

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: SammynickOther names/site number: Bolling and Clara Lambeth House; DHR ID# 141-5012

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1108 Ashland AvenueCity or town: Bedford State: VA County: BedfordNot For Publication: N/AVicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

	<u>1.8.2024</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD; STONE; ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Sammynick, located at 1108 Ashland Avenue in the town of Bedford in Bedford County, Virginia, is a story-and-a-half Colonial Revival residence built in 1961-1962. The south-facing house, composed as a center section flanked by slightly lower west and east ends, has Flemish-bond brick veneer, accented by darker header bricks and grapevine mortar joints, and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. Though the house is predominately Colonial Revival in character, the rear elevation has Modernist features such as large expanses of glass and cantilevered eaves. The interior has plaster wall and ceiling finishes, Federal-inspired mantels, and a short entry hall with a stair. A small barn is the only secondary resource on the property and is noncontributing as it postdates the period of significance.

Narrative Description

Setting

Sammynick stands at the crest of a hill with wooded slopes that fall away on the east, north, and west sides. The south side is lawn area with a circular gravel driveway, large oak trees, and various specimen trees and boxwoods. Downslope and to the northeast (outside the approximately 1.38-acre nominated area) is a small frame and pole-built barn that is

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noncontributing. To the rear the house has views of the Peaks of Otter, a well-known elevation in the Blue Ridge consisting of the two peaks, Sharp Top and Flat Top. The house has an Ashland Avenue address, but it faces Ashland Circle with its post-World War II houses. Other dwellings, most from the historic period, are distantly visible from the house in the winter but hidden from view when the surrounding woods have leafed out. The property drains into the Little Otter River, a tributary of the James River. The highest point of the nominated area lies at just over 900 feet above sea level.

House Exterior and Grounds

The story-and-a-half center or core section of the house has a symmetrical five-bay front with a center entry flanked by pairs of nine-over-nine sash windows. The entry and windows are surmounted by deep gauged jack arches and the windows have brick sills. The entry has a louvered wood outer door (other doors of the house are similar unless otherwise noted) with flanking coach lights, and it is served by a brick-paved stoop framed by original wood railings with square balusters and posts. At the top of the façade is a modillion cornice with patternboards at the ends, and on the front roof plane are three narrow pedimented dormers with six-over-six windows, flush sheathing in the tympanums, and diagonal siding on the sides. Flush chimneys with simple corbeled caps rise on each gable end.

The west or library/study wing, the longer of the two wings, connects to the center section via a slightly lower hyphen with an angled elbow form and a front entry that opens onto a low brick-paved landing. The west wing has a three-bay form with an entry flanked by six-over-nine windows and a single coach light. Other features of the wing include a molded cornice with patternboards at the ends, a low brick landing, a flush gable-end chimney, and narrow six-pane attic windows flanking the chimney. The shorter east bedroom wing has a single door and window on the front, a molded cornice with patternboards, two narrow six-pane windows in the gable, and beaded weatherboard siding on the rear and gable end. Under the wing is an open-fronted garage with a metal pole support in the opening and a flagstone floor inside.

On the back roof plane of the center section is a long shed dormer clad in beaded weatherboard siding laid horizontally in the long dimension and diagonally on the ends. The main roof flares out at the eaves to form a shallow-pitched hipped extension that shelters sliding glass doors and a set of four tall plate-glass windows. The windows have labels identifying them as Alwintite windows which were manufactured by the General Bronze Corporation of Garden City, New Jersey. The west wing hyphen has a sliding glass door and a slider window. The west wing has a center entry with a single coach light and flanking slider windows. A separate hip-roofed eave extension shelters the hyphen and wing entries. In the angle at the back of the east wing is a door that opens onto a narrow balcony with a horizontal board railing.

A narrow flagstone patio installed in 1981 wraps around the back of the center section to the sliding glass doors of the west wing hyphen. A set of low stone steps descends to another flagstone patio at the back of the west wing, and there are flagstone walkways of continuous and steppingstone form at the front of the house. An offshoot of the gravel driveway connects to the

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garage under the east wing and to a small parking area. Boxwood plantings are common in the front and rear yards.

House: Interior

The main front entry opens into a short foyer/stair hall with a two-run stair with a landing positioned over the entry. The stair rail has slender tapered round-section balusters with turned lower ends. The molded handrail is ramped at the landing and has a slight spiral termination over the bottom newel. That newel and others are round, slender, and tapered. The landing newels project down to turned button pendants. Other stair features include scrolled tread brackets, a paneled spandrel under the bottom run, and a chair rail that mirrors the level and angle of the stair rail and also its ramped effect.

The stair hall leads to the living room at the back of the house. The room focuses on a fireplace at one end framed by a tripartite Federal-inspired mantel with a molded shelf and pilasters and central and terminal frieze tablets with recessed panels on their faces (the mantels in the house are believed to be reproductions rather than reused from early nineteenth-century houses). To the left of the fireplace is a double-leaf door with three panels per leaf creating a six-panel arrangement. The room has a molded chair rail and baseboards (common throughout the house), a heavy molded cornice (common to the main downstairs rooms), molded door and window trim (common throughout the house), and folding panel doors and closet doors between it and the dining room.

The dining room has reproduction Chinese-inspired wallpaper with a design of birds, butterflies, and flowering shrubs in muted sepia, cream, gray, blue, green, and red hues. The wallpaper pattern is based on that of the wallpaper hung in the Supper Room of the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg. Between the dining room and living room are two "hidden" closets. A pass-through with a sliding shelf links to the kitchen. The kitchen has the original natural-finish wood base and wall cabinets with horizontal beaded flush boards between the wall cabinets and the ceiling. Horizontal beaded flush boards sheathe the non-cabinet end wall and the dining room pass-through has louvered wood shutters. The flooring was replaced in 2012 with pine boards reclaimed from a Danville warehouse. The backsplash tiles and granite countertop also date to 2012 and along with the floor were repairs made as a result of a 1984 kitchen fire.

The library at the end of the west wing has vertical wood paneling, a narrow molded cornice, and a fireplace with a natural wood-finish tripartite Federal-inspired mantel with elliptical sunbursts on the faces of the center and terminal frieze tablets and relatively plain pilasters. The fireplace is flanked by bookshelves and there are additional shelves on other wall surfaces. As originally designed the wing was to have an upstairs den, but the den and stairs leading to it were never constructed and the space is unfinished attic. The west wing hyphen contains a family room with sliding glass doors to the back yard and exposed brickwork on one wall. Other interior features include three upstairs bedrooms in the center section, a laundry chute, a basement stair, and a telephone niche in a transverse hallway. One of the upstairs bedrooms also has a telephone niche.

