

11/14/15  
NPS 11/9/15

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

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

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name Green's Farm (Huntley)

other names/site number Roselawn (DHR #127-6141)


**2. Location**

street & number 6510 Three Chopt Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Richmond vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Independent City code 760 Zip 23226

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official

  
Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. Classification

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**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

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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### 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling  
DEFENSE/HEALTHCARE Military Hospital

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

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### 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Federal

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
roof Slate  
walls Brick  
other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

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

Architecture; Association with Significant Person; Civil War Military History

**Period of Significance** 1843-1955

**Significant Dates** 1843, 1864, 1906

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Benjamin W. Green

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

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

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### Bibliography

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

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 3.79 acres

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

18 276684 Easting      18 4162381 Northing

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

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title: Margaret Roberts date 11/20/04  
street & number: 581 West Lake Drive telephone 239.734.2713  
city or town Naples state FL zip code 34102

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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**Property Owner**

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

name V. Cassel and Pearl R. Adamson

street & number 6510 Three Chopt Rd telephone 804 288 8951

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23226

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**7. Description:**

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Huntley is one of the few remaining examples of late Federal residential architecture that survives in Richmond's West End today. The front portion of the house was built between 1843 and 1846 for Benjamin W. Green, a local businessman and alleged bank robber. It is made of red brick laid in five-course American bond and has a hipped roof covered with slate featuring four end chimneys and a central widow's walk. The original portion of the house stands on an English basement and has a double-pile central hall plan. It is characterized by six-over-six double hung wooden windows with simple lintels with minimal detailing. Its interior retains many of its original finishes including wide plank wood floors, two-panel doors, plaster moldings, and plaster rosettes. During the Civil War, the original portion of the house was used as a field hospital and saw some action in March 1864 during Dahlgren's Raid. The house fell into terrible disrepair following the war, but in 1906 it was purchased and renovated by Col. John Gordon, a Confederate veteran and prominent insurance executive. Gordon built a two-story rear addition to the original structure to house a kitchen and two bedrooms. It features a shallow hipped roof, one end chimney, and six-over-six double hung wooden windows with segmentally arched tops. Gordon also installed porches on the north, south and east elevations; indoor plumbing; gas lights; and new door and window surrounds. The house's subsequent owner, Albert Pollard, removed the porches built by Gordon. He enlarged windows on the main elevation and installed wood paneling in the downstairs parlors. Huntley was owned by Pollard's descendants until the late 1970s when the house was purchased by V. Cassel Adamson. Adamson built a two-story addition to the rear of the south parlor. He removed the window and door surrounds installed by Gordon and restored the house's original flooring on the second floor and in the first-floor entry hall. Huntley has six secondary structures: three late-twentieth-century garages (NC); a ca. 1846 kitchen (C); a ca. 1846 well house (C); and an early twentieth-century ice house (C).

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### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Huntley consists of three parts: a late Federal house built for Benjamin W. Green between 1843 and 1846; a 1906 rear addition built by Col. John W. Gordon; and a second rear addition built by current owner V. Cassel Adamson around 1977. Although Huntley has been updated and altered since the time of its construction, its late Federal core retains considerable integrity. The original house is built of hand-made red brick laid in five-course American bond. It stands on an English basement and has a hipped roof covered in slate shingles with end chimneys and a central widow's walk. The house retains nine of its original six-over-six double hung wood windows topped by simple lintels with minimal detailing. The two panel wood front door also dates from Green's time.<sup>1</sup>

Inside a number of late Federal features survive. The house's four-over-four central hall plan is largely intact. Gordon added bathrooms on the second floor during the early twentieth century, and Pollard converted the two southern parlors into a single living room during the mid 1930s. The central stair is original. It has slender, turned newel posts, narrow pickets, and stair brackets with a circular decorative pattern (the pattern may have been inspired by Asher Benjamin or another Federal-era pattern book). Original plaster molding survives in all first-floor parlors and corresponding second-floor bedrooms. Original plaster rosettes surround light fixtures in the southern parlor, the northwestern parlor, and the dining room. The current owners uncovered wide plank wooden floors on the second floor and in the first-floor entry hall (this original flooring runs beneath the house's walls – floors were laid before walls were plastered creating a structural system that included few joists).<sup>2</sup>

