NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

VLR - 10/19/82 NRHP - 2/24/83

OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received
date entered

JAN 27 1983

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic GEDDES

and/or common GEDDES

2. Location

street & number ~~Route~~ SR 700 N/A not for publication

city, town Clifford vic. XX vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Virginia code 51 county Amherst code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Jane Claiborne Calkins

street & number N/A

city, town Clifford XX vicinity of state Virginia 24533

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Amherst County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Amherst state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
title Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date September 1980 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date N/A
X fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Geddes stands in a shallow valley amidst open fields and pastures that provide the house with panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the north. Long referred to as the oldest house in Amherst County by area residents, Geddes is an important surviving example of frame construction dating from the 18th century. Typical of many small 18th-century dwellings, the house was enlarged during the early 19th century, giving the building its elongated appearance and creating the present center hall plan.

DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The 1½-story, single-pile, hipped roof frame house was built in several stages between the third quarter of the 18th century and mid-19th century with only slight modifications made to the building since that time. The earliest portion of the house consists of the two east rooms, with the hall and west room added by the early 19th century. Within a few years, the small room now on the west end was joined to the house. In the mid-19th century the front and rear porches were constructed and a shed-roof frame ell was added to the northeast corner of the house.

The dwelling of post and beam construction sits on a random rubble foundation, the house sheathed in plain riven and sawn weatherboards dating from the early 19th century. Originally covered with a wood-shingle roof, the present standing seam metal roof was added in the 20th century. A box cornice outlines the perimeter of the roof line. Interior brick chimneys rise above the house. The east chimney is L-shaped consisting of a corbeled brick cap above a stone base. The smaller chimney on the west end is composed entirely of brick and abuts the chimney in the west addition creating the present T-shaped appearance.

The main entrance located on the south elevation consists of double recessed rectangular paneled doors crowned by a three-light transom. A single door is located directly opposite on the north elevation. Cross-gable porches which appear to have been added contemporaneously in the mid-19th century shelter the front and rear entrances. The south (front) porch is three bays wide with beaded boxed posts supporting a cross-gable room. The building's cornice wraps around the gable end to create a pediment. A diamond shaped window with architrave trim embellishes the pediment. The north (rear) porch is four bays wide with a small meat room built into the west bay. Tapered wood posts support a cross-gable room with a six/six double-hung window centered in the gable end.

Fenestration throughout the main block consists of six/nine double-hung sash flanked by louvred shutters. Gabled dormers on both the north and south slopes of the roof light the attic story.

The interior displays a center hall plan created by the addition of the hall and west rooms to the original structure. At the time the addition was made ca. 1800, the interior was retrimmed. All of the first-floor rooms have their early 19th-century plaster walls and pine floors, beaded baseboards, chair rails, and quirk ovolo architrave trim at door and window openings. Most of the doors have six recessed rectangular panels with carpenter locks, however, three 18th-century raised panel doors are located in the additions. The doors and stair exhibit early feather graining.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

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

Specific dates Late 18th - Mid-19th Century **Builder/Architect** Hugh Rose

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Geddes, a vernacular late-Colonial frame building, has survived virtually intact since an early 19th-century enlargement. The oldest portion of the house was built ca. 1762 for Hugh Rose, the third son of Anglican clergyman and diarist Robert Rose, to whom the house is traditionally attributed. A militia colonel who represented Amherst County both in the field and in the General Assembly during the Revolution, Hugh Rose is best remembered as the friend of Thomas Jefferson who looked after Jefferson's family at Geddes during the British raid on Charlottesville in 1781. The unusual form of the house, created by the early 19th-century addition of the hall and two west rooms, was the work of Rose descendants, who have continued to own the Geddes property to the present. The house with its distinct aura of antiquity, is one of Amherst County's few buildings dating from the Colonial period.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1744, the Reverend Robert Rose patented a large tract of land in what was then Albemarle County and is now Amherst County, Virginia. Parson Rose was an active Anglican clergyman who had served the Tidewater parish of St. Anne's in Essex County before moving his family to Albemarle in 1748. One of his most valuable legacies to posterity is a detailed diary kept for three years between 1746 and 1751 describing the life and times of the mid-century Virginia colony. Aside from his priestly duties, Parson Rose was indefatigable as an amateur physician, lawyer, landholder, and inventor. He settled his family in present day Nelson County at the confluence of the Tye and Piney rivers on a plantation he called Bear Garden. Among his other other holdings in the area was the tract later to be known as the Geddes plantation.

