NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

VLR - 4/18/89 NRHP - 6/22/90

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Monticola

other names/site number: DHR file 02-51

2. Location

street & number: VA State Route 602 — N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town: Howardsville — N/A ☐ vicinity

state: Virginia code: VA county: Albemarle code: 003 zip code: 24562

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property: Contributing	Noncontributing	
[X] private	[X] building(s)	4	2	buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district	2	0	sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	0	1	structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	0	0	objects
	☐ object	6	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Hugh C. Miller — 7 May 1990

Signature of certifying official — Date

Director, 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.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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 the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic: Single dwelling	Domestic: Single dwelling
Domestic: Secondary structure	Domestic: Secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Greek Revival	foundation brick
Colonial Revival	walls brick
	roof slate
	other wood porches

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Monticola, a three-story, eight-thousand-square-foot, James River plantation house in Howardsville, Virginia, represents one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture along the James River. The house is situated on forty of its original 791 acres at the top of a small mountain to the north of the village of Howardsville, at the base of Mount Alto. The estate rests in a park-like setting of rolling hills, open pastures, dense woods, and manicured lawns. Built in 1853 as the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel James Hartsook, the house retains much of its original appearance, and includes several original outbuildings. From the cupola atop the house one has a panoramic view of the estate and the surrounding countryside, which includes three counties: Albemarle, Nelson, and Buckingham, and, in the distance, the hazy outline of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The nominated area includes four contributing buildings: the house and three outbuildings; two contributing sites; one non-contributing structure; and two non-contributing buildings--a severely altered dependency and a modern one-bedroom guest cottage.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Monticola, which was built in 1853, rests on the remaining forty acres of what was, at its prime, a 791-acre estate. The tall, three-story brick Greek Revival house sits on top of a small mountain, nestled between the James River and the village of Howardsville to the south, and Mount Alto to the north. The house and its outbuildings are surrounded by manicured lawns, flower gardens, and at the edge of the open property trees, including dogwood, redbud, and fruit trees. Woods extend from the edges of the lawns to the borders of the property. An old carriage drive travels almost a half mile through the woods and cleared land until it reaches the boundary of the estate, and then winds through the outbuildings and behind the house.

Monticola's main (southern) facade is three bays wide with a central, two-story, pedimented portico. All four facades are brick, laid in

[X] See continuation sheet

Flemish bond. The house is approximately fifty-foot square, and rises two stories above a raised basement. It is topped by a hipped roof, with a cupola. The rear elevation has a two-level, semi-circular porch which was added between 1887 and 1890. The four corners of the house are adorned by giant stuccoed pilasters, topped with wooden caps. Within the porch, the south facade entrance is flanked by paired, giant stuccoed pilasters, and the entrance itself is recessed, creating a porch in antis. The north entrance is flanked by single, giant stuccoed pilasters, also within a porch. A stuccoed frieze and a wooden cornice run around the entire house. The original tin roof was replaced with slate in the late nineteenth century. The house is lit by six-over-six, double-hung windows ornamented by bull's-eye corner blocks throughout. Original exterior louvered shutters deteriorated and were removed in 1968 and in the late 1970s the basement was parged.

The portico on the south facade has been altered several times. The first configuration, recorded in old photographs, was a pedimented, two-level porch, which extended the full width of the central bay and rested on brick piers. Single-story square columns connected by Chippendale-style railings on both levels supported it. Sometime between 1887 and 1890, the porch on the second level was removed and the columns were replaced with the current slender, paneled, square columns. In 1940 the house was used as a movie set, and the wooden porch was replaced with a double, curved brick stair that was removed in the early 1970s. The columns now stand alone, set out from the house, and wooden stairs rise to the recessed entrance. There are three doors from this level into the house, and the main one, which leads into the central hall, is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom. This porch is stuccoed and scored to resemble stone. A balcony on the second floor within the recess has a Chippendale railing, and the current owners have replaced the Chippendale railing that connects the chimneys.

The portico on the north facade has also been altered since its construction about 1890, when it replaced an earlier porch of unknown design. It is semi-circular, two-level, and its Coloinal Revival details include Ionic columns. Balustrades that originally connected the columns were removed, except for the handrail on the second level. The columns on the second level were replaced in the early 1970s. The door on the second floor is also a replacement, which may indicate that the original porch was only one story.

