

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 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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Junius Marcellus Updyke Farm

other names/site number VDHR No. 010-5027

2. Location

street & number 4859 East Bluegrass Trail N/A not for publication

city or town Bland vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Bland code 021 zip code 24315

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Signature of certifying official Date _____

Title Virginia Department of Historic Resources
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

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)

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling = house

DOMESTIC / secondary structure = storage shed

DOMESTIC / secondary structure = smokehouse

AGRICULTURE / storage = granary

AGRICULTURE / animal facility = chicken house

AGRICULTURE / animal facility = barn

FUNERARY / cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling = house

DOMESTIC / secondary structure = storage shed

DOMESTIC / single dwelling = guest house

AGRICULTURE / storage = storage shed

AGRICULTURE / animal facility = barn

FUNERARY / cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Folk Victorian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD: weatherboard, board-and-batten

roof: METAL: pressed tin, tin panels

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1910- c. 1955

Significant Dates

1910, 1912 1920, 1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Virginia Department of Historic Resources,
 Richmond, VA

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 361.81

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 17S 0498660 4108710
 Zone Easting Northing

3 17S 0497090 4110070
 Zone Easting Northing

2 17S 0498140 4108380
 Zone Easting Northing

4 17S 0497700 4110500
 Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Scott Breckinridge Smith, Principal

organization HistoryTech, LLC

date 23 September 2011

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 18 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.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 7

Page 1

Summary Narrative Description

The J.M. Updyke Farm occupies approximately 362 acres on the north side of East Bluegrass Trail (State Route 42) in the Point Pleasant area of Bland County between the communities of Mechanicsburg and Bland Court House. Generally, the tract lies in Walker Creek Valley, between Big Walker Mountain to the south and Brushy Mountain to the north. The subject property consists of a farm house and associated domestic and agricultural outbuildings along with a cemetery, which are sited on a rise that overlooks the intersection of East Bluegrass Trail and Skydusky Road (State Route 608) along with Helvey's Mill Creek, a tributary of Walker Creek. The farmhouse site is approximately 2,300 feet above sea level, while the northern portion of the property, which terminates near the ridge of Brushy Mountain, has an elevation of approximately 3,100 feet above sea level. This northern section of the property borders the Jefferson National Forest, and the Appalachian Trail runs along the crest of Brushy Mountain.

One-third of the tract consists of relatively open pastureland, while the remaining two-thirds, primarily on the mountainside, are forested. A small, intermittent stream begins on the south side of Brushy Mountain and runs along the western edge of the property's pastureland. Approximately ten ancient apple trees dot a once-densley planted orchard lot to the northwest of the farm house, and the house's yard is filled with deciduous trees (primarily maple). In front of the house, running in a northeast to southwest direction, is a 900 foot-long paved section of roadway that formerly served as the Walker Creek & Holston Turnpike (the predecessor of today's Bluegrass Trail). A low stone retaining wall runs along this road, and a set of concrete steps connect the road to the sidewalk which leads to the farm house.

The nominated property embraces three parcels that form much of the historic J.M. Updyke Farm tract, which consists of three acquisitions by Junius Marcellus Updyke in 1891 and 1908. Also included is a fourth small parcel consisting of one-half acre, which was acquired from Mayme Davis Thompson in 1937, and was conveyed to A. Gilmer Updyke by Edith May Updyke Harmon and husband in 1954.

Character-defining features of the J.M. Updyke Farm include a full-length front porch supported by Ionic columns, pent roofs in the gable ends of the house and smokehouse, an unusual two-story smokehouse, and an intact collection of early 20th century agricultural outbuildings.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 7

Page 2

Narrative Description

Inventory of Resources

The following is a list of resources located within the boundaries of the nominated property. All resources have been evaluated as contributing based upon the areas of significance identified under Criterion C: Architecture, and based upon the period of significance spanning the period 1910 to 1955.

