

VLR-6/16/81

NRHP-9/16/82

7-606

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Clover Mount (preferred)

and/or common Tate House; Stone House Farm

2. Location

street & number State Route 674 n/a not for publication

city, town Greenville X vicinity of congressional district Sixth (M. Caldwell Butle

state Virginia code 51 county Augusta code 015

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes options like district, building(s), site, object, public, private, occupied, unoccupied, work in progress, accessible, agriculture, commercial, educational, entertainment, government, industrial, military, museum, park, private residence, religious, scientific, transportation, other.

4. Owner of Property

name Robert and Peggy Lynch

street & number Route 1, Box 447

city, town Greenville n/a vicinity of state Virginia 24440

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Augusta County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Staunton state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date December 1979 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

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

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

Clover Mount, one of several early stone houses in the central section of the Valley of Virginia, is situated among the rolling hills along Broadhead Creek at the headwaters of the South River in southern Augusta County. The cut limestone construction illustrates the rich local masonry tradition that developed in the Valley in the late 18th century. Stone jack arches adorn the window openings and transom-lighted front entrance. The one-story, three-bay, frame porch, which now interrupts the front door arch, dates to the mid- to late 19th century.

This five-bay dwelling was constructed in two stages--the three-bay rectangular block to the north was built first and was enlarged soon afterwards by a two-bay lateral addition on the south gable end. The measurements in the Mutual Assurance Society records of 1803 reveal that the addition had been made by this date, and the sketch of the house illustrates its unusual form with a slight projection off the west end. The original south gable wall was removed with the enlargement, but the first-story basement sills and the double-rafter roof system clearly indicate that the house was built in two stages.

The first structure, measuring 30' by 20', contained a two-room, hall-parlor plan. Although this was a popular plan for log houses throughout the 19th century, Clover Mount is the area's only known surviving example in stone construction with a full two-story elevation. Like most two-room plans in the area, the main entrance was located in the center of the three-bay facade. A chimney on the north wall served the larger north rooms on both levels, while the south rooms remained unheated. The present partition was moved several feet to the south when the house was enlarged before 1803.

The single-cell, double-pile addition transformed the more traditional design into a variation on a new "popular" "I"-house model. This involved creating a central passage out of the smaller south room and adding the double-pile addition on the other side of the passage. Several other early stone houses in this area, probably built about the same time as the enlargement of Clover Mount, display variations of a three-room, central-passage plan. The corner fireplaces in the two-room addition were a popular feature in these early double-pile designs.

Most of the woodwork and trim throughout the house dates to the period of enlargement before 1803. The corner staircase retains the traditional winder design, finished with three turned balusters per tread, molded handrail, carved stair brackets, and a square newel post. Original mantels are found in the north rooms on both floors and in the first-floor southeast room. The fireplaces in the north rooms are enclosed by shouldered architraves with ovolo profile moldings and are topped with fluted end blocks and dentil cornices. The first-floor southeast mantel reveals a more original design with tall flat pilasters pushed out to each side of the simple architrave molding and shallow cornice shelf. A German iron stove plate was recently discovered in the first-floor north fireplace.

