

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bogota  
other names/site number: Bogota Farm; DHR file Number: 082-0029

2. Location

Street & number: 5375 Lynnwood Road not for publication N/A  
city or town: Port Republic vicinity: X  
state: Virginia code: VA county: Rockingham code: 165 zip code: 24471-2232

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

2/5/09  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
☒ entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the National Register  
     removed from the National Register  
     other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper [Signature]

Date of Action 3/24/2009

## 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ buildings  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| <u>6</u>     | <u>3</u> buildings  |
| <u>3</u>     | <u>2</u> sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u> structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u> objects    |
| <u>9</u>     | <u>5</u> Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

## 6. Function or Use:

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cat: <u>domestic</u> | Sub: <u>single dwelling</u> |
| <u>agriculture</u>   | <u>agricultural</u>         |
| <u>funerary</u>      | <u>cemetery</u>             |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cat: <u>domestic</u> | Sub: <u>single dwelling</u> |
| <u>agriculture</u>   | <u>agricultural</u>         |

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century Greek Revival

Materials: (main house) (Enter categories from instructions)

|            |                                                                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| foundation | <u>limestone</u>                                                                |
| roof       | <u>standing-seam sheet metal</u>                                                |
| walls      | <u>brick, staggerd Flemish facade; five-course American side and rear walls</u> |
| other      | <u>molded brick cornice</u>                                                     |

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

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

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

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Military

Archaeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal

**Period of Significance** 1845- c.1920

**Significant Dates** 1845, 1862

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

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** unknown

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

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

Bogota

Rockingham County, Virginia

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☒ Other

Name of repository: Bogota, VDHR

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 165.54 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

X See continuation sheet.

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

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title DHR staff Calder Loth and Joanna Wilson

organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date October, 2008

street & number 2801 Kensington Avenue telephone 804 367-2323

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

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

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

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

**Property Owner**

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Graham C. Lilly

street & number 5375 Lynnwood Road telephone 540 249-4006

city or town Port Republic state VA zip code 24471

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Summary Description

Although it has been a working agricultural unit since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the present buildings and open space at Bogota maintain the image of a prosperous Shenandoah Valley plantation complex of the 1840s. The main dwelling house, built 1845-47, is a prodigious Greek Revival structure representing regional architectural traditions with its stepped parapets and non-academic detailing. The house preserves most of its original detailing inside and out and is maintained in immaculate condition. Noteworthy on the interior are the massive country Greek Revival mantels in the double parlors. Clustered about the house is a collection of outbuildings, including two slave houses and a smokehouse. The house is situated on the edge of a grassy ridge surrounded by rolling hills and pastures. From its front portico is a splendid view to the south across the bottom lands of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River with the Blue Ridge Mountains as a backdrop. The farm's pastures are lined with white board fences. To the east and west of the house are panoramic vistas of unspoiled Shenandoah Valley agrarian landscape. The property was the scene of action during the Battle of Port Republic on June 9, 1862.

Main House (contributing building): Exterior

The ten-room main house at Bogota, completed by 1847, is one of a group of imposing Rockingham County plantation houses erected in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These houses, which include the Martin Speck house (1837), the Peale house (1844), Smithland (1845), and River Bank (1850), are characterized by their brick construction with brick cornices, stepped-parapet gable end walls, and low-pitch gable roofs. The houses are regional interpretations of high-style Greek Revival dwellings, having classical detailing such as columns, mantels, moldings, and other details, loosely based on academic examples. Another distinctive feature of several of these as well as other area houses of similar age is the use of slightly projecting chimney shafts on the gable ends.

Like many of the region's antebellum houses, Bogota follows a straightforward Georgian format in its double-pile floor plan and center stair hall. This is supplemented with an original two-story rear ell, the first floor of which contains the dining room and an original interior kitchen, since completely modernized.

The dwelling house's main (south) elevation, presents a grand formal image with its five-bay façade and two-story pedimented portico sheltering the center bay. The portico, however, has only two slender columns with slightly tapered shafts and simplified Tuscan capitals with oversize flat astragals. Similar astragals are oddly employed half-way up the shafts. The columns are echoed by half-round columns on the façade wall. The pediment moldings likewise are very simple and do not follow classical canons. Built into the portico is a second-floor balcony, which is enclosed with a sheaf-of-wheat style wood railing. Both the portico ceiling and balcony soffit are paneled. The portico's floor has been extended the width of the house with a concrete-paved deck in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The façade brickwork is laid in staggered Flemish bond, a pattern that places the headers in slightly staggered vertical rows. This is a regional idiom that may have a German origin as similar brickwork is characteristic of traditional early buildings in north Germany. The house's side walls are laid in five-course American bond.

