



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 021-0024

1. General Property Information

Property name: Dearmont Hall (also known as Soldier's Retreat)

Property address: 470 Dearmont Hall Lane

City or Town: White Post

Zip code: 22663

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Clarke County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: Approximately 15.01 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Town ☐ Village ☐ Hamlet ☐ Rural ☒

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

Dearmont Hall is located in rural Clarke County near White Post, Virginia, in the lower Shenandoah Valley and bordering the Opequon Creek. The property is reached by a private lane and occupies a rural setting of open fields, historic stone walls, mature trees, and agricultural viewsheds. The house and associated resources sit within the larger Greenway Historic District landscape, and the setting retains a strong rural and historic character. Notable landscape features include the historic approach, open pasture/fields, fieldstone walls, mature shade trees, and the cemetery/gravesite associated with Major Lawrence Butler.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Greek Revival

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Unknown

If the builder is known, please list here: Col. Washington Ernest Dearmont

Date of construction (can be approximate): ca. 1851–1857

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the

materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

Dearmont Hall is a two-story brick Greek Revival dwelling historically used as a private residence and country estate, and it continues to serve as a private residence. The house is characterized by its symmetrical form, brick construction, classical proportions, restrained Greek Revival detailing, prominent porches, and substantial scale. The interior retains important historic fabric, including the double stair hall, doors and woodwork, flooring, fireplaces/mantels, and other nineteenth-century features. Modern improvements support continued residential use, but the building continues to convey its mid-nineteenth-century character. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Its rural setting, historic outbuildings and landscape features, and relationship to the surrounding Greenway Historic District reinforce its character as a nineteenth-century Clarke County estate.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Historic ice house; construction date uncertain, likely nineteenth century or earlier; has been updated but retains some original framing with wooden pegs; stone-lined storage space approximately 18' deep.
- Gravesite/cemetery associated with Major Lawrence Butler, Revolutionary War officer (1754–1811); stone returned to its original location and restored in 2021.
- Historic rural landscape features, including private lane/approach, stone walls, open fields or pasture, mature trees, and agricultural viewsheds.
- Historic stone-lined well/spring; construction date uncertain but likely nineteenth century or earlier.

4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Dearmont Hall is significant as a well-preserved mid-nineteenth-century rural estate in Clarke County and as an example of Greek Revival domestic architecture in the Shenandoah Valley. The property is associated with the Dearmont family and with Col. Washington Ernest Dearmont, who is understood to have been connected with Mosby's Rangers during the Civil War era; further documentation should be provided to establish the extent and significance of this association. The property also includes the gravesite of Major Lawrence Butler, a Revolutionary War officer, linking the site to an earlier period of regional and national history. Architecturally, the main house embodies key characteristics of the Greek Revival style through its massing, symmetry, brick construction, classical proportions, and surviving historic interior features. The ice house, cemetery/gravesite, mature landscape, and rural setting strengthen the property's ability to convey its historic function as a Clarke County country estate. The property appears to merit evaluation for its architecture and integrity and for its associations with Clarke County's rural, agricultural, and family history. Potential National Register areas of significance may include Architecture and Local History; potential Criteria may include Criterion C and, subject to documentation, Criteria A and/or B.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- Clarke County land, tax, and parcel records for 470 Dearmont Hall Lane / Dearmont Hall.
- Greenway Historic District documentation and related Virginia Department of Historic Resources materials.
- Research compiled by the current owners, including articles, notes, correspondence, and historical photographs concerning Dearmont Hall/Soldier's Retreat.
- Local histories and genealogical sources concerning the Dearmont family, Major Lawrence Butler, and Clarke County history.
- Published and archival sources concerning Mosby's Rangers and Civil War-era Clarke County.
- On-site observation and owner-provided photographs documenting the house, ice house, gravesite, well/spring landscape, and setting.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: ☒ Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: John Engels and Alain Otárola

organization: N/A

street & number: 470 Dearmont Hall Ln

city or town: White Post **state:** VA **zip code:** 22663

e-mail: jengels61@gmail.com **telephone:** 301-821-2829

Legal Owner's Signature:  Date: 5/31/2026

• • *Signature required for processing all applications.* • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title:

organization:

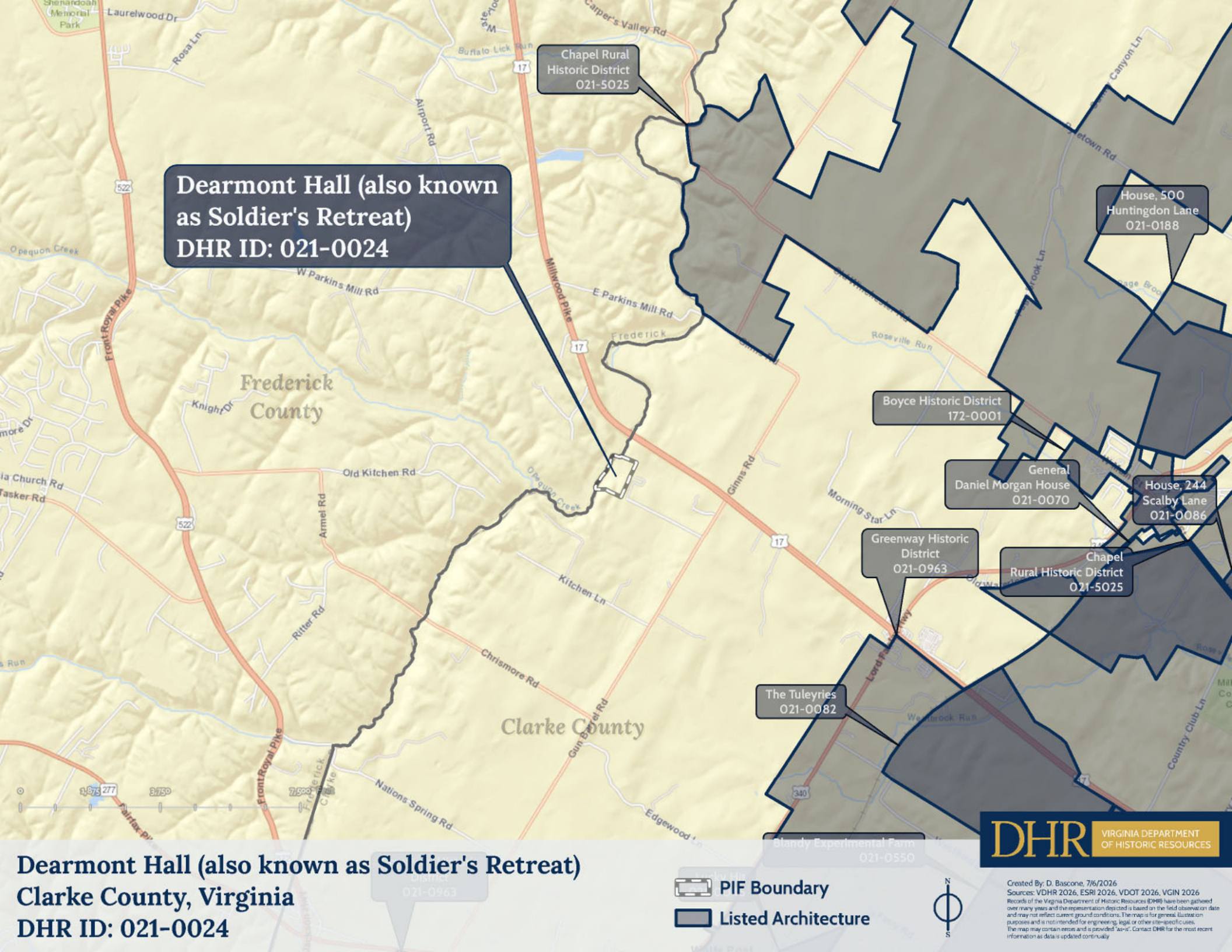
street & number:

city or town:

e-mail:

Date:

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!



Dearmont Hall (also known as Soldier's Retreat)
DHR ID: 021-0024

Chapel Rural Historic District
021-5025

House, 500 Huntingdon Lane
021-0188

Boyce Historic District
172-0001

General Daniel Morgan House
021-0070

House, 244 Scalby Lane
021-0086

Greenway Historic District
021-0963

Chapel Rural Historic District
021-5025

The Tuleyries
021-0082

Gandy Experimental Farm
021-0550

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Clarke County, Virginia
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021-0963

 **PIF Boundary**
 **Listed Architecture**



DHR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Created By: D. Bascone, 7/6/2026
Sources: VDHR 2026, ESRI 2026, VDOT 2026, VGIN 2026
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal, or other site-specific uses. The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.



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Clarke County, Virginia
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 **PIF Boundary**



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