J.M. Updyke House	ca. 1910	Contributing Building
Smokehouse	ca. 1910	Contributing Building
Granary	ca. 1910	Contributing Building
Chicken House	ca. 1920	Contributing Building
Storage Shed	ca. 1910	Contributing Building
Barn	ca. 1955	Contributing Building
Cemetery	1912	Contributing Site

J.M. Updyke House

The main house is a three-bay, single-pile, two-story I-house in the post-railroad tradition, meaning that it also has a two-story ell to its rear, along with a one-story wing and porch, also to the rear. The building is covered by a moderately-pitched side gable roof of pressed-tin fish-scale shingles with Queen Anne pent roofs beneath the gables. Perhaps best described as a Folk Victorian style dwelling, the house displays a center gable with a pent roof beneath the gable. Each gable on the front and sides contains a single-light fixed arched window trimmed with scalloping and a simple sawcut floral motif. The most dominant feature of the façade is a one-story, three-bay, hipped-roof porch supported by Ionic columns. The center of the porch features a projecting gable with pent roof that is supported by an additional pair of Ionic columns. The ceiling of the porch is lined with typical tongue-and-groove boards, and the front entry of the house consists of a single-leaf door with an oval of beveled glass set into a vertical rectangular wood panel trimmed by floral patterns and egg-and-dart moulding. The door is flanked by narrow beveled glass lights set into wood panels. All first and second floor windows are 1/1 double-hung wood sash, and the windows on the two gable ends of the main block are paired 1/1 sash. The entire building is clad in wood novelty siding with beaded corner boards, and the foundation consists of poured concrete. A one-story wing to the rear once contained an open porch along its northeast side, but the porch has since been enclosed with brick laid in a running bond. The house has three corbeled brick chimneys; one serves the rear two-story ell and the other two serve the main block of the house.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 7

Page 3

Like the best dwellings of its period, the interior of the Updyke House is visually separated into public and private spaces through careful use of trim and ornamentation. The large main entry hall is trimmed in stained vertical-board wainscoting, and features a striking dog-leg staircase with a massive newel post displaying carved acanthus leaves at the top. The structure of the staircase is paneled and trimmed with egg-and-dart moulding. The oak stair treads and risers retain their original brass dust corners. The right front room also contains wainscoting, and features a large stained mantel with overmantel supported by Ionic columns as well as a built-in closet with double-leaf paneled doors. The left front room is dominated by a mantel and overmantel of quartersawn oak which contains a beveled glass mirror and is flanked by Ionic columns that extend to the floor. The interior area of the one-story wing is lined with horizontal matchboard paneling, and contains a modern kitchen and bathroom.

The second floor contains a stair hall with wainscoting and three bedrooms, each of which would have been heated by wood stoves. A unique built-in closet makes effective use of a void created by the hipped roof of the one-story wing. Most doors in the house feature four long, vertical panels, and the door surrounds consist of plain plinth blocks at the bottom with a simple architrave bead, frieze, and a cornice of egg-and-dart moulding above the door opening. Window casings in the house also follow this pattern, and virtually all woodwork is stained. Flooring throughout the house consists of narrow oak strips. Many rooms contain original gas lights that have been converted to electric service, and the house features a number of unique elements, including an original built-in mirror and medicine cabinet in a bathroom.

Smokehouse

The building referred to by local residents as the smokehouse (which contained a small quantity of old smoked hams through the end of the 20th century) consists of two primary parts: a two-story, single-pile, gable-roofed building with a one-story gable-roofed ell addition projecting from the main block's southwest elevation. The two-story main block presents three irregular bays on its northeast elevation, with a single-leaf entry door left of center on the first floor flanked by a pair of 1/1 double-hung wood sash on both levels. The northwestern gable end is fenestrated by a pair of small 1/1 double-hung sash on the first floor, and a single 1/1 double-hung sash on the second floor, while the southeastern elevation has a single 1/1 double-hung sash on each floor level. All windows are wood replacements, and are similar in form to the building's original 1/1 sash. The exterior doors are also replacements. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation, and is clad in smooth novelty siding with beaded corner boards as found on the main house. Also like the main house, the side gable roof is covered with pressed tin shingles in a fish scale pattern, and features a pent roof on each gable end. The northeastern side of the gable roof displays four different types of pressed tin shingles. The ell addition was rebuilt in the early 21st century, is clad in smooth weatherboard siding, and is covered by a five-v metal barn roof. Typical windows are paired 1/1 double-hung sash, and the southwestern gable end features an overhang that serves as a porch.