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Beginning in 1950, the brickwork was painted white, obscuring the bonding patterns. A 1931 photograph of Bogota appearing in John W. Wayland's Historic Houses of Northern Virginia (1937) shows the façade unpainted although it's likely that the walls were originally treated with redwash and penciled mortar joints, a treatment typical of the era. Moreover, the façade's molded brick cornice is typical of Shenandoah Valley houses of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The front door and the door to the portico deck above are treated with a single-leaf paneled door with sidelights and transoms filled with rectangular glass panes.

The windows flanking the portico, as well as those on the side elevations, have nine-over-six sash framed with louvered shutters. Except for those in two modern windows, one on the east elevation and one on the west elevation, most of the sashes appear to be original. The window frame moldings are very simple; the lintels consist of a course of stretcher bricks laid on side. Two entrances on the south wall of the rear ell are covered gabled porches, which have been largely rebuilt. On the opposite side (east elevation) the ell and rear wall of the main section are sheltered with a two-level gallery supported on columns similar to those on the front portico. Both levels of the gallery's easternmost bay have been enclosed for bathrooms. The lower level of the gallery is enclosed with screens. The northernmost bays on both levels are walled in to enclose a stairway and have a window sash inserted on the upper level.

Distinguishing features of the exterior are the tall stepped-parapet gable ends on the east and west elevations. These elevations incorporate pairs of slightly projecting interior end chimneys. The north end of the rear ell likewise has a stepped parapets but with an exterior end chimney. The roof is currently covered with standing-seam sheet metal.

Main House: Interior

Bogota's interior is noteworthy for surviving with most of its original woodwork and only minor alteration. The original trim includes window and door frames, paneled doors, baseboards, chair rails, flooring, hardware, and a collection of bold country Greek Revival mantels.

The first-floor rooms in the front section have 10-foot high ceilings. The front (south) door opens into a generous central stair hall. The open-string stair ascends on the west wall and features a cylindrical handrail supported on slender rectangular pickets, two to a tread. The rail terminates with a spherical knob. Each of the stair brackets is decorated with two scrolls. The spandrel is treated with a series of vertical panels with typical Greek Revival panel moldings. The stair leads to a landing and then breaks into two sections with one flight leading to the front second-floor rooms and the other providing access to the rear second-floor rooms, all making for a visually interesting composition. In the front section of the second floor, the stair continues in an open well to the attic. The attic is an unfinished space with exposed mortised rafters.

The floors in the main rooms of the front part of the house retain original heart-pine boards. Tack holes indicate that they were covered with fitted carpet strips, probably originally. This was a common treatment for

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prosperous homes of the period. The floors in the west first-floor rooms currently are finished with a high gloss sealer and have a rich honey color. The floors in the east first-floor rooms are unsealed.

Remarkably, most of the doors on the interior preserve nearly all of their original Carpenter patent locks. These English-made locks are surface mounted with an iron box and brass fittings. The current owners have gone to considerable pains to have all the locks repaired and put in working order.

On the east side of the stair hall are double parlors connected by a very wide opening with large hinged doors. Both parlors have prodigiously proportioned mantels with thick, plain molded mantel shelves and slender paired colonettes. The mantels are exceptional examples of regional country Greek Revival. The window and doorways in the parlor are framed with symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks decorated with molded patera. The rooms also have simple chair rails and baseboards. The crown moldings in the parlors and the rest of the first floor are mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century additions. More often than not, a house of this period would not have cornices.