The original chair railing on both floors and the first-floor hall cornice moldings were removed when the rooms were wallpapered, but portions of the chair railing remain below the windows on the second floor. Raised six-panel doors enclosed with ovolo architrave molded trim survive throughout the house. Mid-19th-century Greek Revival-style alterations include the addition of a mantel in the southwest first-floor room, full wooden cupboards east of the first- and second-floor north fireplaces, and new door frames and double doors for the first-floor passage entrances.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 8. 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca. 1790-1803      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clover Mount is one of the earliest and best-preserved examples of a small group of vernacular stone houses built around the turn of the 19th century in southern Augusta County. The five-bay block, constructed in two stages, was completed by 1803. The original portion, the north end, began as a two-story, hall-parlor dwelling and as such provides interesting evidence of the use of this relatively unusual house form in the region. The recent discovery of early 19th-century stenciled wall designs in seven rooms provides one of the richest records of this appealing form of folk decoration in Virginia. Stenciling is known to have been popular in the area, but few examples survive; Clover Mount's scheme is the most extensive discovered in the central Shenandoah Valley to date.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Clover Mount stands on a tract of land in Augusta County that originally contained two-hundred acres when deeded to Helen Mitchell from William Beverley in 1747. This same tract was deeded by Helen Mitchell to Robert Mitchell in 1759 and sold in turn to Robert Tate in 1775. Robert Tate's father, John, came to Augusta County from Ireland via Pennsylvania ca. 1745 and settled on property in the same vicinity. The 1775 deed describes the tract as "one piece or parcel of land containing one hundred and ninety nine acres be this... more or less lying and being in Beverly Manor in the said County of Augusta..." There is no indication of any improvements on the property at that time.

The exact building date of Robert Tate's house is unknown; however, it definitely had been standing for several years when it was insured in 1803. The insurance policy issued in that year valued the house at \$2,500 with a deduction of \$300 for decay and bad repair. This deduction could suggest a building date of ca. 1790 for the original three-bay block. The dwelling house is described as having "walls built of stone, covered with wood...46 by 20 feet." "Covered with wood" indicates that the roof was of wooden shingles. The sketch on the policy well illustrates the unusual shape of the dwelling. Tate insured the property again in 1805, with the policy showing a new kitchen six feet from the southwest side of the house. In 1817 another policy was issued with \$200 deducted again for decay; the name of the plantation, Clover Mount, appears for the first time on this policy.

Robert Tate died in 1832 and, according to the county will books, willed "the plantation on which I live, with all the stock of every description..." to William M. Tate. He willed the "use of the two rooms in the west end of my dwelling house, on the first floor, during her life" to his wife, Margaret Tate. In 1846 William M. Tate, Jr., acting as trustee for the heirs of Robert Tate, conveyed the property (now referred to in the tax books as "The Old Tate Farm" or "Bob's Old Farm") to John A. Tate, possibly William's brother, who increased the value of buildings on the property by \$1,500 in 1849 and apparently lived at Clover Mount until his death. According to the 1850 Census, John A. Tate was a prosperous farmer with real estate in the county valued at more than \$18,000. He died at the age of 39 in 1854, leaving his property to his wife for the benefit of their three young daughters.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #2)

Augusta County Deed Books 1, 8, 21, 66, 84, 85, 86, 105, 183, 281, 382, 410, 444, 547, 751.  
Land Books 1792-1800; 1820-1860.  
Personal Property Tax Books 1815.  
Will Books 18, 34, 41, 42, 43.  
 Hotchkiss, Jed. "Map of Riverheads District." Historical Atlas of Augusta County. 1885.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8 acres  
 Quadrangle name Greenville, Va./Vesuvius, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on the W side of VA 674, about 2300' N of the intersection with Va 675; thence extending about 300' SW to 1900' contour; thence about 600' NW; thence about 550' NE to W side of VA 674; thence about 750' SE along said side to point of origin. See continuation sheet # 1 for justification.

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 June 1981  
 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  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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell  
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date MAY 10 1982

**For HCRS 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  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

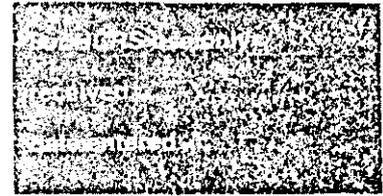
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clover Mount, Augusta County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7,8

Page 1



7. DESCRIPTION

The full basement presently contains two rooms divided by a central whitewashed board partition where the addition was made. The large north room below the first section contains a fireplace, topped with a heavy wooden bressummer. Both rooms have been entirely whitewashed but retain earthen floors.