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Integrity Analysis

Sammynick retains good overall integrity. The house remains at its original location and its wooded setting appears much as it did during the period of significance. The house possesses good exterior integrity in that it retains its historic design, most of its historic materials, workmanship, and feeling. The house possesses good interior integrity with its original plan arrangement intact. Decorative mantels, stair, and trim are also intact. The house conveys a sense of the particular period of time during which it was built and gained its historic associations. The house's integrity of association is directly linked to the historical developments that formed it.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1962

Significant Dates

1962

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Huff, Clarence Wright, Jr. (architect)

Clingenpeel, Earl (brickmason)

Venable, Charles W. (general contractor)

Fellers, Al (master carpenter)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Sammynick, located in the town of Bedford in Bedford County, Virginia, is a Colonial Revival/Modernist house built in 1961-62 for Bedford-area civic and business leader Robert Bolling Lambeth and his wife, Clara Sizemore Lambeth. The story-and-a-half Flemish-bond brick-veneered house, designed by architect Clarence Wright Huff Jr., was modeled on a Tidewater Virginia house known as Upper Weyanoke. Sammynick's style changes from Colonial Revival on the front to a mix of colonial and Modernist features on the back. Bolling Lambeth was a driving force behind the Roanoke River Basin Association and Clara Lambeth, who with Huff was largely responsible for the design and execution of the house, was an early advocate for historic preservation in the Bedford area. Sammynick is eligible for the state and national registers under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance as a distinguished local example of mid-twentieth-century Colonial Revival design with Modernist influences and as an example of the work of accomplished Virginia architect Clarence Wright Huff Jr. The period of significance corresponds to the date of the house's completion in 1962. Sammynick is eligible at the local level of significance.

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

Historic Context

Bedford native Robert Bolling Lambeth (1915-99) graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1940 and served in Naval Intelligence on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur during World War II. Lambeth practiced law in Bedford from 1940 to 1999 and engaged in a considerable amount of real estate activity during the period. His other achievements included service as Bedford County Commonwealth's Attorney from 1948 to 1952; state campaign manager for the 1952 United States Senate campaign of Francis Pickins Miller; editor and publisher of *Public Affairs in Virginia*; public relations director for the National Tobacco Festival, National Seafood Festival, and National Peanut Festival during the 1930s and 1940s; and a founder of and legal counsel for Liberty Bank of Bedford. A community leader, he was involved in spearheading many civic projects and served on the Bedford City Council. He was also instrumental in the preservation and restoration of the historic Avenel house in Bedford.¹

Lambeth participated in the seminal December 5, 1945, meeting that led to the creation of the Roanoke River Basin Association, formed to promote flood control, recreation, hydroelectric

¹ Betty Gereau personal communication with the author, 2012 and 2023; Pezzoni, "Sammynick." The sponsor of the nomination, Elizabeth (Betty) Lambeth Gereau, provided considerable research assistance to the author including access to family papers and her own research on the property, its architect, and context. Gereau also shared her personal reminiscences of the property, where she has lived off and on since 1962.

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power generation, and pollution abatement in the Roanoke River basin of Virginia and North Carolina. Lambeth was elected the RRBA's first chairman, a post he held from 1946 to 1954, and he remained influential in the association's work thereafter. The RRBA promoted the construction of the John H. Kerr (Buggs Island) Dam, the Smith Mountain Dam, and other dams during the 1950s and 1960s. The dams and the impoundments they created have had a profound effect on residential resort development in Southside Virginia.²

In 1942 Lambeth wed Mecklenburg County native Clara Sizemore (1913–2010). Clara attended the College of William and Mary, graduating in 1935 with a degree in biology and chemistry. Her time at William and Mary coincided with the early phase of the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, which instilled in her an interest in Virginia architecture and preservation. In the Bedford area she was a founding member of the Bedford Historical Society and was involved in the preservation of many important historic sites including Poplar Forest, New London Academy, and the Bedford Historic Meeting House. As her 2010 obituary noted, Clara devoted “much of her life to saving and preserving historic buildings.” She was also involved in numerous community groups and was a leader in a variety of civic and church projects.³

As a young married couple, the Lambeths initially lived in a house constructed in 1947 at 1106 Ashland Avenue, adjacent to the location where they later built Sammynick. They acquired the tracts that make up the core of the Sammynick property in a series of transactions in the 1940s and 1950s. The two parcels fronting on Ashland Avenue/Circle were acquired from the subdivision of land belonging to the Atkinson family. One member of the family was Lela C. Atkinson, Bedford County Extension Agent and/or Home Demonstration Agent. According to Bolling and Clara's daughter Betty Gereau, Atkinson “was somewhat ahead of her time and had strict rules for her subdivision . . . There are no utility poles on the street because of her rules that utilities would go behind the houses and there is a ‘scenic area’ in the middle of the circle.”⁴

Planning for Sammynick began in 1944. A photograph in the Lambeths' 1961 Christmas newsletter shows Clara in front of the nearly completed exterior with the caption “Clara and a Continuing Vigil.” The house takes its name from Camp Sammynick, a small informal clubhouse or retreat built on the property by Sammy and Nick, who were residents of the nearby Elks National Home. (The clubhouse was destroyed by fire ca. 1950.) The Lambeths purchased the brick for the house from Clayton Wright of Old Virginia Brick. General contractor Charles W. (Charlie) Venable of the Bedford-based Venable Construction Company built the house. Al Fellers was the master carpenter and brickmason Earl Clingenpeel of Clingenpeel & Leftwich did the brickwork. Lynchburg architect Stanhope S. Johnson of Johnson & Cline had charge of the interior painting. In February 1962 he wrote to painter Robert Bruce to ask if he would be interested in the job, noting, “The decoration would require two coats on all the woodwork which has been or will be primed with white. The woodwork is in good condition and within a short while, maybe a week or more, the carpenter will be through his work and ready to paint.”

² Lambeth, *History of Roanoke River Basin Dams and Lakes*.

³ Betty Gereau personal communication with the author, 2012 and 2023; Pezzoni, “Sammynick.”

⁴ Betty Gereau personal communication with the author, 2012 and 2021; Pezzoni, “Sammynick;” Bedford County Deed Book 280, p. 85; Plat Book 3, p. 84; Plat Book 4, p. 105.

