

VLR- 3/14/01

NRHP 7/5/01

(Rev. 10-90)
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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
Twin Oaks Farm 5223
(09-5201)

2. Location

street & number Route 2, Box 168 N/A not for publication
city or town Bedford County N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Bedford code 019 _____ Zip 24523

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 ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] May 3, 2001
Signature of certifying official 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.
___ See continuation sheet. ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ determined eligible for the ___ removed from the National Register
National Register ___ other (explain): _____

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

**U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

OMB No. 1024-4018

**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century (Gothic Revival) _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone _____
roof Metal _____
walls Wood (weatherboard) _____
 Wood (log) _____
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)

Agriculture _____
Architecture _____

Period of Significance ca. 1850-1937 _____

Significant Dates ca. 1850____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation N/A_____

Architect/Builder N/A_____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 Department of Historic Resources_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _158-ac._____

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

- | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing | | |
|------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1. | 17 | 621440 | 4143630 | 2. | 17 | 621460 | 4142640 |
| 3. | 17 | 620680 | 4142620 | 4. | 17 | 620660 | 4143610 |
- ____ See continuation sheet.

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:

Organization: Hill Studio: Alison Stone Blanton (architectural historian) and Anne Stuart Beckett (consultant)
date Jan. 08, 2001_____

street & number: PO Box 1204_____ telephone 540-3342-5263_____

city or town Roanoke_____ state VA_ zip code 24006_____

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name _ Ms. Barbara Ann Hatcher_____

street & number 4823 Sheep Creek Road_____ telephone 540-587-5474 / 540-586-0033_____

city or town Bedford_____ state VA___ zip code 24523_____

=====
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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Section 7 Page 1

Summary Description:

Twin Oaks Farm was named for the two giant oaks that once shaded the façade of the farmhouse near the banks of Sheep Creek along the western base of Sharp Top Mountain in Bedford County. Fields and dense pine and hardwood forest featuring over 350 English boxwoods surround the house and five related outbuildings throughout the 158-acre property. The ca. 1850 Gothic Revival farmhouse was the seat of a large isolated farm that primarily produced and sold tomatoes, corn, and apples for four generations of Hatchers. A family-owned tomato cannery flourished from 1909 until 1937. The surviving sibling, Barbara Ann Hatcher, recently donated a conservation easement of the property to protect it and its view shed of the 2,500-ft.-tall twin peaks of Sharp Top and Flat Top, part of the popular Peaks of Otter Mountain along the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Jefferson National Forest. The rambling two-story frame and log farmhouse was once the anchor to this small community which was scattered along the rocky headwaters of Sheep Creek. Here farmers struggled for a living and worshipped at the nearby New Prospect Baptist Church (09-5211 NRHP), which the Hatchers helped to establish and where they preached. Neither the Twin Oaks Farm nor the community has changed much since the mid-19th century.

Inventory:

1. Twin Oaks Farm, ca. 1850 Farmhouse. Contributing.
2. Single Dwelling, 1930s. Contributing.
3. Springhouse, 1850s. Contributing.
4. Tenant House, 1916. Contributing.
5. Apple Barn, 1916. Contributing.
6. Chicken Coop, 1920s. Contributing.

Detailed Description:

The Twin Oaks farmhouse is a rambling assortment of various house campaigns. The original section was a two-story log structure resting on a stone foundation with an oak-shingled gable roof. This section had two additions: one with log, one with frame. Built probably at about the same time as the main house, and 36 feet to the south, is a one-story-with-loft log kitchen. Additions were also made to this kitchen, and the entire house is wrapped in weatherboard siding. It has elaborate Gothic-Revival details and a standing-seam metal roof with numerous and varied gabled slopes and pitches. The house faces west towards Route 614, a narrow, winding gravel road that follows Sheep Creek.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA

Section 7 Page 2

Detailed Description (continued)