The interior of the main block of the smokehouse contains two rooms on each floor, with a boxed staircase leading from the first floor to the second. The walls and ceilings are covered by stained matchboard paneling (historic, if not original),

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 7

Page 4

and the floors consist of narrow oak strip flooring. The second floor features a balustrade with hewn handrails and newel post; the balusters match those found in the main house. The building does not currently display evidence of former fireplaces or stove flues.

Granary

This one-and-a-half story building is located approximately 250 feet southwest of the farmhouse, and is set into the hillside. The gable roof is covered in five-v metal barn roofing, and is trimmed by a smooth friezeboard underneath the open eaves and open rakes. The walls are clad in horizontal weatherboard siding with beaded cornerboards, and a four-panel single-leaf door provides access to the interior from the southwestern gable end. The friezeboard and beaded cornerboards are also found on the main house. The two upper panels of the door have been replaced with panes of glass, and horizontal strips of iron have been applied to the interior of the glazed portion of the door. Steps or a porch that provided access to the door from grade are now missing. The upper portions of each gable end are illuminated by 6/6 double-hung vinyl replacement sash windows. A small unglazed window with hinged door or shutter is located in the upper kneewall of the northwestern side of the building, and a pair of barn doors are located on the northern ends of both the northwestern and southeastern walls. The entire building is supported by vertical posts of poured concrete, although the northeastern corner of the building also has a poured concrete floor. The interior is divided into three rooms, and a narrow staircase leads from the largest room to the garret. The northeastern room, which contains the two pairs of barn doors, has weatherboard siding on its common wall with the main room of the building, which suggests that it is a later addition. Some framing elements of the main room suggest that it may have been plastered or paneled at one point; the partition wall that runs alongside the staircase is clad with flush horizontal wood paneling. Flooring throughout consists of narrow pine strips. Ghost marks on the floor of the main room suggest that another small room may have been located to the right of the front door.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 7

Page 5

Chicken House

This small building is located approximately 130 feet west of the main house, and is covered by a shallow-pitched shed roof with five-v metal barn roofing. The exterior walls are clad in vertical board-and-batten siding, and a small board-and-batten door on the northeast end wall provides access to the interior. The front, or southeastern, elevation of the building features a long, low window opening that is now filled by clear corrugated plastic (originally, it was likely screened).

Storage Shed

Located approximately 15 feet north of the main house, this shed features a steeply-pitched gable roof with exposed rafter tails that is covered by standing seam metal. The exterior walls are clad with horizontal weatherboard, and a board-and-batten door constructed of beaded matchboard is located on the southwestern side wall. The shed is fenestrated by a pair of 4-pane horizontal sliding sash on the southeast gable end and a single six-pane fixed sash on the northeast side wall. Also on the northeast wall is an unglazed window opening secured by horizontal iron bars (likely borrowed from a farm implement).

Barn

This large one-story barn is covered by a low gabled roof of standing seam metal, and is clad by vertical sawn boards. The southwest and northeast gable ends each contain a pair of open bays which provide access to the interior. A complex of fenced pens for cattle is located on the southeastern side of the building; the fencing consists of five horizontal boards supported by natural log posts.

Cemetery

The cemetery is located approximately 550 feet due west of the main house, within 50 feet of the barn. It contains 4 graves ranging in burial date from 1912 to 1997. The cemetery is rectangular in shape, and is enclosed by a woven wire fence.

