

VLR 12/1/4  
NRHP 4/20/5

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 **Bentivar (002-0127)**

other names/site number

**2. Location**

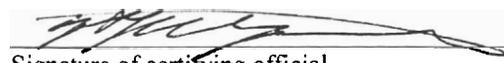
street & number 1601 Bentivar Farm Road not for publication

city or town Charlottesville vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 Zip 22911

**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 X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official

4/20/05  
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

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

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

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

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_



U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Bentivar  
Albemarle County, VA

**7. Description**

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

   EARLY REPUBLIC: Jeffersonian Classicism     
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation    BRICK     
roof    METAL - Tin     
walls    BRICK     
\_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

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

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

- 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.

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

   ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_  
   SETTLEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1730-1830 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_Probably Thomas R. Blackburn\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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: Virginia Historical Society \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property \_\_19.8\_\_

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

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 17 724964\_ 4218916\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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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.)

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Bentivar  
Albemarle County, VA

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title:

J. James Murray, Jr.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number: 1601 Bentivar Farm Rd. \_\_\_\_\_ telephone (434) 973-6693 \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ Charlottesville \_\_\_\_\_ state VA zip code 22911 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional Documentation**

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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**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth Murray \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 1601 Bentivar Farm Rd. \_\_\_\_\_ telephone (434) 973-6693 \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ Charlottesville \_\_\_\_\_ state VA zip code 22911 \_\_\_\_\_

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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. Summary Description:

Bentivar stands on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the two forks of the Rivanna River. It faces Dunlora, another historic Carr house, across the South Fork. The view is rural and agricultural, although some houses in the Key West subdivision are visible across the North Fork. The bottom land between the two forks is now in the hands of the Nature Conservancy. Their intent is to restore some historic wetland, plant a riparian forest belt, place the land under easement, and sell to a family with whom they have a conservation agreement.

Bentivar is a one-story, double-pile brick residence, with English basement and clearstory attic (Lay, 2000). The plan is that of a Palladian *piano nobile* design. The principal facade is in Flemish bond, with the other three sides in varying bonds. There is a molded brick and stucco cornice on all sides. The original portico was supported by columns constructed of pie-shaped bricks, probably stuccoed as well. Shortly after 1900 a new porch was added to the south and east elevations, and the roof was replaced with new standing-seam metal. At the same time an addition was appended to the rear (north).

The main floor consists of a central hall and four rooms. On the left of the entrance is a sitting room with a fireplace surrounded by a mantle with ionic pilasters. There is a decorative chair rail. This room has been remodeled as a library. On the right is what was probably the farm office, since an exterior door leads out of a closet in the corner of the room. On the brick outside this door there are traces, indicating the location of a former stairway. This room is now the principal bedroom. Original louvered doors close off the two rear rooms, probably the original bedrooms. Both of these have built-in closets, and on the door of one of them children's heights, dating from the 1860's, have been measured. All the windows in these rooms are 9x9 double hung, and all four rooms have fireplaces with original mantles. The English basement has five rooms now used as sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, and furnace room. The first two have fireplaces with original mantles. Windows on this level are 6 over 3. The rear addition is divided into two bathrooms on the main floor and a laundry

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Bentivar  
Albemarle County, VA**

room on the basement level.

An interesting detail of construction is that above the ceilings and below the floors of the main level there are intermediate boards at mid-joint level carrying several inches of clay, supposedly for insulation and fire protection. These could well have been installed as a response to the 1830 fire.

There are three "outbuildings". One is a modern barn and 3-bay garage (noncontributing). Second is a stone structure (contributing), apparently originally used as a dairy, since it is adjacent to the original well (hand dug to 80 feet and lined with dry stone walling) and formerly contained a trough for water. It was re-roofed at the time of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century additions, but this roof collapsed under weight of snow and a new standing-seam metal roof has been added.

Perhaps the most interesting "structure" is an ice pit (contributing) about 35 feet deep and 20 feet wide, walled with dry stone masonry. It was modified by former owners as a garage, but that addition was apparently destroyed by fire.

A final item of interest is a graveyard (contributing) about 100 yds. southeast of the house. The grave markers are rough fieldstones without inscriptions.

