 1/6 - 2 pair hinges and boated at 4/6	25 00
48 lbs of sash at 18c Wright to 2 windows at 4/6	10 14
49 ft of window frame panes at 20c	9 80
204 ft pilaster grounds at 6c 172 ft of pilasters at 1/9	33 74
118 ft of doors at 20c Locks and hinges to 3 doors at 4/6	25 85
locks and hinges to 2 small do at 2/3 5 carpenter's	1 38
16 rose blocks at 1/ - 16 plinth do at 6c	3 62
2 recesses at 7/3 1 set of door frame pane of	7 00
2 profs door frame sash casing and shelving at 7/10	20 00
300 ft steel partition at 7/ 546 ft firing walls at 4/ -	9 96
5 lintels at 1/9 -	63
	<u>222.62</u>

North West room 2<sup>d</sup> floor No 13

1004 00 ft framing joist at 7/6 400 ft of floor at 7/4	7 20 00
80 ft of b at 16c 2 window frames at 7 9.50	31 80
108 ft of blinds at 1/6 hinges and boating 2 pair at 4/6	28 50
56 lbs of sash at 20c Wright to 2 windows at 4/6	12 70
58 ft paneled window frame at 20c - 108 ft inside shutter at 2c	33 20
hinging 3 pair of do at 1/6 169 ft pilaster grounds at 6c	12 14
141 ft of pilasters at 1/9 6 carpenter's	18 37
160 ft of cloak slips at 3c 100 ft of doors at 20c	24 80
4 door locks and hinges at 4/6 600 ft of partition at 7/ -	12 00
546 ft firing walls at 4/ - 14 rose blocks at 1/ -	7 79
14 plinth blocks at 6c 1 sliding door frame etc. at 7/12	12 84
546 ft lining partition of 1 mantle piece at 7/10	15 46
2 profs at 7/6 4 lintels at 1/9	12 50
	<u>242 10</u>

West wing and interior 2<sup>o</sup> floor nos 14-15-16

784 ft of framing joist at 7/6 - 784 ft of flooring at 7/4	16
128 ft of base at 16c 5 window and 1 door frame at 7/2	48
235 ft of blinds at 1/6 5 pair hinged and coated at 4/6	62 50
84 lbs of sash at 20c 48 do at 18c weights to 5 windows at 1/6	29 19
finish of 2 recess at 7/3 - 137 ft of panel jambs at 20c	23 40
200 ft of clock strips at 3c 150 ft of inside sheeting at 20c	36 00
hinging 12 pair of do at 1/6 1 on another piece at 7/10	15 00
2 pieces at 12 dollars - 362 ft of pilaster grounds at 6c	48 72
270 ft pilaster at 1/9 20 rose blocks at 1/2	37 08
20 plinth do at 6c - 50 ft 6 in panel jambs at 20c	12 30
4 sets of plane door jambs at 6/ - 10 carpet sash at 1/2	5 25
5 lintels at 7/9 107 ft of panel doors at 20c	24 40
5 doors locks and hinges at 4/6 101 ft of double architrave at 10c	13 95
to ramp 2 stone stairs case at 7/80	80 00
170 ft of ceiling at 15/ - 1 transoms sash at 4/6	5 00
under in addition 200	516 43

Large passage 2<sup>o</sup> floor No 17

602 ft framing joist at 7/6 602 ft of flooring at 7/4	27 58
100 ft of base at 20c 101 ft of panel jambs at 20c	40 20
86 ft of grounds to pilaster at 6c 68 ft of pilaster at 7/9	13 66
1596 ft of facing walls at 6/ 8 rose blocks at 1/2	17 29
3 plinth do at 6c 50 ft of clock strips at 3c	1 98
1 ventilation front door the work inside and out included	100 00
1 do back do as above at 7/40 5 lintels at 7/9	40 60
1 stone door frame sash and door complete 7/6	6 00
1 window frame at 7/9.50 45 ft of blinds at 25c	20 75
hinging & bracing 1 pair of do 4/6 24 lbs of sash at 18c	5 07
weights to sash at 4/6 - 24 ft 6 in of panel jambs at 20c	5 65
3 1/2 ft of grounds at 6c 27 ft of pilaster at 7/9	4 23
2 rose blocks at 1/2 2 plinth at 6c 1 except 7/3	3 45
2 niches at 7/13.50	27 00
	313 49

East wing 3<sup>d</sup> floor No 18

841 ft of framing joint at 7/6	841 ft of flooring at 7/4	44	10
110 ft of base at 6c	210 of sliding at 7/6	9	13
2 preps at 84c	1 mantle piece at 2.50c	10	52
53 ft of bead strips at 2c	2 window seats at 3/-	2	06
32 ft of window casing at 4c	34 ft of ankletime at 6c	3	36
31 ft of panel jambs at 20c	32 lites of sash at 1/8	10	20
20 lites of sash gothic at 1/6	2 windows huff weights at 7/8	5	75
2 lintel at 1/9			25
in.		85	40
		7	55

North East room 3<sup>d</sup> floor No 19

462 ft of framing over at 7/6	462 ft of floor at 7/4	21	87
87 ft of base at 18c	2 window frames at 79.50c	34	66
56 ft of blinds at 1/6	hinging and bolting 2 pair at 4/6	23	00
48 lites of sash at 18c	weights to 2 windows at 4/6	10	14
49 ft of jambs panel at 20c	128 ft of pilaster grounds at 6c	17	40
108 ft of pilasters at 1/9	10 rose blocks at 1/-	15	16
10 plinth at 6c	800 ft of furring at 6/-	8	60
3 carpet sills at 1/9	4 lintels at 1/9	300	ft of stud partition at 7/8
3 door frames 2 doors and 12 lites of sash to recess at 7/15c		15	00
skirting and ceiling 15 preps at 4.50	20 ft of corner bead at 2c	4	90
47 ft of doors at 20c	hinging and locks to 2 do at 4/6	10	90
2 window recess at 7/3	1 mantle piece at 7/10	16	00
in.		183	01

South East room 3<sup>d</sup> floor No 20 and passage west

440 ft of framing joint at 7/6	440 ft of flooring at 7/4	22	44
3 window frames at 79.50	135 ft of blinds at 1/6	61	25
hinging and bolting 3 pair of do at 4/6	72 lites of sash at 18c	13	21
weights to 3 windows at 4/6	124 ft of base at 18c	24	54
73 ft in panel jambs at 20c	3 recess to windows at 7/3	23	70
2 plain door frames at 6/-	20 ft of corner beads at 3c	2	60
135 ft of pilaster grounds at 6c	157 ft of pilasters at 1/9	29	67
84 ft of doors at 20c	4 doors hinged and locks at 4/6	19	80
in.		199	24

8	No 20 and 21 cont'd cont. But over	\$199	24
under 37	16 rose blocks at 1/4 16 do plinth at 6c		3 63
	4 capit sills at 1/4 skelns and ceiling to proff at 75-		5 50
	660 ft of stud partition at 9/4 420 ft of furring to walls at 6/4		14 10
	1 mantle piece at 10c 5 lintels at 1/4		10 62
			<u>\$233 09</u>

