



# I. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Dykeland, an Amelia County residence, is located off Virginia Route 632 west of the small settlement of Chula. The two-story, wood-frame house reflects two architectural styles and three periods of construction: a vernacular section and attached rear wing both dating to the early 19th century and an Italianate section that dates to 1856-57. Because of the various additions, the house possesses a complex system of passages and room arrangements.

The nominated property consists of three contributing buildings and three noncontributing buildings, a reconstructed springhouse, smokehouse, and shed.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

Dykeland, Amelia County, was constructed during three building campaigns. The earliest section is a 1½-story rear wing which was built during the early 19th century and substantially altered between 1836-39. In ca. 1838 a two-story, three-bay section was built onto the earlier section or enlarged from an earlier foundation. Finally, in 1856-57, an Italianate section was added to the west end of the 1836-39 building resulting in the present residence.

Dykeland's facade faces south. It consists of the two-story, somewhat square mass of the 1856-57 Italianate section and the rectangular massing of the 1838 two-story addition. An attempt to unify the two sections was made through the application of a one-story Italianate-style porch. The porch has square posts, arched openings, and applied medallions on the frieze. The porch shelters the doorway on the Italianate section and completely covers the first-story facade of the 1836-39 house. The doorway of the 1856-57 section consists of a double-door entry topped by a multi-light transom. The doorway of the earlier house consists of a double entry, each opening containing a single door. The openings are flanked by Doric pilasters and topped by an entablature. The double-door entrance found at Dykeland is not unique. Another example is to be found at Green Springs, a Louisa County residence. Windows on both sections consist of 6/6 hung-sash flanked by louvered shutters. The Italianate section also has a projecting three-part bay window located on the first story of the south elevation. The house is covered by weatherboarding, painted white. The Italianate addition has a hip roof while the earlier sections have gabled roofs. The east elevation of the 1836-39 house has an exterior brick chimney executed in Flemish-bonded brick with steep shoulders. The other chimneys are interior and have only exposed stacks.

Dykeland's rear wing is a 1½-story building covered by a gable roof and containing a side (east) pent. The dormers constitute a later addition. The facade is asymmetrical and features a single-door entrance sheltered by a one-story porch. The principal windows contain 6/6 hung-sash and are flanked by louvered shutters. The size of the openings, as well as the sash, suggests that the house was built during the 1830s. The side pent contains 4/4 hung-sash windows. The roof is covered with slate shingles.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 6. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1836-39; 1956-57 **Builder/Architect** unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Dykeland has a three-fold significance that encompasses the areas of architecture, politics/government, and transportation. Architecturally, Dykeland is a representative example of both vernacular and high-style architecture in Amelia County during the early to mid-19th century. The property is also significant as the residence of entrepreneur and politician Lewis E. Harvie. In 1856 Harvie became president of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, an enterprise he had helped establish in 1847. Under his leadership the railroad experienced a period of prosperity before the war and remained operative during the war years despite Union raids, material and labor shortages, and political upheaval. Harvie represented Amelia County politically in the House of Delegates from 1841 to 1850 and as an ardent secessionist in the Virginia State Convention of 1861.

### Historical Background

The first owner of the land that would later become Dykeland was the Rev. George Robertson. A native of Scotland, Robertson served from 1693-1739 as the minister of Bristol Parish which then included all of Amelia County. Among Robertson's holdings were Picketts Plantation in Chesterfield County and 2018 acres in Amelia. In 1735 Reverend Robertson conveyed Picketts and 1200 acres in Amelia to his eldest son, George. When George predeceased his father in 1739, the lands were inherited by a descendant's younger son, James. The Amelia land remained in the possession of James Robertson's descendants until 1831, when George Q. Robertson sold 561 acres along Flat Creek to Baker, Leigh and Drewery, land speculators, who sold it to Lewis E. Harvie in 1836 as part of a total sale of 1011 acres. Harvie apparently rechristened the plantation "Dykeland" at some point after his purchase. If the dikes along Flat Creek were in place at the time of his purchase the new name may have been applied immediately. However, it is possible that Harvie may have erected the dikes and hence the reason for his changing the plantation's name. It is certain Harvie was responsible for the dwelling's present form which grew to accommodate Harvie's family of twelve children during his ownership.