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Albemarle County, VA

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### 8. Statement of Significance

Bentivar is one of several residences built in this part of Albemarle County by the Carr family, founding settlers, at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> or in the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The original patent for the land was secured by Major Thomas Carr of King William County in 1730 (Woods, 1901). Neither he nor his son John Carr, who lived at Bear Castle in Louisa County, moved to the area. Instead, his holdings of over 5,000 acres were parceled out among his grandchildren. Thomas, the eldest, lived "on the south fork of the Rivanna" (Woods, 1901), just where is unknown. Dabney Carr was, of course, the brother-in-law and great friend of Mr. Jefferson. His son, Peter, built Carrsbrook, across the South Fork and just upstream of the holding of the third son, Samuel Carr, who built Dunlora, opposite Bentivar. Garland Carr, the youngest son of John Carr, built Bentivar. His son Francis Carr built Red Hill, about one mile north of Bentivar.

The sequence of events in the building of Bentivar remains uncertain, although new information has come to light through the discovery of a drawing of the house among the papers of Thomas R. Blackburn, recently acquired by the Virginia Historical Society. Blackburn was an architect/builder known to have been active in the neighborhood in the 1820's and 1830's. He was responsible for an addition to Edgemont in 1927 and for the building of Dunlora in 1828 (Lay, 2000). The traditional date for the building of Bentivar is 1795 (Rawlings, 1935), and the Carr family was certainly living on the site during the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are a number of letters in the Jefferson correspondence from Garland Carr and from his son Francis, which are dated from Bentivar. In 1830 there was a serious fire (a letter in the Minor-Winston Family Papers in the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia reports that the house "burned to the ground"). The Blackburn drawing, which includes an elevation and plans of both floors, probably represents a construction document for extensive repairs or perhaps a complete rebuilding that took place at this time.

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The Bentivar property passed out of the Carr family in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and passed through several hands until it was purchased by the Clark family, who immigrated from Canada about 1906. The Clarks undertook a major remodeling that included the new porch, roof, and rear addition, as well as the re-roofing of the dairy. The Clarks sold the farm to a developer in 1959, from whom the current owners bought the house, in a derelict condition, in 1963. Since then they have attempted to bring it back into habitable condition with respect for its historic status.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Blackburn, T. R. Manuscript drawings. Virginia Historical Society.

Harnsberger, D. 1979. Bentivar. U. Va. School of Architecture, Charlottesville.

Lay, K. E. 2000. The Architecture of Jefferson Country. Univ. Press of Va., Charlottesville.

Rawlings, M. 1935. Ante-bellum Albemarle. Peoples National Bank, Charlottesville.

Woods, E. 1901. Albemarle County in Virginia. The Michie Co., Charlottesville.

### 10. Verbal Boundary Description

Bentivar is identified as parcel 06200-00-00-050A0 on the tax parcel maps of Albemarle County, VA.

#### Boundary Justification

The area described in this application embraces that portion of the original property under the direct control of the owner and protected from any encroachment by further development.

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Bentivar  
Albemarle County, VA