	Large passage 3 <sup>d</sup> floor No 22-		
	420 ft of framing joist at 7/6 420 ft of flooring at 74-	22	05-
	67 ft of base at 20c 67 ft of clock strips at 3c	15	41
	76 ft pilaster grounds at 6c 62 ft pilaster at 1/4	12	31
	112 ft of panel jambs at 20c 8 rose blocks at 1/4	23	74
	8 plinth do at 6c 1 window front door complete inside and out at 100-	100	48
	1 fine geometrical 3 Lane Case with all the appertains to it at 400-	400	00
		<u>\$573 98</u>	

	North west room 3 <sup>d</sup> floor No 23-		
over 418	ft of framing joist at 7/6 418 ft of flooring at 9/4 -	22	13
	82 ft of base at 18c 2 window frames at 9.50c	33	76
	80 ft of blinds at 25c 2 pair hinged and coated at 4/6	20	00
	48 lbs of sack at 15c weight to 2 windows at 4/6-	10	14
	49 ft of window jambs panel at 20c 2 recesses to windows at 7/6	15	80
	150 ft 6in of pilaster grounds at 6c 152 ft of pilaster at 1/4	29	89
	14 rose blocks at 1/4 14 plinth do at 6c 3 caput sills at 7/4	4	13
	3 lintels at 1/4 352 ft of furring at 6/4 10 mantle piece at 10c	13	81
over 320	ft of stud partition at 9/4 2 plane door frames at 6/4	5	80
	ceiling and skelny 1 proff 7/4-	4	00
	1 proff with double doors all complete at 20c	20	00
	1 do with single doors all do at 12c-	12	00
	70 ft of doors at 20c hinging & lock to 3 doors at 4/6	16	25-
		<u>\$210 73</u>	

<u>Entrance &amp; South East room 3<sup>d</sup> floor No 24 and 5-</u>			
532 ft of framing joist at 7/6	532 ft of flooring at 7/4	27	25
3 window frames at 79.50	129 ft of blinds at 25.2	59	75
hinging and beading 3 pair of do at 4/6-72 lbs of sash at 18.2		15	21
73 ft of panel jambs at 20.2	3 receipts to windows at 23.	23	70
178 ft of pilaster grounds at 6.2	152 ft of pilasters at 1/9	29	65
14 wood blocks at 1/-	14 plinth do at 6.2	3	50
84 ft of base at 18.2	4 lintels at 1/9	4	36
4 caput sills at 1/9		4	36
1 prop complete at 22.0	2 door frames plane at 6/-	2	00
1 closet under stairs at 23.50	1 mantle piece at 11.0	13	50
70 ft of doors at 20.2	hinging and locks to 3 do at 4/6-	16	25
17 ft of panel jambs at 20.2	330 ft of lining walls at 6/-	6	70
330 ft of stud partition at 9/-	26 ft of architrave at 6.2	7	11
1 stark door and frame complete	95.-	5	00
1 closet over stairs	ceiling door 76" at 7.6-	6	00
675 ft of ceiling	at 2.50	16	87
1 stark <sup>and</sup> with 1 extra flight railing	86" at 7.50-	50	00
		<u>318</u>	<u>68</u>
<u>West wing and entrance 3<sup>d</sup> floor no 26 &amp; 7</u>			
841 ft of framing joist at 7/6	841 ft of flooring at 7/4-	44	24
130 ft of base at 6.2	500 ft of studding at 7/8-	14	05
2 small props at 4/4	1 mantle piece at 15/-	10	50
53 ft of bead strips at 4.2	2 window sills at 1/6	2	62
25 ft of cloak strips at 2.2	32 ft of window casing at 4.2	1	78
86 ft of architrave at 6.2	2 angled door jambs at 9/-	8	16
2 sets of plane do at 6/-	2 angled doors at 74.50	11	00
100 ft of doors at 20.2	hinging and lock to 2 doors at 4/6	10	30
2 caput sills at 1/9	1 lintel at 1/9	3	51
3 ft of bead strip			
ceasing & skiving 1 closet at 7.6-	1 prop in passage at 3.0-	9	00
4 sky lite at 7.2-	32 lbs of sash at 1/9	20	00
20 lbs of do for the 4/6	half rights to 2 windows at 2/3		70
		<u>123</u>	<u>91</u>

10

East end 4th floor no 28

1100 ft of flooring at 18/-	1900 of ceiling at 15/-	49	50
1900 ft of furring at 6/-	56 ft of corner bead at 2e	20	13
42 ft of casing windows at 4e	18 ft of architrave at 6e	2	76
22 ft of door 20e	hinging & locks to 1 door 2/3	4	77
32 lites of sash at 19	20 do gothic at 1/6	9	00
28 ft of clock strips 4e	2 stands of shelves at 4.50	10	12
		127	28

—

Large passage and small room 4th floor No 29 and 30

420 ft of framing joint at 7/6	420 ft of flooring at 4/-	22	05
420 ft of furring under floor at 6/-	64 ft of base at 6e	8	04
34 ft of clock strips at 4e	22 pins in same at 1e	1	58
52 ft of corner bead at 2e	34 ft of casing to windows at 4e	2	40
2 window seats at 3/-	32 lites of sash at 19	20	00
do of gothic at 1/6	wrights to 2 windows at 2/3	5	75
5 door jambs at 6/-	76 ft of architrave at 6e	5	34
26 ft of corner bead at 3e	3 ft of base at 20e	1168	80
1168 ft of stud partition at 7/6	580 ft of furring at 6/-	72	20
72 ft of doors at 20e	hinge and locks to 4 doors at 2/3	2	75
2 carpet sills at 1/9	ceasing under stairs at 7/6	1	25
1 Stair way to the top of the house ceiling 4e		40	00
		137	16

—

West end 4th floor no 31 and 32

117 ft of flooring at 3/-	260 ft of stud partition at 7/6	36	
5160 ft of ceiling at 18/-	1900 ft of furring at 6/-	73	00
56 ft of corner bead at 3e	42 ft of casing windows at 4e	3	36
56 ft of architrave at 6e	1 angle door frame at 6/-	4	00
20 ft of angled door at 22e	hinging & lock to 1 door 4/3	4	77
2 ft of clock strips at 3e	32 lites of sash at 19	4	09
20 lites do of gothic at 1/6	2 windows half wrights at 2/3	5	75
1 stand of shelves at 7.50		7	50
		138	72