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In March Johnson notified Clara Lambeth that Robert Bruce was not available for the work and he would switch to painter James Wooldridge. The installation of the dining room wallpaper was supervised by Stedman House Inc. of Roanoke. Bolling, Clara, and their children Robert (Robert B. Lambeth Jr.) and Betty (Elizabeth Lambeth Gereau) moved into Sammynick in August 1962.⁵

The December 21, 1962, edition of the family Christmas newsletter *The Kriss Kringler* reported:

Greetings this year from “Sammynick”, our new hilltop home overlooking the beautiful Peaks of Otter. We moved in August—the grand event of 1962; however, it has been an active year otherwise. Robert distinguished himself by winning the “Young Columbus” contest for newspaper boys, with the rewarding experience of a two weeks air trip to Spain and Portugal. Betty started at Camp Seafarer, sister camp to “Sea Gull” where Robert had his second year.

Bolling and Clara lived at Sammynick for the remainder of their lives.⁶

Criterion C: Architecture Area of Significance

According to her daughter Betty Gereau, Clara Lambeth was the “driving force” behind the planning and construction of Sammynick, which reflects the Colonial Virginia architecture with which Clara was familiar from her student days in Williamsburg in the 1930s. Advance planning for the house began in 1944, about the time or shortly before the Lambeths acquired the core parcel of the house site. A letter dated 1953 indicates the Lambeths considered hiring Richmond architect Eugene Nobles Brooks (1914-93) to design the house. Brooks earlier designed their 1947 house next door at 1106 Ashland Avenue, a story-and-a-half Colonial Revival cottage of brick-veneer construction that is in some ways a smaller version of Sammynick. Instead, in 1956 they retained Richmond architect Clarence Wright Huff Jr. An October 24, 1956, letter from Bolling Lambeth to Huff describes the Lambeths’ partiality to “the architecture of the Weyanoke restoration.” This is in reference to an early-nineteenth-century Charles City County house known as Upper Weyanoke (NRHP 1980; DHR #018-0014), which was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style in 1930-33 and enlarged ca. 1954 by the addition of a wing on the house’s James River side (the wing was designed in 1952). The letter suggests Huff was involved in the 1930s and/or 1950s renovations. Sammynick shares a number of important similarities with Upper Weyanoke in its post-1954 form. Gereau notes, “According to my mother, my parents saw Upper Weyanoke while touring homes during Garden Week in 1955. That’s when they were inspired by the design which curved to take advantage of views of the river. They wanted something similar for views of the mountains so they sought out the architect for the upgrades, Mr. Huff.” Huff’s drawings for Sammynick, dated 1958, show a house basically similar to the

⁵ Betty Gereau personal communication with the author, 2012 and 2021; *Kriss Kringler* (1961); Johnson to Bruce letter; Johnson to Lambeth letter; Stedman to Lambeth letter.

⁶ Betty Gereau personal communication with the author, 2021; *Kriss Kringler* (1962).

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one built in 1961-62, though with an arcaded porch that was replaced by the east wing bedroom and other, lesser alterations.⁷

Clarence Wright Huff Jr. (1900-86) studied electrical engineering at Virginia Military Institute and architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1929. Even before he received architectural training at Penn, Huff was involved in the design of numerous houses in Richmond, the earliest permitted in 1923 and identified as the work of “Huff & Thompson.” At the time Huff was employed by the Miller Manufacturing Company, apparently as a draftsman. According to a 1946 questionnaire, from 1924 to 1928 Huff was employed by the City Building Corporation where his responsibilities included “drawing plans, supervising const., selling houses.” He is known to have designed three houses for the City Building Corporation in the Westover Hills section of Richmond in 1927. Huff established his practice in Richmond in the early 1930s (he reports the year as 1933 in the 1946 questionnaire). Most of his commissions appear to have been residential and most were built in Virginia with a secondary concentration in Wilmington, North Carolina. Huff was also registered to practice in Maryland and Kentucky. Over the course of his career he designed houses, churches, clubhouses, industrial-commercial-warehouse buildings, health-care buildings, and academic buildings, the latter including the Gammon Gymnasium (ca. 1941) and Johns Auditorium (ca. 1951) at Hampden-Sydney College (NRHP 1970, 2019; DHR #073-0058). Huff served as president of the Virginia Society of Architects and as secretary of the Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) early in his career. He was a senior partner in the Richmond architectural firm of Huff, Morris & Cox.⁸

Huff’s early residential designs were primarily Colonial Revival in character and were strongly influenced by restorations and recreations at Colonial Williamsburg. Sammynick is similar to compact Williamsburg-inspired Huff designs like Carousel (1938) and the Ralph Chesson House (ca. 1937) in Richmond. The Chesson House, which was described in *American Home Portfolio* 4 (ca. 1937-39) as “an authentic replica of the fine old Early American homes of Williamsburg, Virginia,” features a modillion cornice and a steep-pitched side-gable roof with three symmetrically-disposed pedimented dormers, features also seen at Sammynick. By the late 1940s, Huff had begun to design in a more Modernist vein, as illustrated by 8010 Thom Road (1949) in Richmond, distinguished by serried windows (a feature of Sammynick’s rear elevation), and the Sharon Indian School (1952; NRHP 2007; DHR #050-5005) on the Mattaponi Indian Reservation in King William County.⁹

In addition to its place in Clarence Huff’s architectural career, Sammynick also existed in the context of Bedford’s postwar architectural development. Bedford, established in 1782 as the county seat of Bedford County and originally known by the patriotic name Liberty, developed

⁷ Betty Gereau personal communication with the author, 2012 and 2023; Lambeth family papers; Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, 47; Peters and Cote, “Upper Weyanoke.”

⁸ “Guide to the Richmond Bureau of Permits and Inspections;” “C. W. Huff, Jr., Architect.” Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, 209-210; *Daily Press*, April 4, 1986; Seapker and Turberg, “Gabriel’s Landing.”

⁹ *American Home Portfolio* 4; *Readers Guide to Periodical Literature*.

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into a local trading hub in the nineteenth century and, like communities across Virginia, experienced suburban expansion during the prosperous postwar period of the mid-twentieth century. The aforementioned Atkinson family Ashland Circle subdivision, which Sammynick fronts, was one product of that expansion.