The house has a double-pile, central-passage plan. Two parlors flank the hall on either side. On the west side are the more formal parlors, separated by floor-to-ceiling pocket doors. The trim in this room is more elaborate, with Greek Revival pedimented window frames and heavy molding around the doors. Both rooms have simple wooden mantles with a frieze supported by pilasters, all having rounded profiles. The eastern rooms are used as living and dining rooms. They are separated by exposed

sliding doors, and their mantles are typical Greek Revival mantles, one with two-stage recessed panels, and the other with stylized fluting on the pilasters. The flooring on this level is original heart pine.

The stair is in the central passage, leading to both the basement and the second floor. The plan of the basement mirrors that of the upper two floors, with cement floors poured in the 1950s. The brick walls were plastered between 1968 and 1978. The hand-hewn heart pine beams supporting the first floor are visible. There is access from the exterior through a door below the rear porch.

The staircase runs straight up the east wall and has turned oak balusters, a faceted walnut newel post, and a walnut balustrade. On the second floor a door at the opposite end of the hall leads to a stair to the attic, where another stair continues up to the cupola and the widow's walk at the top of the roof. On the second floor there are two bedrooms on either side of the hall. Each bedroom has a fireplace and simple mantles. The two rooms on the west side remain intact, but those on the east side have been altered. Two bathrooms have been added between them, in space that was originally part of the northeast bedroom. One bath enters into it, the other into the southeast room. All plumbing was added under a false floor so it can be removed with minimal damage to the original structure.

A small, two-story brick building, probably the original kitchen, has been connected to the main house by enclosing what was an open, latticed breezeway from the dining room. The entrance on the south side is below grade, and there is a six-over-six double-hung window over the door. There are three windows on the north elevation, and a single, double-flue chimney inside the east end. The entire building has been parged, except for the south facade. Upstairs, upon entering from the dining room, there is an office, with a small room off of it. From the larger room there is a curving stair to the kitchen below.

Other contributing buildings also include a smokehouse, a storage shed, and an old corn crib. The frame smokehouse stands directly behind the main house on a brick foundation. It has a pyramidal roof, covered with wood shingles. The storage shed, which is now used for garden tools, was once used as a chicken coop. It is frame on a stone foundation, and it also has a pyramidal roof covered in wooden shingles.

The dependency was built to mirror the house, with a single-bay, one-story pedimented portico and four unadorned, tapered wooden columns. This dependency, which is east of the main house, is brick and has been renovated with a mansard-style roof covered on the top with tar-paper and on the sides with slate. The portico, which collapsed when the original roof rotted, between 1957 and 1968, was never replaced. The brick walls and west elevation windows and door are original. A small wooden side

addition was built as extra living space in the 1970s and the brickwork has been stuccoed. A covered loggia was built of pine beams and a flat wooden roof, covered with tar paper, between this dependency and the kitchen adjoining the main house. The building in no way resembles its original configuration, and it is the intention of the current owner to restore this building as it originally looked. West of the house was another dependency with a portico, but it was frame. It was struck by lightning in 1987 and burned to the ground. It is considered a contributing site.

The fourth contributing building is an old corncrib of frame with a gable roof that was originally clad in tin. This building, which is north of the house, seems to date from about the 1850s, and is currently being restored.

Another site, the foundation of a late-nineteenth century spring house, is across the old carriage road, northeast of the house. A non-contributing well cover north of the old kitchen has been built of cedar posts and covered with cedar shingles by the current owners to resemble one that can be seen in old photographs. The pump and cement base probably date to the early twentieth or late nineteenth century.