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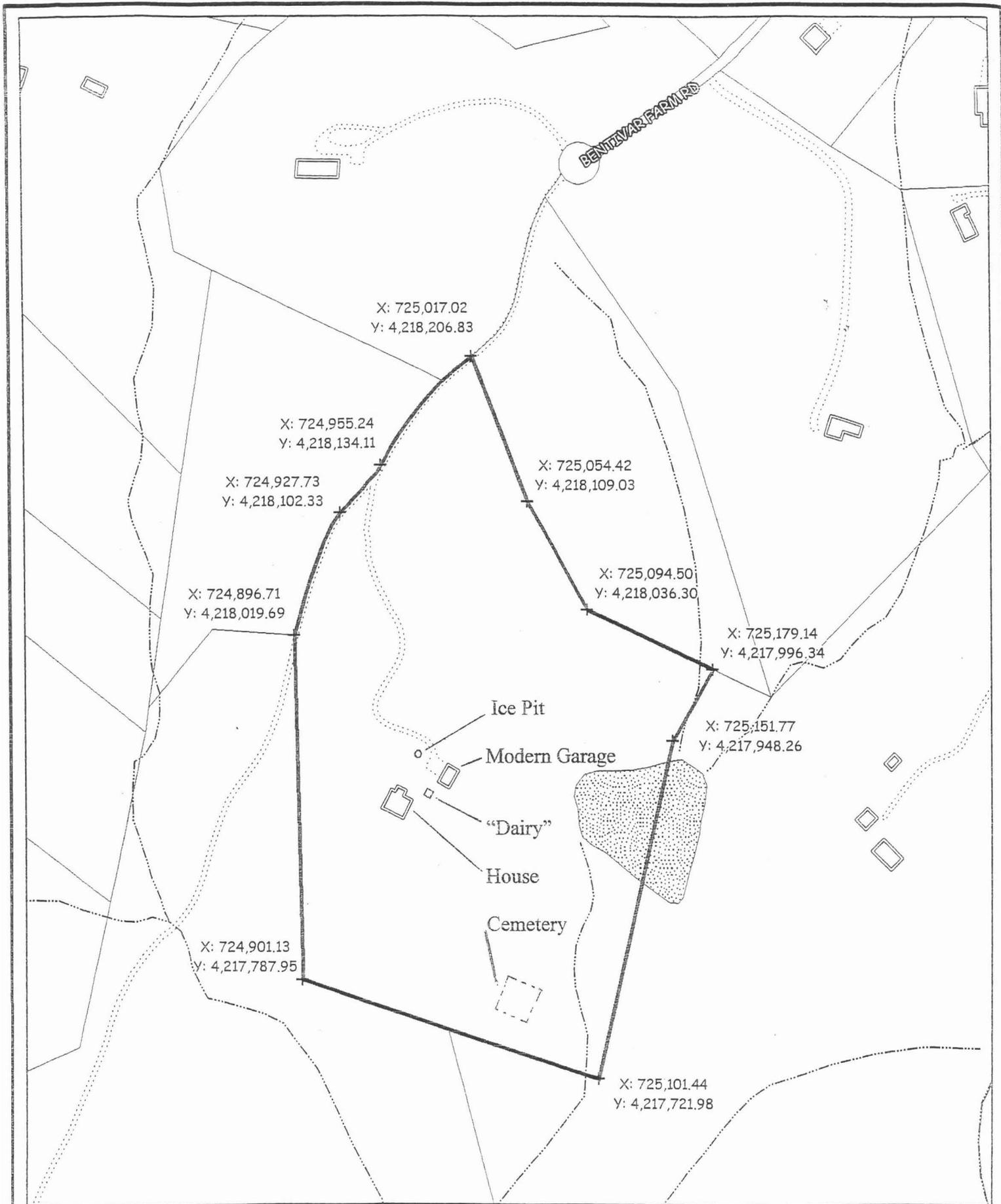
The following information is common to all illustrations:

Subject: Bentivar

Location: Albemarle County, Virginia

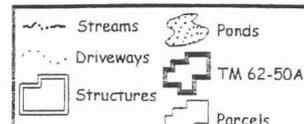
1. South elevation.
2. East elevation.
3. North elevation, showing addition c. 1900.
4. West elevation.
5. Winter view from front porch.
6. Cornice construction (now repaired).
7. Brickwork, Flemish bond with penciled joints.
8. Pie-shaped brick remnants of original columns.
9. "Dairy".
10. Modern barn/garage.
11. Ice pit.
12. Front door.
13. Library mantel.
14. Detail: library mantel.
15. Louvered doors.
16. Children's heights from 1860's.
- 17-18. Bentivar c. 1900.
19. Blackburn elevation c. 1830.
20. Blackburn floor plans c. 1830.