—

#		11
<u>Revised the House</u>		
5250 ft of framing top joist at 13/6		118 12
5700 ft of framing roof at 18/-		102 00
5400 ft of sheathing at 1/3 Balustrade floor etc. at 1/150		190 50
420 ft of block cornice at 12/-		840 00
5 fine front dormer windows at 35-		175 00
5 do back do do at 25-		125 00
	in.	1619 62
#		
Back Building		
Kitchen room No 1-		
200 ft of framing floor at 6/ 200 ft of floor 18/-		8 00
2 door frames doors and casings etc. at 7.50		15 00
3 window frames casings sash and blinds at 11.-		33 00
70 ft of base at 6c 1 kitchen dryer at 10.-		7 20
1 stone case and triming at 20		20 00
5 lintels at 1/9		63
	in.	83 83
#		
Do south and room No 2-		
322 ft of framing joist at 6/- 322 ft of flooring at 3.		12 88
1 door frame door casing and triming same work at 7.50		7 50
3 window frames sash blinds and casing at 11.-		33 00
74 ft of base at 6c 1 mantle piece at 2.50		6 94
4 lintels at 1/9		50
	in.	60 82
#		
Cellar No 3		
door frame and door to do at 3.50.		3 50
2 grate frames at 15/- 3 lintels at 1/9		5 38
3 steps to same at 3-		3 00
	in.	11 88
#		
2 <sup>nd</sup> floor North room or pantry no 4-		
400 ft of framing joist at 6/- 400 ft of floor at 3.-		16 00
80 ft of base at 6c 4 window frames sash blinds & casing at 11.		48 80
4 door frames doors casings etc at 7.50		30 00
1 mantle piece at 3.50 2 projects at 5.- 6 lintels at 1/9		14 12
place for sliding trap at 5.-		5 00
	in.	113 92

12	#		
South room 2 <sup>d</sup> floor no 5-			
300 ft of framing joist at 6/-	300 ft of floor at 7/3-	\$	12 00
4 window frames blinds sash and casings	at 7/11-		44 00
1 door frame door transoms casing etc.	at 7/8-		8 00
72 ft of base and subbase at 15c	1 mantle piece at 7/350		14 30
6 lentils at 1/8	"		75
	in?	\$	77 00
Large back porch no 6-			
815 ft of framing joist at 6/-	815 ft of floor at 7/4-	\$	40 75
455 ft of furring over head at 6/-	58 ft of panel work 3/-		33 50
framing and casing 10 post at 7/6			12 50
58 ft of sill facing and mending	at 10c		9 25
<sup>under</sup> 4 3/4 ft of plate facing and cornice	at 4/6		23 75
1 ornition door frame sash blinds door etc.	at 7/35		35 00
4 5/8 ft of cornice west side	at 3/-		22 50
	in?	\$	177 33
West back porch no 7			
valued at 42 dollars	9 stairs to come at 7/15-	\$	57
	in?		57
Hilom roof Beer Building roof			
1500 ft of framing at 7/6	3600 ft of flooring at 18/-	\$	150 50
128 ft balustrade at 60c	40 ft of facing joist at 8c		80 00
repairs to roof	at 7/20c		20 00
	in?	\$	230 50
Meat House (and privy) no 8 and 9-			
1 door frame and door	at 7/4.50	16 grate frames at 9/-	\$ 28 50
432 framing roof at 12/-	432 ft of skirting at 4/6		11 82
17 lentils at 1/6c	see The Joins at 7/5c		6 02
80 ft of cornice	at 40c	"	32 00
privy measured to	7/60-	"	60
	in?	\$	138 34

Front Porch

Amount of Mr. Rodriguez bill for porch  
the measurement of this we find correct but  
subject to the following deductions

off of the cornice	\$37	
+ off of the pine floor	\$12.60	<del>12.60</del>
		<u>949.60</u>
this amount allowed		\$1029.24

Rapans house

raising the house at \$15-		15 00
1000 ft of fir weatherboarding at 6/-		10 00
1267 ft of flooring at 15/-	31.67 =	31 67
framing roof shuting & shingling at \$23.40	=	23 00
80 ft of bosing at 1/-	13.33 =	13 00
1 stair case and partition at \$25.00		25 00
1 chimney piece at \$5.		5 00
148 ft of base at 6c		8 88
2 panel doors hanging and locks at \$4.		8 00
3 door frame casings etc. at 4/6		2 25
6 windows do at 4/6		4 50
52 lbs of dash at 1/9 mistake		6 50
planing 102 lbs of geaps at 3c		3 06
framing sleepers 6/-		1 00
72 ft 2c		1 44
setting 10 frames at 2/6		2 50
		<u>\$121.43</u>
		<del>\$121.43</del>
		\$161 47

There was an error of \$40.04  
in the addition of this

Omitted in measuring 770 ft furrow over head  
in back building at 4/-

7 70

The bill of the negro house is correct as charged  
by him at \$386.08.

386 08

Whole amount valued by us  
George Winniford and H.M. Ledbetter

\$ 9291 50

APPENDIX D  
SYNOPSIS OF REPORT ON TYPES OF SOUTHERN COLLEGES

In 1918, Elizabeth Avery Colton, then president of the Southern Association of College Women, released a bulletin entitled The Various Types of Southern Colleges for Women. Colton was concerned because the term "college" was being utilized in the South to refer to private secondary schools, special study schools, normal schools, and liberal arts colleges. She feared that southern women would mistake "nominal colleges for real colleges" (p. 3).

Colton (1918) noted that there were 124 institutions bearing the name "college for women" during the 1915-1916 school year. She grouped them into six different categories based on data obtained from college catalogues for the years 1915-1916 and 1916-1917. The six classes were as follows: (1) standard colleges, (2) approximate colleges, (3) normal and industrial colleges, (4) junior colleges, (5) unclassifiable colleges, and (6) nominal and imitation colleges.

Colton (1918) defined standard colleges as "colleges of liberal arts belonging to the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States" (pp. 3-4). She identified only seven standard colleges for women in the South. Two of these schools, Randolph-Macon Women's College (Lynchburg) and Westhampton College (Richmond) being located in Virginia.

Class II colleges were labeled approximate colleges; "colleges of liberal arts not sufficiently well organized and sufficiently equipped in 1915-1916 to conform to all the regulations of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States, but offering four years of work which might justly entitle especially good students to graduate standing in first class institutions" (Colton, 1918, p. 7). The basic difference between Class I and Class II institutions were that Class II schools (1) maintained preparatory departments, (2) had a larger proportion of special study students, (3) had poorer library and laboratory equipment, and (4) paid their professors lower salaries. Eight colleges were placed within this class; two of them, Hollins College and Sweet Briar College, were in Virginia.

Class III normal and industrial colleges were defined as "institutions organized primarily for the purpose of giving training in industrial subjects and in methods of teaching" (Colton, 1918, p. 10). In Virginia, the State Normal School for Women was listed. Only five other schools in the South were listed in this category.

Class IV schools were junior colleges; "institutions offering the first two years of college work" (Colton, 1918, p. 11). Colton indicated that no junior colleges were recognized by the Association of Colleges and Secondary

Schools of the Southern States. However, a series of schools was listed as being recognized as junior colleges by the following groups: (1) standard colleges and universities, (2) the Methodist Board of Education, and (3) the State Board of Education of Virginia.

A fifth classification in Colton's (1918) report was termed "unclassifiable colleges; institutions of varying standard{,} publishing in 1915 a classified list of students and a faculty list with as many as three holding degrees from standard colleges" (p. 17). The author noted:

Some of these institutions are new; others are in a state of transition, of evolution; and all outline in their catalogues courses of study that imitate closely those of standard colleges. It is therefore impossible to give an accurate rating of the relative value of their 1916 degrees, or of the degrees that those entering in 1916 will receive. (Colton, 1918, p. 17)

Of the 21 schools listed in this class, two were in Virginia; Elizabeth College in Salem, and the Martha Washington College in Abingdon.