The original section was built ca. 1850 when John Calvin Hatcher purchased the 219-acre property from Thomas Cotterall's heirs. This two-story, 20-ft. x 25-ft. log section was built on a stone foundation, clad with weatherboard siding, and heated with an exterior-end stone chimney. The roof was clad with oak shingles until the middle of the 20th century, when it was replaced with the current standing-seam metal. A one-story log room (possibly used for storage) was added to the southeast corner of the living room sometime thereafter. Towards the end of the 19th century, a two-story, 14-ft.-square frame section (consisting of two bedrooms) was added to the west elevation of the living room. Also around this time, a frame wrap-around porch was added to the south and west elevations. Sometime between 1897 and 1910, Gothic-Revival detailing was added that included triangular window hoods and centered gables with decorative bargeboards along all the eaves. Around 1910, a frame second-story addition was built above the original one-story log section (den). By 1930, wrap-around porches were further extended around the west and north elevations. The entire house has about 3,000 sq. ft. of living space and 735 sq. ft. of porches.

The separate kitchen section is connected to the main house by a frame breezeway. Square wood columns that match the original columns of the wrap-around porch recently replaced the earlier turned columns of the breezeway. A shallow-pitched, metal-clad gable roof covers the breezeway. Sections of the original hewn logs and chinking are still visible on the first and second floors of this one-story-with-loft structure. A fieldstone foundation supports the kitchen structure. A modernized kitchen and dining room compose the first floor, and a bedroom loft is upstairs. The original exterior-end stone chimney was removed because of water infiltration. A concrete block chimney flue has been added to the southwest corner. The earlier two-over-two wood sash windows still light the second floors of both structures, and modern six-over-six wood sash windows have been installed on the first floors.

The living room of the main house features its original mantels on the first and second floors and original woodwork around the doors. Vertical tongue-and-groove paneling covers the 7-ft.-tall walls. Hardwood floors and paneled baseboards and plaster ceilings remain in most rooms. The first-floor bedroom (frame addition) has tall Gothic Revival, raised wood-paneled baseboards and triangular window hoods. The dining room of the kitchen structure retains its tongue-and-groove wall and ceiling paneling. Access to the loft above the kitchen is provided by an apparently original wooden door and latch. The exposed roof rafters have been infilled with nearly flush boards, and the random-width wide pine floorboards remain uncovered. The entire farmhouse remains in good condition.

Section 7 Page 3

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Detailed Description (continued)

Outbuildings:

Five remaining contributing outbuildings complement the Twin Oaks Farm, three of which are located on the lawn around the main house. In the 1930s, Watson C. Hatcher built a one-and-one-half-story rustic log bungalow with shed dormers. This house is to the north of the main house and also faces Route 614 alongside it. The caretakers presently occupy the house. A heavy fieldstone springhouse is sited on the lawn to the south and probably dates to the mid-19th-century construction of the main house. Water was supplied to the site by an underground spring, which feeds the mountain streams and creeks and which comes down the mountain to Sheep Creek across the road from the house. A stream also flows on the south side of the farm to this creek. The eventual destination of these water sources is the James River. Along Route 614 to the south and out of sight of the main house, W.C. Hatcher built a log apple barn with shed extensions around 1916. Also about 1916, but further south and west of Route 614, Hatcher built a simple one-and-one-half-story frame tenant house, presently unoccupied. In the 1920s, W.C. Hatcher built to the east of the main dwelling a shed-roof chicken coop, now used for storage.

Other buildings that once stood include a log tobacco barn, the cannery, and numerous sheds that supported the various agricultural productions related to the farmstead. The cannery was located across Route 614 from the house and consisted of a large 30-ft. x 50-ft. frame structure with a substantial front and side porch.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Section 8 Page 4

Statement of Significance

Sited on the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains, with a stunning view of the Peaks of Otter Mountain, Twin Oaks Farm is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an architecturally significant farmhouse constructed and modified in an unusual series of vernacular and Gothic Revival campaigns from ca. 1850 through the early 20th century. The house and contributing outbuildings have been preserved in remarkable condition because of Calvin Perkins Hatcher and his sister Barbara Ann Hatcher. Twin Oaks Farm is also eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance because of its association with four generations of Hatcher family agricultural production, and with Hatcher family cannery production from 1909 to 1937, and because of its pre-World War II function as a center for rural peacekeeping and community services. Its Period of Significance is ca. 1850, the date of construction, to 1937, when the cannery ceased operation. Barbara Hatcher has donated the 158-acre farm to the Western Virginia Land Trust and will donate a preservation easement on the Hatcher farmhouse and outbuildings to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historical Background