Today the outside of Green's original house bears the imprint of subsequent owners. After Gordon bought Huntley in 1906, he built a two-story, four-bay red brick rear addition on the northeast corner of the house. The addition featured a kitchen on the first floor and an additional bedroom on the second.<sup>3</sup> It has a shallow hipped roof with one chimney and six-over-six double-hung wooden windows with segmentally arched tops. Gordon also built wooden porches on the front and side elevations of the original house. These porches were torn off during Pollard's residency. Their presence and removal explains a number of external characteristics seen in the original house today—namely the band of distressed brick that runs above the first-floor windows; the large three-part, nine-over-nine double-hung windows on either side of the front door; the sidelights and transom on the front door and the window on the second floor above it; and the irregular conformation of the south elevation which features a large, bricked-in opening and two non-original windows on the first floor.<sup>4</sup>

Huntley was featured in a 1923 edition of the magazine *Country Homes*. The article includes a photo that shows the front and side porches. Both are single story wooden structures that conceal the English

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basement. They have metal roofs, Chippendale railings, and side stairs. The south porch has a large overhang that shades a door leading into the southeast parlor. Pollard probably decided to remove Gordon's porches because tastes had changed, and the porches may have made the first floor living areas dark. While demolition doubtlessly provided more natural light, it also created a new set of design challenges. Suddenly, the house's front and side doors were suspended above a basement that had been concealed for three decades. Pollard solved this dilemma on the front elevation by building a central stair to the front door and lengthening the windows on either side. Long nine-over-nine wooden sash with slender sidelights were installed. These enlarged openings were a stylistic update, but they also provided additional light to the front parlors. Sidelights were also added to the front door and to the six-over-six window directly above it (this change implies that the foyer and landing may have needed additional light as well).

The south elevation did not lend itself to such a graceful solution. Pollard bricked in the door that led to the southeast parlor, but the demolition of the south porch also revealed two non-original windows of varying size and height. These remain in place today. One opening near the west corner of the elevation stands about three feet below standard first-floor window height. It contains a three-over-six double-hung wooden window with a wood panel beneath. The length of this opening suggests that it contained a door at some point—probably during Green's residency. When Gordon built the south porch, the door was converted into a window because it extended into basement level. The east window is also not original. This two-over-two sash, which appears to date from the early twentieth century, is duplicated on the second floor. This pairing is also found on the north elevation. These windows may have been installed by Gordon to provide additional light at the rear of the house.

Huntley's current owner made the last definitive change to Green's original house. Around 1977 Adamson built a two-story addition at the building's southeast corner. It has a flat roof and features two-pane picture windows on the first floor and six-over-six double-hung wooden windows on the second. The addition features an informal living room on the first floor and a bedroom on the second.

Inside Huntley is also marked by Green's successors. Gordon replaced the original door and window surrounds with trim in a style that was popular in Richmond during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These surrounds appear in interior photos taken for the 1923 *Country Homes* article but have been largely replaced. A few remaining examples can be found in the kitchen. Gordon also installed gas sconces and chandeliers throughout the first floor. These fixtures survive and have been rewired for electricity. Pollard made the most sweeping interior changes. He replaced the Greek Revival-style mantels that Gordon had installed in the northwest parlor and the dining room with two Federal pieces that allegedly came from a house built by Robert "King" Carter on the Northern Neck.<sup>5</sup> Pollard also installed wood paneling in all first floor parlors and the dining room. The paneling in the south parlor was said to have come from the T.C. Williams house, an early-nineteenth-century house on West Franklin Street in downtown Richmond.<sup>6</sup> This paneling

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played a critical role in the south parlor, for it covered the traces of the central wall which had once divided the room and the bricked-in door that once led to Gordon's porch. Pollard also widened openings to each room on

the first floor. Interior photos included in the 1923 *Country Homes* article reveal that these were still standard door width during Gordon's residency. Adamson replaced door and window surrounds with trim milled to match the original surrounds on the second floor. The current owner also uncovered as much of the house's original flooring as possible.

Huntley has six secondary buildings, three of which are contributing: a two-story red brick **kitchen** with a gable roof covered in slate, a central chimney, and six-over-six double-hung wooden windows, ca. 1846; a red brick **well house** with a pyramidal hipped roof and solid wood door, ca. 1846; a wooden **ice house** with a pyramidal, bell-curved hipped roof covered in slate shingles and a four-panel wood door, early twentieth century. There are three late-twentieth-century structures which are non-contributing: a two-story, **one car garage** covered in wood siding with a gable roof and a wooden side stair; a two-story **two-car garage** covered in wood siding with a shingled gable roof and a wooden side stair; and a two-story **three-car garage** covered in wood siding with six-over-nine double-hung wooden windows and three double doors.