At the outset of Bedford's postwar suburban expansion, historicist domestic architecture predominated, a continuation of prewar stylistic preferences. The Lambeths' 1947 Colonial Revival cottage illustrates the continuity. In Virginia, Colonial Revival detail often characterizes the quintessential house type of the era, the linear one-story form known as the Ranch house. Colonial Revival-influenced Ranch houses in suburban Bedford include the houses at 958 Ashland Avenue and 1217 Ashland Circle, both built ca. 1954. The 958 Ashland Avenue house, however, also shows the influence of Modernism, which avoids or rejects historic allusion and instead generates form through an emphasis on basics such as material, construction technique, and light. The element of 958 Ashland Avenue that shows Modernist influence is its exterior chimney, which, unlike Historicist chimney designs with their corbeling, symmetrical shoulders, and other details based on historical precedents, is treated as a virtually unmodulated vertical mass of brickwork, a form that owes more to the simplicity of Modernist design. A Ranch house that mixes Modernist and Historicist elements is the 1956 Glenn Babb House at 1512 Woodland Road. Loosely based on construction drawings by Scholz Homes, Inc., of Toledo, Ohio, and identified on one drawing as the California Contemporary model, the Babb House combines a Historicist lattice window with Modernist ribbon window configurations and an asymmetrical front elevation.¹⁰

Modernist influence increased in Bedford as the 1950s progressed. An example of a fully-realized Modernist house from the decade is the ca. 1956 Frances and Morton Padgett House at 625 Westview, a one-story brick-veneered house contained under a sweeping low-pitched front-gable roof that projects on cantilevered beams. The façade under the roof is asymmetrical (asymmetry is another characteristic attribute of Modernism), with expanses of brickwork and window wall reflecting functional needs on the interior and the interplay of solid and void that is a common attribute of Modernist design. Other Modernist features of the house include the plate glass windows that fill the front gable, the asymmetry of the gable, which extends lower on the right than the left, and a flat awning that cantilevers over the front entry (though most Modernist houses in Bedford are gabled, flat-roofed forms are a common Modernist motif). Similar Modernist treatments—a broad, low-pitched, asymmetrical gable and contrasting expanses of brick and glass—characterize the 1961 Wayne and Selma Tankersley House at 1553 Oakwood. The projecting front-gable motif is also seen in the fully-realized ca. 1958 Modernist house at 1438 Dogwood. Whether to build in the Modernist or Historicist vein was a decision made by the community's religious denominations as well. The 1954-55 building of Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church has flat-roofed sections and flat parapets in keeping with the Modernist flat roof motif, whereas Bedford Baptist Church is Colonial Revival, with classical door and window

¹⁰ The ca. 1954 dates for 958 Ashland Avenue and 1217 Ashland Circle are from the Bedford County Geographical Information System (GIS) database may predate completion of the houses by a year or more (which is why they are expressed as circa dates). Circa dates in the following discussion are also from GIS.

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surrounds and a multi-tiered steeple distantly based on designs by the Restoration-era British classicist architect Christopher Wren.¹¹

Sammynick, as noted before, is a hybrid: Historicist on the front with Modernist features at the back. In this it is similar to the 1953 Rubatex Manager House at 1318 Peaks Road, designed by Lynchburg architect Garland Gay. The Rubatex Manager House is Colonial Revival in overall character, though its Ranch-like form—as opposed to the boxy form of earlier Colonial Revival houses such as the Lambeths’ 1947 house—signaled a departure. Numerous large gridded multi-pane windows, most of which are on the rear elevation with views of the Peaks of Otter, are the house’s chief Modernist influence. Views of the Peaks of Otter were also an important consideration in the choice of large windows and sliding glass doors on the back of Sammynick. In both houses, formality characterizes the front elevation, the side presented to the community, whereas functional considerations such as the desire for mountain views resulted in a more informal “form follows function” approach on the rear elevation. This Historicist/Modernist, formal/informal, front/back dualism is seen in other houses from the period, such as the architect-designed 1961 Ross and Martha Parkhill House in Cashiers, North Carolina.¹²

Clarence Huff’s Sammynick design evolved in its later stages. Perhaps the most consequential change was the substitution of a bedroom for an arcaded sitting porch in the east wing. A door from the living room to this porch was eliminated as a result. Other alterations included the change of the rear dormer roof from hipped to shed, the elimination of glass sliding doors on the basement-level gable end of the east wing (which was simply left open), the substitution of glass sliding doors for windows in the dining room, and small adjustments to interior plan features and doorways.¹³

¹¹ Betty Gereau personal communication with the author, 2021; Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church website.

¹² Pezzoni, “Jackson County Architectural Survey Update,” 11.

¹³ Huff, “Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Bolling Lambeth.”

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Huff, C. W. Jr. “Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Bolling Lambeth, Bedford, Virginia.” Construction drawings. November 26, 1958.

Johnson, Stanhope S. Letter to Mrs. Bolling (Clara) Lambeth, March 7, 1962. Lambeth Family Papers.

_____. Letter to Robert Bruce, February 28, 1962. Lambeth Family Papers.

Koyl, George S., ed. *American Architects Directory*. 1962.

The Kriss Kringler (Lambeth family Christmas newsletter).

Lambeth, Bolling. *History of Roanoke River Basin Dams and Lakes*. 1992. Lambeth Family Papers.

Lambeth Family Papers. Bedford, Virginia.

“On the death of Robert Bolling Lambeth.” [Virginia] House Joint Resolution No. 461. March 8 and 10, 2000.

Sammynick
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

Peters, Margaret T., and Richard C. Cote. "Upper Weyanoke." National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, 1980.

Pezzoni, J. Daniel. "Jackson County Architectural Survey Update of Historic Resources from 1945-1975: Final Report." 2021.

_____. "Sammynick." Virginia Department of Historic Resources Preliminary Information Form, 2012.

Readers Guide to Periodical Literature (July 1937-June 1939).

Seapker, Janet K., and Edward F. Turberg. "Gabriel's Landing." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2007.

Stedman (no first name) to Mrs. Bolling (Clara) Lambeth, posted July 27, 1962. Lambeth Family Papers.

Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955*. Richmond, Va.: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 141-5012

10. Geographical Data

Sammynick
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

Acreage of Property approximately 1.38 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.350940 Longitude: -79.536540

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary corresponds to the dual parcels on which the nominated house stands, 152 A 3 T and 152 4 50 T. The true and correct nominated boundary is shown on the attached Sketch Map/ Photo Key, which has a scale of 1"=200'.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the house, the sole nominated resource, and yard areas immediately adjoining the house and the verge of the wooded area surrounding the house and yard.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston St.
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: October 1, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Sammynick
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

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

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Sammynick

City or Vicinity: Bedford

County: Bedford

State: Virginia

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni

Date Photographed: February 2021

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

Front of house, view facing northwest. 1 of 14. (All information the same except description of view and photo number.