The Hatcher Farm property originated from a 1762 land grant from King George III of England to Robert Ewing. He was given a large tract of land at the head of Big Otter River in Bedford County. At that time he would have owned what is now known as the Peaks of Otter Mountain, visible from the farmhouse. In 1835, William Ewing sold to Thomas Cotterall (Cottrell) 267 acres at the head of the Big Otter River in Bedford County for \$500.00. A year later, an indenture was made between Robert M. Ewing and Thomas Cotterall's heirs for 219 acres. On January 31, 1850, John Calvin Hatcher, Sr. (the current owner's great-grandfather), received 219 acres of land from the last will and testament of Thomas Cotterall.

John Calvin Hatcher, Sr., the family patriarch, would have been 35 years of age when he purchased the property, which was valued at \$1.80 an acre and which sat on the headwaters of the Otter River. John Hatcher lived here with his wife Rebecca Spiers Hatcher, whom he married in 1835, and by 1850 he was listed as head of a household of seven in the census records. He worked 40 acres of improved land on which he grew 3,000 pounds of tobacco and 200 bushels of corn, raised 10 pigs and eight cattle, and produced 50 pounds of butter. John Hatcher is assumed responsible for building the two log structures of Twin Oaks Farm and the Gothic Revival additions and detailing. In March of 1889, Rebecca Hatcher died, and John Hatcher followed her a few years later in January of 1893.

Section 8 Page 5

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Historical Background (continued)

In 1893, John's son, Edward Perkins Hatcher, who was probably born in the main house in 1854, acquired the farm in its present acreage of 158 acres. Edward and his wife Frances (Fanny) Rebecca Cobbs continued to work the farm until his death in 1902. Edward's son, Watson Calvin Hatcher, acquired title to the farm, where he lived with his wife Viola Spillsbee Bush until his death in 1959. After his death, the title transferred to his children, Calvin Perkins Hatcher (now deceased) and the present owner, Barbara Hatcher, both of who were born in the house.

The Hatcher family and farm were an anchor to this small isolated community that farmed the western flank of Sharp Top Mountain. John Calvin Hatcher, Jr., one of Barbara's grandfather's brothers, was Justice of the Peace and a clerk to New Prospect Baptist Church. The family was instrumental in establishing the church, when in 1854, they gave two acres for a church to be built one-fourth mile down Sheep Creek Road. The current 1880 church was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has an active local congregation.

When Ms. Hatcher's grandfather Edward Perkins died in 1902, he held a one-fifth interest in a cannery that was subsequently owned by her father, Watson Calvin "Buddy" Hatcher. Buddy Hatcher built the log apple barn and the log tenant house on the farm around 1916 to support the cannery, which operated from 1909 until 1937. The cannery was located on the other side of Route 614 and has since been dismantled. Ms. Hatcher's father served as a Bedford County deputy sheriff, and people came to the Hatcher farmhouse day or night whenever there was an emergency or a limb to set. In fact, they had the only phone for three miles and kept it out on the porch for others to use.

During the farm's production period, the closest town was the courthouse town of Bedford, and the closest communities were Reba and Thaxton. Both communities have since lost their economic base, but Reba (which is closest to the farm) once boasted a mill, a tannery, a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, two stores, and a post office. The school was a one-room schoolhouse that served seven grades and had one teacher, who often stayed at the Hatcher Farm. Thaxton, located approximately three-five miles to the east and closer to State Route 460, was at one time a stop on the main line of the Norfolk and Western Railroad and served as the area's connection to the outside. Many of the buildings remain vacant in this crossroads community, and the train depot has vanished. Because of the train, many boarders were taken in at the Hatchers, who ran the farm much like a bed and breakfast of today. Ms. Hatcher recalls that many people came to relax and vacation in the mountains and to climb the Peaks of Otter.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Historical Background (continued)