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## 8. Statement of Significance

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Known as Green's Farm, Roselawn, and Huntley, 6510 Three Chopt Road in Richmond, Virginia is eligible for listing on the State and National Registers under criterion A due to its use as a field hospital during the Civil War and its role in Dahlgren's Raid in March 1864; under criterion B due to its association with legendary Richmond businessman Benjamin W. Green; and under criterion C as a rare example of late Federal-style residential architecture in Richmond's West End. Not only does the original house retain many of its character defining features, but its treatment by subsequent owners captures varying interpretations of the Federal style over the course of the twentieth century. Built for Benjamin W. Green between 1843 and 1846, the spare, red brick farm house fell into disrepair after serving as a field hospital during the Civil War. The house saw some action in March 1864 during Dahlgren's Raid and was referred to as Roselawn in later accounts of the action.

In 1906 the house was purchased by Col. John W. Gordon, a Confederate veteran and insurance executive. Gordon changed the house's appearance by building porches on its main and side elevations; building a two-story, red brick rear addition to house an indoor kitchen and a second-floor bedroom; and creating a formal garden to the south of the house that incorporated boxwood-lined allees, flower beds, and fruit trees. (Today, nothing remains of the garden.) The result was Huntley, an estate that captured high Federal style as conceived by an early-twentieth-century imagination. In 1935 Albert Pollard purchased Huntley. His interpretation of the Federal style differed greatly from Gordon's. Pollard removed the front and side porches and installed Federal-era features in the first-floor parlors. The subsequent owner, V. Cassel Adamson, continued this trend after he purchased Huntley in 1977. Although Adamson built a new two-story rear addition at the southeast corner of the house, he uncovered some of the house's original floors, repaired its secondary structures, and replicated Federal-era trim from the second floor to serve as door and window surrounds on the first. Due to its historic associations and its complex Federal style, Huntley is a local landmark.

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## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1843 Benjamin W. Green (1809-1872) purchased a 492-acre plot in western Henrico County. The parcel, which had been assembled by Warner Guy in the 1830s, was remote and largely uninhabited. It included 105 acres owned by Samuel Cottrell, 30 acres owned by Thomas Dunlap, an 85-acre land grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and 80 ½ acres owned by George F. Guy.<sup>7</sup> An 1839 survey of George Guy's land shows the future site of Huntley beside Three Chopt Road (Figure 1). Although three small houses are depicted in the vicinity, stumps, oaks, stones, and brooks constitute the majority of local landmarks.

Between 1843 and 1846 Green built the two-story, red brick house that forms the core of Huntley today. Its style was informed by the residential architecture of downtown Richmond and Green's old neighborhood, Oregon Hill.<sup>8</sup> At the time the house had a hipped roof, end chimneys, and six-over-six wooden windows on both the first and second floors. A solid two-panel front door opened onto a central stair hall with a two-panel back door opposite.<sup>9</sup> Two rooms stood on either side of the central stair with four bedrooms above. Each room had wide plank floors, plaster molding, and wooden door and window surrounds with the sharp profiles characteristic of the period. Plaster rosettes surrounded large light fixtures in first floor parlors. To the back of the house stood a variety of secondary structures including a kitchen and a well. It is possible to paint such a clear picture of the house Green built because the majority of the features described survive today. Huntley has been expanded, renovated, and updated, but the original house retains considerable integrity.

The house's association with Benjamin Green is equally important. Although Green is largely forgotten today, at the time of Huntley's construction he was well known as a speculator whose interests included coal, manufacturing, real estate, textiles, and slaves. Green began his career in the coal business and had mining interests in Goochland, Powhatan, and western Henrico counties. During the late 1830s, he began to invest in real estate. He saw great opportunity in Oregon Hill, a growing residential development west of downtown Richmond. In 1837 Green bought a lot there on the east side of Belvedere where he built a spacious house for himself and his family.<sup>10</sup> In the same year Green purchased the Samuel Pleasant Parsons House a few blocks over on Spring Street. This early Federal building, which originally belonged to the superintendent of the state penitentiary, was Green's first investment property in the area. In 1838 Tredegar Iron Works built a manufacturing plant in the James River Basin below Oregon Hill. Identifying the growing need for affordable housing, Green purchased a plot east of Belvedere and south of the penitentiary where he built nineteen modest brick houses. These dwellings became a prototype. As Richmond historian Mary Wingfield Scott later explained, "Green may be considered the first to determine the character of buildings in Oregon Hill as modest three or four room dwellings."<sup>11</sup>