Now used as a sitting room, the room in the southwest corner of the first floor was probably original and meant to serve as a bedroom. Its relatively plain mantel is less boldly proportioned than the double-parlor mantels and has slender square colonettes instead of round ones. The north side of the chimney breast has an original built-in, two-door clothes press fitted with shelves. Two small doors open to an upper section. The window and door trim is similar to that in the parlors. As with the other rooms, the fireplace has been rebuilt with modern material. To the north of this room is a similar-size room outfitted with modern but architecturally compatible bookshelves. Its mantel is similar to that in the adjacent room, although its wide frieze is paneled rather than plain. The room has been reduced in size by having its north side walled off for a lavatory and vestibule. The vestibule leads into the rear ell which contains the dining room. Like the rest of the downstairs rooms the dining room has modern crown molding. Its oak floors are modern as well. Instead of symmetrical architrave trim, the door and window frames have mitered architraves. The mantel is similar in character to the rest of the first floor mantels but instead of colonettes it has paneled pilasters and paneled end block in the frieze. The room is skirted with flat paneled wainscoting which is presumed to be original. The dining room was originally fitted with an enclosed stair in its southwest corner. The stair led to a room above which was at one time used as a schoolroom.

Behind the dining room is a space that originally was used as an interior or winter kitchen with a large cooking fireplace on the north wall. The room has been completely remodeled to accommodate an attractive modern kitchen with built in appliances. The fireplace has been walled over but was carefully preserved for reversibility.

As would be expected, the second-floor woodwork treatment is simpler than the first floor. The four bedrooms in the front part of the house preserve original baseboards, chair rails, window and door trim and mantels. Most of the door and window trim on the upper level consists of architraves with mitered corners, rather than symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks. Modern crown molding has not been introduced in these spaces. The mantels are similar in character to those below but less bold. An interesting mantel is found in the

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bedroom. The heavy paneled mantel shelf is supported on slender colonettes with stylized Ionic capitals reduced in detail to bare minimum. Three of the bedrooms have original built-in clothes presses next to the chimney breasts. Like the room below it, the northwest bedroom has been reduced in size and is currently used as a study. It has no mantel.

The current master bedroom in the ell, however, preserves an original mantel with paneled frieze and pilasters. As noted earlier, this space was once used as a schoolroom and had a stair leading from the dining room below. Patches in the floorboards show its location. The space to the north of the master bedroom is now used for closets and an elegantly appointed master bathroom. The original mantel here has been preserved and raised on the wall to frame a large mirror over the wash basin counter.

Outbuildings and other Ancillary Structures

Adding to Bogota's image as a historic agricultural complex is the series of outbuildings and other structures and features in the immediate vicinity of the main house. While such a complex is a rare survival, the existing buildings and structures represent a fraction of the more than twenty support structures that existed at Bogota in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Reconstructed Kitchen/Wash House (non-contributing building)

Immediately to the north of the rear ell of the main house is a modern garage building erected on the site of an original exterior kitchen/wash house which burned ca. 1960. The simple gable-roof structure is of masonry block construction, painted white, and maintains the general shape of the former kitchen. Preserved on the north end is part of the original brick chimney and fireplace.

Well House (non-contributing building)

Located immediately to the west of the main house, the well house is a small square structure with a pyramidal roof clad in wood shingles. It is a modern structure that replaces a ca. 1900 well house that was destroyed. The walls are clad in beaded weatherboards.

Smokehouse (contributing building)

Situated immediately to the north of the main house, the smokehouse is a ca. 1845 weatherboarded structure with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The roof eaves project approximately two feet on the gabled front. Attached to the western side of the smokehouse is a shed addition that formerly served as a carport and is now used as a dog kennel.

East Slave Dwelling (contributing building)

To the north of the main house are two slave dwellings, probably originally occupied by house servants. The easternmost of the two is a ca.1845 small brick structure with molded brick cornice and gable roof. An exterior end chimney is on the west end. The roof is covered with standing-seam sheet metal. The south elevation has only a front door and no windows. The eight-course American bond brickwork is painted white. The building's



only window is opposite the front door.

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(8-86)

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West Slave Dwelling (contributing building)

Aligned west of the brick slave dwelling is a similar size slave dwelling also built ca. 1845, but of wood-frame construction clad with weatherboards. It was built as a two-unit structure and retains two doorways with batten doors on its south elevation. The building is supported on stone piers and has a sheet-metal roof. A small chimney stack projects from the west end. The building may have had a center chimney structure originally.

Garden area (contributing site)

Behind the slave dwellings is the site of a large rectangular garden, probably dating from the antebellum period. Though it is now primarily a grassy area planted with several fruit trees, it originally served as a vegetable and fruit garden. The area is now a potential archeological site and could reveal evidence of beds, walks, and other early garden features.