Although the farm has not been productive for over 50 years, it was a typical mountain farm prior to WWII. About half of the 158 acres were farmed, and the rest was used for livestock. The growing season ran from the first of May to the first of September. The main crop was tomatoes, because they grew well in the rocky and red-gray, clay-loam soil. The farm started with tobacco, but this did not prove to be profitable because of the soil. The tomatoes were canned on the farm and shipped out by train from Thaxton. This was a major part of the Hatcher's business (and also provided local jobs), and it was in operation from 1909 until 1937, when it was forced to close down because of the Depression. During its active period, the cannery (a 30-ft. x 50-ft. structure) packed between 10,000 and 15,000 cases of tomatoes a year. Corn was another important crop, and some wheat was grown for the farm's own use, ground at the mill in Reba. Another important farm product was apples (still grown locally today), which were grown on the farm's orchards and packed in large wooden barrels for shipping. As was typical, large vegetable gardens provided food for the family's consumption.

The livestock was kept primarily for farm use, although a limited amount was sold. There were dairy and beef cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens, and, for a time, turkeys (which still roam the fields today). Horses and mules were kept for work on the farm; it took six horses to pull one wagonload of cans from the cannery to the train station. Buddy Hatcher, Barbara's father, had his own blacksmith shop and shod his own horses. The springhouse also doubled as a smokehouse, and at one time there was an ice pond on the property. Although inactive since WWII, Twin Oaks Farm remains much as it did during its active period from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century.

Bibliography

Bedford County Deed Books 1835-1920. Bedford County Courthouse, Bedford, VA.

Bedford County Land Tax 1850-1870. Microfilm, Bedford County Courthouse, Bedford, VA.

Hatcher, Barbara. Oral Interview with author, Bedford County, 2001.

Kern, John. Ph.D. "Twin Oaks Farm." Preliminary Information Form, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, Roanoke, VA, 1999.

Kerr, Megan. "Folklore Report." Bedford, VA, 1975.

Section __10/11__ Page __7__

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are depicted on the tax plat that accompanies the nomination. Bedford County tax plat pages 72 and 53, Parcel 12.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated parcel include the current acreage of Twin Oaks Farm.

Photographs

Subject: Twin Oaks Farm (same for all photos)
Photographer: Alison Stone Blanton (same for all photos)
Photo Date: October 2000 (same for all photos)
Original Negative: 18925 (same for all photos) Archived at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

Photo: 1 of 13

View: West (front) elevation of Twin Oaks Farm with attached Kitchen
Neg #: 18925-2

Photo 2 of 13:

View: West (front) elevation of Twin Oaks Farm
Neg #: 18925-3

Photo 3 of 13

View: Detail of roof, looking NE
Neg #: 18925-27

Photo 4 of 13

View: Attached Kitchen, looking SE
Neg #: 18925-4

Section __11__ Page __8__

Photographs (continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Photo 5 of 13
View: Northwest elevation of Main House
Neg#: 18925-5

Photo 6 of 13
View: Detail of Window, Main House
Neg #: 18925-19

Photo 7 of 13
View: Living Room Mantel, Main House
Neg #: 18925-13

Photo 8 of 13
View: Parlor Interior, Main House
Neg#: 18925-14

Photo 9 of 13
View: Original exterior staircase to kitchen loft (now enclosed)
Neg #: 18925-20

Photo 10 of 13
View: Interior of loft over Kitchen
Neg #: 18925-23

Photo: 11 of 13
View: Chicken coop and attached Kitchen, looking west
Neg #: 18925-11

Photo: 12 of 13
View: 1930s Tenant House, looking east
Neg #: 18925-6

Section 11 Page 9

Photographs (continued)