The inscriptions on the headstones read:

Infant Son of J.M. & Ada L. Updyke

July 11, 1912

J.M. Updyke

May 20, 1859 – August 1, 1935

Ada Lee Updyke

January 6, 1883 – March 14, 1972

Albert Gilmer Updyke

July 28, 1913 – July 5, 1997

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 8

Page 6

Summary Statement of Significance

Built circa 1910 for Junius Marcellus Updyke (1859-1935), the Updyke Farm, with its main house and associated outbuildings, is an outstanding example of early 20th century vernacular domestic and agricultural architecture in Southwest Virginia. Character-defining features of the property include a full-length front porch supported by Ionic columns, pent roofs in the gable ends of the house and smokehouse, an unusual two-story smokehouse, and an intact collection of early 20th century agricultural outbuildings.

The J.M. Updyke Farm has a period of significance ranging from circa 1910, the date of construction of the main house, to circa 1955, the date of construction of the last extant building on the property (the barn). The property is locally significant and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its unusual and bold use of Classical Revival elements in a Victorian-era dwelling, and for its collection of unique early 20th century agricultural outbuildings. The farm possesses sound integrity in the areas of location, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Narrative Statement of Significance

In 1856, Albert Gallatin Updyke (1820-1912), a native of Loudoun County, Virginia, purchased a 600-acre tract of land along Walkers Creek, just south of the village of Mechanicsburg in what was then Giles County. Updyke was a merchant and farmer, and married Mary Agnes Smith of Lewisburg, West Virginia in 1849. By 1872, Albert and Mary were parents to eight children (five daughters and three sons), and constructed the substantial brick dwelling known as Crystal Springs (on Crystal Springs Road or State Route 640) circa 1880.¹

The second child, and first son, of Albert and Mary was Junius Marcellus Updyke, who was born in May of 1859. As a young man, Marcellus, or "Cell," as he was known to his family and friends, assisted his father with the operation of Crystal Springs Farm.² By the late 1880s, he was a partner in the mercantile firm of Updyke & Robinette, which operated stores in the communities of Point Pleasant and Kimberling.³ Point Pleasant is located approximately six miles east of Bland Court House (also known as Seddon) along the Walkers Creek and Holston Turnpike (modern day Blue Grass Trail). In addition to Updyke & Robinette's general store and pharmacy, Point Pleasant boasted a post office, a flour mill operated by W.H. Roberson, A.F. Harman's saw mill, Point Pleasant Academy, and physician J.H. Hoge.⁴

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 8

Page 7

In September of 1891, Point Pleasant Postmaster A.W. Tieche sold 69 acres on both sides of the Holston Turnpike to his brother-in-law Junius M. Updyke. While the tract contained some sort of building (valued at \$150.00) at the time of the sale, it appears that Junius did not immediately occupy the property, as he was still living on his father's farm at the end of the decade.⁵ In 1908, Junius Updyke purchased three tracts of land, totaling 255 acres, on the south side of Brushy Mountain from Jacob and Lucy Trinkle along with a 12 acre tract from J.S. Ashworth. This land was located immediately to the north of Updyke's 69 acre tract at Point Pleasant, and would complete his acquisition of land in the immediate vicinity, which formed a farm of 335.5 acres.⁶ This farm, combined with his 1903 acquisition of a 293 acre tract on Big Walker Mountain (referred to locally as the "Mountain Tract"), comprised over 600 acres that Junius Updyke would own for the remainder of his life.⁷

Just over one year after his significant real estate purchases, Junius Updyke married Ada Lee Davis. Twenty-four years younger than Junius, Ada was born in Bland County in 1883 to Arnold Edward Davis and Zarilda Angeline Dills.⁸ Census records indicate that Junius and Ada were living on their Point Pleasant property in 1910, likely in their newly-constructed house.⁹ That year, Junius reported his occupation to be a farmer rather than a hardware salesman the previous decade, and his farm at Point Pleasant was in full operation, as Junius was responsible for the care of 8 horses, 46 cattle, 28 sheep, and 1 hog in 1910.¹⁰ Over the next decade, Junius and Ada made a series of physical improvements to their property with the addition of numerous farm buildings constructed in an unknown order.¹¹

