

VLR- 8/21/91 NRHP- 11/8/91

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 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: Hanger Mill

DHR: 07-1211

other names/site number: Huff Mill

2. Location

street & number: At the intersection of State Route 801 and U.S. Route 250.

N/A not for pub

city, town: Churchville

X vicinity

state: Virginia code: VA

county: Augusta

code: 015

zip code: 24421

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property (Contributing, Noncontributing), and Name of related multiple property listing. Includes rows for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

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.

Signature of certifying official

Handwritten signature of Hugh C. Miller

Date 11/21/91

State or Federal agency and bureau

Director, Department of Historic Resources

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)
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

Current Functions
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
manufacturing facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation: STONE/limestone
walls: WOOD/weatherboard
roof: METAL/tin
other:

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties
nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria	<u> A </u>	B	<u> C </u>	D			
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G

Areas of Significance	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	1860-1940	1860
INDUSTRY		

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
N/A	unknown

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

X See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

X 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:
 X State historic preservation office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Specify repository: VA Dept. of
Historic Resources
221 Governor St.
Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: 7.5 acres

UTM References

A.	17/	663180/	4231590	B.	/	/	/
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C.	<u> </u> See continuation sheet			D.			

Verbal Boundary Description

 X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the mill and a 7.5 acre portion of the Hanger property encompassing the rural setting historically associated with the mill.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	William Frazier/Sara Hollberg/ Nancy Shareff	date	June, 1991
organization	Frazier Associates	telephone	(703) 886-6230
street and number	121 S. Augusta Street	state	VA
city or town	Staunton	zip code	24401

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Hanger Mill is located on a 7.5 acre property, east of Churchville, Virginia at the intersection of Route 250 and Route 801. This land was originally part of a 253-acre tract, owned by Jacob Hanger, who built the mill around 1860. The contributing structure on the property is the mid-nineteenth-century gristmill. There is also a noncontributing house, and workshop, that were built in the 1960s, and a turn-of-the-century garage and stable, which are noncontributing because of alterations. Jennings Branch, a tributary of the nearby Middle River, is located behind the property, and provided water for the original millrace. The property is flat, lined with trees, and surrounded by farmland, giving it a rural character.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

THE MILL - contributing

Built in 1860, the 2 1/2-story frame mill has weatherboard siding, six-over-six double-hung sash windows, a metal-sheathed gable roof, and a coursed limestone, ashlar foundation. Half of the ground-level story is also constructed of coursed limestone and the remaining part is frame. A small one-story frame office with a front porch is attached to the mill's south side. The original shed roof on the office was replaced with the existing gable roof by the present owner, and at the same time a limestone chimney was added to the addition. At the north end of the office porch there is an entrance into the mill featuring a Dutch door. This original door has an interior wooden rim lock, with a metal star design.

The west elevation of the mill has a batten door on the upper three levels; these are aligned one above the other directly beneath the roof ridge. Above these doors at the ridge of the roof is a projecting hood for a pulley-operated sack hoist. North of the stacked doors, there is a batten door providing entry to the basement level. Off of the stone foundation on the east elevation there are metal gears for the wheel machinery, and an overshot wheel with the millrace. A shed-roofed addition with a concrete pier was added to enclose the machinery, and a shed-roofed privy was added north of this pier over the run. A low stone wall extends north along the race from the north end of the mill's foundation.

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Originally the mill had a wooden overshot wheel. Water was directed from Jennings Branch, across the property near Route 250, and over the waterwheel. Because the land is almost level with the top of the waterwheel, it is assumed that a fairly short flume was used to direct the water over the wheel. The only evidence of the original flume is four post ends located in the ground near the stone wall at the beginning of the tailrace. The metal overshot wheel, which is there today, dates to the 1920s when Hettie Huff owned the mill. The water that is in the present tailrace is from nearby springs. This water is then directed into Jennings Branch through the original tailrace, part of which is now lined with a stone wall that was installed by the present owner.

Most of the original interior fabric of the mill remains intact with the exception of the north half of the basement level which was remodeled in the 1960s into a shop with a concrete slab floor and plywood-covered walls. The south half of the basement level retains its coursed rubble walls, as well as a mixture of circular sawn, straight sawn, and hand-hewn structural members. While all of the basement framing has mortised and tenoned joints, there is evidence such as old mortises and notchings that indicates that some of the joists may have been reused from another structure. An open stringer staircase that extends from the basement to the fourth floor is located in the southwest corner of the basement. The east wall of the basement has a small door allowing access to the exterior machinery.