Parson Rose died in 1751 while on a visit to Richmond and is buried in the churchyard of St. John's Church. His will, recorded in Will Book One of Albemarle County, instructs his widow to have "convenient houses built" for each of his sons' estates in the area. Hugh Rose (1743-1795), his thrid son, was allotted the Geddes tract. Architectural evidence suggests that the oldest portion of the Geddes house was probably built in the 1760s, perhaps following Hugh Rose's marriage in 1761 to Caroline Matilda Jordan.

Hugh Rose was among Amherst County's more prominent citizens. He served as a vestryman of its parish and as a colonel in its militia during the Revolution. Entries in his account book as well as county tax records indicate that Hugh Rose amassed a considerable fortune. He also represented Amherst County in the Virginia Assembly of 1780-81. His friends included Thomas Jefferson who wrote in January of 1781 that he took his family to Colonel Hugh Rose's home in Amherst during Tarleton's raid of Charlottesville. Jefferson

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #3)

Albemarle County, Will Book One, 1751.
Amherst County, Deed Books I, L, M, X.
Amherst County, Land Tax Books, 1782-1863.
Amherst County, Personal Property Tax Books, 1809-1821.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 13 acres

Quadrangle name Arrington, VA **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	677620	4170630	B	17	675600	4170290
C	17	677480	4170220	D	17	674000	4170220
E	17	674300	4170630	F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Boundary Justification: The nominated acreage for Geddes consists of 13 acres including the private drive leading to the house and a narrow strip of land on either side of this drive as well as the enclosed yard immediately surrounding the house. (See Continuation Sheet #3)

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 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission **date** October 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street **telephone** (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond **state** Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X 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

title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission **date**

[redacted]

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) HABS
1957 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, DC

7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The entrance hall contains the steep single-flight, open-string stair with winders in the northeast corner. A square newel and two square balusters per tread carry the semicircular handrail.

Located east of the hall and raised approximately six inches above the grade of the remainder of the first-floor rooms are the dining room and a bedroom. These rooms comprise the original 18th-century two-room structure. Floorboards which have been patched along the south wall indicate original access to the second floor. The fireplaces in the two rooms are decorated with tall, Federal mantels having recessed paneled pilasters and blocks that support a molded shelf. Connecting the rooms north of the fireplace is a built-in "press" cupboard in each of the rooms. Both have multi-light cupboard doors above vertical rectangular paneled doors. The mid-19th-century rear addition opening off of the dining room was converted into a kitchen during the 1880s.

Opposite the center hall is the parlor finished similarly to the east rooms including an identical Federal mantel. According to family tradition the far west room was added to the structure before Hugh Rose's death for use as his study. Flanked by closets, the mantel in this room is composed of plain pilasters below a plain frieze and molded shelf. Unlike the other first-floor rooms the study has no cellar.

The attic story has been finished for two bedrooms plus a room in each of the cross gables. The Federal mantel in the west bedroom is intact with its early marbleizing.

At one time numerous outbuildings surrounded the Geddes yard creating a farm complex. The owner recalls the locations of slave quarters, a double overseer's house, henhouses, stable, tobacco barns, carriage house, and kitchen. Today a wood rail fence encloses the shaded yard separating the house from the only surviving outbuilding, a springhouse, which stands southeast of the yard.