The sixth class in Colton's (1918) report was that of imitation and nominal colleges. These schools were "institutions that are either preparatory schools calling themselves colleges, or a combination of preparatory and 'special study' schools offering imitation college courses" (p. 19). Even though over 30 schools were listed within this classification none of the schools were in Virginia.

The author of the study was also careful to point out the difference between standard colleges and Methodist "Class A" colleges. Colton (1918) noted that the Board of Education of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, South, had established a classification of "A" for both men's and women's colleges. They were, however, rated on a different basis. The author of the report feared that individuals considering attendance at such schools as Martha Washington or the Women's College of Alabama would not realize that they were not national Class A colleges, "but Methodist Class A colleges - and colleges for women only at that" (Colton, 1918, p. 26).

APPENDIX E  
ABINGDON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FORM

December 31, 1969

The Honorable J. A. Johnson, Sr.  
Mayor  
Abingdon, Virginia

Dear Mr. Johnson:

It gives us great pleasure to inform you that the Abingdon Preservation Zone has been accepted for inclusion on the Virginia Landmarks Register and has also been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, which is being supervised under the auspices of the United States Department of the Interior.

The Virginia Landmarks Register, established by an act of the General Assembly in 1966, is to include "the buildings, structures, and sites which constitute the principal historic, architectural, and archaeological sites which are of state-wide or national significance." It is our feeling that the Abingdon Preservation Zone richly deserves this recognition.

According to our legislative mandate, we are required to periodically publish a list of Register sites, and this list will be circulated when we receive official notification that this Preservation Zone has been placed on the National Register.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Moody, Jr.  
Executive Director

JWM:jt

December 31, 1969

Mr. John H. Gregory  
President  
The Historical Society of Washington  
County, Virginia  
P. O. Box 484  
Abingdon, Virginia 24210

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Sincerely yours,

James W. Moody, Jr.  
Executive Director

JWM:jt

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

<b>1. NAME</b>						
COMMON: Abingdon Historic District						
AND/OR HISTORIC: Abingdon						
<b>2. LOCATION</b>						
STREET AND NUMBER: Extending .1 mi. N and .1 mi. S of Main St. (Rt. 11), extending .3 mi. NE and .3 mi. SW of intersection of Main St. and Cummings						
CITY OR TOWN: St. (Alt. Rt. 58).						
Abingdon						
STATE		CODE	COUNTY:	CODE		
Virginia		45	Washington	191		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>						
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial		<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational		<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>						
OWNER'S NAME: Varied ownership - public and private						
STREET AND NUMBER:						
CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon			STATE: Virginia	CODE 45		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>						
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Court House						
STREET AND NUMBER: Southwest corner of East Main Street and Court Street						
CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon			STATE: Virginia	CODE 45		
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>						
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory						
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local						
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress						
STREET AND NUMBER:						
CITY OR TOWN: Washington			STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Abingdon's Main Street presents a fine collection of nineteenth-century domestic and commercial buildings, the importance of which is enhanced by the town's location in Southwest Virginia, an area that remained frontier long after the town's founding in 1778. The eight-and-one-half block section of Main Street which constitutes the preservation zone covers two ridges with rather steep slopes between. Lined along these hilly streets are fine Federalist and nineteenth-century revival designs. Among the more notable structures are the Doctor Pitts House, 247 East Main Street, a stuccoed brick, two-story building with stepped gable ends which adds formality to the steep grade east of the court house, and, far to the west, the General Francis Preston House, the center block of the present Martha Washington Inn. Located in between are the stuccoed Tavern, which dates from the late-eighteenth century; the Barter Theatre; the Virginia House, an early-nineteenth century brick hotel; the fine Victorian bank, and many others.</p> <p>The variety of functions as well as design is important, and while the majority of the buildings are dwellings, several churches, offices and stores, as well as the county court house, demonstrate the various elements that appeared on a main thoroughfare in the nineteenth century. Although some of the overall effect has been marred by twentieth-century intrusions, the historic area of Abingdon still survives and retains the essential elements of its earlier development.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Originally called Wolf Hills and later named Black's Fort in honor of the defence erected to protect the settlers from Indian attacks, the town of Abingdon was officially established in 1778 when 120 acres were given for that purpose. By 1793 the town had prospered and become the clearing house for all mail sent to Southwest Virginia. It had also served as the county seat of Washington County when the first court met there in 1777. By 1845 a visitor described Abingdon as a "town ... on an elevation; it is substantially built, with many brick buildings; the principal street is macadamized, and the town is surrounded by a fertile, flourishing, and thickly-settled agricultural county. It contains several large mercantile stores, 2 newspaper printing offices, 1 Presbyterian, 2 Methodist, and 1 Swedenborgian church, a variety of mechanical and manufacturing establishments, and a population of over 1000." The town suffered partial destruction during the War between the States when Union troops under General Stoneman burned various storehouses of Confederate supplies on 14 December 1864. The next day a Yankee straggler set fire to much of the remaining part of Main Street.</p> <p>It should be remembered that Abingdon was the home of John Campbell, Secretary of the Treasury (1829-39); General Joseph E. Johnston, Confederate general, and three Virginia governors, Wyndham Robertson (1836-37), David Campbell (1837-41) and John Buchanan Floyd (1849-52).</p> <p>The area that is being designated a preservation zone is a particularly fine example of the development of a "main street" in a rural Virginia town during the nineteenth century. Buildings of particular note include the Abingdon Bank and Cashier's House, the Washington County Court House, the Virginia House, the King House, the White House, the Doctor Pitts House and the Martha Washington Inn which was built in the 1830's by General Francis Preston. Of especial note is the Barter Theatre of Virginia, which has won international acclaim since its establishment in 1933 by Robert Porterfield.</p>			

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Howe, Henry, Historical Collections of Virginia. Charleston, S. C.: 1845.  
 Summers, William Preston, History of Southwest Virginia and Washington County. Baltimore: 1966.  
Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion. New York: 1956.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	36°	42'	50"	81°	58'	36"						
NE	36°	42'	50"	81°	57'	58"						
SE	36°	42'	33"	81°	57'	58"						
SW	36°	42'	33"	81°	58'	36"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **35 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**      DATE: **November 18, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond**      STATE: **Virginia**      CODE: **45**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Dr. Edward P. Alexander</u></p> <p><b>Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman</b>                      Title <u>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission</u></p> <p>Date <u>December 2, 1969</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____                      Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

APPENDIX F  
SAMPLE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

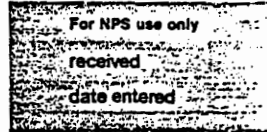
NPS Form 10-800  
(7-81)

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



## 1. Name

historic } ANSWER ONE OR BOTH  
and/or common }

## 2. Location

street & number } MAY BE MARKED "N/A" not for publication  
city, town } ANSWER AS APPROPRIATE } MAY BE MARKED "N/A" IF NOT APPROPRIATE vicinity of  
state } code { ANSWER } county { ANSWER WITH COUNTY, PARISH, DISTRICT, OR COMPARABLE UNIT. } code { MAY BE MARKED "N/A" ONLY } NOT APPLICABLE  
MARK "N/A" IF THERE IS NO COMPARABLE UNIT.

