

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NRHP - 5-30-79
VLR - 10-17-78

71-H
108-5066

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC Dan's Hill
AND/OR COMMON Dan's Hill

2 LOCATION 4 miles W of Danville; approximately .5 mile S of U.S. Route 58; 1 mile SE of intersection of State Route 870 and U.S. Route 58; approximately .5 mile N of Dan River.
NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Danville
STATE Virginia
VICINITY OF Fifth (W. C. Daniel)
COUNTY Pittsylvania
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fifth (W. C. Daniel)
CODE 51
STATE CODE 143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY 2/13/84

NAME Mr. John Boatwright Mrs. Glenn B. Update, Jr.
STREET & NUMBER Dan's Hill 124 Manchester Ave
CITY, TOWN Danville STATE Virginia
VICINITY OF 24541

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pittsylvania County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Danville STATE Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (3) (See continuation Sheet #3)

TITLE 1) Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE 1934, 1936
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.
X FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dan's Hill, a Federal-style residence, is located in a densely wooded area four miles west of Danville in Pittsylvania County. Erected during the second decade of the 19th century, the brick dwelling is a two-and-one-half story, double-pile, central-plan house covered by a gable roof.

Set on a high basement, the front (north) elevation is laid in Flemish bond. The five-bay facade is dominated by a graceful pedimented one-story Roman Doric portico set on a podium. The portico shelters a semi-circular fanlight entry which retains both its original paneled double door, and intersecting tracery in the fanlight. The fenestration consists of 9/9 hung sash framed by a simply executed architrave and surmounted by rowlock lintels. A Doric cornice runs the entire length of both the north and south elevations.

The garden (south) elevation, like the rest of the secondary walls, is laid in three-course American bond. The treatment of this elevation duplicates the main (north) facade. The west facade contains two semi-exterior end chimneys which flank paired central windows of two-and-one-half stories. The east elevation has been altered at the first story by the addition of a one-story service wing covered by a shed roof. An enclosed patio and basement-level garage project from this wing.

The interior of Dan's Hill contains distinguished architectural elements. A finely executed semi-elliptical reeded arch divides the central hall into an entry passage and stair hall. The entry passage contains elaborate wainscoting capped by a chair rail with gouged rosettes and flutes. The doorways in the hall have fluted symmetrical architrave trim with finely molded corner blocks. The stair hall is dominated by an exceptionally handsome, open-well stair that ascends to the attic. The stair has paneled spandrels, sawn-scroll brackets, a round handrail, and rectangular balusters, two-to-a-tread. The handrail is ramped and eased at the turned newels. Paralleling the stair is a handsomely finished wainscot with a finely molded chair rail. Openings in the stair hall are identical to those found in the entry passage. The rear door is a six-light double door, not original to the house.

The northwest (front) parlor is a handsome room in a fine state of preservation. The focal point of the room is the King of Prussia marble mantel, original to the house. The architrave of Greek Revival inspiration is reeded. The wainscoting is similar to that found in the entry passage. A semi-circular arched double doorway connects the front parlor to the rear. The ceiling is a copy of an original found in the southwest parlor.

Like the front parlor, the rear (southwest) parlor contains a handsome mantel that was moved from the dining room. Constructed of black marble, this mantel has engaged Ionic columns supporting a simple entablature and mantel shelf. The wainscoting is similar to that found in the hall. Of special note is the original ornamental stucco ceiling which boasts a finely executed acanthus medallion centerpiece.

The dining room (northeast) is of less elaborate execution than the west parlors. The original mantel was removed during the house's early restoration in the 1930s. Likewise, the southeast den has undergone renovation and was paneled in the 1930s.

The second-floor rooms, while spacious, are less elaborate than those on the first floor. The well-executed mantels and molded chair rails are preserved throughout the second floor.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1833 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the north side of the Dan River in Pittsylvania County, Dan's Hill is a handsome and well-preserved example of Southside Virginia's Federal-style architecture. Its fine brickwork, interior appointments and outstanding collection of outbuildings rank the property high in interest among the state's plantation complexes. Built by the Wilson family during the second decade of the 19th century, the house bears a strong stylistic resemblance to the work of James Dejarnett, a Pittsylvania County builder of the era.