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Green continued to invest in Oregon Hill and to shape the architectural fabric of the neighborhood. He developed twelve units at 22-34 Maiden Lane called Ben Green Row and built four triple houses behind them on Green Street. By 1840 Green faced financial problems. His coal and real estate ventures had grown quickly forcing him to borrow an increasing amount of money from local banks. Meanwhile, the depression of 1837 had taken a toll on the economy. In an effort to secure a sizeable debt with the Bank of Virginia Green voluntarily conveyed a variety of real estate, stock, and personal property to trustees. His conveyances included 3,000 acres in Kentucky, 6,000 acres in Texas, the Belle Isle Manufacturing Company, stock in three coal companies, coal sale receivables, his family home in Oregon Hill, and more than a dozen slaves.<sup>12</sup> The combination of the depression, his leveraged condition, and high debt levels triggered a financial collapse.

On April 11, 1840, \$546,619 was reported stolen from the Bank of Virginia. First teller W.B. Dabney was accused of the crime and fled to Canada. When local officials offered him immunity in return for his testimony, Dabney returned and implicated Benjamin Green. He claimed that he had learned that Green was defaulting on his loans and had agreed to help cover it up. In the end Dabney facilitated the removal over half a million dollars to Green and his business partner Hamilton Crenshaw by the means of checks.<sup>13</sup>

The bank quickly initiated criminal proceedings. Green faced twenty-four felony indictments alleging embezzlement and was thrown into jail without bail. The trial for the first indictment came after a long delay. Dabney testified for eight days, yet in the end, the jury acquitted Green after a short deliberation. All but one of the officers of the Bank of Virginia resigned. Hoping to secure a conviction by another jury, the prosecuting attorneys vowed to try each of Green's other twenty-three felony charges individually. The proceedings were continued over several terms of the court. Finally, Green filed *habeas corpus* and argued that he was being denied the right to a speedy trial as guaranteed by the Constitution. The case was taken to the Virginia Supreme Court, and in *40 Va. 371 (1842)*, the state was barred from prosecuting the remaining twenty-three felony charges. Today it is difficult to determine whether Green was truly a criminal. The trial was covered by both the *Richmond Times Dispatch* and the *Richmond News Leader*, but neither paper took a consistent stance towards Green. Some articles portrayed him as a crooked businessman while others treated him as a victim of a difficult economic climate.

In 1843 Green decided to move his family out of Oregon Hill. The area was changing. Green's original tenements were now part of a densely settled, working-class neighborhood. More factories were being built along the James, and more prisoners were being admitted to the neighboring penitentiary. Thirty-four year old Green was raising six children in a suburb increasingly affected by crime and pollution. Naming Alexander Grant and Hamilton Crenshaw as trustees, he acquired 492 acres in

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Westham, a picturesque settlement in western Henrico County.<sup>14</sup> Green's use of trustees could indicate that he was still concerned about his own financial stability.

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Although property assessments indicate that Green's parcel included a few small houses, Green built a new home on the site between 1843 and 1846. By 1850 Green lived on his new farm with his wife Julia, their eight children, an overseer, and twenty-eight slaves. The house and its land were worth \$16,000.<sup>15</sup> By 1860 Green's personal estate was valued at \$110,000. He owned \$225,000 worth of real estate including a saw mill to the west of his house on what is now the lake at the University of Richmond.<sup>16</sup> Green's farm and his mill feature prominently on two maps of western Henrico drawn prior to the Civil War (Figures 2-3).

At the time the war began Green shared his farm with his wife, his six youngest children, and a growing population of slaves. Western Henrico saw very little action over the course of the conflict, but accounts of Dahlgren's Raid, a skirmish that occurred in the area on March 1, 1864, indicate that Green's Farm was used as a field hospital. Brigadier General Hudson Kilpatrick organized a small force of 500 Union cavalry under the leadership of Col. Ulric Dahlgren and ordered them to mount an attack on Belle Isle and Libby prisons. The group gathered in Goochland County and was supposed to move east towards Richmond along the south bank of the James, but the river was swollen and impossible to ford. As a result, Union troops were redirected to Three Chopt Road where they met intermittent bands of Confederate resistance as they moved towards the city. Lieutenant Samuel Harris was part of a group that was ambushed by a band of teenage Confederates at what is now called Bandy Field. Harris wrote a detailed account of some of the fighting and specifically mentioned Green's House: "As the battalion was ascending the hill which descends from Benjamin Green's house, the Yankees, who were coming over it, suddenly appeared close at hand."<sup>17</sup> Troops of the Fifth New York received the brunt of the initial fire. Breaking ranks, they scattered into the woods. The inexperienced Confederate band ran straight into the Union troops, then fell out to positions in fenced fields on both sides of Three Chopt Road between Green's house and what is now Pepper Avenue.<sup>18</sup>