Although Monticola suffered much deterioration between 1955 and 1968 when it was not inhabited, both owners since then have labored to return the house to its original appearance. A non-contributing guest cottage/ garage has been built along the road at the foot of the hill in front of the house. The current owner is working toward a restoration of the outbuildings as well as the front porch.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1853-1911	1853
		ca. 1887-1894

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
Daniel James Hartsook
Emil Otto Nolting

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Monticola is an important surviving example of an architecturally sophisticated antebellum plantation house and setting. It is a landmark in the Howardsville/Scottsville area and is associated with two leading Virginia businessmen from the antebellum and post-Civil War era. Built in 1853, during the heyday of the James River and Kanawha Canal and at a time when the village of Howardsville was becoming a prosperous port as well as an agricultural and business center, Monticola reflects the restrained elegance of the Greek Revival period. Sitting atop a small mountain, this massive brick house, which retains many of its original architectural features, its park-like rolling landscape, and its original and restored outbuildings, creates a commanding presence in the surrounding countryside. Monticola was built by Daniel James Hartsook and his wife, Elizabeth Hannah Carrington Hartsook, as their permanent residence after having moved to the Howardsville area in 1841. Hartsook, a successful merchant, banker, civic leader, and landowner, had become a prominent, wealthy, and respected figure in Howardsville. He helped create the prosperity of Howardsville and contributed financially to the Confederate cause. He built a large, elegant, yet simple plantation for his family and ran it successfully until his death in 1879. Surrounded by lush trees, boxwood groves, and manicured grounds, Monticola is today a reminder of antebellum and post-Civil War Virginia.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

Monticola is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C as a distinguished example of a Greek Revival antebellum plantation house along the James River. Monticola is a fine example of a style thought desirable by a man who was a successful and prosperous landowner, as well as a merchant, banker, and real estate speculator.Its remaining architectural features make Monticola stand out as an architecturally significant landmark in the Howardsville/Scottsville townships and in Albemarle County.

☒ See continuation sheet

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1852 John Fowles sold the land upon which Monticola stands to Daniel J. Hartsook. This tract, which included 385 1/4 acres of land and buildings valued at $300, was bounded approximately by the James River and Kanawha Canal on the south, Rockhouse Branch on the east, privately-owned land on the north, and the Howardsville Turnpike on the west. Hartsook apparently demolished the structures then standing and constructed Monticola in 1853. Two years later he made additional improvements to the property.[1]

Daniel James Hartsook and his wife, Elizabeth Hannah Carrington Hartsook had moved to Howardsville in 1841, shortly after their marriage. Hartsook immediately began making what would be the first of his two fortunes. Hartsook continued to buy land around Monticola and by 1870 Monticola consisted of 791 acres. The house retains much of its original appearance on the south or main elevation and a two-story Colonial Revival porch was added to the north elevation in the 1890s.[2]

Hartsook and a neighboring landowner, W. A. Turner, opened the Bank of Howardsville between 1854 and 1856,[3] and the James River Life Insurance Company in 1860. Hartsook successfully ran both of these companies through most of the hard times caused by the Civil War. He had his own mercantile business and acted as executor for several large estates, including one belonging to his late mother-in-law, Mary A. Cabell Carrington,[4] daughter of Nicholas Cabell,[5] who had died while living with the Hartsooks in 1850.[6]

The Hartsooks had nine children--at least three were born while they lived at Monticola.[7] Their oldest son, Benjamin Carrington Hartsook, enlisted in Company D, 19th Virginia Infantry, known as the "Howardsville Grays," and served from April 1861 until August 1862, when sickness forced him to "buy" a replacement, resign from the service, and return home.[8]

The Civil War caught up with Howardsville and Monticola on 6 March 1865 when two brigades from Union General Philip Sheridan's cavalry under command of Major General Wesley Merritt raided Howardsville, destroying the canal and many of Hartsook's warehouses, his mill, and other businesses. Monticola was raided, but not destroyed, and Merritt most likely used the well-situated house and grounds as headquarters and lookout.[9]

After the war and the devastation to Howardsville cost Hartsook his properity, he moved his family to Richmond where he rebuilt his lost fortune with his mercantile business, insurance, and real estate investments. There he gained new prominence and respect. He maintained

Monticola as a summer retreat and as a working farm, probably using tenant farmers to work and oversee it.[10]

Hartsook died on 14 March 1879 at age sixty-five years. He left no will but a massive amount of personal and business debts and affairs that took more than four years and a lawsuit to settle. Monticola and Hartsook's other real estate were auctioned in 1882. His oldest son, Benjamin, purchased Monticola and lived there with his family for five years, but eventually went bankrupt and returned to Richmond.