Bank Barn (contributing building)

To the northeast of the main house is a bank barn, probably dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The generously proportioned structure is typical of the many bank barns that characterized traditional Shenandoah Valley farms. The earth ramp leading to the upper loft area is on the building's north side. A shed addition is on the west side. The broad gable roof is covered with standing-seam sheet metal. The weatherboarded walls are painted white. A silo is on the east end.

Horse run-in shed (non-contributing building)

In the field to the east of the house is a modern wood-frame animal shed with gable roof and projecting eaves. The structure serves as a run-in shed for horses.

Log House (contributing building)

Immediately across Lynnwood Road (County Road 708) from the main house is an 18<sup>th</sup>-century (possibly 1756) structure, formerly a tenant house of log construction covered with weatherboards. The two-story structure has one-story additions on either end. The building is currently used as an office by the owners of Bogota.

Archaeological site (44RM0015) (contributing site)

In the pasture next to Lynnwood Road, north of the main house, is the site of a multi-component artifact scatter consisting of pottery, stoneware, glass, and china of historic European origin, superimposed over a non-diagnostic prehistoric lithic scatter. The historic component predates the Civil War and may be associated with Gabriel Jones, the original settler of the property (1753-1806). The site was identified by Bill Oliver and others from Madison College (now James Madison University) in 1976 while walking a recently plowed field. The area is no longer in active cultivation and does not appear to have been affected by any significant earthmoving activity.

Archaeological site (44RM0016) (contributing site)

In the field to the southeast of the main house is a cemetery site with unmarked graves. The site was surveyed in

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ground, based upon Strayer family oral tradition. Although it is located within a previously cultivated field, the area is currently in grass and does not appear to have been significantly disturbed by previous plowing incidents.

Archaeological site (44RM0036) (non-contributing site)

Just south of Lawyer Road, near junction of Lynnwood Road is a site of a prehistoric occupation. The site consists of a heavy scattering of lithic tools and debris. The site was surveyed by Bill Oliver and others of Madison College (now James Madison University) in 1976. Although this site is non-contributing to this nomination, it may contribute under another context.

Archaeological site (44RM0040) (non-contributing site)

In the same field as 44RM0016, about fifty yards to the northwest of the latter site, is represented by a scatter of lithic debris. The site was also surveyed by James Wood of Madison College in 1976. Although this site is non-contributing to this nomination, it may contribute under another context.

Setting

The Bogota farm complex is located amid the open, rolling countryside of southeastern Rockingham County, an area of exceptional scenic beauty. The panoramic views in all directions from the main house are remarkably free of modern visual intrusion, making for a rural cultural landscape little changed since the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century. A particularly important vista is that from the front portico to the south, across the bottom lands of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, site of a bloody engagement on June 9, 1862 during the Battle of Port Republic.

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Statement of Significance

Although originally settled in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the present structures at Bogota represent a prosperous plantation complex of the Shenandoah Valley's antebellum period. The main house, begun in 1845 and completed by 1847 by Jacob Strayer, is an imposing regional interpretation of the Greek Revival style. With most of its original exterior and interior features intact, the house maintains a high degree of architectural integrity. On June 9, 1862, Bogota was the scene of action during the Battle of Port Republic. Federal troops briefly occupied the house. The events of that day are vividly described in a Strayer family diary. The property thus has been officially determined by the Shenandoah Battlefield Foundation to be a 'battlefield core area', which may contain additional archaeological resources associated with the Battle of Port Republic. Now consisting of 165.54 acres, Bogota remains in the ownership of a Jacob Strayer descendant. The property is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C for Architecture and Military History with a period of significance from 1845 (beginning construction of main house) through 1920 (to include the bank barn). It is also locally significant under Criterion D for its known sites as well as its potential future research value. Archaeological evidence of the earliest historic settlement exists at site 44RM0015, in the form of a scatter of imported, English-made ceramics and other items. A possible slave cemetery, recorded as 44RM0016, also exists on the property. Both sites contain the potential to provide information about the full history of the farm, from the domestic life of its original owner to the funerary customs of enslaved persons brought by later owners to work in the house and fields. The sites of multiple outbuildings, no longer standing but mentioned in family and property accounts, may also be identified through a program of comprehensive archaeological survey that would add further dimension to our understanding of Bogota's history.