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<small>ANSWER "PUBLIC ACQUISITION" OR WRITE "N/A"</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name }  
street & number } ANSWER AS APPROPRIATE  
city, town } MAY BE MARKED "N/A" vicinity of state } ANSWER

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. }  
street & number } ANSWER  
city, town } state }

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title } ANSWER OR WRITE "N/A" has this property been determined eligible? } ANSWER yes no  
date } federal } state } county } local }  
depository for survey records } ANSWER OR WRITE "N/A" }

**7. Description**

Notes

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates

\* Builder/Architect } ANSWER OR WRITE "N/A" OR "UNKNOWN"

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

ANSWER { **9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of nominated property ANSWER  
 Quadrangle name ANSWER Quadrangle scale ANSWER

UMT References

ANSWER {	A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
	C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

ANSWER {

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

MAY BE MARKED N/A

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title		} ANSWER
organization	date	
street & number	telephone	
city or town	state	

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: } ANSWER  
 \_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature } ANSWER  
 title date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

APPENDIX G  
MARTHA WASHINGTON INN PROMOTIONAL BULLETINS



M A R T H A   W A S H I N G T O N   I N N

*A Hotel of Distinction*

BARNHILL HOTEL CORPORATION

R. G. BARNHILL  
Manager

150 ROOMS

110 Rooms with Combination Tub and  
Shower

RATES:

\$1.50	to	\$3.00	Single
2.00	to	5.00	Double

*Picturesque*

AND

*Historic*

ABINGDON, VIRGINIA



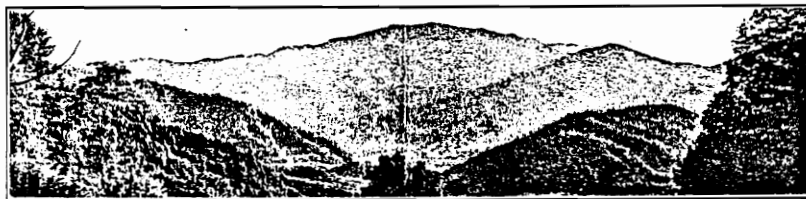
Road Scene in Mountains of Southwest Virginia

AS EARLY as 1760 Colonel William Byrd cut out a road following the old buffalo trail from Big Lick, Va. (Roanoke), to Long Island (Kingsport). Over this route he took an army of six hundred men with supplies to the relief of Fort Loudon, Tenn., which was besieged by the Cherokee Indians. Practically all of the early settlers of Southwestern Virginia, Eastern Tennessee and Kentucky passed over this route in search of their new homes. The Lee Highway, from Washington, D. C., to the Pacific Coast, follows this old route for more than two hundred miles. The early frontiersmen were not entirely ignorant of the advantages of good roads and accurate information in regard to them. In the year 1784 John Filson published a history of Kentucky and at the conclusion of the book he published a Road Log from Philadelphia, Pa., to the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville).

The distance between points and the total mileage check with the mileage given in the Blue Book with very slight variation. There is not a route in the entire country that is more replete with history than the Lee Highway. Over this old trail marched the army of Colonel William Byrd in 1760 to the relief of Fort Loudon. In 1774 Colonel Andrew Lewis mobilized a regiment of 1,200 frontiersmen and traveled over it on his famous campaign against the Ohio Indians. In 1776 Colonel William Christian collected his little army from Southwestern Virginia and invaded the Cherokee country on the southern border of Tennessee,

again using the old buffalo trail as a military highway. In 1774 Captain John Montgomery raised a company of men west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and accompanied George Rogers Clark in his conquest of the Northwest Territory. The route followed, from Southwestern Virginia to the Falls of the Ohio, was the same as shown on Filson's old Log. In 1780 Colonel William Campbell mustered his men from the far reaches of Washington County and marched his small army to Shelby's Fort (Bristol), and thence on to Kings Mountain and victory. Until the completion of the railroad in 1856, from Harpers Ferry, Va., to Bristol, Tenn., this old route described by Filson was one of the most important thoroughfares in the entire country.

The Lee Highway today is Abingdon's principal North and South thoroughfare, and connects the two



Blue Ridge Mountains

**H**ISTORIC, picturesque Abingdon, for more than one hundred and fifty years the cultural center of Southwest Virginia, will welcome you. For recreation, for entertainment, for fishing, for hunting, for golf and for peaceful enjoyment of the scenic beauty and moderate climate, the equal of Abingdon is seldom found.

Located on the Norfolk & Western Railway and the branch of the Norfolk & Western from Abingdon to Western North Carolina, the very best train service is provided.

Three Federal highways converge at Abingdon. Highway No. 11, known as the Lee Highway and the Broadway of America, connecting New York City and Los Angeles, Cal., Highway No. 19 extends from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, Highway No. 58 extends from Cumberland Gap, on the border of Ky., to Norfolk, Va. Two airports within thirty miles of Abingdon and two additional airports under construction within twenty miles of Abingdon, make Abingdon readily accessible by air.

The rugged mountains and rippling mountain streams, the fertile valleys and the beautiful rivers, near the town, offer to the nature lover scenery which is unsurpassed.

In and near to Abingdon are three well designed and well kept golf courses, numerous tennis courts,



Martha Washington Inn

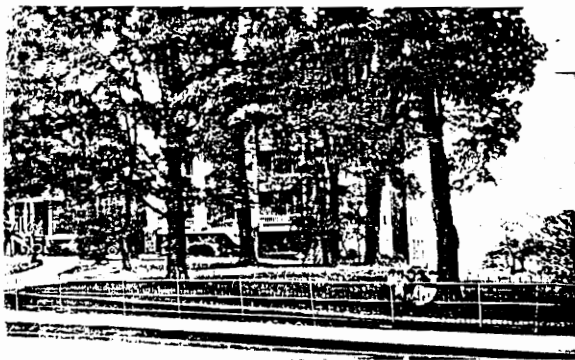
well stocked trout streams and easily accessible rivers abounding in small mouth black bass; quail and pheasant hunting in the fields and hills near Abingdon; quiet country roads for horseback riding, first class highways for automobile trips to places of historic interest and scenic beauty are some of the attractions which Abingdon offers to share with its visitors.

Thirty-five miles Southeast of Abingdon is the noted White Top Mountain, elsewhere referred to; twenty



George Ben Johnston Memorial Hospital





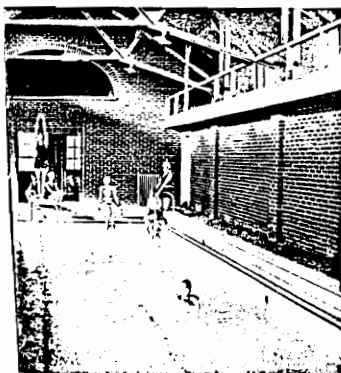
n. Abingdon, Virginia

miles from Abingdon is located Back Bone Rock and tunnel, one of the scenic wonders of Virginia; forty miles Northwest of Abingdon is located Natural Tunnel, a spectacle to reward many miles of travel; thirty miles from Abingdon is located Hungry Mother State Park; twenty miles from Abingdon is Jefferson National Forest; numerous other interesting spots easily accessible from Abingdon include Abram's Falls; the grave of General William Campbell, Revolutionary hero; the part of the tree carved by Daniel

Boone—"D. Boone killed bar 1775". This interesting relic of the past may be seen in Abingdon. Located on the grounds of Martha Washington Inn is the famous smoke tree transplanted by Francis Preston about 1835 from the original smoke tree at the tomb of Napoleon.