Research on the Dykeland tract in the Amelia land tax records reveals that from 1823-31, the period of George Q. Robertson's ownership, there was only one increase in building value from \$350.00 added for buildings in 1824, to \$550 added in 1825. The \$550 assessment remained steady for the period of George Q. Robertson's ownership. The records for 1836, the year Harvie purchased the property, are illegible. In 1837 the tax is listed with \$1200 added for buildings. In 1838 the amount added for buildings increased to \$1500, and in 1839 to \$3000. In 1857 the amount increased again to \$6000.

The above records are indicative of how Dykeland grew into its present day plan. Harvie in 1837 added what is now the present day rear wing of Dykeland.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 6 acres

Quadrangle name Chula, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	8	2	4	2	5	4	0	4	1	4	3	6	6	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard C. Cote and Bernice Cily

organization Division of Historic Landmarks

date 1987

street & number 221 Governor Street

telephone 804-786-3143

city or town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director  
title Division of Historic Landmarks

date March 30, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

DYKELAND, AMELIA COUNTY, VA

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#7 DESCRIPTION

Due to the evolution of the house into its present form, Dykeland has a complex plan. The 1856-57 section contains a side-passage plan, a stair hall located to the rear of the entrance hall. The 1836-37 section does not have a formal entrance passage. Rather, its two doors open into what is now the dining room. Originally, the room was most likely divided. A lateral passage is found to the rear of both the 1836-39 structure and the 1856-57 structure which serves to connect them with the rear wing. The wing contains a wide stair hall which has the principal stair for the wing and the 1836-39 section.

The wing contains a spiral stair. The stair has tapered balusters, scroll-sawn brackets and a molded handrail. Openings in the hall are framed by rather narrow symmetrical architrave trim and bull's-eye corner blocks. The stair hall opens onto what is now a bedroom that also contains openings framed by symmetrical architraves with bull's-eye corner blocks. The room has an 1830s period mantel that consists of Doric columns supporting a frieze and mantel shelf. The doors in this room date to the 1920 renovation. The chamber leads to a small passage which originally served as the principal entrance of the house. This, in turn, leads to another room similar in execution to the previous room. A small pent/closet is found off this room. The second-story rooms have been remodeled and lack mantels.

In the 1836-39 section one of the original first-floor room partitions has been removed. From the survival of the double entry on the south wall, the original first-floor plan most likely consisted of a central passage flanked by two rooms. The first floor now contains a large dining room and a modern kitchen, formerly the dining room. The dining room's focal point is the Federal-style mantel which is flanked by two doorways with symmetrical molded architrave trim and corner blocks. A feature of the dining room, now kitchen, is an archway and recessed window that served as a pass through. The doors are 20th-century replacements. The other openings also have similar trim. The second-floor rooms have Federal-style mantels. The doors and windows are framed by symmetrical molded trim without corner blocks.

The 1856-57 section has a side-passage plan. The hall contains the stair which has an elaborately turned newel, turned balusters and a molded handrail. The spandrel is paneled. Openings are framed by symmetrical molded trim. The paneled doors are original. Located to the east of the stairs passage are two rooms, the parlor and the library.

The focal point of the parlor is a white marble mantel. The mantel was raised in the 20th-century by the addition of a brick hearth, three bricks in height. The library is a more elaborate room and retains two original bookcases. The bookcases have elaborately carved cornices and glazed doors on top of paneled doors. The room also retains an original white marble mantel. The second-floor rooms contain plain wooden mantels, the openings framed by symmetrical molded trim.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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#7 DESCRIPTION

Dykland retains a number of outbuildings, three of which are contributing and three noncontributing. One noncontributing building is the springhouse. Reconstructed in the mid-20th century, the springhouse is a 1½-story, wood-frame weatherboarded building that sits on a high brick basement and is covered by a pyramidal roof. The interior presently contains a hot tub. The steps and deck serve the second story. It is noncontributing.

A storage shed is located to the rear of the main structure. The wood-frame shed is covered by a gable roof. The shed has board-and-batten siding and dates to the 20th century. It is noncontributing.