Most of the remaining interior framing on the main level of the mill has vertical saw marks, but there are also hand-hewn heavy framing members joined at the corners with mortise-and-tenon joints. The large members and several on the upper floors have notchings cut into them that indicates that they may have come from another structure. The framing of the second and third levels has circular saw marks in the smaller members. All of the flooring of the mill consists of wide pine boards with vertical sawmarks on the lower levels and circular sawn marks on the upper levels.

A remarkable portion of the milling machinery remains intact in the mill. There are parts of two different machinery systems incorporated in the Hanger Mill: the millstone machinery and the roller press type; together they create a complete milling system.

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The millstone system begins in the basement where a power pole is connected to the waterwheel and runs up through all three floors. The basement machinery also includes cast iron wheels with wooden cogs and cranks to adjust the millstones. The main level has two grist wheels, one of which is inscribed with Jacob Hanger's name and the date 1861. This level also contains grain bins, chutes, and a corn sheller.

The roller press system is located on the second and third floors. The second floor has screening devices (tumblers), chutes to divert the flour where needed, and grain storage bins. The third floor (attic) has the hoisting machinery, fans to separate the seeds and chaff from the wheat, a Case Company Inter Elevator Flour Dresser to sift the flour, and a Columbus Bolter Machine that sifts the flour through a bolting cloth. There are also flour chutes on this floor, some of which have been removed from their original locations. Although the mill has not operated since the early twentieth century, it and much of the original machinery remain in very good condition. The building is currently used for storage only.

STABLE - noncontributing

A stable was constructed east of the house next to Route 801 some time around the turn of the century. The structure has a stone foundation, weatherboard siding, and a standing-seam metal gable roof with a shed extension. The shed extension is a later addition, and the roof was originally covered with wood shingles. The main portion of the stable has a hayloft over the stalls. The south elevation has two batten Dutch doors; one of which is located at the southeast corner of the stable, and the other one is east of a large, horizontally sliding door at the southwest corner. Centered under the south and north gables are large louvered vents, providing circulation for the hayloft. There are two windows with shutters on the first level of the east elevation. The north elevation has two batten Dutch doors that are aligned with the doors on the south elevation.

GARAGE - noncontributing

South of the stable is a garage that was constructed in the early twentieth century. It has a standing-seam-metal gable roof and weatherboard siding. A batten garage door is located on the east side and a batten entrance door, on the north side. The interior is unfinished with a concrete floor. The building was converted to a blacksmith shop sometime after 1966 when the structure was extended six feet on the south side

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and a coursed limestone chimney with a large arched brick cap and an exterior fireplace was attached to the addition.

MAIN HOUSE - noncontributing

The main house was built by J. B. Hanger, Jr. between 1965 and 1966 in a New England saltbox style. The second story of the gable-roofed structure cantilevers over the first story on the south side. The building is clad with contemporary, rough-finished, horizontally-lapped white oak siding, and the roof is covered with pre-cast concrete shingles. Irregular fenestration includes contemporary, diamond-paned casement windows and a vertical board door. Two large stone exterior end chimneys are flanked by diamond-paned windows and louvered attic vents. A flat-roofed stone patio, two carports, and a springhouse with a hipped roof and small greenhouse, are attached in a perpendicular direction from the north side of the house. The east side has a one story addition with vertical board siding and a gable roof.

GARAGE/SHOP - noncontributing

A contemporary garage/shop with lapped board siding is located south of the mill. This structure, which was built in 1986, has one story with a gable roof that extends west over the garage portion of the building. A batten-door entrance to the shop is flanked by two tall, narrow windows. The north facade has a two-over-two sash window on the first floor, and a louvered vent over a double, vertical-paned contemporary window on the second level. The fenestration of the other elevations includes two-over-two sash windows, and a south side vertical board door.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hanger Mill built on the eve of the Civil War near Churchville in Augusta County, is an excellent original example of mid-nineteenth-century mill construction that retains most of its milling machinery. The Valley of Virginia was known as the breadbasket of the South during the nineteenth century and Augusta County was one of the largest wheat-producing counties in the state. During the Civil War many local barns and mills were burned by Union forces. After the war eighty-one mills remained in Augusta County; less than twenty are standing today and most of those have lost much of their machinery. The building has remained in the family since it was constructed for Jacob Hanger around 1860. The mill's stone foundation, gable roof, heavy mortise-and-tenon construction, and four levels are common elements of mills constructed in this era. The Period of Significance dates from 1860, the estimated date of the mill's construction, through 1940, the last year of the mill's operation.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Hanger Mill is located about seven miles west of Staunton at the intersection of Routes 250 and 801, just east of Churchville, one of the first settlements in Augusta County. The mill was erected in 1860 by an unknown builder for Jacob Hanger, a descendant of German settlers in the Valley during the colonial period. The number of Lutheran and Reformed Churches in the town indicates that Churchville had a sizeable German population in the nineteenth century.¹ Many German families first settled in Pennsylvania, but as the availability of land in that area decreased, later immigrants came down the Great Wagon Road and settled in the Shenandoah Valley. By the end of the nineteenth century, Churchville had three stores, four churches, a grade school, an organ factory, and two flour mills.² Christian Bear operated C. A. Bear's Churchville Mill and Jacob Hanger owned the Hanger Mill.