Background Information

The establishment of Bogota began in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century when the settler Gabriel Jones built the first house on the tract. Jones occupied the house from 1753 until his death in 1806.<sup>1</sup> The property had previously been owned by Jacob Stover and then Christopher Francisco but it's not known if either of them lived on the parcel now occupied by the present dwelling. The property has been known as Bogota since the Jones occupancy. The name derives from a South American Indian word: Bacata, which means planted fields. The word has since evolved into Bogota, which, of course, is also the name of the capital of Colombia.

Born near Williamsburg, Gabriel Jones first moved to Fredericksburg where he served as King's Attorney. In 1751 he settled in Augusta County and served as King's Attorney for Augusta and later Rockingham County when the latter was split off from Augusta in 1778. A prominent as well as colorful figure, Jones represented Augusta County in the House of Burgesses. In 1784 he was visited at Bogota by George Washington, whose diaries indicate that he dined there with Jones.<sup>2</sup> The county road near Bogota is named Lawyer Road in recognition of the fact that the trace was regularly used by Jones on his travels to Harrisonburg, the county seat. Jones's house stood south of the Strayer family cemetery on the western side of Lynnwood Road. The Jones house was demolished several years after the present main house was completed. The house site and the cemetery are on property not now part of Bogota. The log tenant house located just north of the family

cemetery, however, is part of Bogota, and is believed to date from the Jones family ownership, and possibly built in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

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(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Following Jones's death, his widow, Margaret Morton Jones, continued to live at Bogota until her death in 1822. One of Jones's daughters, Margaret, was married to Col. John Harvie, member of a prominent Richmond family. Their son, Jaquelin Harvie, purchased Bogota at the death of his grandmother and then sold it in 1830 to Jacob Strayer, who lived in the Jones dwelling until he began building the present house around 1845. The property then consisted of some 1200 acres. Strayer was a successful farmer. An 1865 map of Bogota showed that in addition of the house the property had as many as twenty-one outbuildings as well as a mill. The sites of the many lost structures have not been the subject of professional archaeological survey, nevertheless, they could hold significant archaeological potential.

The house that Strayer built to replace the old Jones dwelling is one of group of imposing antebellum Rockingham County plantation houses. These solidly built dwellings are characterized by their brick construction, parapet gable-end walls, symmetrical floor plans, and porticoes. The houses likely share common builders but no specific names have yet been associated with them. As with the others, many of Bogota's architectural features, the portico conspicuously among them, are loosely interpreted from pattern-book illustrations of academic Greek Revival elements including cornices, columns, and other trim. As a result, Bogota presents a stately image but is interestingly provincial both in general character and detailing. Particularly noteworthy in this vein are the enormous parlor mantels with their huge, non-academic cornice shelves and spindly paired colonettes.

Adding to the picture of a prosperous Shenandoah Valley agricultural complex is Bogota's collection of outbuildings. These include two slave dwellings and a smokehouse, as well as a modern replica of a summer kitchen/washhouse lost to fire in 1960. Also in the complex is a typical Shenandoah Valley bank barn dating from around 1900.

Bogota was a witness to history on June 9, 1862, when it became a scene of action during the Civil War Battle of Port Republic, named for the village approximately three miles to the southwest of the house. The fact that Bogota was caught in the crossfire has led to its being determined part of the core area of the Port Republic Battlefield, as designated by the Shenandoah Battlefield Foundation. Much of the action took place on the bottomlands of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. The fierce battle engaged the Confederate forces of Confederate Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson against the Union brigades under the command of Brig. Gen. Erastus B. Tyler. After attack and counterattack from both sides, the Union forces were eventually forced to retreat north, leaving the Confederates in control of the field. At one point in the battle the Union forces under Maj. John C. Freemont advanced in battle formation in a line to the northwest of Bogota but disintegrated before reaching the Bogota property.<sup>3</sup> A Strayer family diary, kept by Clara Strayer, Jacob Strayer's daughter, vividly describes the events of June 8 and 9, 1862. The following excerpts are quoted from a transcription of the diary.<sup>4</sup>

*On Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862 we heard the most terrific cannonading that waked the mountain echoes that had slept for ages, perhaps had never waked before! A line of skirmishes was drawing up in our upper*

*fields, who could not resist the temptation of coming to the house to satisfy their hunger, though they could not tell us anything of the battle. The report of arms was almost continuous until sunset when the*