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

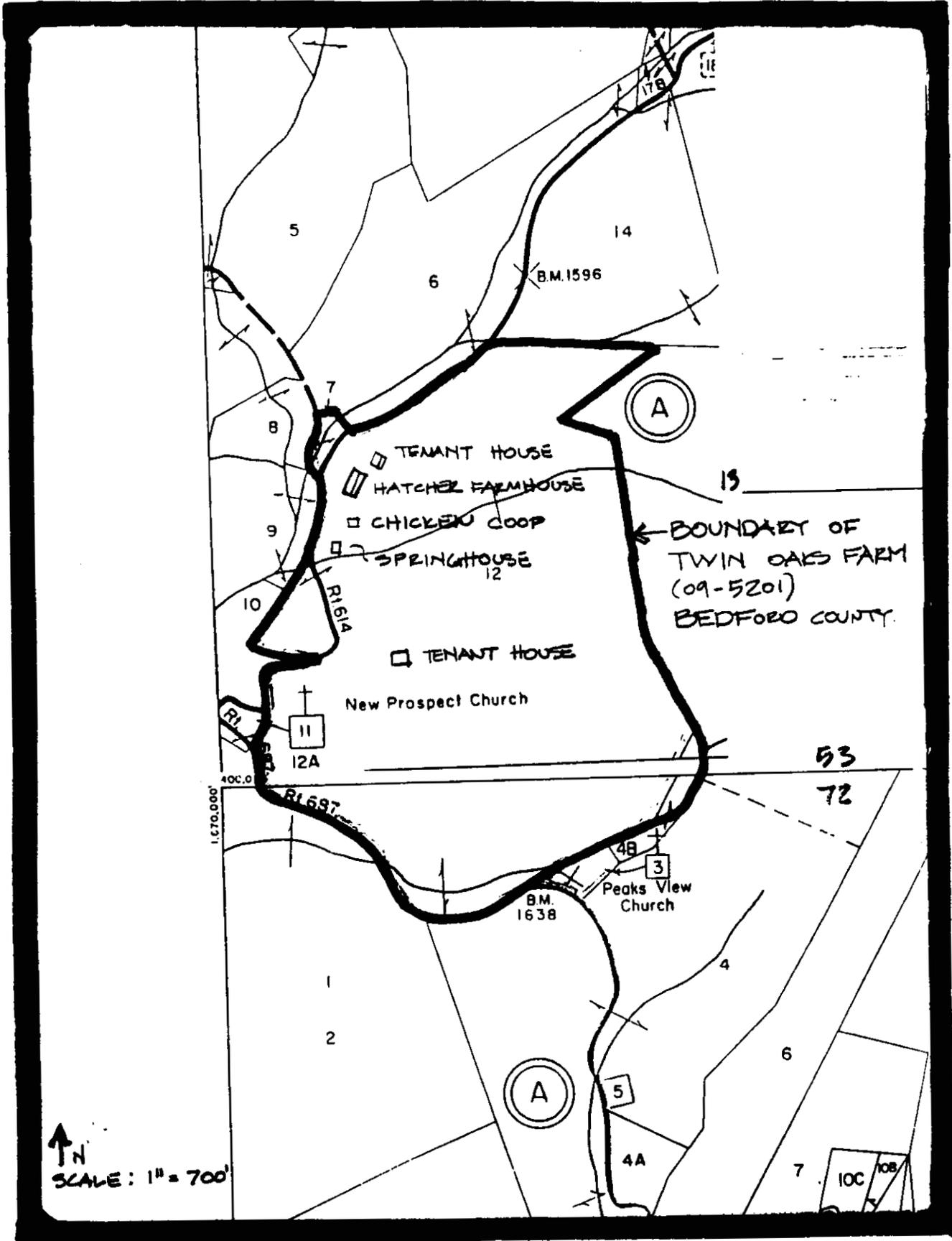
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

