

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

4

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 18). 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 CARYSWOOD
other names/site number DHR # 14-18

2. Location

street & number E. side County Route 667, s. of County Road 667 N/A Not for publication
city, town Dillwyn N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Buckingham code 029 zip code 23936

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-rows for Contributing and Noncontributing buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

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)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary structures
FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary structures
FUNERARY: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:
Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood: weatherboard
roof Slate
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Caryswood is a farm of 711 acres, 117 acres of which are included in the nominated property located south of Hornquarter Road (County Route 617) and northeast of Dillwyn in eastern Buckingham County near its border with Cumberland County. The eleven contributing resources at Caryswood include the main house (built around 1855 with an addition in 1915), four mid-nineteenth-century frame slave/tenant houses, an icehouse, two early-twentieth-century barns, a corn silo, a henhouse, and the Page and Trent family cemetery. Noncontributing resources include two mid-twentieth-century barns and an in-ground swimming pool. The historic resources are in good and unaltered condition.

The main house is a two-story, three-bay, frame structure on a low brick basement with a hipped roof and end chimneys. There is a one-story entrance porch on the south facade. The windows feature six-over-six sash with Greek Revival-period frames with plain corner blocks. There are vertical corner boards with plain blocks below the eaves at each corner of the house. The trim on these corners and around the windows and doors consists of four graduated bands, a motif used throughout the exterior and interior of the house. The original one-story wing to the north was raised to two stories in 1915. The interior of Caryswood features a single-pile/central-hall plan. There is a wealth of Greek Revival woodwork, using the aforementioned four-graduated-band motif around mantels, windows, doors, and along the baseboard and beneath the stairs. The first-floor bedroom and the two bedrooms on the second floor feature unusual corner closets flanking the fireplaces. The 1915 second floor addition of the north wing features a library/hall and three bedrooms, while the first floor of the wing features a kitchen. The contributing outbuildings are located to the north, east, and northwest of the main house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1855-1915

Significant Dates

1855; 1915

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The main house at Caryswood, built in 1855 for Edward Trent Page, is significant as a well-executed example of vernacular Greek Revival residential architecture, with original woodwork, mantels, and hardware. Three of the bedrooms have unusual corner closets with croisette woodwork facings, a feature found in two other Cary family houses, Glen Burnie and Carysbrook in Fluvanna County. Its last and only alteration occurred in 1915 when its owners Bessie Page and John Gannaway Trent added a second story to the dining and kitchen wing to the north. Along with the house is an intact collection of service outbuildings, including four slave/tenant cottages, an icehouse, two barns, a henhouse and corn silo, as well as the Trent and Page family cemetery. Caryswood has remained in the hands of descendants of the original Cary family patentees since the seventeenth century.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albemarle County Land Records
Buckingham County Will Records
Buckingham County Land Records
Buckingham County Surveyor's Books (Volumes I and II)
Buckingham County Land Tax Records
Buckingham County Personal Property Tax Records
Cumberland County Will Records
Cumberland County Land Tax Records
Brock, Robert K. Archibald Cary of Amphill. (Richmond: 1937)
Farrar, Emmie. Old Virginia Houses-- The Heart of Virginia (Charlottesville: 1978)
Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia (Farmville Herald: Farmville) 1932
Pennington, Margaret. The Courthouse Burned (Farmville: 1975)

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:

- 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.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 117 acres

UTM References

A	17	736180	4159740	B	17	736340	4159280
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	17	735760	4159380	D	17	735840	4159760

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: (see above).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings, fields and cemetery that have been associated historically with Caryswood and that maintain historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry
organization _____ date October 1991
street & number 1515 Rutledge Avenue telephone 804-293-8006
city or town Charlottesville state Va. zip code 22903

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Caryswood is a 711-acre farm, of which 117 acres are included in the nominated property, located approximately five miles north east of Dillwyn in eastern Buckingham County near its border with Cumberland County. The property is located south of Hornquarter Road (County Route 617) and east of County Route 667. The topography is generally flat and the property is watered by Halfway Branch and Hatcher's Creek; these creeks have served as boundaries and historical identifications for this originally 2000-acre plantation since colonial days. The main entrance to the property is by a driveway from Route 667 which winds through four large pastures punctuated by small stands of trees and terminates in a circle to the rear (north) of the main house. The house is shade by several large old oak trees and there is an overgrown boxwood garden with trellises located to the west of the main house.