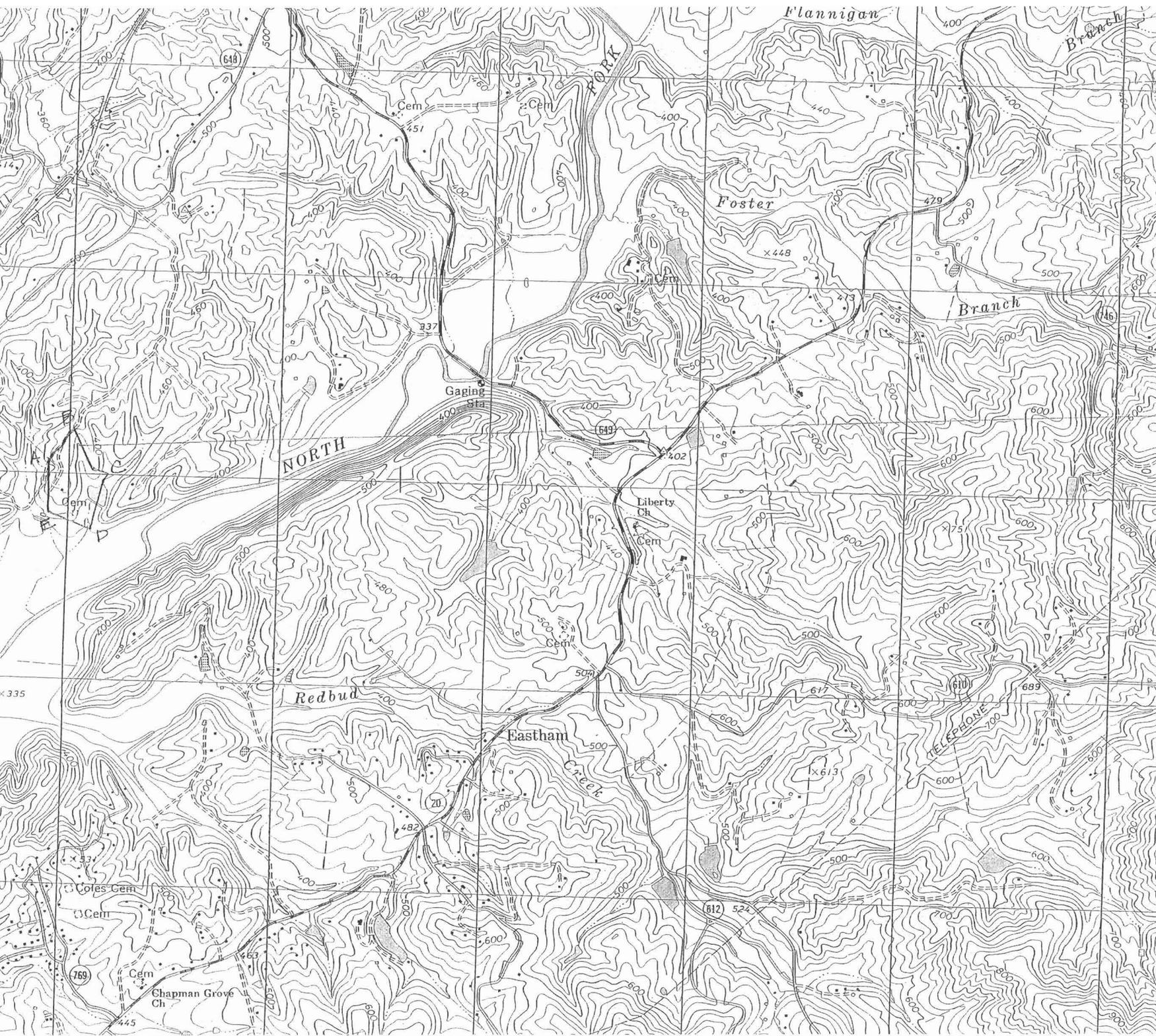
The originals of 19 and 20 are among the Blackburn papers of the Virginia Historical Society. Reproduced by kind permission.



Prepared by Albemarle County  
Office of Geographic Data Services(GDS).  
Map created by Derek Bedarf, August 2004.  
Note: The map elements depicted are graphic  
representations and are not to be construed or  
used as a legal description.  
This map is for display purposes only.

TM 62-50A  
UTM COORDINATES FOR PROPERTY BOUNDARY





420  
419  
5'  
418  
417  
416

BENTIVAR  
ALBEMARLE  
CO. VA  
#002-0127  
UTM ZONE  
17  
A 724900 E  
4218070 N  
B 725020 E  
4218210 N  
C 725180 E  
4218000 N  
D 725100 E  
4217730 N  
E 724900 E  
4217810 N