A 1910 construction date for the main house is appropriate, as it fits with the couple's marriage in December of the previous year. A large house for Bland County at the time, Junius and Ada's dwelling was a showplace, according to descendants.¹² Notable features of the Folk Victorian house include its moderately-pitched side gable roof of pressed tin fish scale shingles with Queen Anne pent roofs beneath the gables. The building displays a center gable with a pent roof beneath the gable. Each gable on the front and sides contains a single-light fixed arched window trimmed with scalloping and a simple sawcut floral motif. While similar pressed tin shingles can be found on other homes in the Walker Creek Valley, the use of pent roofs below gables is highly uncommon for Bland County. The most dominant feature of the façade is a one-story, three-bay, hipped-roof porch supported by Ionic columns. The center of the porch features a projecting gable with pent roof that is supported by an additional pair of Ionic columns.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 8

Page 8

The presence in Bland County of Ionic columns, or any order of Greek columns, is atypical, and seems to be especially associated with the Updyke Family. Albert Gallatin (A.G.) Updyke, progenitor of the family in Bland County, clearly had an interest in the classical world as evidenced by the given names of his first two sons: Junius Marcellus and Fabius Iterbide. The only other house in the area known to display Ionic columns is the A.G. Updyke house (Crystal Springs), which has a three-bay, hipped-roof porch with a central projecting gable supported by columns of the Ionic order. This porch is remarkably similar to the one found on Junius Updyke's house, but is not original to Crystal Springs, as a late 19th or early 20th century image of the house shows a simpler one-bay portico on the façade.¹³ It is probable that youngest son A.F. Updyke (who received Crystal Springs) or Junius added this porch around the time of their father's death, which generally coincided with the time that Junius built his home.

The interior of the house is remarkably formal and ornate for this area of Bland County. The large main entry hall is trimmed in stained vertical board wainscoting, and features a striking dog-leg staircase with a massive newel post displaying carved acanthus leaves at the top. The structure of the staircase is paneled and trimmed with egg-and-dart moulding. The oak stair treads and risers retain their original brass dust corners. The right front room also contains wainscoting, and features a large stained mantel with overmantel supported by Ionic columns as well as a built-in closet with double-leaf paneled doors. The left front room is dominated by a mantel and overmantel of quartersawn oak which contains a beveled glass mirror and is flanked by Ionic columns that extend to the floor. Most doors in the house feature four long, vertical panels, and the door surrounds consist of simple plinth blocks at the bottom with a simple architrave bead, frieze, and a cornice of egg-and-dart moulding above the door opening. Window casings in the house also follow this pattern, and virtually all woodwork is stained.

The property features a virtually intact collection of early 20th century agricultural buildings, the most notable of which are an unusual two-story smokehouse and an original granary. The building referred to as the smokehouse indeed contained a small number of old smoked hams through the end of the 20th century, but presents itself more as a small dwelling than as a purpose-built smokehouse. Very similar in form to the main block of the farmhouse, the smokehouse is a two-story frame building with a gabled roof featuring pent roofs at the bottom of each gable end. Like the main house, the roof is covered by pressed tin shingles in a fish scale pattern. The building is fenestrated by 1/1 wood double-hung sash which are replacements of similar historic sash. The interior originally had two rooms, one of which contained a staircase to the second floor (the staircase has since been boxed-in, and a bathroom was carved out of the largest room on the second floor).