His collar bone was broken and his shoulder blade was fractured, but fortunately, Harris soon encountered his commanding officer Col. Dahlgren. "He said I had better go over to the surgeon, who was in the house across the road (Mr. Green's)."<sup>19</sup> Prior to his own injury Harris sent another in his unit to the field hospital. "The boy was hit five times, one ball breaking the bone in his arm," Harris recalled. "We left him in Mr. Green's house."<sup>20</sup> On Thursday, March 3, the *Sentinel* published an account of the incident: "Of the loss sustained by the enemy we cannot speak with positive precision. They collected eighteen of their wounded at Mr. Green's house, in the rear of the fighting."<sup>21</sup> A headline in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* declared, "The Raid Around Richmond—Capture of Parties of the Enemy—The Fighting on the Brook Road and on Green's Farm."<sup>22</sup>

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The Green house continued to occasionally serve as a hospital until the end of the Civil War. According to one family historian, a young Yankee soldier named Sylvester Buck was admitted to the Green house with life-

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threatening injuries at the close of the war in 1865. There the nineteen-year old met Green's twelve-year-old daughter, Julia. He gave her his watch to send to his mother in Ohio if he died. Buck lived, and he and Julia were later married.<sup>23</sup>

Following the war, debt once again haunted Benjamin Green. In 1861 Green's trustees, as owners of record, pledged his house and his slaves as collateral for the purchase of fifteen new slaves. The outcome of the Civil War made the slave collateral worthless so the note holder sought to foreclose. Green managed to block the sale during his lifetime by securing a court injunction. The note holder died, and in 1872, shortly after Green's death, his executor advertised the property for sale at foreclosure. Julia Ann, Green's widow, failed to get another injunction in the Henrico Circuit Court and appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court. She argued that the trustees did not have the power to pledge the farm as collateral. In *83 Va. 386 (1888)*, the court ruled in her favor.

Victory was short lived. Following Julia Ann's death in 1889, her family either lacked the interest or the means to keep the estate. The house and its adjoining 492 acres were sold piecemeal. The house had several short term owners including William Pepper for whom nearby Pepper Avenue is named. In 1906 it was purchased by Col. John W. Gordon. Born in 1847 in Hertford, North Carolina, Gordon was a Confederate veteran and a prominent insurance executive. He joined the second North Carolina cavalry at age 15. At Brandy Station he suffered two wounds, lost his horse, and was taken prisoner. He spent nine months in a prison hospital in Alexandria before returning to become an aide to General W.P. Roberts. He was with Roberts' brigade when they made the last charge and fired the last shot at Appomattox.

Following the war, Gordon moved to Wilmington where he became a local fire insurance agent. Gordon married Annie Pender, and in 1879 the couple moved to Richmond when Gordon's territory was expanded to include Virginia, West Virginia, Western Tennessee, and the District of Columbia. Shortly after Gordon purchased Green's farm in 1906, he partnered with his clerk Robert E. Brown and founded Gordon and Brown, a firm which went on to represent three fire insurance companies in West Virginia and North Carolina.

By the early 1920s Gordon was prosperous and well-established in the Richmond community. He and his wife had converted the neglected remains of Green's farm into a home that reflected their interpretation of early nineteenth-century Virginia architecture. They called the house Huntley, after Gordon's ancestral home in Scotland. From the outside it bore little resemblance to Green's spare farmhouse. Gordon built single-story wooden porches on the main and side elevations. Each had

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Chippendale railings and side stairs. He added a two-story red brick addition on the northeast corner of the house. Today its exterior detailing belies a desire to refine the forms of the original house—the brick is a deeper red; its six-over-six wooden windows have arched wooden tops instead of rectangular pediments; and the cornice is more pronounced. The addition housed an indoor kitchen on the first floor and an additional

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bedroom on the second. Gordon made few modifications to the interior of the original house. A wide pocket door was created between the dining room and the northwest parlor. Original door and window surrounds on the first floor were replaced with bullet molding, a pervasive pattern found in many Richmond houses during late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Outside Gordon did much to improve Huntley's grounds. A concrete wall was built around the fifteen-acre estate, and a formal garden was planted to the south of the house. It included allees lined with boxwoods; flower beds planted with daffodils, hyacinths, and wisteria; and a small orchard of fruit and nut trees. Nothing remains of the garden today.