Peter Wilson, the first of the family to settle in the area, acquired land patents as early as 1748 on the north side of the Dan River in what was then Lunenburg County. His will, recorded in Halifax County in 1763, lists substantial bequests to his wife and children, among whom was John Wilson, for whom Dan's Hill was built.

John Wilson inherited from his father in 1764, "one tract of 300 acres of land... adjoining on the back of the hundred and sixty acres I deeded him..." John accumulated additional holdings through deeds and grants, so that by 1782 the first Pittsylvania land tax book charged him with 4070 acres of land, which he increased in subsequent years. The town of Danville was established in 1775 on land that he owned, and he was a trustee of the town.

John Wilson's acquisition of land paralleled his success in business. Wilson and his sons operated a very large and successful mercantile business in Pittsylvania County as well as in neighboring Rockingham County, North Carolina. His many business contacts resulted in frequent trips to Petersburg, Richmond, and Lynchburg.

In addition to operating successful business ventures, Wilson was prominent in community affairs; he served as both a justice and a sheriff of the county. He was elected to the committee of safety in 1775 and was a member of the House of Delegates in 1778, 1779, and 1782. He had been a "county lieutenant" during the war years and was a member of the Constitutional Convention when Virginia ratified the U. S. Constitution. For ten years following the Revolution, he served as a "county secretary." Such activity and stature required a commodious and fashionable dwelling.

Although the exact date for the erection of Dan's Hill is unknown, tax books and other documents contribute some knowledge to the house's history. It is known from the tax books that the Wilson tract of 300 acres had buildings valued at \$3,000 in 1820. The building value does not change in the tax book until 1840, when the property value increases to \$4,000. It is to be further noted that John Wilson's will of 1820 provides for his son Robert, "all that tract of land lying on the north side of the Dan River where I now reside... together with my dwelling house, stone house, lumber house... But my son Robert is not to have the houses..during the life of his mother..." Mary Wilson's will was recorded in 1827, at which time Robert Wilson presumably took possession of the house.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Dan's Hill, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

Dan's Hill is fortunate in retaining most of its original outbuildings. The buildings, including a kitchen, a dairy, a gazebo, an orangery, a privy, smokehouses, and a spinning house, are presently well maintained, as are the gardens which surround the house.

The kitchen is a one-and-a-half-story brick structure, laid in three-course American bond. A molded cornice runs the length of the front elevation. Evidence suggests that the cornice may have been modified during a 20th-century restoration. The Doric portico and dormer windows were added at this time. Two semi-exterior end chimneys are original to the structure.

The dairy is a one-story, one-bay brick structure connected to the main house by a brick wall, added in the present century. The building is notable for its original wooden horizontal louvers installed for ventilation.

Located in the center of the formal garden, the gazebo is a one-story Roman Doric columned octagon topped by a roof. Wooden louvered blinds cover four sides. The remaining sides are open for ventilation. This gazebo is one of a few surviving early 19th-century Virginia summerhouses.

The orangery is a one-story, Flemish-bond brick structure believed to date from the 19th century. The facade is dominated by ground-level, hung-sash windows, and the cornice is similar to that found on the other outbuildings.

The original privy is a wood-frame, clapboard building with a batten door and molded cornice. The early smokehouses consist of a large gable-roof smokehouse and two smaller hipped-roof smokehouses capped by finials. The spinning house is a two-story, wood-frame building that has been altered on the interior.

A farm complex is located west of the garden. Since Dan's Hill is still a working farm, these buildings have been altered to conform to modern agricultural operations. The farmer's residence is a 19th-century, one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame structure that has been altered. The porch was added in the present century. The main barn was rebuilt during the 20th century, and a series of three corncribs was built at the same time.

The estate boasts a finely landscaped lawn and gardens. Many of the trees and shrubs date from 19th century, as do several of the well-maintained brick walks.