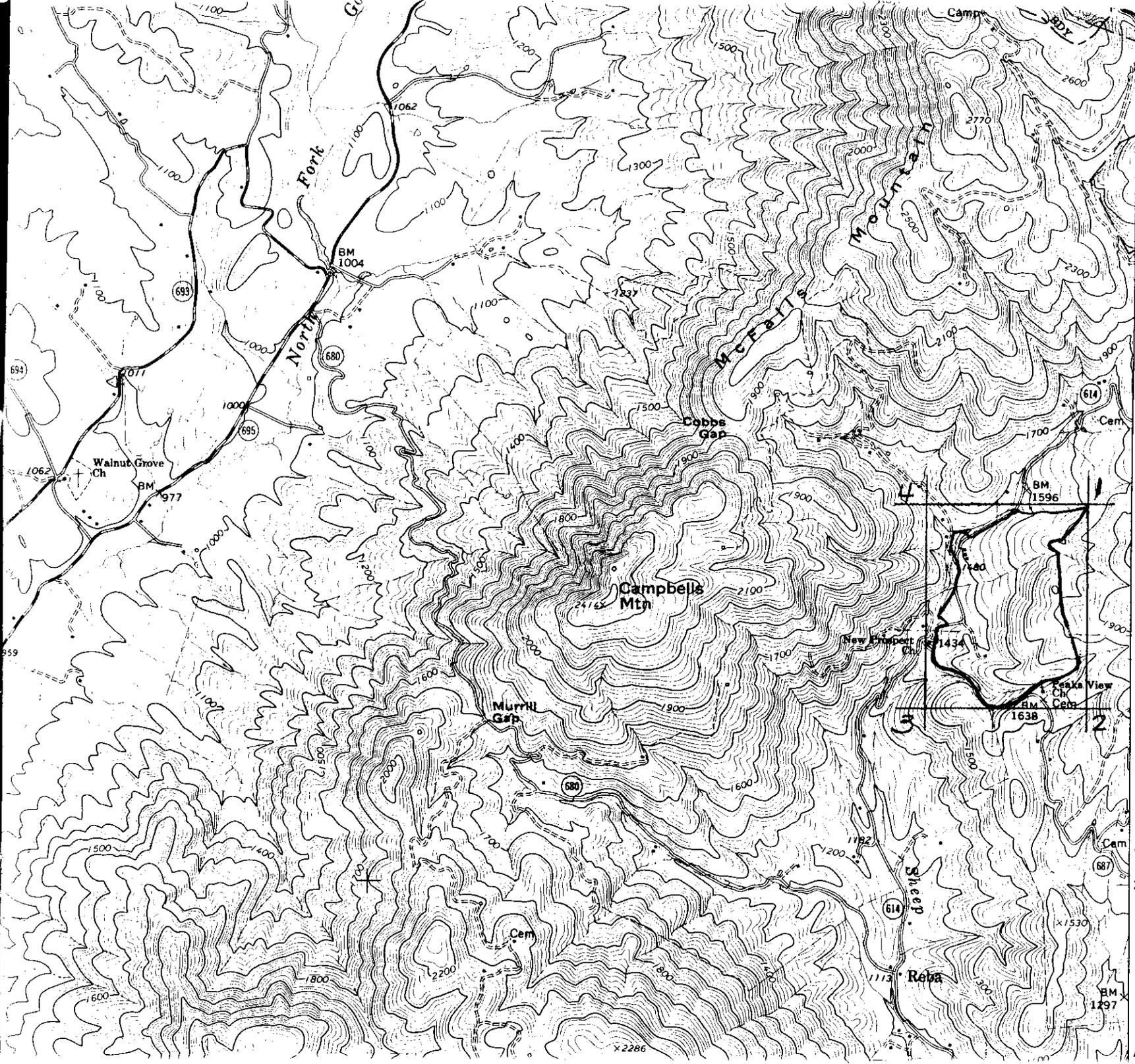
**Twin Oaks Farm (09-5273)
Bedford County, VA**

Photo 13 of 13

View: Springhouse and Apple Barn, looking southeast
Neg #: 18925-31

Plat Map





19 MI. TO U.S. 5017
 (PEAKS OF OTTER) 5058 1 NE
 4145
 4143
 4142
 25'
 4141

TWIN OAKS
 FARM
 (09-5201)5273
 BEDFORD CO.,
 VIRGINIA

- 1) 17 621440
 4143630
- 2) 17 621460
 4142640
- 3) 17 620680
 4142620
- 4) 17 620660
 4143610