George Hanger was the first in the family to own the tract of land where the Hanger Mill is presently located. He was a descendant of Frederick Hanger, Sr., who came to

¹ Ann McCleary, "Historic Resources in Augusta County," Appendices and Study Unit, 1983, (typewritten), p. 936.

² J. Lewis Peyton, *History of Augusta County, Virginia*, second edition (Bridgewater, Virginia: C. J. Carrier, Co., 1953), p. 267.

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America from Germany around 1750 with his father, Melchior. Melchior Hanger settled in Greenbrier, West Virginia (which was then part of Virginia), and Frederick bought land in Arbor Hill in Augusta County.³ George Hanger bought large adjacent tracts of land from James McNair and Jacob Baylor near the Middle River, outside of Churchville.⁴

George Hanger married Obedience Robinson and they had six children: Kitty, William A., Peter, Robinson, Jacob, and Alexander. Hanger ran a saw mill and distillery, as well as a farm on his land. When he died in 1844, he left his real and personal estate to his children and wife.⁵

George Hanger's son Robinson Hanger, inherited the tract of land with the distillery and saw mill, which is located east of the "plantation" that Jacob, another son, inherited.⁶ . Apparently Robinson Hanger took over the operation of his father's mill because he is listed in the 1850 industry census as a saw miller. However, he was not listed in the 1860 or 1870 industry census. The sawmill foundation can still be seen on the opposite side of Route 250 from the farm, near Middle River.

George Hanger's first son, Jacob Hanger, who built the mill around 1860, was born in 1812. At the age of twenty-one he married nineteen-year-old Hester (Hettie) Bear, the daughter of Christian and Elizabeth Huddle Bear.⁷ His inheritance from his father, included the "plantation" and 253 acres. This is the same property that George Hanger purchased from James and Lydia McNair on 10 September 1832.⁸

³ James L. Cornell, "The Hanger Family: Frederick Hanger and Some of His Descendants," Yakima, Washington, 1980, (typewritten).

⁴ Augusta County Will Book 25, p. 514, Settlement of George Hanger's estate in 1844.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Jacob and Hettie Hanger had fourteen children, Harriet Catherine (born 1833), David Andrew (born 1835), George Christian (born 1836), Jacob Alexander (born 1837), Elizabeth Ann (born 1839), Obedience Robinson (born 1840), Mary Ellen (born 1842), Joseph Harvey (born 1843), Hettie Ellen (born 1845), Rachel Eliza (born 1849), John Arthur (born 1850), Margaret Mildred (born 1851), Mary Etta (born 1852), and William Harvey (born 1855). Hanger family history, compiled by Hettie Bear Huff and in possession of Ruth Henderson, Augusta County, Virginia (typewritten).

⁸ Augusta County Will Book 25, p.514.

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Two hundred and nine acres of the property previously belonged to David McNair, and the other forty-four acres were acquired in 1818 by James McNair from James P. Preston, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.⁹

Jacob Hanger used the land for farming and raising livestock. By 1850 one hundred acres were cleared for farm use and his livestock consisted of horses, milk cows, cattle, sheep, and swine. The farm products included wheat, corn, and oats as well as butter, cheese, honey and beeswax.¹⁰ On 20 February 1854 Hanger expanded his farm to include 146 acres to the north, which he purchased from Elias and Elizabeth Hahn, who in turn had acquired the property from B. F. Kemper in 1853.¹¹ Then around 1860, with an investment of three thousand dollars, Jacob Hanger built the mill. This time frame is supported by tax records between 1859 and 1863 that indicate an increase in value of buildings from one thousand dollars to fifteen hundred dollars for the property.¹² In addition, one of the grist wheels has Jacob Hanger's name inscribed with the date 1861.