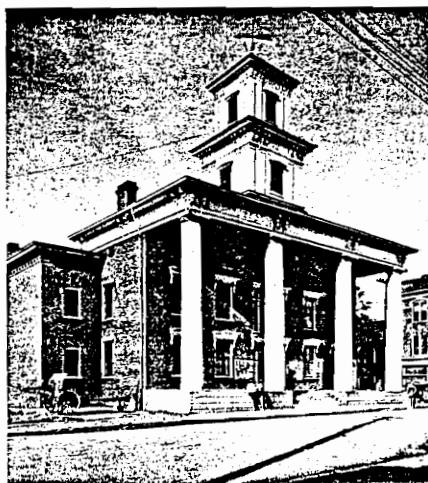
Abingdon, originally known as Wolf Hills and later as Blacks Fort and then as Abingdon, was located on the Wilderness Trail near the point where the Indian Trails from the North, the West and South converged. Washington County, of which Abingdon is the County seat, was incorporated in 1776, and is the first political sub-division named for the father of our country. Abingdon received its charter as a town in October, 1778, and the original town minute book is one of the interesting relics of the town. Some of the town ordinances passed in the early days are very quaint and interesting.

Located within the town of Abingdon is the residence of William King, the first brick building constructed West of the Blue Ridge. This building bears



Martha Washington Inn Swimming Pool

Washington County Court House



Eastern National Parks; namely, the Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains.

The Shenandoah National Park, as authorized by an Act of Congress in May, 1926, is located in the Virginia Section of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and provides recreational facilities of over 150,000 acres of land for the enjoyment of our citizens.

The Great Smokies are among the oldest mountains in the world, and although for many years they had attracted the attention of geologists and scientists, and a few living in the foothills and adjacent sections occasionally wandered into the "Smokies" in search of game and fish, little was known in a general way about this magnificent range, the loftiest and grandest of the entire Appalachian chain.

#### MARTHA WASHINGTON INN

**B**Y ALL well-traveled persons it is generally admitted that the Southwestern section of Virginia combines more attractive features and historical points of interest than practically any other section of the country. Situated in the heart of this place is The Martha Washington Inn, at Abingdon, Virginia, a large well-proportioned structure of the Colonial type.

It is conducted on the European plan, thoroughly modern in its appointments and service, with every convenience found in a first-class city hotel. The cuisine leaves nothing to be desired, as the bounteous fare is prepared from the finest products of the market by skilled chefs, and daintily served.

Recreations to be found at Martha Washington Inn will include:

**SWIMMING:** A magnificent tiled indoor swimming pool is located in the fifteen acre park that surrounds the hotel. Special facilities will provide year-round swimming.

**TENNIS:** If you like tennis you may enjoy it to the fullest on courts that have been well built . . . and with a background of splendid scenery. The very air will make your game better.

**SHUFFLEBOARD:** The shuffleboard courts are kept busy and you will find pleasant companionship . . . whether you are beginner or expert. Martha Wash-



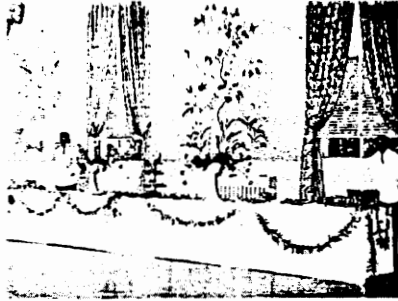
Thy beauty, O, doors, proclaim the spirit that reigns within.  
Martha Washington Inn, Abingdon, Virginia

ington Inn gathers together many good friends from all parts of the country. You will enjoy it here.

**ARCHERY:** You will find the bow and arrow mighty good sport . . . most of our guests enjoy it. Archers gather here from all over the country—and there are many novices who first pulled bow on Martha Washington's course.

**GOLF:** The Abingdon Country Club is located in the Martha Washington Inn, offering a variety of holes over interesting and well kept fairways and excellent bent grass greens.

**SKEET SHOOTING:** Trap shooting has long been a favorite amusement among hunters. Now comes an added interest in skeet shooting for those who would improve their shots on the attractive Martha Washington Skeet range.



## The Charm Of History

Famous the world over for its charm, Martha Washington Inn in Abingdon is also one of the outstanding historic landmarks of the area.

General Francis Preston had two things in mind when he built the home in 1830 — a house suited for his station in life, and a home and grounds spacious enough for his large family of nine children.

Since that time, the landmark has been associated with the social life, culture and educational progress of southwest Virginia.

In 1859, with the family scattered, the home was acquired by the Committee on Martha Washington College and operated as a Christian school for girls for three-quarters of a century. That school combined with Emory & Henry College, and in 1937 the entire property was leased to a hotel corporation and converted into a 100-room colonial inn.

Today, the inn is operated by Abingdon Inns, Inc., as a fully-owned subsidiary of the Barter Foundation, a non-profit corporation for the support of the world-famous Barter Theatre in Abingdon.

Throughout its rich history, the Inn has never lost its charm — a charm compounded of equal parts of cuisine, antique furniture, setting, and hospitality.

The Martha Washington Inn, a beautiful, hospitable colonial inn composed of approximately one hundred guest rooms furnished in authentic antiques, is located in Abingdon, Virginia, the oldest town in Southwest Virginia.

Our purpose is to pass on to you a brief sketch of the historical background of the Inn.

An act of legislature in 1776 established Washington County Virginia; it being the oldest County of Washington in the United States honoring the "Father of our Country."

The name Abingdon was given this town in 1778. This again complimented the Washington family as this was the name of Martha Washington's ancestral home.

In Abingdon was built the first brick house west of the Blue Ridge in 1803. It caused much interest and curiosity as people came from miles around to see it.

Through the town's main street runs the Lee Highway (named for General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army). This follows very nearly the old "Wilderness Road" over which have passed not only deer and buffalo, but Indian bands in war paint, and closely followed by settlers pushing ever westward. Now it is a busy thoroughfare with automobiles from every state in the Union in a ceaseless flow.

So progress moves on; Abingdon has always been known as a town of refinement, culture and good southern hospitality.

Among the outstanding men of this section was General Francis Preston, married to lovely Sally Buchanan Campbell, daughter of General William Campbell, also a niece of Patrick Henry.

In 1830 the Prestons started building their home. When completed it was a stately house, with wide veranda and large white columns. This house with its long windows, wide fireplaces and beautiful curved staircase was a social center for this area.

So the pattern of charm was fashioned which pervades the atmosphere to this good day, moving from a home, to a college, to an inn, without losing any of its beauty or hospitality.

Many beautiful brides, in all three occupancies, have descended the stately winding stairway pausing in their radiance to toss their bouquets to the waiting maids below. Too numerous to mention are the lovely receptions and gay parties that have been enjoyed within these walls; then as now, every detail being carried out in southern tradition. However, not all has been gladness. During the War Between the States when much of the town was burned by the "Yank-ees", many a boy was nursed back to health right here. Some of them were beyond help.