The eleven contributing historic resources at Caryswood consist of the following: the main house, built around 1855 with a 1915 addition; four mid-nineteenth-century slave/tenant houses, an icehouse, two early-twentieth-century barns, a corn silo and a henhouse. They are in fair to good condition and are mostly unaltered. The Page and Trent family cemetery located to the east of the main house is also a contributing resource. The noncontributing resources include two buildings (twentieth-century barns) and a structure (an in-ground swimming pool).

The main house was built around 1855 for Edward Trent Page and is a two-story, three-bay, hip-roofed, Greek Revival-style, frame and weatherboard structure on a low brick basement with brick gable-end chimneys and a two-story, three-bay wing on the north, the second story of which dates to 1915. The chimneys feature five-course American bond brickwork with some penciled mortar joints. There is a one-story, one-bay, hip-roofed entrance porch on the south facade with paired octagonal-section columns and Chinese Chippendale railing on the roof. Only the railing is not original.

The windows feature six-over-six sash with Greek Revival-period frames, plain corner blocks, and working louvered shutters. The windows on the second story are slightly shorter than those on

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

the first story. The original four-panel door of the main entrance features a four-pane transom and Greek Revival trim with plain corner blocks. The house has wide eaves and a simple cornice. There are vertical corner boards with plain blocks below the eaves at each corner of the house. The trim on these corners and around the windows and doors consists of four graduated bands, a motif used throughout the exterior and interior of the house. The entrance on the west side of the north wing dates from the 1915 second floor addition and features a Colonial Revival surround with fluted Ionic pilasters, a cushion frieze, and a dentiled pediment. The first-floor windows of the north wing date from 1855 and are identical to the rest of the house, while the second-floor windows date from 1915 and have simpler trim and four-over-four sash. There is an entrance on the north leading from the kitchen to a small enclosed porch.

Like the exterior, the interior of Caryswood is almost completely unchanged since its construction, with the exception of the second floor addition to the north wing in 1915 along with the introduction of electricity and plumbing. The interior features a single-pile/central-hall plan with a parlor on the east, a bedroom on the west, and a dining room in the original part of the north wing. Floors, room arrangements, and dimensions are entirely original, as the closets were originally built in and there are no baths or other service rooms on this floor. The second floor features two bedrooms flanking a wide hall and a third smaller bedroom, now a bath. The second floor of the north wing features a library/hall, three bedrooms, and a back stair.

There is a wealth of original Greek Revival woodwork on the interior, crisply executed and well-proportioned, although still somewhat vernacular in style. The aforementioned four-graduated-band motif is used throughout the first floor around mantels, window and door frames, and along the baseboard and under the stair. All rooms on the first floor feature a molded and dentiled cornice. The doors feature a half-croisette design at the top and there is a handsome double-door with transom between the hall and the dining room. The doors retain their original locks and hardware stamped with English seals. The two mantels feature a half-croisette design at the top, a simple shelf, and a brick and slate hearth. The mantel in the living room features a dentiled cornice as well.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

The first-floor bedroom, like the two on the second floor, features built-in corner closets with half-croisette surrounds and original shelves. These distinctive corner closets are similar to those found in other Cary family homes, such as Glen Burnie and Carysbrook in Fluvanna County.

The dining room retains its dentiled and molded cornice and two doors at the north end. One of these now leads to the kitchen, the other to the cellar. The fireplace is at the north end and features a mantel with Greeek Revival trim similar to that seen elsewhere in the house.