In 1887 Benjamin Hartsook sold Monticola and 456 acres to businessman Emil Otto Nolting, of Richmond.[11] Nolting, who had made his fortune in the tobacco trade, purchased the estate as a summer retreat for his large family. He made several changes to the house. The second-story porch was removed from the portico on the south facade, necessitating the replacement of the original two levels of columns with four two-story columns. The Chippendale railing of the first floor porch was replaced with simple balusters. Slate replaced the tin roof and the cupola was enlarged. The semicircular porch was added to the north elevation and, possibly, the kitchen was made accessible from the mansion by cutting a door from the dining parlor into the breezeway portico that is now a butler's pantry.

Nolting not only was a successful tobacco tycoon, he also ran two banks and a steamship company and served as consul to Belgium for which he was knighted by the king of that country. Nolting served as consul for forty-one years, the longest such appointment in Belgium's history.[12]

E. O. Nolting died in 1894 and left his estate to his wife and family. Monticola continued to serve as a summer home until 1911 when the Noltings bequeathed the estate to one of E. O. Nolting's daughters, Emily Nolting.[13] "Miss Emily," as she was known in Howardsville, made Monticola her permanent residence and lived there alone, with two or three servants, from 1911 until her death in 1955. The old estate, badly run down and in need of repair, was sold by her sister, Dr. Margaret Nolting, and was subsequently unoccupied until 1968. All but forty acres of the property, which by then amounted to 471 acres, was sold to Continental Can as forestry land by Dr. Nolting in 1955 as well.[14]

In 1968 Monticola was purchased by Gerald Wilson and Paul Paquette, who for the next nineteen years lived in and restored the main house and two dependencies and repaired the smokehouse. In 1987 Akwenasa, Inc., a nonprofit educational corporation, purchased Monticola and is currently involved in further restoration fo the buildings and grounds.

1. Albemarle County, Deed Book 51, 1852-1853, Reel 24, pp. 11-12, deed written 21 August 1852 and recorded 1 September 1852, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va. (VSL&A);

Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Books, Albemarle County, 1853-1857, VSL&A. The boundaries of the tract are fairly obvious when compared to a modern topographic map. The 1854 land tax book shows an increase to $3,000 for buildings over the previous year ($300) and carries the marginal notation "$3000 added for Improvements." The value of the buildings rises only to $4,000, however, suggesting that the note is in error and should read $500. In 1857 (and in subsequent years) the value of the buildings is given, without explanation, as $3,500 once more. Real property was reassessed state-wide in 1856; perhaps Hartsook negotiated with his assessor.

2. Oral interviews and family papers from D. J. Hartsook's descendants.
3. Deed Book 55, pp. 197, 262, 325, 440; Deed Book 56, pp. 62, 77, 254, Albemarle County Courthouse.
4. Oral interviews.
5. Brown, Alexander. The Cabells and Their Kin. Harrisonburg: C. J. Carrier Company, 1978, p. 296.
6. Ibid., p. 296.
7. Ibid., p. 666.
8. Confederate War Records, Archives, Richmond Public Library.
9. Moore, Virginia. Scottsville on the James. Charlottesville: The Jarman Press, 1969, p. 83.
10. Oral interviews and family papers from D. J. Hartsook's descendants.
11. Deed Book 175, pp. 482-483, Albemarle County Courthouse.
12. Oral interviews and family papers, E. O. Nolting descendants.
13. Deed Book 88, p. 575, Albemarle County Courthouse.
14. Deed Book 332, p. 468, Albemarle County Courthouse.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albemarle County, Deed Book 51, 1852-1853, Reel 24, Virginia State Library and Archives (VSL&A).

Albemarle County, Deed Books 55, 56, 88, 175, and 332, Albemarle County Courthouse.

Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Books, Albemarle County, 1853-1857, VSL&A.

Brown, Alexander. The Cabells and Their Kin. Harrisonburg: C. J. Carrier Company, 1978, first edition, 1895.

Confederate War Records, Archives, Richmond Public Library.

Interviews and family papers, Hartsook and Nolting families.

Moore, Virginia. Scottsville on the James. Charlottesville: The Jarman Press, 1969.

☐ 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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:
VA Dept. of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 40 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	707380	4179820
B	17	706610	4179520
C	17	707390	4179270
D	17	706950	4179640

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

...all that certain tract or parcel of land known as the Mansion House Tract of Monticola containing 40 acres situated in Scottsville Magisterial District of Albemarle County, Virginia, more particularly described by plat of survey entitled "March 20, 1957: Surveyed for Dr. Margaret Nolting..." Deed Book 336, page 364, Albemarle County.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nomination includes all remaining property historically associated with Monticola.