RCC

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Dan's Hill, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7, 8 PAGE 2, 1

7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is derived from the original Wilson estate and contains approximately 93 acres. This acreage includes the main house and all the original outbuildings, with the land extending down to the Dan River. The river area was of vital importance during Wilson's plantation days. The southernmost boundary follows the natural contours of the Dan River; the northernmost boundary includes the front of the property and surrounding outbuildings; the east and west lines, run parallel and are drawn to include outbuildings that were part of the original Wilson estate.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The house's attribution of Pittsylvania County builder James Dejarnett stems from an article of agreement dated December 22, 1823, and signed by Dejarnett and Samuel Hairston of Oak Hill, a neighboring plantation. The document states; "all of which work the sd. Dejarnett doth bind himself to complete... on or before the 25th October 1825, as to make more fully understood the work are to be done in a stile and manner not inferior to Colo. Nathl Wilsons New building done by sd, Dejarnett..." Although the Nathaniel Wilson House, Belle Grade, was burned in the 19th century, Oak Hill still stands to allow for comparison. On its exterior Oak Hill is nearly identical to Dan's Hill despite the fact that the former is unoccupied and deteriorated.

Dan's Hill contains many salient features of the Federal style. The brickwork on the facade is finely executed and deserving of the dwarf Roman Doric portico and Doric cornicing on both the front and garden elevations. Such interior features as the hall stair and the finely finished wainscoting and hall arch testify to the Wilson family's interest in appointing Dan's Hill with stylish embellishments. Robert Wilson maintained his father's business and land holding and is believed to have modernized the house around 1840, although possibly with the replacement of some of the outbuildings.

Dan's Hill is fortunate in the survival and preservation of its outbuildings. The dairy, gazebo, and greenhouse are especially noteworthy. The gardens and walks of Dan's Hill date to the 19th century and have been maintained by the present owner of the house, Mr. John G. Boatwright.

VDS/RCC

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Dan's Hill, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 6 PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Tax Books 1782-1863; 1874, 1875.

Will Books 11, 1, 3.

Wilson and Hairston Papers #4134. Southern Historical Collection. University of
North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- 2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.
- 3) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clement, Maud Carter. The History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Lynchburg, Va., 1929.
 Halifax County Deed Books 1, 2, 3, 4.
Will Book 0.

Patents Books 33, page 884, August 1760; 34, page 1035, July 1762; 35, page 246, July 1763,
 page 294, July 1763; 36, page 1000, September 1766; 26, page 657, August 1748; 30,
 page 224, July 1750; 41, page 367, 1773.

Pittsylvania County Deed Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 18, 20, 21, 58, 63, 65, 66. (See Continuation Sheet #3)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 93 acres

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000
 QUADRANGLE NAME Danville, Va.

UTM REFERENCES

E 17 635600 4049620

A | 1, 7 | | 6, 3, 5, 9, 0, 0 | | 4, 0, 5, 0, 5, 6, 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 1, 7 | | 6, 3, 6, 3, 1, 0 | | 4, 0, 5, 0, 4, 6, 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1, 7 | | 6, 3, 6, 2, 4, 0 | | 4, 0, 5, 0, 1, 7, 0 |

D | 1, 7 | | 6, 3, 6, 0, 9, 0 | | 4, 0, 4, 9, 6, 3, 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on S side of private road, 1800' S of U.S. Route 58 and 4500' ESE of the intersection of said route and State Route 870; thence extending 1400' SE to W edge of man-made lake; thence extending S following shore of man-made lake 900'; thence extending 200' E along S side of said lake; thence extending 1850' S to Dan River; thence extending approximately 1500' W along N edge of said river; thence extending N 1900' to S side of a second man-made lake; thence extending 150' E on said side of said lake; thence extending 200' NW along E side of said lake; thence extending 1150' N to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Julian Hill

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OCT 17 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

1 040 000 FEET
(N. C.)