The story has been told of a "Yankee Boy" who had been grievously wounded and brought in through a secret stairway. He was being nursed by a "Martha" girl. They lost their hearts to each other. Though it was hopeless from the very beginning, he could not get well. Each night she played the low plaintive songs of the South on her violin. The music seemed to soothe his pain and calm his mind. One night as she played for him, his call came and he quietly "Crossed the Bar." To this day, some people declare if you go up to the third floor (or perhaps it is the second) at midnight and listen intently, you can hear the low sweet strains of the girl of long ago playing to her dying love.

Let us look briefly at the children of Francis and Sally Preston, who lived in these rooms.

William C. Preston became Governor of South Carolina.

Elizabeth Henry Preston married General Edward Carrington.

Susanna Preston married James McDowell, Governor of Virginia.

Sophonisba Preston married Robert Breckenridge of Kentucky.

Sally Preston married John Floyd, later Governor of Virginia.

John Smith Preston was a General in the Confederate Army (1860-65). His wife was Caroline Hampton, sister of General Wade Hampton.

Margaret Preston married General Wade Hampton, Governor of South Carolina.

Maria T. C. Preston married John M. Preston, I.

Col. Thomas L. Preston, a well known soldier and lecturer, built his home east of the present building, on the land now occupied by our swimming pool and the old building that houses "The Theatre in the Round."

It was a large rambling house that later became Stonewall Jackson College. This structure burned early in 1900.

(This data from *Three Quarters of a Century at Martha Washington College* by Dr. Claude D. Curtis)

In the year 1853 the members of the Odd Fellow Lodge, blessed with ideals, visions and a desire to serve the people of this area, "Dreamed a Dream." That of having a woman's college here in Abingdon.

The name "Martha Washington" was proposed by Col. John Campbell in the following words, "If the name of your county was the first honor of its kind paid to General Washington, the name 'Martha Washington' you are about to give your college, will be the first of the kind paid to the wife who shared his anxieties and hope in our struggle for liberty, and whose virtues made her a perfect model of womanly excellency."

After many financial ups and downs, the Lodge, in the best interest of the school, sold the property to the Holston Conference of the Methodist Church, now the present owners.

In about 1932 the Country was experiencing the scourge of a deadly depression.

The Methodist Board decided to consolidate their two schools; closing Martha Washington College and making Emory and Henry College of Emory, Virginia, co-educational.

So after nearly three quarters of a century, the halls were silent. Only a very keen sense could hear the rustle of skirts or an occasional soft laugh, or perhaps a note would sound ever so low from one of the pianos, or the faint melody of a long forgotten school song.

A group of enterprising local men decided to make the old place live again; so was established Martha Washington Inn—1937.

Presently heading the corporation is Robert Porterfield of Barter Theatre fame.

We welcome you warmly to Martha Washington Inn. We shall do all we can to make your stay enjoyable.

We can offer you royal entertainment in the form of the Barter Theatre just across the street. We have entertained Presidents and many distinguished guests from all over the world. We have genuinely welcomed them as we now welcome you.

Do come back!

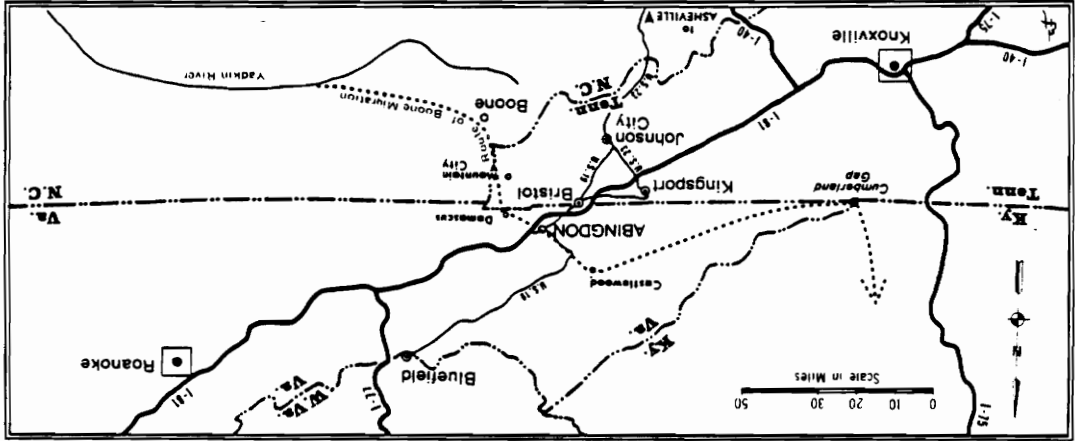
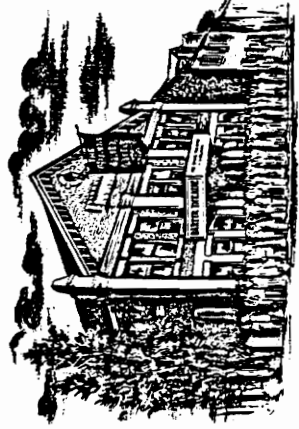
APPENDIX H

BROCHURE-ABINGDON, VIRGINIA: 200 YEARS

# Abingdon, Virginia 200 Years



Abingdon observes its 200th year in 1978. Nearly a century ago a traveler wrote: "The old town of Abingdon . . . of ancient respectability . . . educational center . . . prettily situated in rolling hills over 2,000 feet above the sea, with views of mountain peaks . . . hospitable to the stranger . . . and a habit of sitting out-of-doors." Today this still applies, even to sitting out-of-doors, because offensive insects and muggy weather are rare. One may enjoy nearby streams of clear water and uneroded hills covered with lush blue grass.



children included one governor, one general, the wives of three governors and one general.

Barter Theatre, founded in 1932 by Robert Porterfield, opened in its present location on June 10, 1933. Barter, the State Theatre of Virginia, has set an example of a regional theatre and began a national movement. Abingdon is the only small town in the United States away from large metropolitan areas which is the home of a regional Actors Equity Company.

The Cumbow China Decorating Company, established 42 years ago, is a continuation of the arts from our former Martha Washington and Stonewall Jackson Colleges and, as is also true of Barter Theatre, attracts many visitors from over the world.

To those who in the distant future might wish a further glimpse of present day Abingdon and vicinity we would explain that:

Population in town limits is 4,500 (42,000 in the county).

Town tax on real estate is \$1.10 per \$100 on 50% of appraised value (but the current rate of inflation is of continuing concern).

Twelve industries in the immediate vicinity employ 1,444.

Four Abingdon banks include three full service banks, and one savings & loan bank.

Educational facilities include progressive public schools, Virginia Highlands Community College, and the University of Virginia Evening School. In commuting distance are nearby Emory & Henry College, King College, Virginia Inermont College, and East Tennessee State University.

Medical facilities include our community-owned Johnston Memorial Hospital which has 156 beds, intensive care unit, 27 active, 8 consulting and 19 courtesy affiliates in a wide range of medicine. Communitywide, there are about 42 physicians and 12 dentists.