Center section front view of house, view facing north. 2 of 14.

Front of house showing west end of west wing, view facing northeast. 3 of 14.

Rear of house, view facing south. 4 of 14.

Rear of house showing east end of east wing, view facing southwest. 5 of 14.

View from back patio, view facing northwest. 6 of 14.

Front of property as seen from Ashland Avenue, view facing north. 7 of 14.

Stair. 8 of 14.

Living room with fireplace. 9 of 14.

Living room with folding doors. 10 of 14.

Dining room wallpaper. 11 of 14.

West wing hyphen family room. 12 of 14.

Library fireplace. 13 of 14.

Sammynick
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

Stair upper landings. 14 of 14.

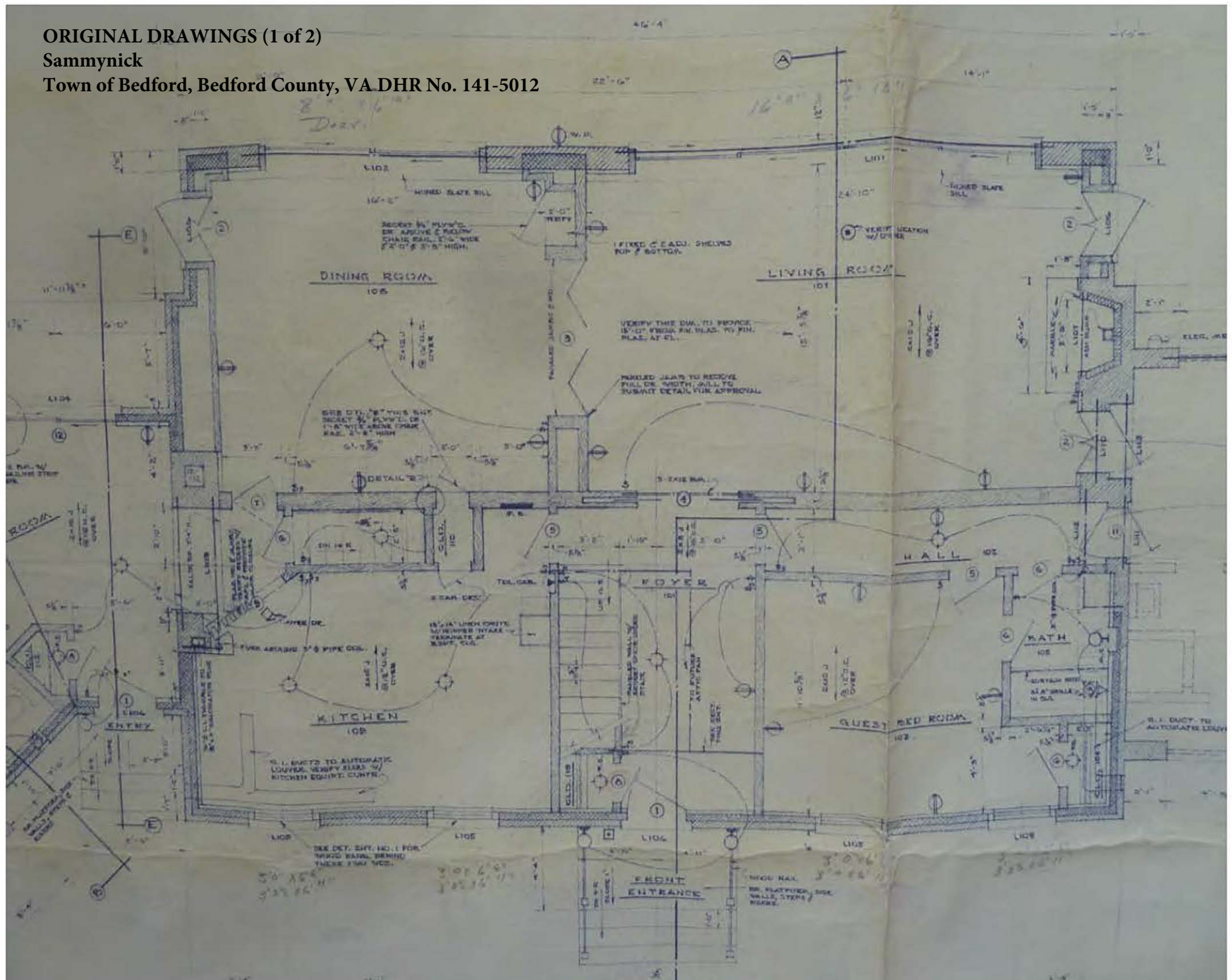
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ORIGINAL DRAWINGS (1 of 2)
Sammynick
Town of Bedford, Bedford County, VA
DHR No. 141-5012