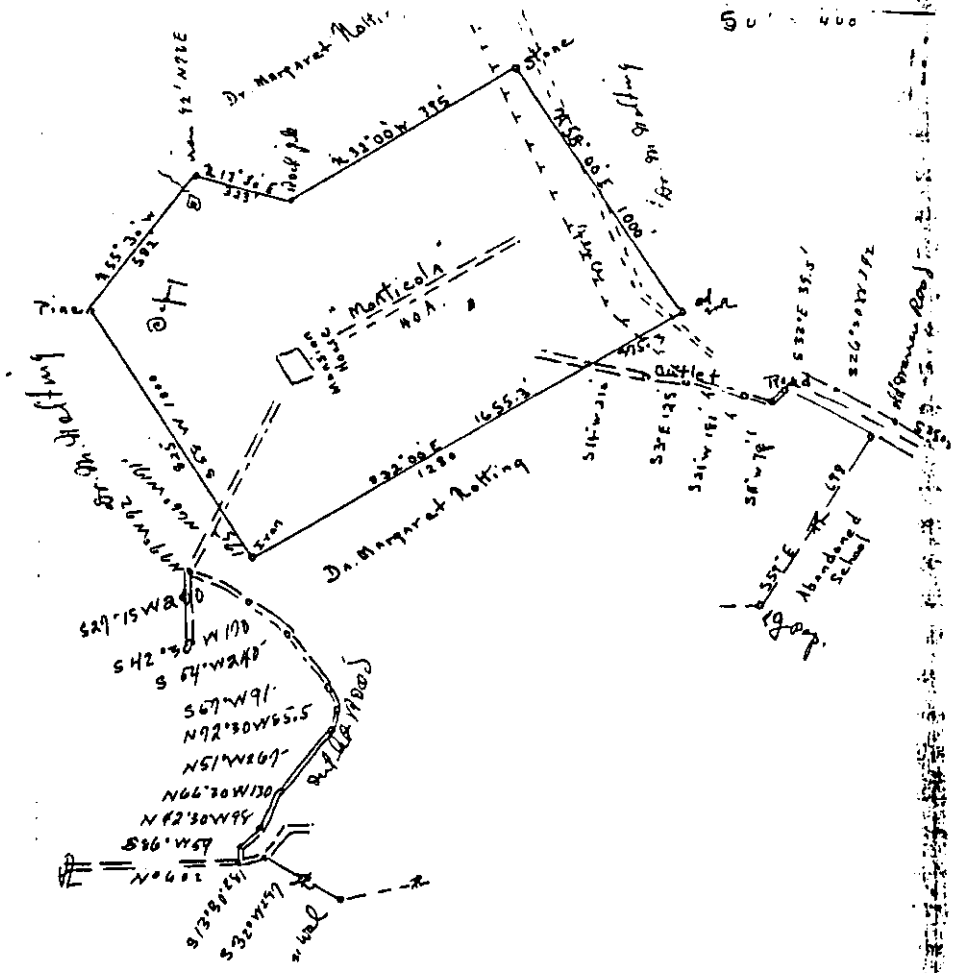
☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Douglas Schneider, edited by Sarah S. Driggs and John Salmon
organization Akwenasa, Inc. date 2 May 1990
street & number Route 602 telephone (804) 286-2746
city or town Howardsville state Virginia zip code 24562

*U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

PART 10 -- VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
SURVEY PLAT -- MONTICOLA



March 20, 1957: SURVEYED FOR DR. MARGARET NOLTING, A PART OF "MONTICOLA", INCLUDING MANSION HOUSE, LOCATED NEAR, HOWARDSVILLE, IN ALBEMARLE, COUNTY, VA.

BY: CARROLL GILLISPIE, C.L.S., S. B. C.

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF ALBEMARLE CIRCUIT COURT, December 2, 1957.

This deed was presented to me in said office and with certificate annexed admitted to record at 2:40 P. M. And $13.75 stamp and plat attached.