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*news of a victory was brought to us and we rested that night in quiet on our arms. We had seen the movement of troops on the opposite side of the river, but did not know whether they were friend or foe. On the 9<sup>th</sup> at six o'clock A.M. I noticed a party of horsemen grouped opposite this house on the rise below the Lewiston house where the road goes up to the mountain and immediately a stream of fire issued from the cannons' mouth, followed by a report that seemed to shake the very earth.*

*This Battery (the Ringold of Mexican celebrity) continued for a quarter of an hour without any response. It was perhaps an hour before we heard any response of small arms—in another hour the fight became general. As the above account states (the Newspaper clipping) our line was at one time so hotly pressed that it fell back some 200 yards above the Lewiston house and you may be sure it was an anxious moment for us, though the suspense was of short duration, as we soon saw the glitter of bayonets of reinforcement and heard the shout of victory which none knew how to give better than our own brave Confederates.*

*The Federals fought well (Maj. C.P. Wheat who had been in 13 pitched battles said he had never seen them fight better) but about 10 o'clock they began an orderly retreat which, however became disorderly as they were as closely pursued by 2500 of Ashley's cavalry as the nature of the country would permit!...*

*At first we saw (with the aid of a glass) every movement of the enemy, but as the battle progressed the view was somewhat obscured by smoke. By 10 o'clock (as Jackson had intended) the battle was over. Fremont who soon thereafter showed himself on the hill above us, saw only the smoking bridge at Port Republic and the hearse-like ambulances as they bore off the dead and wounded upon which he fired altho' the yellow was displayed from what was then the Fletcher house not the Lynwood house.*

*A rifle shell passed about 15 feet from the southwest corner of this house (Bogota), another fell through the roof of a cabin on the upper edge of the orchard, within two feet of old Uncle Daniel who had been on the retired list. He yelled lustily, being more scared than hurt as the shell did not explode, Very soon after we saw a party of cavalry [sic] who kept on to the stable where riding horses were kept, coming out leading old "Billy", Father's riding horse, but upon his telling them (I think this means Uncle Billy) that it was too old for service they gave him up. It may be they spied the horses in the field below the house, seven of which they captured, all young except for Mother's old "Belle".*

*They next came to the house in search of Rebels and were reinforced by a detachment from Blenker's Division – who poured in every door, and such clanking of sabers, ransacking the presses; trying to break open doors, I never saw. They came into our chamber, when I remarked, "This is a lady's chamber and as such will be respected by gentlemen". The leader, a big bluff Dutchman, replied, "Yah, yah! If dere be any Dutch gentlemen! Come boys let's go to town!"*

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*Some of them were insolent to Father who was sick at the time, and upon appealing to Capt. Conger of Fremont's Staff he drove them from the house. They had already stripped it of all edibles and next the smokehouse, dairy, and lastly, the Bee House where they were met not by hundreds but by thousands and were completely routed for the time tho' they afterward came back with Hunter and drowning them (the bees) in the Big Pond, took the honey.*

*We had refugees Gen L's, Sam L's, the Fletcher families, Mrs. Fletcher was ill at the time and had to cross the river in a small boat the lounge being carried on the shoulders of servants. Latter in the day the servants fled to the woods where most of them remained until evening. Those indeed were stirring time, May we never see the like again!<sup>5</sup>*

Jacob Strayer died in 1863. The property subsequently passed to Strayer's daughters who moved back and forth between Bogota and their house in Harrisonburg. In 1908, Bogota passed to from Strayer's daughter Eliza to his widowed daughter, Margaret Catherine Strayer Kemper. That same year, Margaret Kemper' son, Dr. Albert Strayer Kemper, inherited Bogota and practiced medicine out of Bogota until his death in 1941. Although sections of the farm have been transferred or sold off, the main house and 166 acres have continued in the ownership of Jacob Strayer's descendants. The current owner, Graham Clayton Lilly, is a great-great-grandson of Jacob Strayer. Mr. Lilly is a retired distinguished law professor of the University of Virginia School of Law and the author of books and articles on the practice of law.

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> WPA records, "Bogota," George W. Fetzer, 1936, Library of Virginia.

<sup>2</sup> John W. Wayland, Historic Homes of Northern Virginia (1937), p. 220.

<sup>3</sup> John S. Salmon, The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide (2001), pp 50-51

<sup>4</sup> Clara Strayer, "A Civil War Diary," transcription of the original manuscript in possession of Graham C. Lilly, owner of Bogota. A photocopy is in the archives of the Department of Historic Resources.