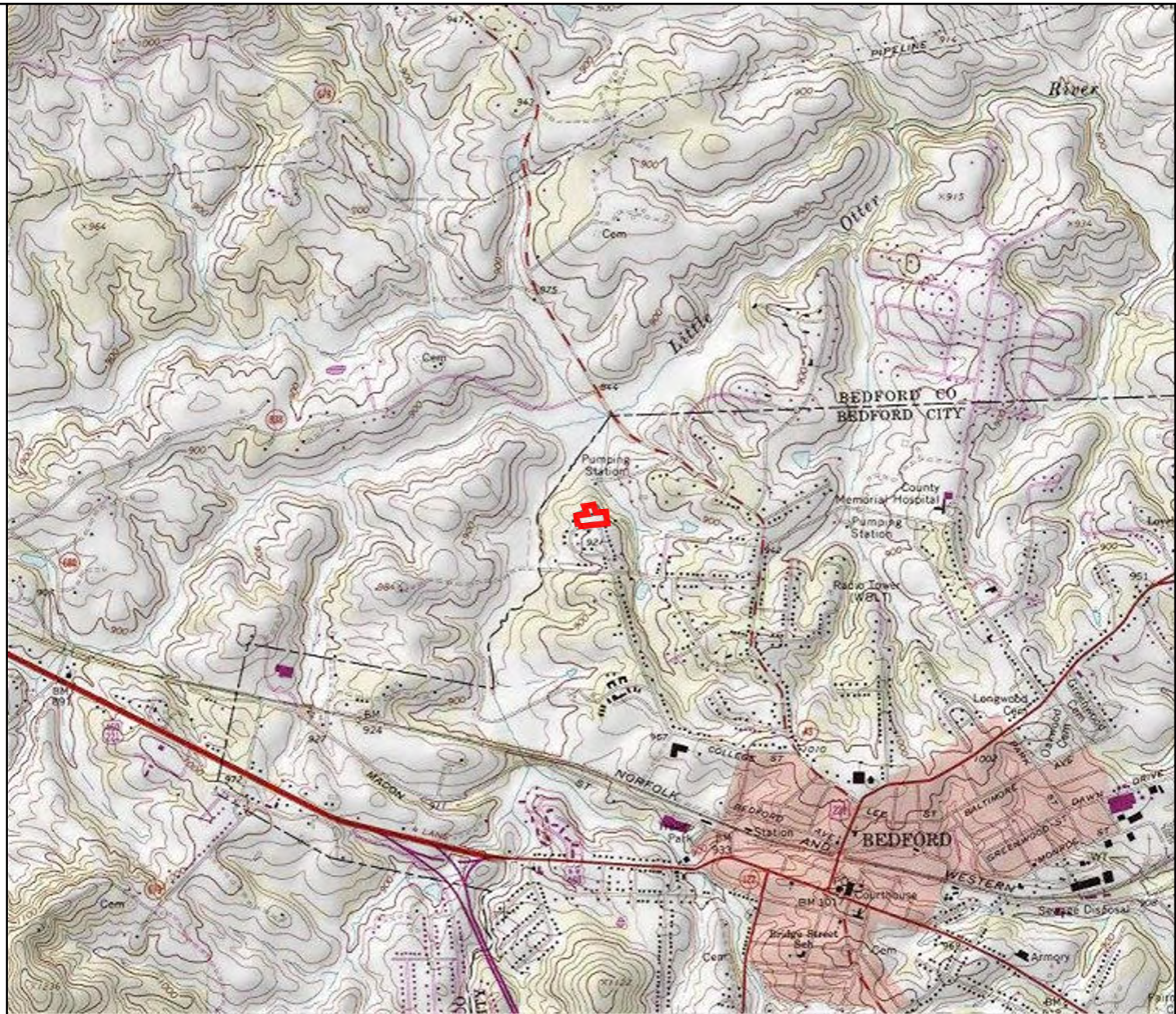
Architectural drawing of the front elevation of the Sammynick house. The drawing shows a two-story structure with a central door and four windows. The roof is gabled with three dormers. The drawing includes detailed annotations for materials and construction, such as 'SLATE' for the roof, 'WOOD CORNICE' for the dormers, and 'TYP. CAST STONE FLASHING' for the base. The drawing is labeled 'ORIGINAL DRAWINGS (1 of 2)' and 'Sammynick Town of Bedford, Bedford County, VA DHR No. 141-5012'.

Town of Bedford, Bedford County, VA DHR No. 141-5012



Legend

DHR No. 141-5012



Date: 10/31/2023

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Feet

0 600120018002400
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



Legend

County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

Sammynick

Town of Bedford, Bedford

County, VA

DHR No. 141-5012

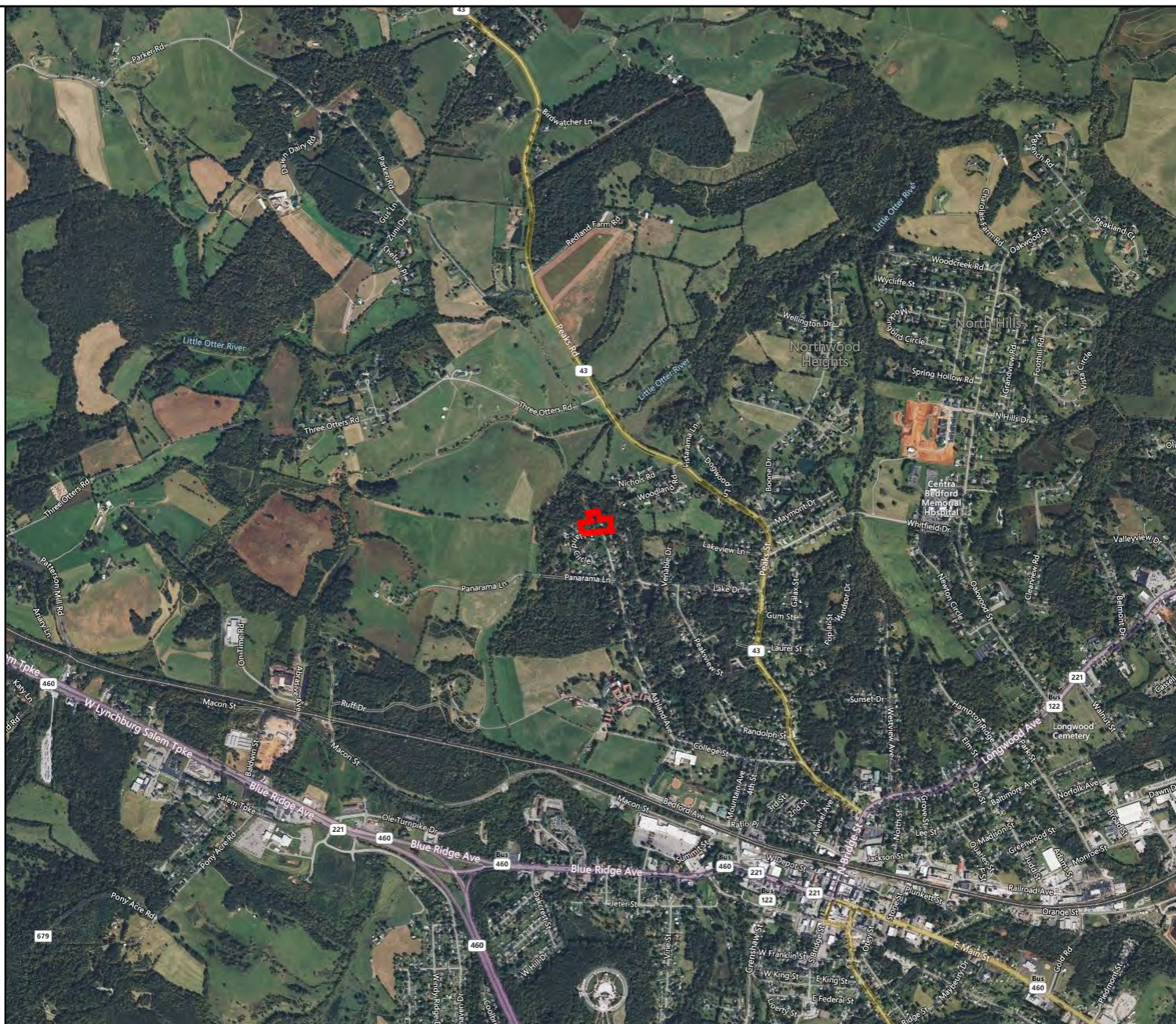
Nominated Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