Teste: Era M. Murphy, Clerk

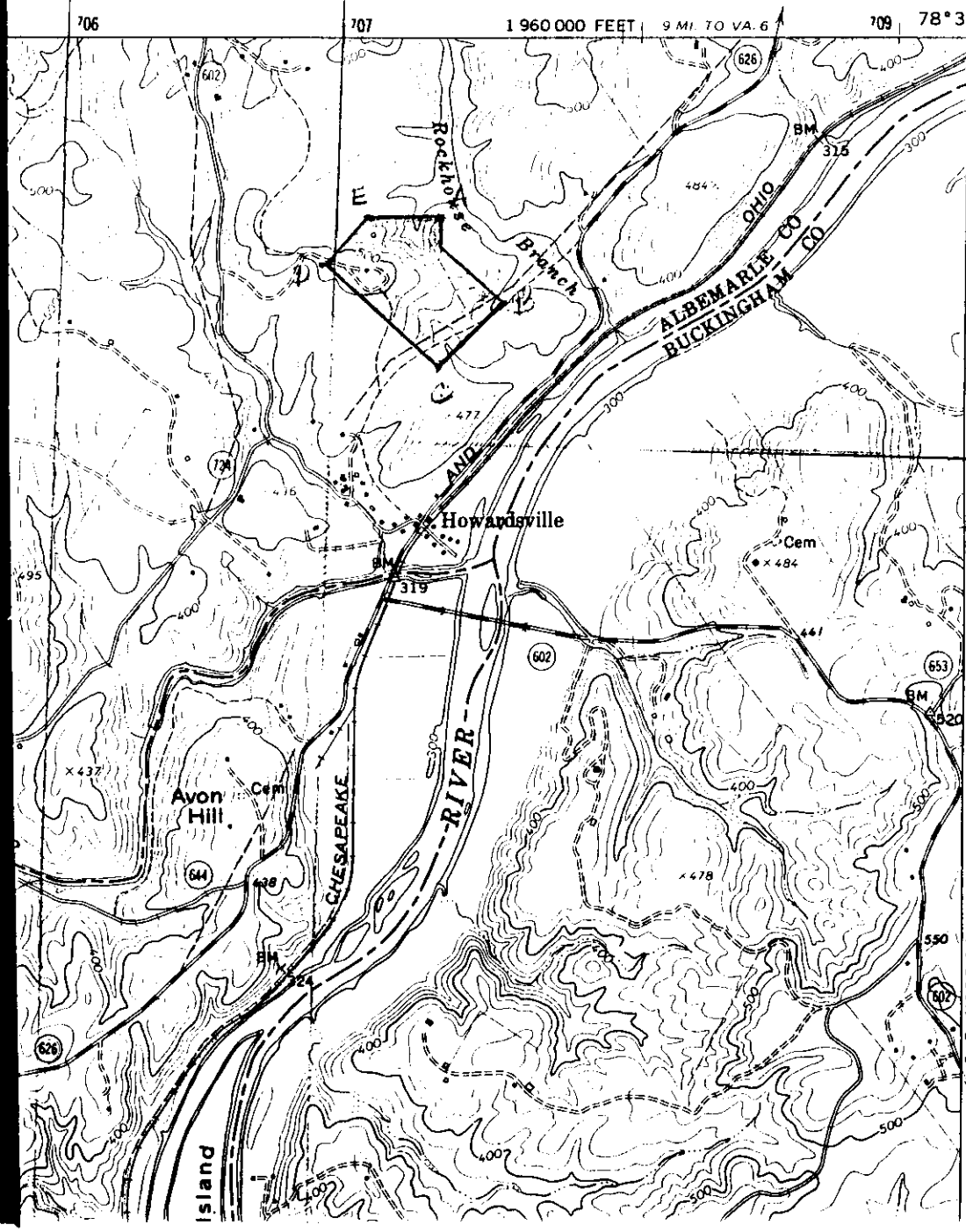
HOWARDSVILLE QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 BUCKINGHAM 15' QUADRANGLE

5259 I SE (ESMONT)



MONTICELLO
Albemarle Co., VA
Howardsville, VA quad

4180 UTM References:

A- 17/707380/4179820

B- 17/707610/4179510

C- 17/707390/4179270

D- 17/706950/4179440

4179

510 000 FEET

E- 17/707100/4179810