Gordon's efforts to preserve and improve the original house were informed by the Colonial Revival. Beginning in the early twentieth century, idealized versions of early American residential architecture appeared across the country. In 1923 Huntley was celebrated as a product of this movement in a four-page article that appeared in *Country Homes*. The opening paragraph positions Huntley as an Old Virginia home owned by an Old Virginia family—never mind that the Gordons were originally from North Carolina and Huntley was largely a product of renovation:

The delightful old homes of our forefathers are gradually departing from the land, like "Captains and the King's" in Kipling's ballad. Modern industrial progress and crowded conditions are obliterating them. It is true they are everywhere being replaced by correct imitations...nevertheless, one and all, they lack the distinct charm of the original models...Therefore it is especially gratifying to the Editors of *Country Homes* [to publish] the accompanying illustrations of "Huntley," property of Mr. John W. Gordon, one of the genuinely representative aristocrats of the Old Dominion."<sup>24</sup>

The article focuses on every "colonial" aspect of the house. The floorplan is described as being "of customary spaciousness indispensable to the hospitable character of old Virginia."<sup>25</sup> The parlors—"all of which are large, with big windows and oldtime slatted outdoor shutters"—are hailed as "a charming example of the combined elegance and formal comfort of those by-gone days."<sup>26</sup> Even new features, such as the formal garden, are cast as historic. A piazza is described as having "an ancient brick paved walk" and boxwoods as being "also like the house, over one hundred years old."<sup>27</sup> A photo caption on one page reduces the Colonial Revival to its essence: "The house is typical of early Virginia."<sup>28</sup>

Huntley featured prominently in the Gordon's lives and is even mentioned in newspaper announcements concerning the family. When the Gordons celebrated their golden wedding anniversary a

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local paper ran the following notice:

Among the most interesting social affairs of the week will be the informal reception this afternoon from 3 to 6 o'clock given by Colonel and Mrs. John W. Gordon at "Huntley," their home on the

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Cary Street Road, in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.<sup>29</sup>

John Gordon died a year later at the age of 81. In 1935 Huntley was sold to Albert Pollard (1897-1971), a 38-year-old bachelor who ran a mortgage trust company. Pollard had a different notion of the Federal style. He removed the porches Gordon built on the front and side elevations perhaps in an attempt to let more light into the house. Nine-over-nine windows were installed on either side of the front door, and sidelights were added around the front door and the six-over-six window above it. Inside Pollard converted the two south parlors into a single room and widened the door openings leading into the first-floor living areas. Then he installed Federal era finishes in primary spaces. Paneling from the T.C. Williams House, an early nineteenth-century house on West Franklin Street, was installed in the new south parlor covering door and window openings exposed by the removal of the south porch. Period mantels were installed in the northeast parlor and the dining room replacing Greek Revival mantels dating from Gordon's residence.<sup>30</sup> These pieces allegedly came from a house on the Northern Neck built by Robert "King" Carter for one of his children.<sup>31</sup> Today Pollard's renovation could also be linked to the Colonial Revival. Unlike Gordon's romantic conception, Pollard's interpretation of the Federal style stressed a spare aesthetic enhanced by period detail.

Pollard willed Huntley to his unmarried sister Julia who taught history at Albert Hill School. Julia was best known as the author of the textbook on Richmond history used by the Richmond public schools. Julia left Huntley to her brother, Speaker Pollard, who moved there with his wife, his son Harry, and Harry's family. This final group of Pollards updated the kitchen to its present configuration. In 1977 the house was sold to V. Cassel Adamson and his wife Pearl. Adamson built a rear addition at the southeast corner of the house; uncovered heart pine floors in the entry hall and on the second floor; and replaced door and window surrounds that had been changed over the years with trim milled to match the original on the second floor.<sup>32</sup>

Built between 1843 and 1846, Huntley is historically significant due to its association with legendary nineteenth-century businessman Benjamin Green and due to its use as a field hospital during the Civil War. Architecturally, Huntley demonstrates how a single historical style can be re-interpreted by subsequent generations within the fabric of a single building. While renovations by Col. John Gordon in 1906, Albert Pollard in 1935, and Cassel Adamson in 1977 have touched the core of the house, they have not compromised its integrity. In fact the changes made by each owner underscore the continuing

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popularity of the Colonial Revival in residential design.