The early 20th-century smokehouse sits to the rear of the main house. The pyramidal roof structure is wood-frame covered with weather boards. It is noncontributing.

A series of three contributing outbuildings stand in a row to the east of the main house. They include a kitchen, smokehouse and a dairy. The former kitchen dates to the period 1830-60 and is a 1½-story building with the attic loft constituting the half story. The wood-frame building is covered with weatherboarding and has a gable roof. An American-bond brick chimney dominates the north elevation.

Next to the kitchen is a smokehouse that also dates to the 1830-60 period. The weatherboarded structure has a gable roof, brick floor, and salt box.

To the south of the storage building is the dairy which also dates to the 1830-60 period. The wood-frame, weatherboarded structure has a pyramidal roof. Small holes for ventilation near the eaves attest to the building's original function as a dairy, as does the brick noggin construction of the interior walls.

RCC

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#8 SIGNIFICANCE

Stylistically, the woodwork in the wing confirms that date. The increase in 1838 most likely represents an outbuilding. The 1839 jump in value—to \$3000—represents a substantial increase and no doubt accounts for the front portion added to the rear wing. The 1839 campaign most likely included construction of additional outbuildings, a number of which survive. The dramatic increase in 1857 to \$6000 represents the last addition of the Italianate section which doubled the size of the house.

Buildings that have evolved in the manner of Dykeland are somewhat rare in Amelia County. Typically, the "I"-house form, a central passage two-story structure with a hip roof, would have provided Harvie with a more popular solution. A likely explanation for Dykeland's evolution is the tradition that Harvie, a practical and thrifty man, moved an earlier frame building to its present site with the intention of remodeling and adding to it. The same tradition asserts that Dykeland's rear wing was the 18th-century Robertson residence, notwithstanding the evidence of the existing and visible architectural fabric, which dates the rear wing to the early 19th century. In 1856-57 Harvie once again added a section to Dykeland choosing at this time to build an Italianate wing rather than incurring the expense of an entirely new house in the fashionable Italianate style.

Lewis Harvie, the builder of Dykeland, was born in Richmond 1809. Educated at the University of Virginia, he later served as president of the Virginia Agricultural Society, member of the House of Delegates (1841-50) and member of the Virginia State Convention of 1861. An ardent secessionist, Harvie proposed immediate secession prior to the attack of Fort Sumter. In addition to his political activity, Harvie served from 1856 to 1865 as president of the Richmond and Danville Railroad. Under his leadership, the railroad experienced a period of prosperity in the years before the war and remained operative during the war years despite Union raids, material and labor shortages and political upheaval. A North Carolina extension to the line was approved in 1862, and although delays lengthened construction through the war years, the line was completed in time to serve as Lee's last main supply artery and a primary route for the evacuation of Richmond. Harvie accompanied Jefferson Davis and the Confederate cabinet on the evacuation train out of Richmond.

Following the war, Harvie resigned as president of the Richmond and Danville and went into semi-retirement at Dykeland. Letters written in support of Harvie's application for pardon, however, mention his influence and prominent place in Virginia public affairs. He later became an active member of the Readjuster Party.

A review of Harvie's papers and accounts for the post-war years provides interesting details concerning the adjustment of plantation agriculture after the war. In 1866, Harvie contracted with eighteen men from England, Germany and Switzerland for farm labor in return for \$12.00 per month plus supplies and

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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#8 SIGNIFICANCE

transportation to Amelia (the \$6.00 transport charges seems to indicate that the laborers were already in the country). Harvie's employment of white laborers may have been a reflection of the view generally held by whites that a black labor system would prove to be ineffectual once the supervision of the plantation system was gone. However, as Harvie also contracted with black laborers during the same period, a labor shortage in the area may explain his importation of workers.

Harvie's accounts just after the war also show substantial insurance payments on his crops, barns and house. Either the war had not completely bankrupted Harvie, or he used what money he had to insure his possessions. The house insurance certificate lists articles which reflect Harvie's prosperity before the war, including furniture, paintings, musical instruments, and china.

Upon Harvie's death in 1887, Dykeland passed through his widow, children and grandchildren, and it remained in the family until the death of William Byrd (Tim) Taylor in 1969. The house was completely renovated in 1920 by Lewis Taylor, grandson of Lewis E. Harvie, who installed electricity for the first time in an Amelia County residence.