Forty-seven members of the legal profession practice in Abingdon.

Churches cannot be properly covered in this brief treatise. We'll leave that to their historians, except to state that the majority of our early settlers were devout, leading to over 150 churches at this time in the county.

Some references for this condensed history are: Augusta County Survey Book entries for 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 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## A HISTORY OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

By Walter H. Hendricks

The first English name known for the site of Abingdon, before settlers arrived, was "Burkes Garden" as stated by surveyor Thomas Lewis when, in 1750, he surveyed 6,780 acres for the esteemed explorer Dr. Thomas Walker. The survey inscription, including Lewis' incomplete parentheses, showed the location "Lying on Castles Creek (later named Eighteen Mile Creek) a branch of ye Indian River (Holston) (at a place called Burkes Garden) not ye real Burkes Garden." Apparently in Lewis' mind "ye real Burkes Garden" was -- as it still is -- in present Tazewell County.

Several years later (about 1760) Daniel Boone in "his first venture westward" reputedly named the place Wolf Hill, after wolves had disturbed him and his companion, Nathaniel Gist, and their dogs, when camping near our courthouse hill. The wolves denned in a cave in that hill, and presumably were instinctively protecting their territory.

The first settlers, around 1768, used the name Wolf Hill for their developing community. In the 1770's, lots were being sold from Walker's Wolf Hill tract. The enterprising Walker, along with Joseph Black and Samuel Briggs, had donated 120 acres for the purpose of establishing a town thereon.

The site of Wolf Hill had been a crossing of trails for buffalo and Indians, partly due to being upstream and at an elevation more easily traversed. In 1773, Boone led his 10-member family (including a baby), and five other families through Wolf Hill in their migration toward Kentucky via Castles Woods. In 1775, Col. Richard Henderson's wagon train from North Carolina passed by enroute to Sycamore Shoals (rather than over the shorter but more precipitous way to that point at present Elizabethton, Tenn.), carrying treasures for purchase of "Transylvania" from the Cherokee Nation.

In 1776 Black's Fort was built, and the community adopted that name. Black's Fort became the seat of newly formed Washington County by act of Virginia's General Assembly -- the new county to exist "from and after the 31st day of December, 1776" -- its western boundary extending to Cumberland Gap.

Black's Fort was renamed the town of Abingdon when the General Assembly of Virginia, meeting at Williamsburg, passed number XXII of the 45 Acts of October, 1778, the acts being formalized on October 5th. Trustees named for

the new town were William Campbell, Evan Shelby, Daniel Smith, Robert Craig, William Edmondson, and Andrew Willoughby.

Abingdon was the first English-speaking town to be incorporated in the watershed of the Mississippi and until well after the Revolution, was a distributing point for mail and supplies to the farthest settlements "on the western waters", and a staging point for those who, westwardly, "a thorfare for freedom beat across the wilderness." Here "the history of the west began." Abingdon was on The Great Road down the Valley of Virginia that led to later roads through Tennessee, and to the historical Wilderness Road to and through Kentucky. These roads thence extended farther and farther westward.

The first post office in Southwest Virginia was established in Abingdon in 1793. It was the only post office in Washington County in 1833.

The people of Abingdon and Washington County contributed inestimably during the birthpangs of our nation. In Dunmore's War in 1774, at the Battle of Point Pleasant (called the first battle of the Revolution by the DAR and acknowledged by the 60th Congress as a battle of the Revolution -- the date speaks for itself), they helped open the way for George Rogers Clark to later secure for the United States all our territory north of the Ohio River. They were a buffer before the Indian nations in league with Britain. They were the foot-in-the-door to our midcontinent, thereby forestalling France and Spain. They furnished the commander, and the largest group by states, who turned from imminent disaster a tide of the Revolution at the Battle of King's Mountain (the "first link in a chain of evils" for Britain), which led to Yorktown. And they were in other significant engagements. Theodore Roosevelt, in his *Winning of the West*, wrote:

Although without experience of drill it may be doubted if a braver or physically finer set of men were ever got together on this continent.

George Washington, when in a state of despondency, stated:

Leave me a banner to plant upon the mountains and I'll rally around me the men who will lift our bleaching country out of the dust and set her free.

The intervening years touched Abingdon and its vicinity in dramatic and exciting ways. Educational institutions and cultural influences flourished. Southwest Virginia, and

especially Abingdon, became one of the seedbeds of our nation. A Virginia governor, not from Abingdon, was fond of saying that "no other town of similar size in America gave as many distinguished sons to the South and to the nation as Abingdon." At one time, three Virginia former governors lived within three miles of each other: Gov. Wyndham Robertson's home was "The Meadows"; Gov. David Campbell's home was "Montcalm"; and Gov. John B. Floyd, Jr. (son of Gov. Floyd, Sr.) lived in a home adjacent to the Martha Washington College campus. That home became Stonewall Jackson Institute and burned down in 1914.

Many distinguished statesmen and jurists have been from the Abingdon community. Of these, some were U. S. Senator John W. Johnston, Secretary of the Treasury John Campbell, Secretary of War John B. Floyd, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia Preston W. Campbell.

By 1837 Abingdon contained, besides the ordinary county buildings, between 150 and 200 houses, many of them handsome brick buildings; a male academy and a female academy, both brick; two hotels, and three taverns principally for the accommodation of wagoners; 9 mercantile houses (some wholesale), 3 grocers. There were also 4 tanyards with saddle and harness manufactories, 10 blacksmith shops, 1 hat manufactory and store, 6 wheelwrights and wagonmakers, 2 cabinet warehouses, 3 bricklayers, 2 stonemasons, 3 house carpenters, 3 watchmakers and jewelers, 2 boot and shoe factories, etc. Goods were brought from Baltimore by wagon. A railroad was completed as far as Abingdon by 1856.

In 1812 and again in 1861, and perhaps at other times, the town council "Ordered that the Mayor appoint a patrol of the citizens, regardless of age, to patrol the town of nights, who are able to render such service."

In more recent times the Abingdon vicinity has continued apace in our country's progress. Industries are increasingly attracted, the less polluting being accepted -- but yet with qualms by some in view of the inevitable lowering of the region's environment. In limited space we can cite only a few examples of the continuing character of the community:

Of two Rhodes Scholars, one is recently deceased and the other, born in Abingdon, lives in nearby Meadowview.

At this time, Martha Washington Inn continues as a focal point. It was formerly a women's college and, before that, the home of General Francis Preston (built 1830-1832), whose wife was a niece of Patrick Henry, and whose

## VITA

Martha VanHook Hall was born on March 31, 1959, in Berea, Kentucky. She attended school in the Pulaski County, Kentucky, and Russell County, Virginia, public school systems, and was graduated from Lebanon High School in June, 1977. Undergraduate study at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University included student teaching at the secondary level, and passing the National Teachers Examination. A Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics: Clothing, Textiles, and Related Art, was completed in June, 1981. In September, 1981, she was accepted to the graduate program in Interior Design in the Department of Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. During her program of study, she was awarded graduate assistantships, and in March, 1985, she completed the requirements for the Master of Science degree. Her affiliations include Phi Upsilon Omicron, the Home Economics honorary, and the honor society Phi Kappa Phi.

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