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**10. Verbal Boundary Description**

Huntley stands on two parcels totaling 3.79 acres. The first parcel, which was conveyed to V. Cassel Adamson in January 1977, contains 2.88 acres as shown on a survey entitled "Lot and Improvements Thereon Located at number 6510 Three Chopt Road" made by A.G. Harocopos and Associates on April 26, 1972. In Henrico County Deed Book 716, page 1078 this plat is described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the northeast corner of Lot 1, Hampton Park Annex, which point is located on the south line of Jett Avenue a distance of 195.39 feet along a course of S. 49° 31' 40" E. from the extended east line of Honaker Avenue; thence N. 33° 34' 20" E. 25.18 feet to a rod; thence S. 49° 33' 40" E. 25.36 feet to a rod; thence N. 26° 18' 55" E. 91.73 feet to a rod; thence S. 49° 34' 20" E. 179.50 feet to a rod; thence S. 26° 16' 53" W. 667.69 feet to a rod on the northern line of Three Chopt Road; thence northwestwardly along the northern line of Three Chopt road around a curve to the right which has a radius of 1,487.49 feet, a distance of 84.45 feet to an iron pipe; thence continuing on Three Chopt Road around a curve to the right which has a radius of 750.60 feet, a distance of 95.75 feet to a rod; thence N. 25° 59' 51" E. 303.79 feet to thence N. 26° 28' 31" E. 240.33 feet to a rod; thence N. 33° 34' 20" E. 10.82 feet to the point of beginning.

The second parcel, which was conveyed to V. Cassel Adamson in July 1977, contains .91 acre. This parcel is described in a survey entitled "Compiled Plat of Two Parcels of Land on the South Line of Barcroft Lane, Richmond, Virginia" made by J.K. Timmons & Assoc., Inc. on June 1, 1977. This survey follows the deed which may be found in Henrico County Deed Book 722, page 950.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries include the house, the secondary buildings historically associated with it, and a portion of the land that saw action during Dahlgren's Raid. The boundary encompasses only the two remaining parcels currently owned and maintained as the "Huntley" property.

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### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The door that currently stands between the dining room and the kitchen matches the existing front door and may have served as the house's original back door.

<sup>2</sup> The Adamsons discovered this unusual system during the late 1970s when they attempted to recover the house's original floors. Original flooring did not run up to the baseboards but underneath it. The house's walls have been re-plastered and in some cases papered since the time of construction.

<sup>3</sup> The kitchen remains in the same space today.

<sup>4</sup> Gordon's porches may have made the house dark. The long nine-over-nine double hung windows with sidelights appear to date from Pollard's era. While these were doubtlessly a stylistic update, they also provided additional light to the house's front parlors. The side lights and transom on the front door would have provided additional light to the entry hall.

<sup>5</sup> The current owner learned this from one of Albert Pollard's descendents. The Greek Revival style mantel found in the northwest parlor is shown in an interior shot included on page 23 of the Country Homes article on Huntley.

<sup>6</sup> The current owner learned this from one of Albert Pollard's descendents.

<sup>7</sup> Henrico County Deed Book 47, page 48.

<sup>8</sup> Green had already owned one Federal style house by this point—the Samuel Parsons House in Oregon Hill. The house also had a central hall plan but was much grander in its dimensions.

<sup>9</sup> The original back door now serves as the door between the dining room and the kitchen. Its measurements match those of the front door.

<sup>10</sup> Louise Adamson, "The Old Brick House at 6510 Three Chopt Road," *The Richmond Quarterly*, Spring 1988: 16, 18. Located on the current site of the Veterans Memorial, this house no longer stands.

<sup>11</sup> Mary Wingfield Scott, *Old Richmond Neighborhoods* (Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1950) 206.

<sup>12</sup> Richmond Deed Book 42, page 72 and Deed Book 41, page 64.

<sup>13</sup> W. Asbury Christian, *Richmond, Her Past and Present* (Spartanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Company, 1973) 141-142.

<sup>14</sup> Deed Book 47, page 48.

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Census, 1850

<sup>16</sup> Today there is a cross from Huntley called Old Mill Road. It's location coincides with the path that once lead to Green's saw mill.

<sup>17</sup> Samuel Harris. *Personal Reminiscences of Samuel Harris*. Chicago: The Rogerson Press, 1897.

<sup>18</sup> Harris, 75.

<sup>19</sup> Duane Schultz, *The Dahlgren Affair* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1998) 117-118.

<sup>20</sup> Schultz, 76.

<sup>21</sup> Schultz, 78.

<sup>22</sup> Adamson, 24.

<sup>23</sup> Kate Stakes, "Buck Maternal Lineage," unpublished manuscript: 27.

<sup>24</sup> "Huntley: The Estate of John W. Gordon," *Country Homes*, March-April 1923: 21.