Title:

Date: 10/31/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Sammynick

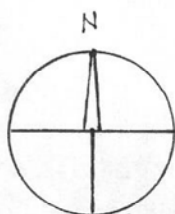
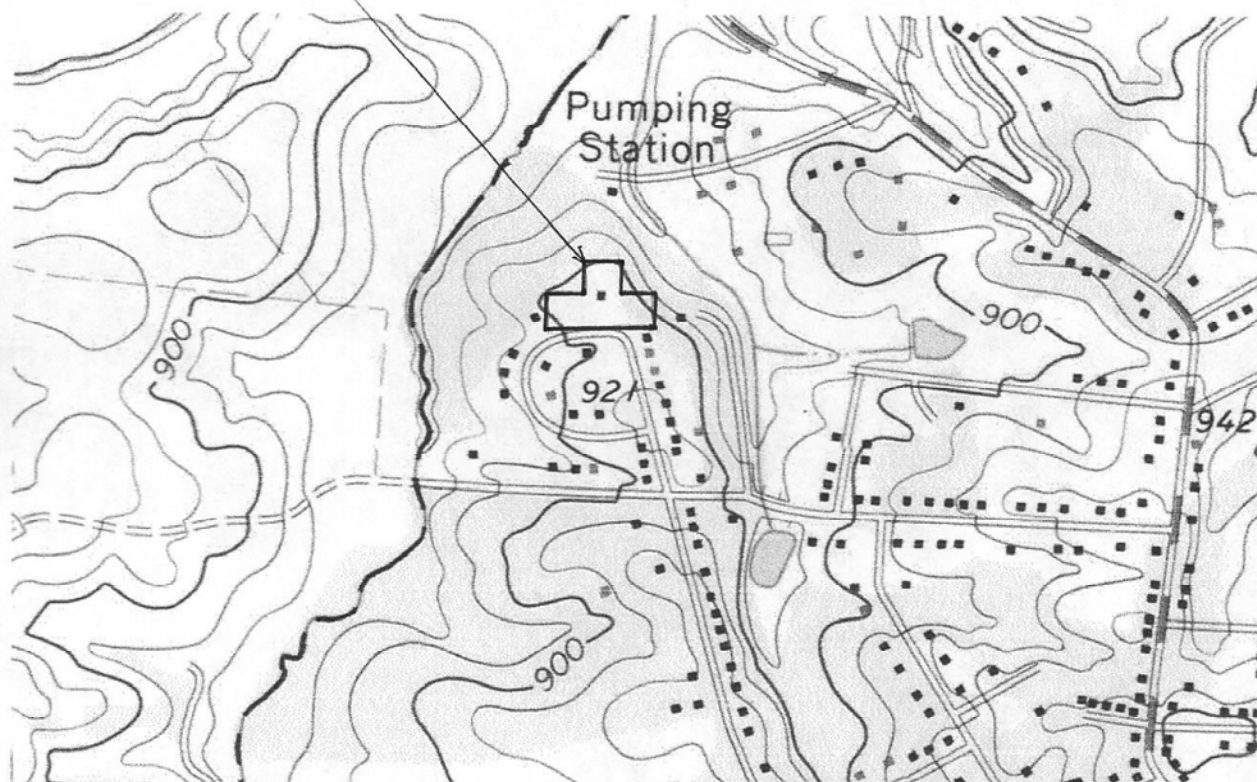
1108 Ashland Avenue
Bedford, Bedford County, Virginia
DHR ID# 141-5012

National Register of Historic Places Location Map

Latitude/longitude coordinates:

1. Latitude: 37.350940 Longitude: -79.536540

Location of NR property



0 1000'
approx.



Legend

County Boundaries

STREET MAP

Sammynick

Town of Bedford, Bedford

County, VA

DHR No. 141-5012



Nominated Boundary



Feet

0 200 400 600 800

1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet



Title:

Date: 10/31/2023

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Legend

 County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW

Sammynick

Town of Bedford, Bedford

County, VA

DHR No. 141-5012



Nominated Boundary



Feet

0 50 100 150 200

1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet



Title:

Date: 10/31/2023

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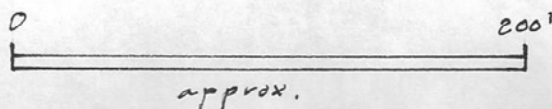
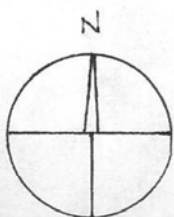
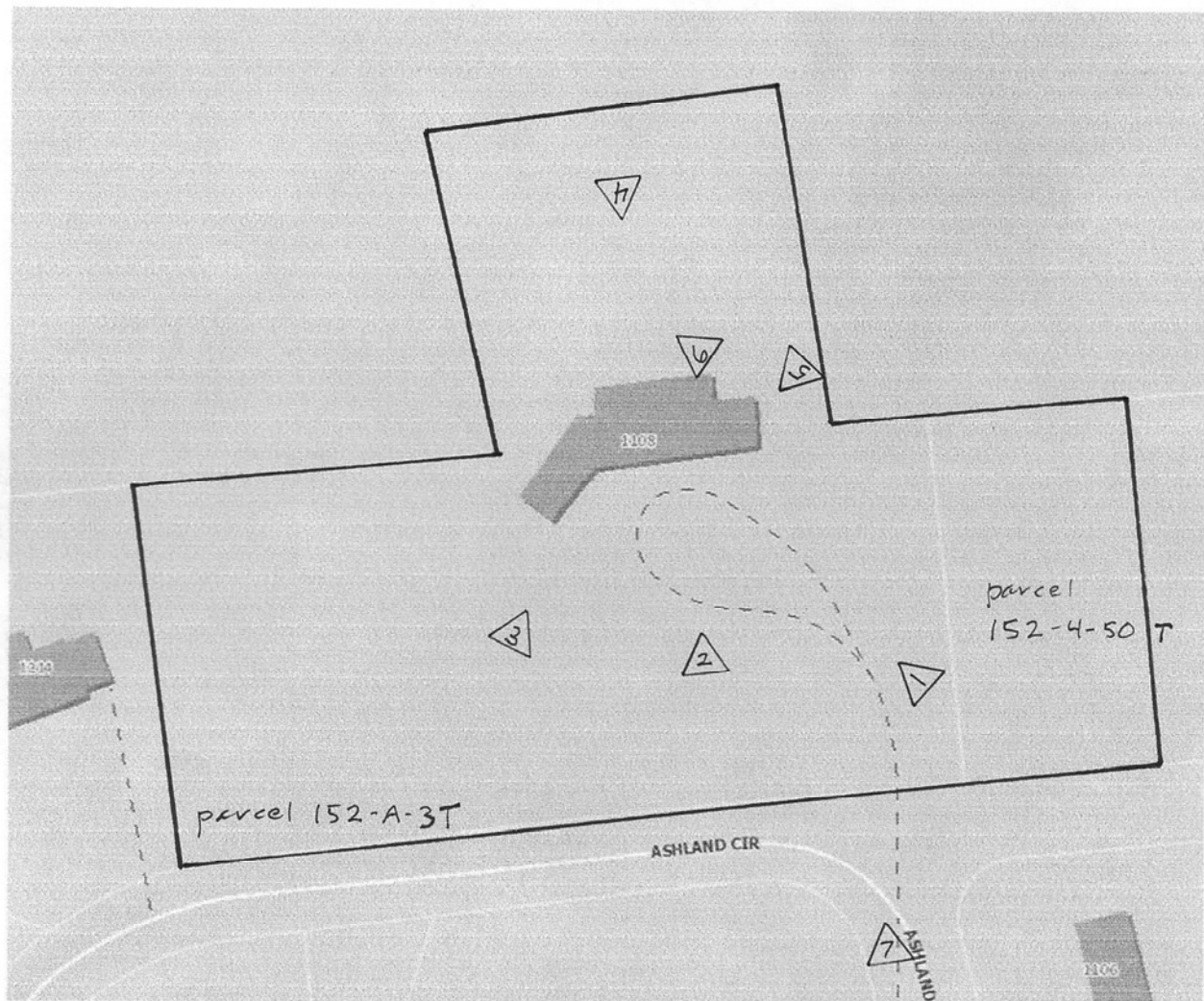
SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY

Sammynick

1108 Ashland Avenue
Bedford, Bedford County, Virginia
DHR ID# 141-5012

National Register of Historic Places Boundary Map, Site Plan & Photo Key (exterior views)

Triangular markers indicate number and direction of view of nomination photos and are keyed to the photo log in the nomination.

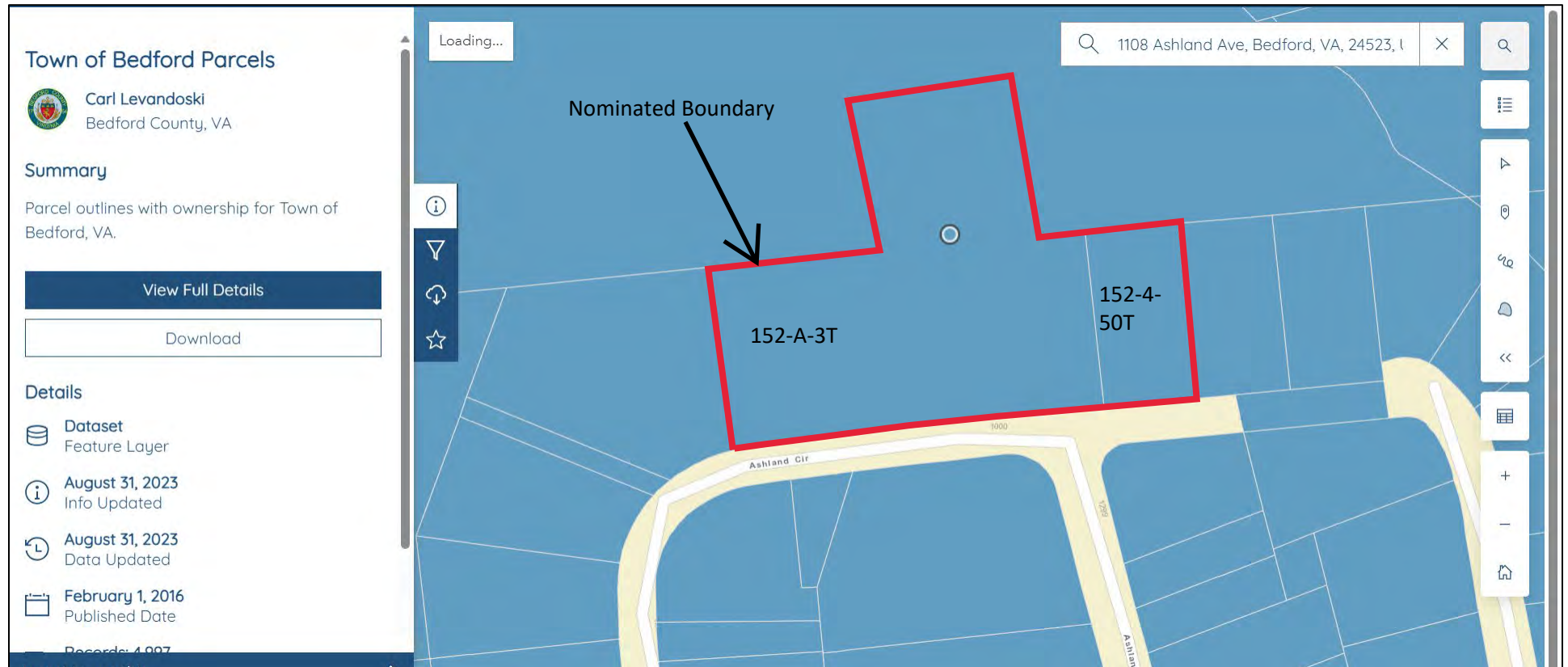


TAX PARCEL MAP

Sammynick

Town of Bedford, Bedford County, VA

DHR No. 141-5012



[Town of Bedford Parcels](#) | [Town of Bedford Parcels](#) | [Bedford County VA - GIS Data \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Accessed 10/31/2023