EC/RCC

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#9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Flynn, Charles L. White Land, Black Labor: Caste & Class in Late 19th-Century Georgia. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1983.

Hadfield, Kathleen. Amelia County, Virginia, Buildings, Survey Sites, and Survivors of the Colonial and Federal Periods. Amelia, VA: By the Author, 1979.

Hadfield, Kathleen. Historical Notes on Amelia County, Virginia. Amelia: Amelia County Historical Committee, 1982.

Richmond, VA. Virginia Historical Society. Harvie Family Papers.

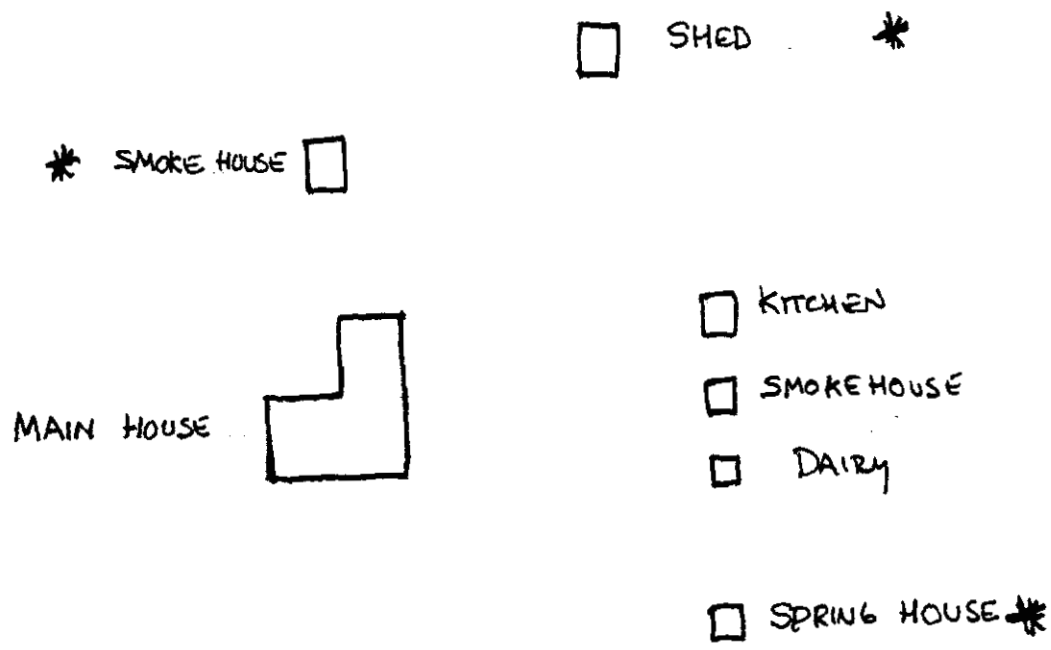
#10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Justification:

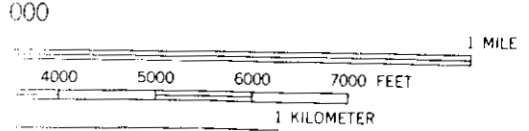
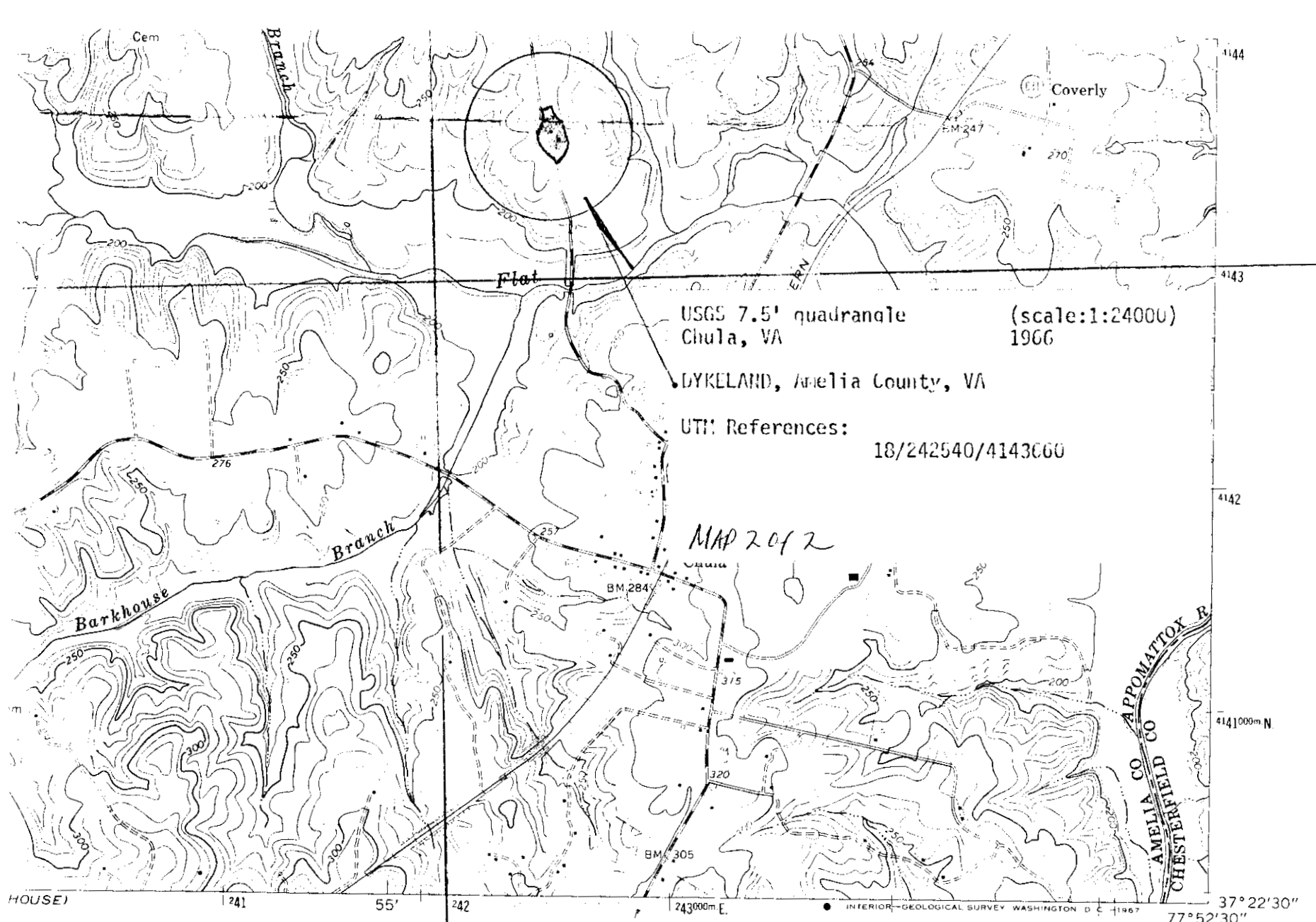
The nominated property consists of approximately six acres. The six acres includes the main house and outbuildings and is a fraction of the original Dykeland tract, now divided, of over 1000 acres owned by the Harvie family who built Dykeland.

Verbal Boundary Description:

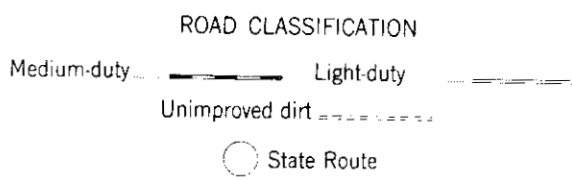
Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 632 approx. 4500' NNW of intersection with VA 604; thence extending approx. 200' NE; thence approx. 200' N; thence approx 300' NW; thence approx. 200' N; thence approx. 200' W to a point on the E side of VA 632; thence approx. 200' S along said side of VA 632; thence continuing approx. 150' SW; thence approx. 300' SE; thence approx. 200' SE; thence approx. 100' S to point of origin.



DYKELAND  
 AMELIA Co., VIRGINIA  
 SKETCH MAP - NTS  
 1987  
 \* = NON CONTRIBUTING  
 MAP 1 of 2



L 10 FEET  
FA LEVEL



MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CHULA, VA.

(MANNBORO)  
5436 IV SE