The grist mill was powered by water from Jennings Branch. A mill race that started at the western edge of the property, just east of Churchville, ran close to the present location of Route 250. It crossed in front of the house, ran onto the overshot wheel, and then emptied back into Jennings Branch near Middle River.¹³ The 1860 census lists the mill as a merchant mill, a term that indicates that Jacob Hanger ground grain for commercial sale. This inference is further supported by the large quantities of grain ground there; in 1860 Hanger's mill ground wheat, corn, and rye to produce three thousand bushels of flour and one thousand bushels of meal. It was also noted that Jacob employed one male to work in his mill.¹⁴

By 1870, Jacob Hanger's farming operation had changed substantially. The census no longer listed him as a miller. His farm had seven horses, three milk cows, eight

⁹ Augusta County Deed Book 54, p. 193.

¹⁰ U. S. Census: 1850, Augusta County, Virginia.

¹¹ Augusta County Deed Book 74, p. 46.

¹² Land tax records, Augusta County, 1859, 1863.

¹³ Map in Augusta County Deed Book 92, p. 565.

¹⁴ U. S. Census: 1860, Augusta County, Virginia.

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cattle and sixteen swine. Furthermore, Irish potatoes, hay, butter, molasses, and orchard products were added to the farm's produce.¹⁵

Jacob Hanger died intestate at the age of sixty-five in 1877. Because he had many heirs, the Augusta County probate courts ordered a portion of the property partitioned in order to satisfy his widow's right of dowry and ordered the rest of the property to be sold. The dower tract consisted of fifteen acres, including "the mansion house, with all necessary outbuildings, spring house, garden and orchard, also a mill, sawmill, and plaster mill."¹⁶ Because the dower tract was in the center of the original property, Hettie Hanger was also given an easement over the access road and water privileges, along with the right to go on the remaining land in order to make necessary repairs.

After the death of Hettie Hanger, the fifteen-acre parcel and the buildings were sold to Silas L. Huff at a public auction on 22 September 1890 for \$2,500.¹⁷ Silas Huff had married Hanger's daughter, Obedience Robinson Hanger, in 1872; their children were Mary Beam, Hettie Bear, Henrietta Obediance (Rettie), and Elizabeth Catherine. A descendant of Silas Huff believes that he kept the mill running the entire time he owned the property except while he was fighting in World War I.¹⁸ The brand name of the mill's product was Mapleton Flour.¹⁹ Silas Huff was responsible for the construction of the turn-of-the-century stable and garage where Hettie and Rettie Huff kept their Model T Ford. At the time of Silas Huff's death on 28 January 1924, Mary Beam was married to William Webster Masincup; Hettie and Rettie Huff were unmarried; and Elizabeth Catherine Huff had died in infancy. Therefore, he left the mill property to Hettie and Rettie Huff.²⁰

In the 1920s Hettie Huff replaced the wooden waterwheel with a metal one. This wheel probably used the original head race. Hettie Huff continued to operate the

¹⁵ U. S. Census: 1870.

¹⁶ Augusta County Deed Book 92, p. 564.

¹⁷ Augusta County Deed Book 120, p. 312.

¹⁸ Ruth Henderson, telephone interview, January 1991.

¹⁹ Richard M. Hamrick, Jr., "Mills and Milling in Augusta County," *Augusta Historical Bulletin* 18 (Fall 1982), p. 4.

²⁰ Augusta County Deed Book 510, p. 238.

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mill until old age prohibited it in 1940. Rettie Huff died intestate and without issue in 1950. Hettie Huff died in 1965, and the mill property was sold at a public sale the following year.

J. B. Hanger, Jr., a descendant of Jacob Hanger, acquired the property at a public sale on 3 January 1966.²¹ When J. B. Hanger, Jr. bought the place it had a frame and log house that had been remodeled and altered since 1750. The structure was too deteriorated to retain, but J. B. Hanger retained much of the original material and incorporated it into his new house. He originally built a workshop in the basement of the mill but the contents of the shop were destroyed during the flood of 1985. In the following year he constructed the present workshop. While most of the mill structure and machinery are still intact, Mr. Hanger had to replace some of the beams in the basement and the wood that supports the outside gears because of deterioration. While the original head race no longer exists, the tail race receives its water from neighboring springs and extends from the mill back to Jennings Branch.