The main stair rises in two stages from the left side of the central hall and features a simple molded walnut handrail, square newel post, and two rectangular-section balusters per tread. The bedrooms on the second floor retain their original baseboard, window and door trim, and unusual corner closets, the latter flanking the fireplaces. The east bedroom has an additional double-door closet on its west wall. All doors retain their original locks stamped with English seals. The south bedroom is now a bathroom, although all window and door trim is original. A small door provides access to the west bedroom from the bath .

In 1915 a second floor was added to the original north wing. This floor contains three small bedrooms (without fireplaces), a long hall with built-in shelves, a bath, and a small enclosed stair to the kitchen below. The floors, door and window trim, and door hardware are distinctly different from that in the original part of the house. The doors feature four horizontal panels and have simple flat trim. The kitchen on the first floor has fluted trim with bull's-eye corners blocks around the windows and doors.

Four small antebellum slave/tenant houses are located in an uneven row to the north of the main house. Each one-story frame house features a raised brick basement, a pyramidal roof, six-over-six-sash windows with simple frames, and a batten door. Each features one room on the interior and was heated by a woodstove with an outside metal pipe for a flue. The wood floors, although old, may have replaced the original dirt floors. One of the houses has an additional smaller house attached to it on the north. The houses, probably built at the same time as the main

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

house, continued in use by workers and servants at Caryswood until well into the twentieth century. At least one of them may have been used as a smokehouse as well. The houses are now used for storage.

The other contributing resources at Caryswood include the partially deteriorated frame icehouse located to the east of the tenant houses; the cemetery, surrounded by a low brick wall with an iron gate, in which the remains of all past owners of Caryswood since 1855 are buried; two early-twentieth century frame barns, (probably tobacco barns) located to the northwest of the main house; a nearby wood-and-metal corn silo along with a dilapidated frame henhouse. Noncontributing resources include the in-ground pool located to the south of the cemetery and two mid-twentieth-century barns at the western edge of the nominated property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

HISTORY

Caryswood has been in the hands of of the prominent Cary and Page families of Virginia for three hundred years and is still owned by one of their direct descendants. The first member of the Cary family in Virginia was Miles Cary, who had his Buckingham County lands surveyed in 1671. 1 One of the original survey stones bearing the date 1671 and the initials M. C. is still kept at Caryswood. The farm was also owned by his grandson Archibald Cary (1721-1787) a distinguished member of the Virginia colonial government. His will in 1787 gave to "my son-in-law Carter Page and to his wife Mary . . . all that tract of land in Buckingham County on the north side of Hatchers Creek and on the south side of Hornquarter Road containing about two thousand seven hundred acres." 2 Along with this land, referred to as "half-way branch Plantation", Mary Page received "all my Stocks, Waggon, Cart and plantation utensils at or belonging to my plantation." 3 In 1796 Page had 1,200 acres of his land west of the Buckingham /Cumberland line, including the present-day Caryswood, surveyed and this plat survives in the Buckingham County courthouse. 4

At his death in 1825, Major Page's Halfway Branch plantations were willed to his son John Cary Page (1784-1853) and his wife Mary Anna Trent Page (born 1790). 5 He may have built a small house on the western four hundred acres of his Halfway Branch plantation around 1849. The land tax records for this year note that "improvements were added" and an 1871 mortgage deed described a "two-story dwelling with orchard, barn and tobacco houses. 6 One of Page's sons, Edward Trent Page (1833-1897) married Bettie Coupland Nicholas (1834-1904) of Seven Islands in that same year and this may have been their first house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

In 1853 the Halfway Branch plantation (by then consisting of approximately 836 acres) was inherited by Edward Trent Page and renamed Caryswood in honor of its historical association with the Cary family. 7 There he raised four children and took in boarders, his residence at Caryswood interrupted only by his service in Company A of the 16th Virginia infantry during the Civil War. The farm's value appears to have decreased substantially during the 1860-1880 period and Page was forced to give up his right to the old Union Hill plantation and in 1871 he mortgaged the west four hundred acres of Caryswood. 8 During the 1870-1890 period he abandoned tobacco cultivation and grew only wheat and corn. 9 Page's farm account books still remain from this period and give many insights into the management of a late-nineteenth-century farm in rural Buckingham County.