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 8

Page 9

Since the building has no odor of smoked meat and no readily visible evidence of a chimney or heat source, it does not present itself as a building that became a smokehouse (or meat storage facility) later in its life. However, Crystal Springs, the home of Junius Updyke's parents, also has a similar building that is called a "smokehouse." Standing behind the main house at Crystal Springs is a two-story, gable-roofed, frame building that is of similar size and form to the one at J.M. Updyke's farm. The Crystal Springs smokehouse contains windows (2/2 double-hung sash) and a central interior stove flue chimney. The building smells of smoke, but was also used as a residence at least once. Lelia Marie, daughter of A.F. Updyke, who lived at Crystal Springs, recalled that a family whose home had been destroyed by fire "lived in three rooms of our smokehouse for months."¹⁴ Another example of a two-story smokehouse can be found at the Sanders House in Bluefield, Virginia, but this building exhibits other traits typical of smokehouses, including a cupola/smoke vent and small unglazed windows with shutters. Whether purpose-built to serve as a smokehouse or as a dwelling, the smokehouse at the J.M. Updyke Farm is a rare example of this type of building in Bland County.

A seldom-seen building type in Virginia as a whole, the Updyke Farm's granary is remarkably intact. Designed for the storage of grain in bins or sacks, the building is tightly sheathed in smooth weatherboard siding, has floors of narrow tongue-and-groove wood strips, and is elevated from grade by vertical concrete posts.¹⁵ A glazed door on the southwest gable end provides light and access to a central work area, which contains a narrow staircase to the loft above. Two long, narrow storage rooms flanked the central space (the wall of the right-hand room has been removed). No grain bins remain in the building. The exterior details of the granary are a simpler version of those found on the main house.

In July of 1911, Junius and Ada welcomed their first child, Junius Davis, into the world. Another infant son died in July of the next year, but in all, the Updykes had five children (three sons and two daughters) who lived to adulthood. In December of 1912, Albert Gallatin Updyke died at the age of 92, leaving Junius with his book case and an eighth of a share of his personal property. His youngest son, Albert Franklin Updyke (1872-1963), assumed control of Crystal Springs Farm, which had already been transferred to him by his father in 1907.¹⁶

J.M. "Cell" Updyke was actively involved in the Bland Presbyterian Church at Point Pleasant, which his father helped organize in 1874, and in 1909, he helped establish the new Presbyterian Church at nearby Crandon. A Mason, Cell was likely a member of Bland Lodge No. 206, A.F. & A.M.¹⁷ Junius Updyke died at age 76 in August of 1935, leaving Ada as a 52 year-old widow, and children ranging in ages from 15 to 24. At the time of his death, his personal estate (not including real estate) was valued at \$11,032, which equates to over \$170,000 in 2010 money. A successful farmer, he owned 80 head of cattle, 22 sheep, 5 horses, and 25 hogs. Also of note in Cell's estate inventory is his 1931 Chevrolet Sedan, which, at a cost of over \$400 new, would have been a prized possession in the midst of the Great Depression.¹⁸

By 1941, J.M. Updyke's Point Pleasant property had been divided amongst his widow and children. Ada Lee Updyke received the home place along with 124 acres that stretched from Blue Grass Trail (Route 42) almost to the ridge of

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 8

Page 10

Brushy Mountain. As many of the Updyke children married and moved away from Point Pleasant, Albert Gilmer Updike (1913-1997) began reassembling the farm. A.G. Updyke was a 1935 graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and was a member of Crandon Presbyterian Church. During the mid-20th century, A.G. served on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Bland County. Very active in the community, Gilmer served four terms as President of the Kiwanis Club of Bland County in the 1980s, was a member of the American Hereford Cattleman's Association, and served on the board of directors of the Bland County Fair Association and the Dublin Livestock Market in Pulaski County.¹⁹

Family matriarch Ada Lee Updyke died in March of 1972 at age 89, and the 124 acre home tract was transferred to Gilmer. By 1980, Gilmer had acquired over 1,200 acres in the area, much of it being his father's former holdings. A lifelong bachelor, A.G. Updike died in 1997 at age 83. In 2005, his surviving sisters, Edith Updyke Harmon and Ethel Updyke Shaver, along with the executor of the estate of his late brother, Garland Lee Updyke, sold ten parcels containing almost 1,100 acres (including the J.M. Updyke home place) to Surry P. Roberts, M.D. of Raleigh, North Carolina.²⁰