²¹ Ibid.

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INTERVIEWS:

J. B. Hanger, Churchville, Virginia, January 1991, (703/337-6834)

Ruth Henderson, Churchville, Virginia, January 1991, (703/886-7218)

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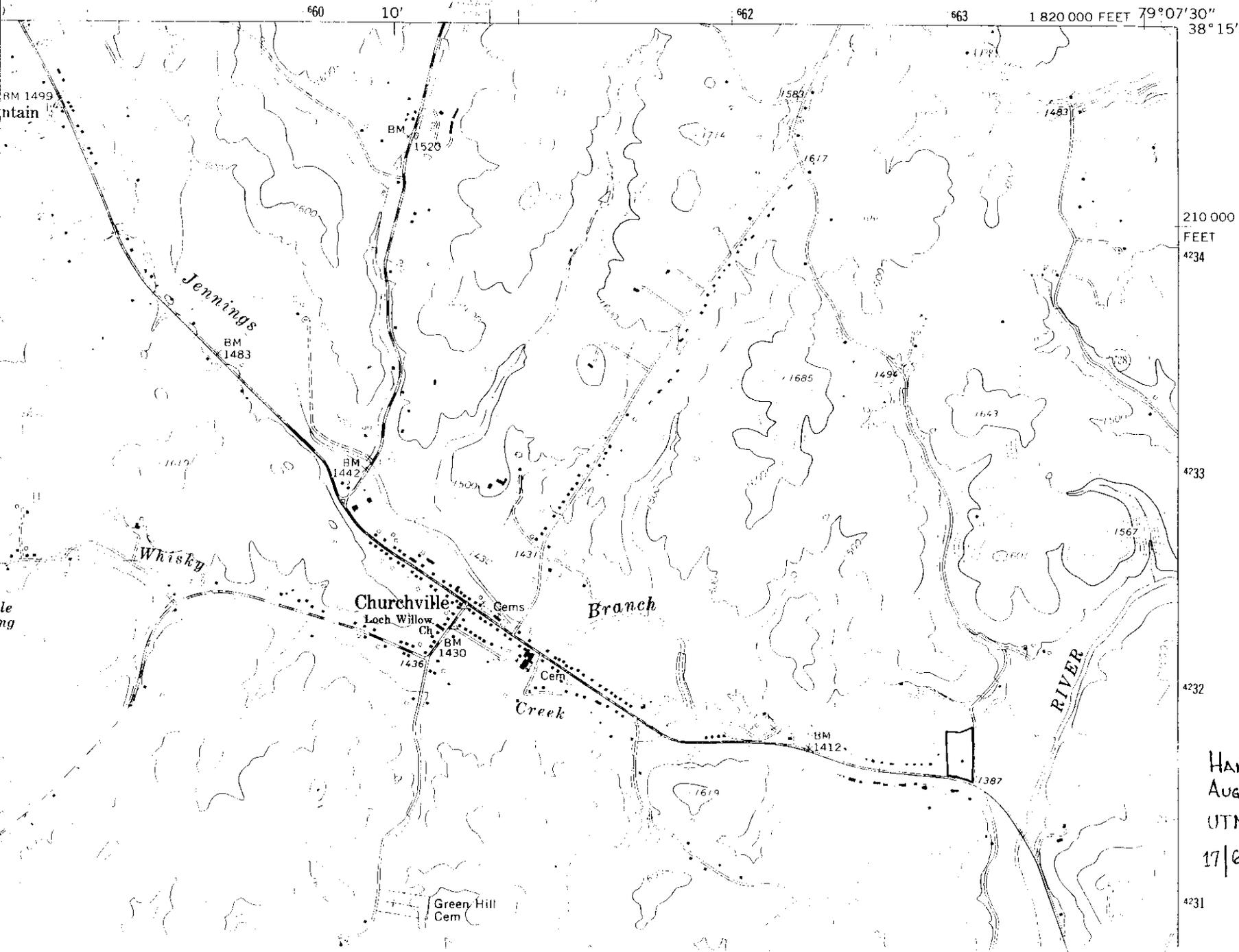
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of Route 250 and Route 801 proceed in a northerly direction for 779.7 feet. Then proceed in a southwesterly direction for 231 feet and then in a westerly direction for 103.2 feet. From this point proceed in a southerly direction for 650 feet and then in a easterly direction for 380 feet to the point of origin.

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