<sup>25</sup> "Huntley," 22.

<sup>26</sup> "Huntley," 22.

<sup>27</sup> "Huntley," 22.

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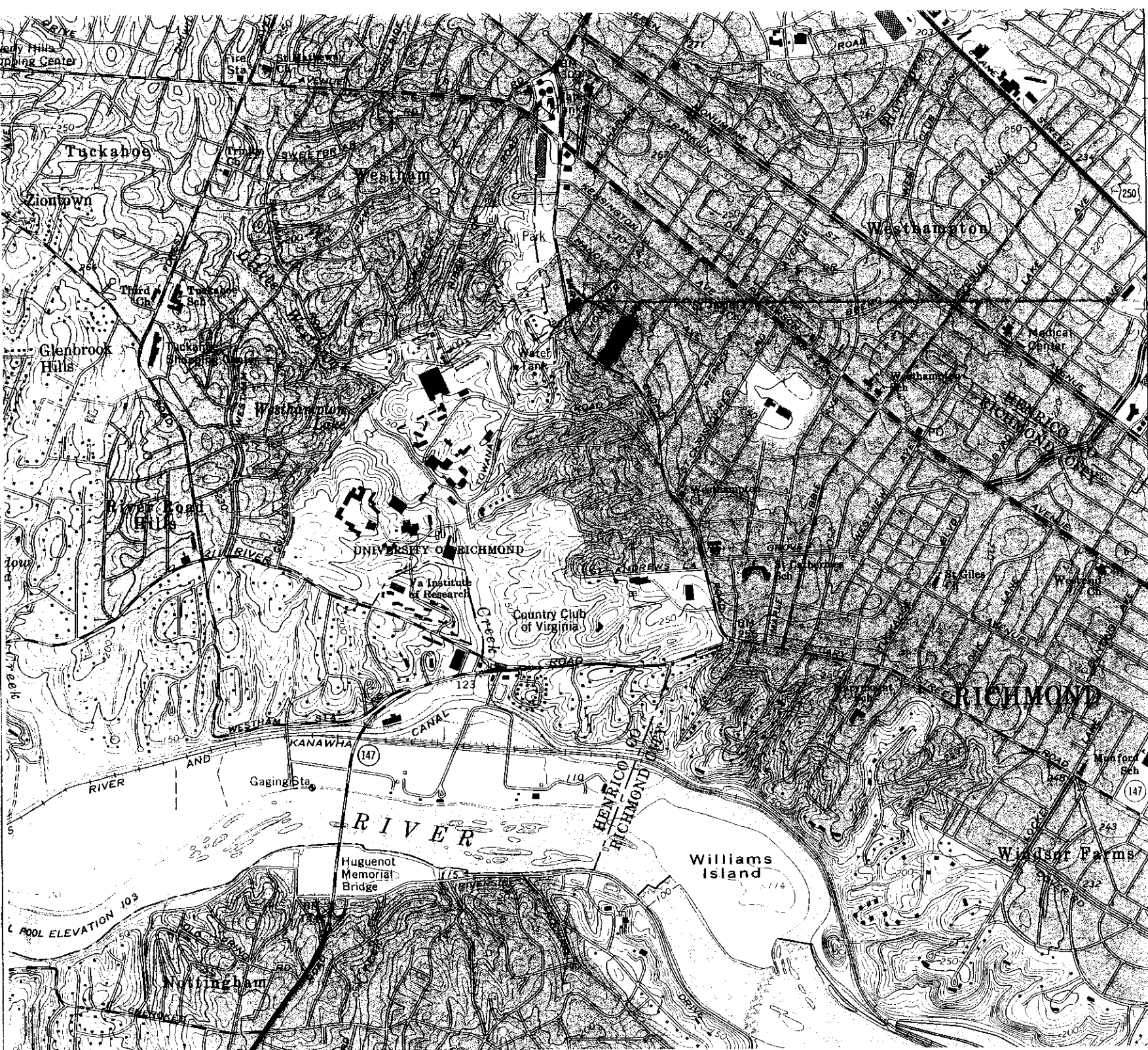
<sup>29</sup> "Huntley," 23.

<sup>29</sup> "Colonel and Mrs. John W. Gordon to Observe Golden Wedding Anniversary," The Richmond News Leader, 4 April 1927.

<sup>30</sup> See "Huntley," 23.

<sup>31</sup> Adamson, 28.

<sup>32</sup> Adamson stopped uncovering original flooring due to structural difficulties and a shortage of original materials.



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