MPM

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

also noted that he later rejoined his family at Colonel Rose's before proceeding to Poplar Forest, Jefferson's home in Bedford.[1]

Hugh Rose died in 1795 leaving his widow Caroline and eleven children. His youngest child, Gustavus, was named in his will as heir to "Geddes, the house I now live in."[2] Gustavus born in 1789, would have only been six at the time and it can be assumed that Rose's widow, Caroline, continued to reside in the Geddes house until her death in 1809. Gustavus went on to become a doctor and resident of Lynchburg. The Amherst records are inconclusive as to the exact disposition of Hugh Rose's estate; however it seems that Charles Rose, younger brother of Hugh, ultimately became owner of the Geddes house tract. Augusta County records indicate that the children of Hugh Rose filed a suit to overturn their mother's will. Since there is no will entered in the official records for Caroline Matilda Rose, it can be assumed that their suit was successful.[3] In any case, a deed from Charles R. Rose in 1812 to William Sterling and Charles Buller Claiborne is probably for the land on which Geddes stands. It describes the tract as being in Amherst County on the Piney River. The daughter of Charles Rose, Jane, married Sterling Claiborne in 1808 and their two sons, William Sterling anc Charles Buller, were the recipients of the Geddes property. It is possible that Charles Rose was responsible for the substantial 19th-century improvements to Geddes that architectural evidence suggests date to the antebellum period. Sterling Claiborne acquired by deed from various trustees of Hugh Rose's estate several other parcels of land that were part of the Geddes tract.

The Amherst County Land Tax Books fail to record what building improvements stood on the Geddes tract prior to the Civil War; although they indicate that the property remained throughout the period in Sterling Claiborne's family. The only specific reference to the house prior to the War is contained in a deed to secure a debt from Charles Buller to his father, Sterling, in 1840. The deed describes the 1200 acre tract as "The Geddes Tract whereon the old Geddes house stands." It is also not clear who actually lived in the Geddes house during the period from 1820 to 1860 since the U.S. census returns show for those decades that Sterling Claiborne continued to reside in Nelson County. However, it is reasonable to assume that either his sons occupied the house or it was used as a second home for members of the Claiborne family. Unfortunately, Sterling Claiborne's will recorded in Nelson County in 1856 gives no clue as to the tenureship of Geddes.

Since 1856 Geddes has continued to remain the property of Claiborne's descendants, and stands today as one of the few tangible reminders of a notable Virginia family who participated in the movement of population from Tidewater to the western areas of the colony in the years just prior to the American Revoluation.

MTP

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[1]Julian P. Boyd, ed., The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Vol. 4. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1951), p. 261.

[2]Amherst County Will Book 3, 1795, p. 328.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background (Footnotes continued)

[3]Lyman Chalkley, ed., Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish in Virginia, Vol. II. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1965), p. 40.