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9. Bibliographical References

Strayer, Clara, "A Civil War Diary," transcription by Sanford S. Strayer, 1993, from original manuscript in possession of Graham C. Lilly, photocopy in archives of Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Terrell, Isaac Long, Old Houses in Rockingham County, 1750-1850. (McClure Press, Verona, VA, 1970).

Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Intensive Inventory Form, "Bogota", 2001, in DHR Archives, file # 082-0029.

Wayland, John W., Historic Homes of Northern Virginia..., (McClure Company, Inc. Staunton, VA, 1937).

Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, "Bogota," (1936) records in Library of Virginia, Richmond.

10. Geographical Data

UTM Reference Points

Zone 17, Datum 27

|   |                  |   |                  |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| A | 694780E/4243970N | B | 694500E/4243800N |
| C | 694430E/4243890N | D | 694175E/4243725N |
| E | 694520E/4243195N | F | 694500E/4243160N |
| G | 694555E/4243070N | H | 694600E/4243095N |
| I | 694845E/4242595N | J | 695255E/4243150N |

Verbal Boundary Description

The 165.54-acre property is referred to as Rockingham County tax map parcels #153-A-L92 and #153-A-L92G as shown on the attached maps and referenced in Deed Book and Page 2019, 154. The property is bounded on the west by Lynnwood Road (county road 708), but crosses the road to include the log tenant house; bounded on the north by Lawyer Road (county road 655) and rear property lines of a cluster of properties on south side of Lawyer Road; bounded on the east by a property line extending straight from the properties on Lawyer Road to the South Fork of the Shenandoah River; bounded on the south by the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to include all of Bogota currently held in the ownership of Graham C. Lilly, a direct descendant of Jacob Strayer, builder of the main house. The 165.54 acres forming the property incorporate the curtilage (the main house, outbuildings, barn, and garden site), the fields to the east and north, and the fields and bottomlands extending south to the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. Bogota has been designated by

the Shenandoah Battlefield Foundation to be a "core area" of the Port Republic Civil War Battlefield.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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The following information is the same for all the photographs:

Bogota, Rockingham County #082-0029

Photographs taken by Calder Loth

Taken on August 18, 2008

Negatives stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Photo 1 of 8

View of landscape from portico to Port Republic Battlefield Site

Negative 24302: Frame 36A

Photo 2 of 8

Main house exterior, east elevation

Negative 24302: Frame 30

Photo 3 of 8

Main house exterior, south elevation and rear ell

Negative 24302: Frame 36

Photo 4 of 8

Main house interior, stair hall

Negative 24302: Frame 6

Photo 5 of 8

Main house interior, northeast parlor on 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Negative 24302: Frame 9

Photo 6 of 8

Bank barn north of main house

Negative 24302: Frame 28

Photo 7 of 8

Log house (office/tenant house) from southwest

Negative 24303: Frame 13

Photo 8 of 8

Servant's houses from northwest

Negative 24303: Frame 9



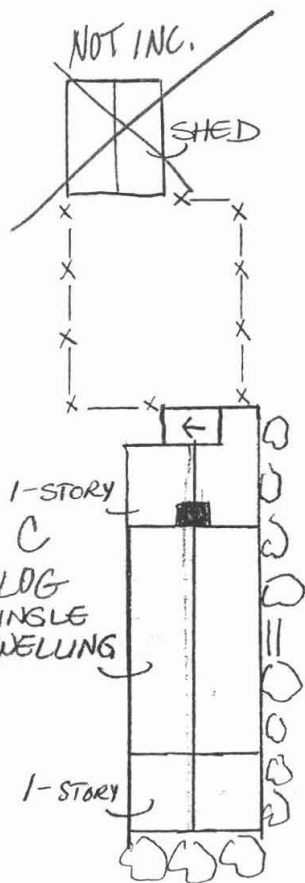
#082-0029

BOGOTA FARM  
5375 LYNNWOOD RD.  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA

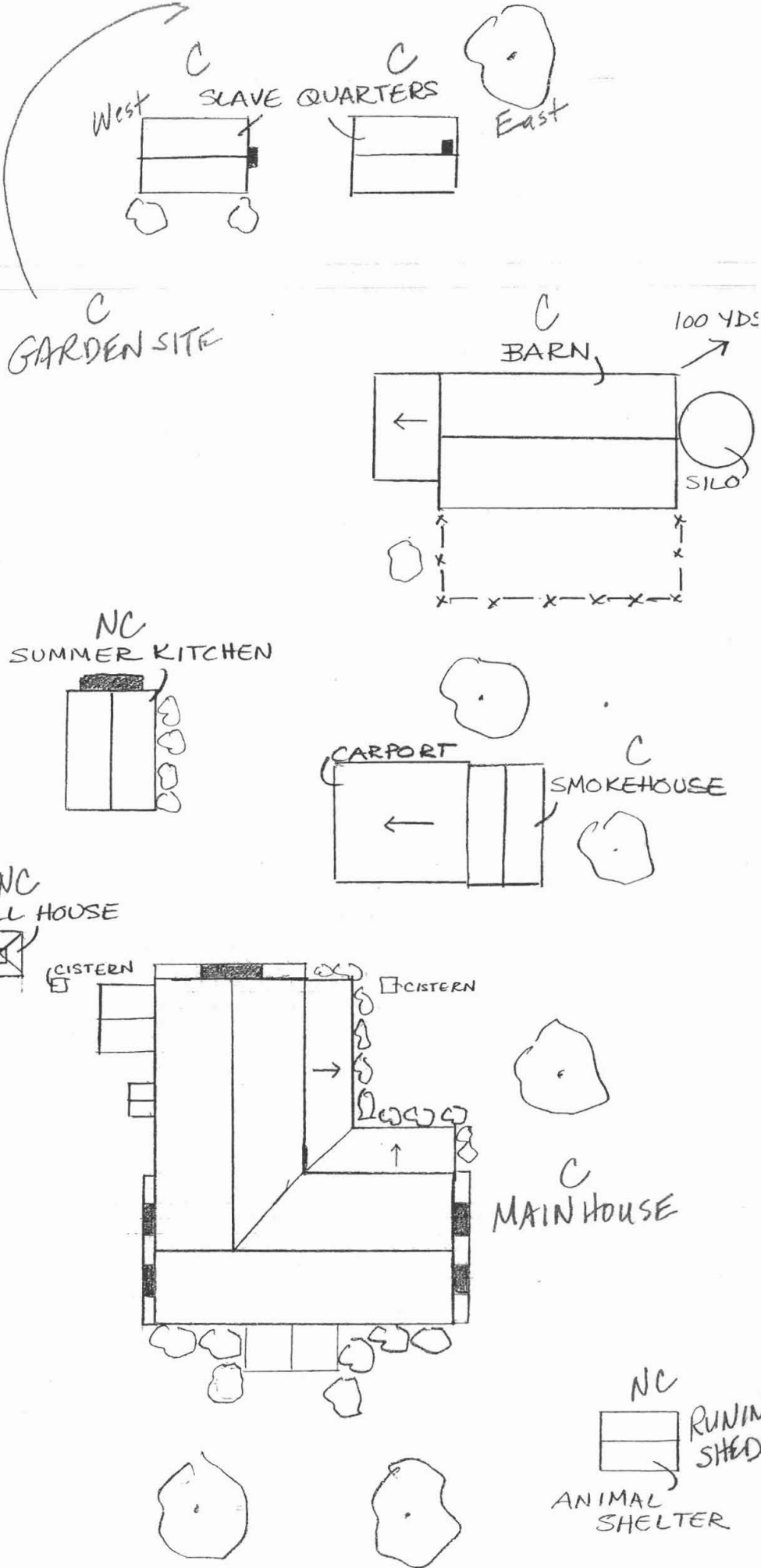
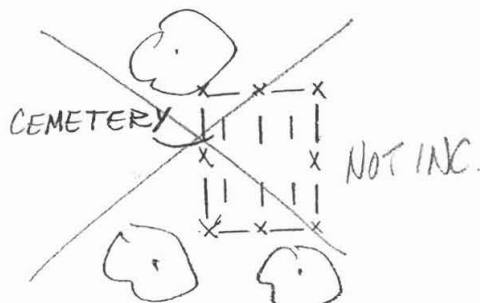
NOT TO SCALE

N ↗

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SITES ON  
SEPERATE MAP



LYNNWOOD ROAD



5260' 1" NW  
ELKTON WEST