Recent restoration projects have uncovered early 19th-century stenciling below the wallpaper in seven rooms. This is a rare, but very extensive, survival of stenciling in the Valley of Virginia. Initial work has suggested that this decoration is found in the passages and south rooms on both floors and the second-floor north chamber; the first-floor north room apparently retained whitewashed plaster walls. A yellow ochre or buff color provided the background for the popular dark green and iron red paints. Vertical bands of geometric and floral designs, ranging from tulips to pinwheels, cover the walls in these rooms. Abstract border designs complete the decoration along the ceilings, around the door frames, and above and below the location of the chair railing. On the second floor, the stenciling even continues inside the thick window walls. The only uncovered portion remains on the plaster passage wall in the garret, but the stenciling will soon be exposed in all the rooms.

Around the turn of the 19th century, a two-story stuccoed ell was added to the house. Although this retains the usual local plan--two rooms with a wide porch--it was added in a different location, as a lateral extension rather than to the rear. The room directly off the main house served as the dining room and the one behind as the kitchen. A wide chimney with a fireplace opening into the kitchen and with an adjoining pass-through cupboard create the central partition in this addition. A side porch connects these two rooms and the pantry. An enclosed corner staircase in the dining room ascends to the second-floor chambers. When Rogers M. Fischer owned the house in the 1940s, he painted a waterfall landscape scene on the front exterior wall between the second-floor windows. Mr. Fischer was well known for his painted graining in this part of the county.

Later 20th-century additions include a back kitchen porch and a cinder block bathroom off the southwest room of the main house.

The oldest farm building is the frame bank barn with heavy mortise-and-tenon construction. The corncrib, shed, storage building, and chicken house date to the late 19th and 20th centuries.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries have been drawn to include the house, its barn, and the immediate surrounding grounds and above-mentioned outbuildings. The county road forms the eastern boundary.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

An appraisal of the estate listed ten slaves, numerous furnishings, a carriage, a windmill, farm equipment, and livestock including a "Red Bull" valued at \$800. The executor of the estate was William P. Tate, who ultimately acquired title to Robert Tate's farm. Matthew Pilson acquired the property from William P. Tate's estate, and it remained in the Pilson

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

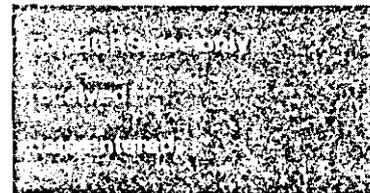
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clover Mount, Augusta County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8,9

Page 2,1



8. SIGNIFICANCE

family until it was sold to W. R. Buchanan. In the 1940s the house was owned by Rogers M. Fischer, who painted a waterfall landscape scene on the front wall of the later wing. Mr. Fischer was well known for his painted graining in Augusta County. The present owners are Robert N. and Peggy J. Lynch, who have undertaken the restoration of the stenciling.

MTP/AMcC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mish, William. Greenville, Va. Interview, March 1981.

Peyton, J. Lewis. History of Augusta County. 1882; reprint ed., Harrisonburg, Va.: C. J. Carrier, 1972, p. 312.

Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. Mutual Assurance Society Records. Policies R2/V24/N2069 (1803); R4/V37/N610 (1805); R5/V45/N2339 (1817).

U.S. Census of 1850. Augusta County, Va.