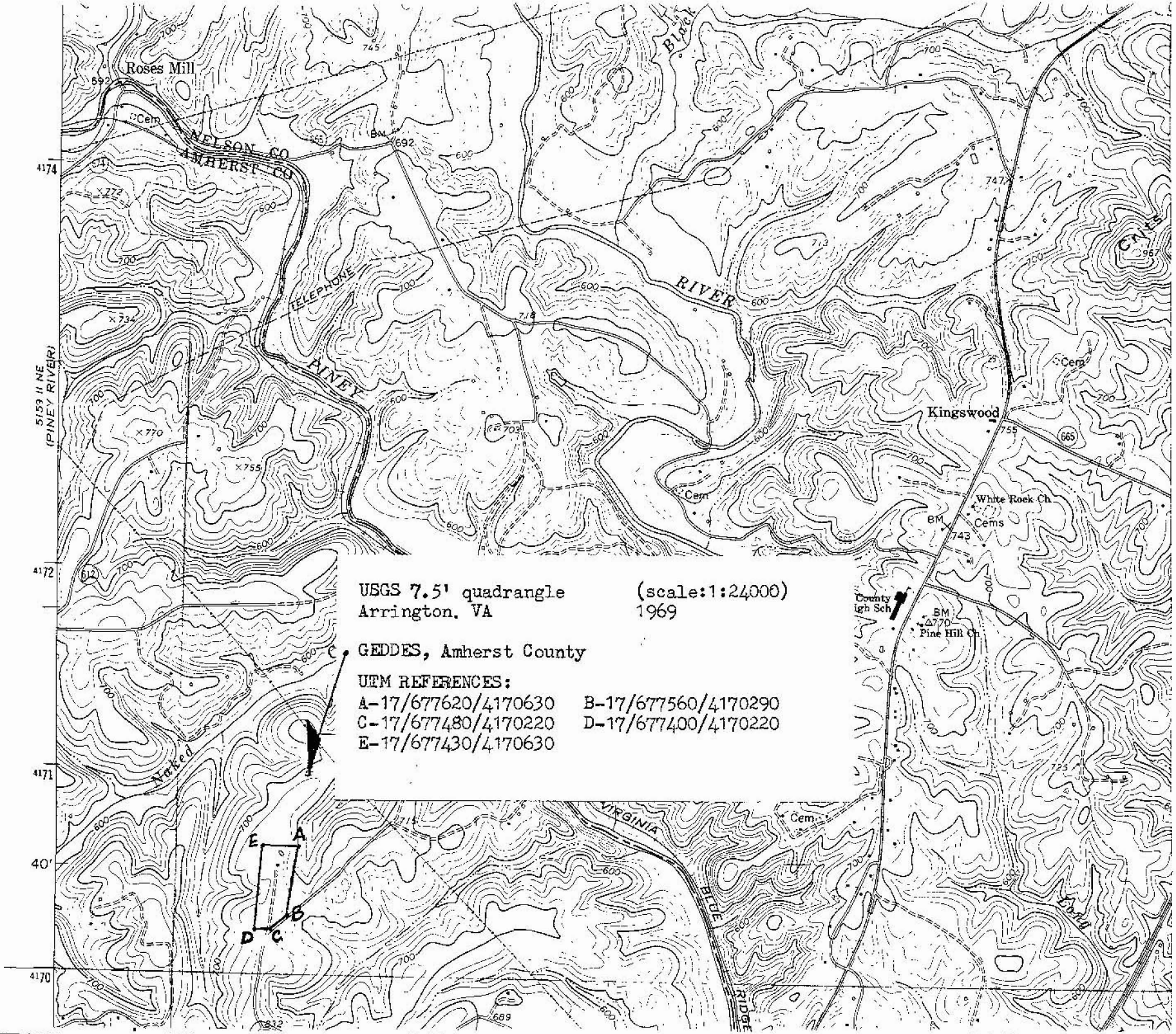
[4]Amherst County Deed Book X, 1840, p. 301.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Amherst County, Will Book 3, 1795.
Boyd, Julian P., ed. The Papers of Thomas Jefferson. Vol. 4, p. 261. Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1951.
Chalkley, Lyman, ed. Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish in Virginia. Vol. II. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1965.
"Claiborne Geneologies,"Genealogies of Virginia Families. Vol. II. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc. 1981.
Davis, Bailey Fulton. Amherst County, Virginia Marriage Bonds and Returns, 1801-1857. Amherst Courthouse, 1965.
Nelson County, Personal Property Tax Books, 1805-1821.
Nelson County, Will Book K, 1856.
Rose, Christine, comp. Reverend Robert Rose Family of Scotland and Virginia. San Jose, California: Privately Printed by Rose Family Bulletin, 1972.
Rose, Robert. The Diary of Robert Rose, 1746-1751. Edited and Annotated by Ralph Emmett Fall, Verona, Virginia: McClure Press, 1977.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on W side of VA 700 approximately 1600' N of the intersection of VA Routes 600 and 662; thence extending approximately 250' W; thence extending approximately 1350' N; thence extending approximately 600' E; thence extending approximately 1150' S to a point on the W side of VA 700; thence extending approximately 400' SW along said side of VA 700 to point of origin.


Roses Mill
NELSON CO
AMHERST CO
TELEPHONE
PINEY
RIVER
Black
Kingswood
White Rock Ch
Cems
Pine Hill Ch
Naked
VIRGINIA
BLUE
RIDGE
5159 II NE
(PINEY RIVER)
4174
4172
4171
40'
4170
USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Arrington, VA
(scale:1:24000)
1969
GEDDES, Amherst County
UTM REFERENCES:
A-17/677620/4170630
B-17/677560/4170290
C-17/677480/4170220
D-17/677400/4170220
E-17/677430/4170630
A
B
C
D
E