The Census for 1880 also noted a Sally Brown, a 25-year-old Negro servant living on the farm. 10 One of her descendants still works at Caryswood and owns several photographs of her ancestors, all of whom were born and worked at the farm, taken in front of the tenant houses (formerly slave dwellings) to the rear of the house.

A combination of archival, land tax records, and architectural evidence appear to pinpoint the date of construction of Caryswood at 1855. The land tax records noted \$1,500 worth of improvements for this year, a figure which is paralleled by the value accorded in the 1860 census and in a special tax assessment levied in Buckingham County in 1859. 11

The house built by Page is a well-executed example of Greek Revival architecture. It is also a relatively pure example of this style, lacking elements of either the lingering Federal style or the Italianate style then in vogue. Much of the ethos of the Greek Revival style--the stark simplicity of its exterior massing, severe lines, geometric detail, and strict attention to symmetry and proportion--are evident at Caryswood. The simple exterior, broken only by the projecting mass of the rear wing and the small one-story porch, lacks any of the asymmetry or visual interest of house designs popularized by Downing or other "picturesque" architects. Decorative elements are few and are confined to the four-graduated-band motif seen around doors and window openings, mantels, and even along the baseboards. This motif, thoroughly Greek Revival in its stark simplicity and crisp execution (which

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

encouraged the sharp shadows admired by Greek Revival-style architects), replaced the older molded surrounds and trim seen in Colonial and Federal-period houses. The house also possesses some individual touches of its own; the corner closets in the bedrooms were derived most probably from those found in at least two other Cary family houses, Carysbrook in Fluvanna County, built for Wilson Jefferson Cary around 1828 and Glen Burnie, built by Miles Cary near Palmyra in Fluvanna County in 1817. As both houses were probably designed by John H. Cocke, Caryswood can claim at least partial descent from this well-known central Virginia builder.

In 1904 the Caryswood farm was divided among the four children; Edward Trent Page, Jr, Mary Haynes, John Page, and Bessie Trent, with the farmhouse and surrounding 168 acres going to Bessie and her husband John Gannaway Trent. 12 In 1915 the Trents added the second story to the dining and kitchen wing, as well as the handsome Colonial Revival-style entrance on the west side of this wing. They were also responsible for the planting of the boxwood garden on the west side of the house. In 1934 the farm was inherited by their daughters Kate Gannaway Trent and Page Trent, along with the latter's husband Branch Bird of Idaho. 13 It was during their ownership that Caryswood became a summer residence for the family. Through numerous inheritances the other parts of the farm that were split off in the 1904 division returned to Caryswood, and it now comprises more than seven hundred acres. The house is now lived in year round by Mrs. Branch Bird, a descendant of the original Cary family. Many of the furnishings at Caryswood are from homes with Page or Cary associations such as Rosewell, Berkeley, Seven Islands, and Union Hill.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

REFERENCES:

- 1 Robert K. Brock Archibald Cary of Ampthill page 17
- 2 *ibid*, page 274.
- 3 Buckingham County "List of Tithables" and "Special Census-Buckingham County 1787).
- 4 Buckingham County Survey Book, page 109.
- 6 Buckingham County Land Tax Records 1849
- 5 Cumberland County Will Book 8, page 89.
- 7 Buckingham County Deed Book 1, page 491.
- 8 *ibid* pages 491-492.
- 9 United Census of Manufacturers, Edward Trent Page 1860, 1870, and 1880.
- 10 United States Census, Edward Trent Page 1880.
- 11 Buckingham County Land Tax Records 1855.
- 12 Buckingham County Deed Book 9 page 138.
- 13 Buckingham County Will Book 3, page 542.