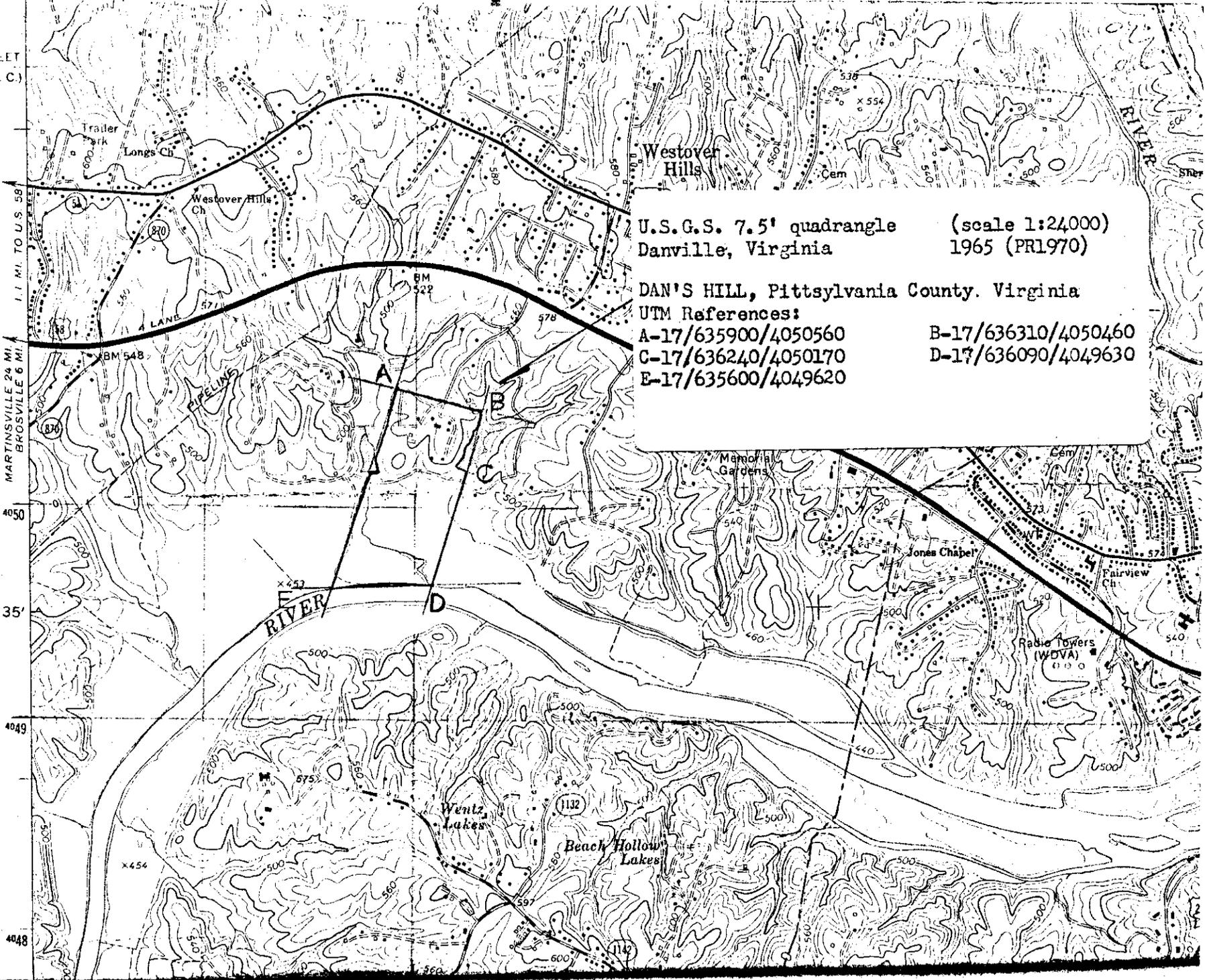
1.1 MI TO U.S. 58
MARTINSVILLE 2.4 MI
BROS.VILLE 6 MI

4050

35'

4049

4048



Westover Hills

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)
Danville, Virginia 1965 (PR1970)

DAN'S HILL, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

UTM References:
A-17/635900/4050560 B-17/636310/4050460
C-17/636240/4050170 D-17/636090/4049630
E-17/635600/4049620

RIVER

A

B

D

Wentz Lakes

Beach Hollow Lakes

Mammoth Gardens

Jones Chapel

Fairview Ch

Radio Towers (WQVA)

Trailer Park

Longs Ch

Westover Hills Ch

4 LANE

PIPELINE

1132

1142

538

x 554

Cam

BM 522

BM 548

x 452

x 454

597

600

573

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