To date, no comprehensive historic resources survey has been conducted in the county, and Bland contains only three properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Mountain Glen (010-0039), a circa 1850 house, the circa 1883 Sharon Lutheran Church (010-0040), and the Wolf Creek Bridge (010-0027). While architectural context for Bland County is lacking, the J.M. Updyke Farm, with its main house and associated outbuildings, has been identified as an outstanding example of early 20th century vernacular domestic and agricultural architecture in Southwest Virginia. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its unusual and bold use of Classical Revival elements in a Victorian-era dwelling, and for its collection of unique early 20th century agricultural outbuildings. The property possesses sound integrity in the areas of location, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

J.M. Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number 8

Page 11

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bland County Centennial Corporation, "History of Bland County, Virginia." Bland, Virginia: Bland County Historical Society, 1992.

Bland County Deed Books (1860-2011), Land Tax Records (1880-1980), Personal Property Tax Records (1910). Clerk of the Circuit Court, Bland, Virginia

Craig, Robert S. "The Virginia Updikes-Updykes." Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Company. 1985.

King, Brenda, "Farmer, Merchant, and Presbyterian." Bland County Messenger (undated article)

Opdyke, Charles Wilson, "The Op dyck Genealogy, containing the Opdyck, Opdycke, Opdyke, Updike American Descendants of the Wesel and Holland Families." Albany, New York: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1889.

United States Census, Population Schedules, Bland County, Virginia, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The 361.81 acre property consists of four Bland County parcels: 80-A-8, 80-A-12, 80-A-13, and 80-A-14. The property is generally bounded on the north by the Jefferson National Forest and ridge of Rocky Gap Mountain, on the east by Bland County parcel 67-A-28, on the south by Bluegrass Trail (State Route 42), and on the west by Bland County parcel 80-A-7.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries of the property represent the three parcels that form much of the historic J.M. Updyke Farm tract, which consists of three acquisitions by Junius Marcellus Updyke in 1891 and 1908. A fourth small parcel, consisting of one-half acre, was acquired from Mayme Davis Thompson in 1937, and was conveyed to A. Gilmer Updyke by Edith May Updyke Harmon and husband in 1954.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number Photographs Page..12

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: J.M. Updyke Farm
City or Vicinity: Point Pleasant
County: Bland State: Virginia
Photographer: W. Scott Smith
Date Photographed: September 2011

View: Southeast & northeast elevations
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0001.tif

View: Southwest & southeast elevations
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0002.tif

View: Northwest elevation
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0003.tif

View: Façade detail, southeast elevation
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0004.tif

View: Interior mantel detail
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0005.tif

View: Interior entry hall
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0006.tif

View: Smokehouse, southwest & northwest elevations
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0007.tif

View: Granary, northeast & southeast elevations
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0008.tif

View: Storage shed, southeast & southwest elevations
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0009.tif

View: Barn, southwest & northwest elevations
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0010.tif

View: Chicken house, southeast & northeast elevations
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0011.tif

View: Cemetery
VA_Bland County_J.M. Updyke Farm_0012.tif

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Updyke Farm (010-5027)

Bland County, Virginia

Section number Additional Documentation Page 13

ENDNOTES (Sections 7 and 8)

¹ Bland County Centennial Corporation, "History of Bland County, Virginia." Bland, Virginia: Bland County Historical Society, 1992. Pages 136-138. 1850 United States Census Population Schedule.

² King, Brenda, "Farmer, Merchant, and Presbyterian." Bland County Messenger (undated article)

³ Opdyke, Charles Wilson, "The Op dyck Genealogy, containing the Opdyck, Opdycke, Opdyke, Updike American Descendants of the Wesel and Holland Families." Albany, New York: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1889. Page 448.