14-68

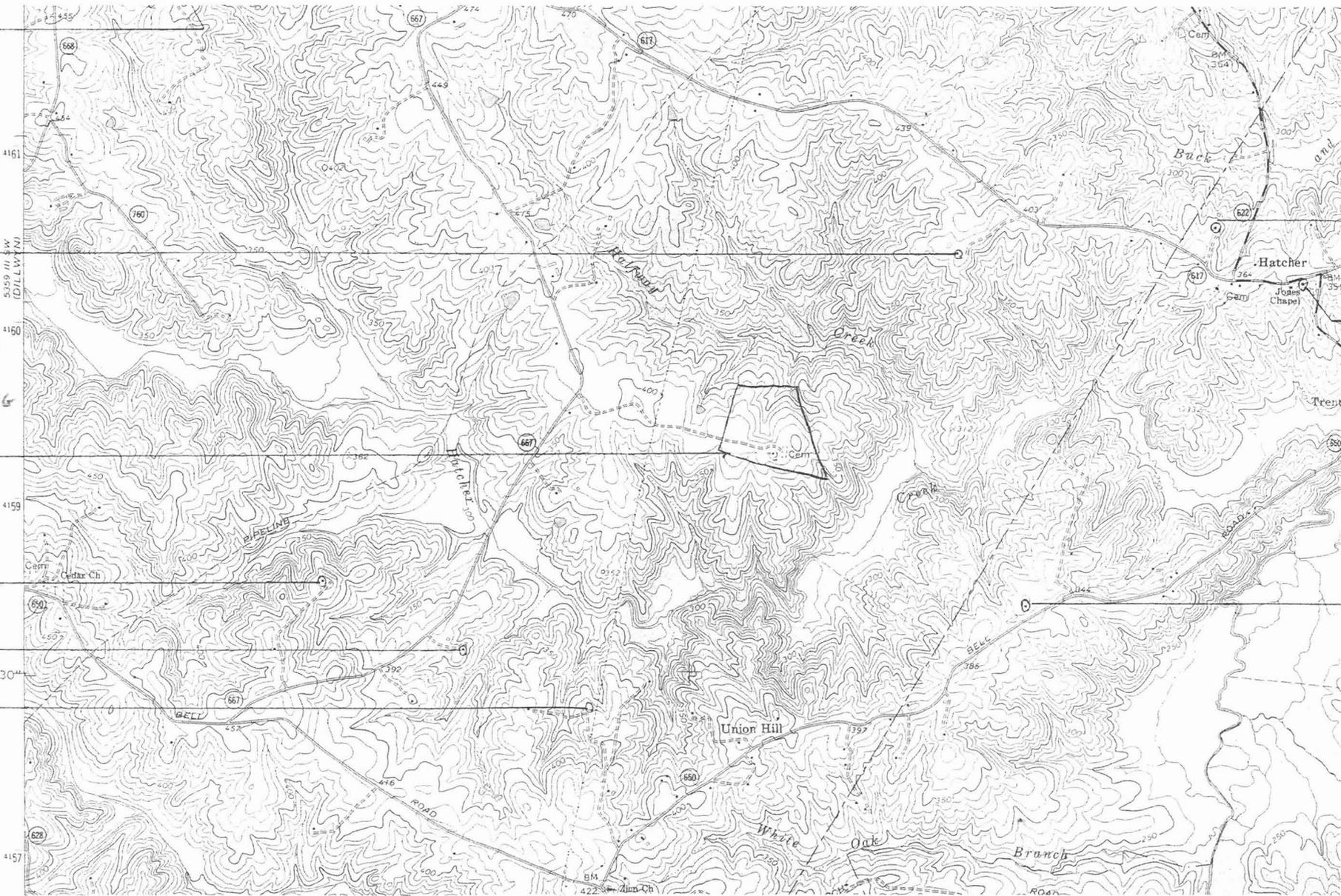
14-8

14-18

14-2

14-66

14-71



GOLD HILL
QUAD
2/1991 MAPPING

5359 M W
(DILLON)

32°30'