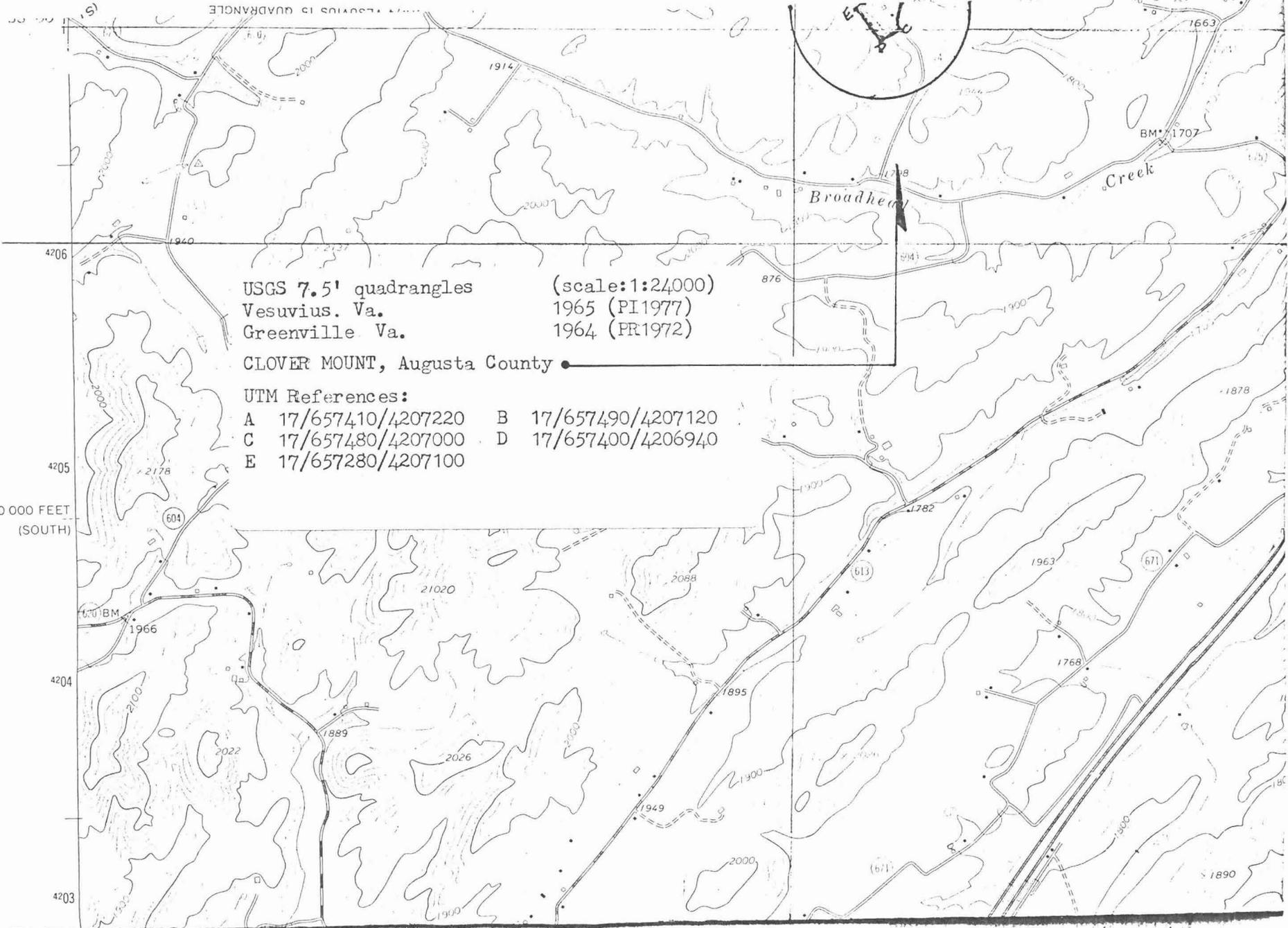
79°07'30"

69

69

1 810 000 FEET (NORTH)

10



USGS 7.5' quadrangles (scale: 1:24,000)  
 Vesuvius, Va. 1965 (PI1977)  
 Greenville Va. 1964 (PR1972)

CLOVER MOUNT, Augusta County

UTM References:

- |   |                   |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| A | 17/657410/4207220 | B | 17/657490/4207120 |
| C | 17/657480/4207000 | D | 17/657400/4206940 |
| E | 17/657280/4207100 |   |                   |

600 000 FEET  
(SOUTH)

4206

4205

4204

4203

BM 1966

BM 1707

Broadhead

Creek

604

613

671

1889

1895

1768

2026

2000

1890

2178

21020

2088

1878

1914

1663

876

1900

1782

S

VEVUSIUS IS QUADRANGLE