⁴ Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory 1888-1889 for Bland County

⁵ Bland County Deed Book 6, page 208. 1891, 1892 Bland County Land Tax Records.

⁶ Bland County Deed Book 10, page 66, Bland County Deed Book 10, page 98. The 1904 Bland County Land Tax records indicate that Updyke's 69 acre tract had been reduced in size by 3 acres to 66 acres, but no explanation for this change was given. The 1894 Land Tax records indicate that Updyke had acquired a 2.5 acre tract in the vicinity, and this land was incorporated into Updyke's 335.5 acre tract at Point Pleasant in the 1911 Land Tax records. However, no known deed accounts for his acquisition of this parcel.

⁷ Deed Book 8, page 528. The tract was originally thought to contain 303 acres, but was resurveyed and found to contain 293 acres. By 1911, the tract was reported to consist of 273 acres.

⁸ Bland County Marriage Book 1.

⁹ 1910 United States Census, Population Schedule. Bland County Land Tax Records. In 1910, Updyke's 66 acre tract on the Holston Turnpike (which included the site of the present house and farmstead) contained buildings valued at \$132.00, while the 255 acres acquired from Trinkle already contained buildings valued at \$127.50. The building on the 66 acre tract may have been Updyke's store at Point Pleasant. The 1895 USGS Topographic Map (Pocahontas) shows a building in the immediate vicinity of the current farmstead. The buildings on the 255 acre tract are likely the "Trinkle House" and "Old Cephas Logan House, partly built but not completed" (both no longer extant), which are shown on a 1940 plat of J.M. Updyke's estate. In 1911, Updyke's Point Pleasant lands were combined in the land tax records, and the 335.5 acre tract contained buildings valued at \$334.50. Assuming that no buildings previously on the land were demolished, the net gain of building value between 1910 and 1911 was \$75.00.

¹⁰ 1900, 1910 United States Census, Population Schedule. 1910 Bland County Personal Property Tax Records.

¹¹ 1910-1921 Bland County Land Tax Records. Building value increases by \$75.00 to \$334.50 in 1911 and then to \$500.00 in 1916, followed by an increase to \$707.00 in 1921 suggest that improvements were made during the previous years. As no one increase seems to account for the construction of a new house of this size, it is likely that the 1911 increase reflected both demolition of a previous building that had been on the site (such as the one that appeared on the 1895 USGS Map in the vicinity of the current house) and construction of the new house.

¹² Smith, W. Scott. Oral history interview with Wayne Umbarger, Bland County, Virginia conducted on 19 September 2011.

¹³ Bland County Centennial Corporation, "History of Bland County, Virginia." Bland, Virginia: Bland County Historical Society, 1992. Page 136. Smith, W. Scott, Oral history interview with Brenda King, Bland County, Virginia conducted on 20 September 2011. Mrs. King, a descendant of A.F. Updyke, noted that the photograph shows A.G. Updyke sitting on the front porch, which indicates that the image was taken prior to his death in 1912.

¹⁴ Craig, Robert S. "The Virginia Updikes-Updykes." Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Company. 1985. Page 668.

¹⁵ Lanier, Gabrielle M. & Bernard L. Herman, "Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes." Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. Page 193.

¹⁶ Bland County Will Book 2, page 54. Bland County Deed Book 9, page 554.

¹⁷ Bland County Centennial Corporation, "History of Bland County, Virginia." Bland, Virginia: Bland County Historical Society, 1992. Pages 316-317, 427. J.M. Updyke's gravestone is inscribed with a Masonic compass and square.

¹⁸ Bland County Appraisal Book 2, page 56.

¹⁹ Obituary of Albert Gilmer Updyke, Enterprise newspaper, Wythe County, VA 9 Jul 1997;

<http://history.capitaldistrictkiwanis.org/clubs/blandco.html>

²⁰ Bland County Instrument No. 050001033.