

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

VER- 9-19-72
NRHP- 4-11-73

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: CHARLOTTE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
ROANOKE PLANTATION

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1.4 mi. SE of Rt. 746, 1.3 mi. S of intersection with Rt. 612.

CITY OR TOWN:
Saxe vicinity (W. C. Daniel, Fifth District Congressman)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Charlotte	CODE 037
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Charles T. Willis

STREET AND NUMBER:
Roanoke Plantation

CITY OR TOWN: Randolph	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Charlotte County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charlotte Court House	STATE Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 11
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3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>HISTORY</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Wise remembered passing the plantation at Roanoke as a youthful dispatch rider for General Lee in 1865: "It looked desolate and overgrown. 'Oh, John Randolph, John, John' thought I, as I rode by, 'you have gotten some other Johns, in fact the whole breed of Johnnies, into a pack of trouble.'" The young dispatch rider, born in 1846, thirteen years after the great statesman and orator had died, was far from his own home on Virginia's Eastern Shore, and yet his instinctive identification of John Randolph with Roanoke's heavily-wooded acres should have surprised no one. Few men have been so closely identified with a place as Randolph was with Roanoke Plantation and Southside Virginia.

The present Roanoke Plantation represents a small portion of the land patented in Southside during the 1730s by John Randolph's grandfather, Richard Randolph of Curles. It is substantially that tract of land, once known as the Middle Quarter of Roanoke Plantation, where John Randolph had his residence and kept his famous stud of blooded horses. At the time of his death in 1833, Randolph owned 8207 acres of productive land in Charlotte County.

Following the prolonged Randolph - will litigation, Judge Wood Bouldin purchased the Middle Quarter of Roanoke; the Lower and Ferry Quarters along with Randolph's other plantations passing to other owners. The Middle Quarter, being most intimately associated with the great and eccentric Randolph, attracted the attention of his contemporaries and successors who recorded their impressions of the land and buildings.

John Randolph of Roanoke, Charlotte County, Virginia: the written and oral traditions of Southside attest to the continued identification of the man with the place throughout the nineteenth century; Randolph, himself, adopted the appendage, "of Roanoke." And so to this day -- in spite of the fact that Randolph's successor at Roanoke was a distinguished member of the bench and bar and of the Virginia Convention of 1861; and further that this gentleman is buried on the plantation, while John Randolph's mortal remains have long since been removed to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond -- no one questions the identification of the man with his home and plantation.

With the exception of a single defeat, Randolph was returned to the House of Representatives each time he offered for the seat from 1799 through 1825. According to the aristocratic Randolph, the people of his Congressional District were "such constituents as man never had before, and never will again." For their part they returned him to the House with regularity; regarding him with sustained fascination, and evincing a deference already anachronistic by Jeffersonian times.

A man of rare integrity, Randolph, who had become Majority Leader in

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(Number all entries)

the House at the age of 28, sacrificed this position and gave up all claims to future party preferment or higher office when he broke with the Jefferson Administration over matters of principal. A decade later his vehement opposition to the War of 1812 caused his strongly-hawkish constituents to deny him reelection.

He was elected to the Senate in 1825, losing that office in 1827, he moved back to the House. He served briefly as Minister to Russia and was a delegate--in the company of Madison and Marshall--to Virginia's Constitutional Convention of 1829-30. Three years later, he died at Philadelphia, having completed the first part of a journey that was to have carried him to England in a last, vain attempt to find peace of mind and body. His mortal remains were returned to Charlotte County and interred beside his "little cabin" at Roanoke.

Such are the facts to be found in a thumb-nail sketch of John Randolph's career, but what of his character and worth? Randolph was a man of genius and parts--almost of necessity his biographers have been lesser men. Randolph was a superb orator and rhetorician; as such his biography is in his speeches--of which the words along remain. To write the biography of a man whom all recognize to be sui generis, one of a kind, is no small task. Who or what will serve as analogies? How does the biographer contain and reduce such a subject to manageable proportions?

The pet child of nature, the pampered child of fortune, he might have been the object of universal admiration and universal envy. The martyr of diseases of mind and body, he was the victim of destiny, inscrutable to himself and incomprehensible to others. Who would not have been John Randolph? Who would have been?

No one has written of the strange John Randolph with greater insight than was expressed in these three sentences by his half-brother Nathaniel Beverley Tucker.

H.P.P.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Roanoke's rich river-bottom and hilly pasture continue to support a large-scale livestock operation as they did in John Randolph's time - although the blooded horses of that great but eccentric statesman, planter, and equestrian have given way to cattle. Directly to the rear of the house-complex, there are hundreds of acres of dense woodlands, reminiscent of those which formerly enveloped Randolph's home. Contemporaries wrote of "remote and isolated Roanoke. . . , where the dense primeval woods shut in the two rude habitations." The honorable Member of the House of Representatives lived in a house "so completely and closely environed by trees and underwood of original growth, that it seemed to have been taken by the top and let down into the bosom of a dense virgin forest."

The plantation complex at Roanoke included a handful of outbuildings and the two small frame houses that together formed the residence. A contemporary found Randolph's "whole establishment so unique that it is worth going a hundred miles to see; so much simplicity combined with so much elegance." The elegance provided by an outstanding library of perhaps a thousand volumes, a formal dining service, portraits and engravings. Otherwise Randolph's home was not unlike that of the average Virginia farmer of the period.

There are several detailed descriptions, a floor plan, and engraving of the two frame cottages which were known respectively as the summer house and the winter house. The one: consisting of a bedroom and library upstairs, another bedroom and a drawing room downstairs, and a shed-type porch with unhewn posts and cobble-stone pavement, was incorporated into the larger residence built by Wood Bouldin. This building, destroyed by fire in 1879, occupied a site directly behind the large turn-of-the-century frame house now used as the plantation residence.

The remaining cottage is an extremely simple one-story three-bay structure with exterior-end brick chimneys. The building is covered by a steep gable roof and is fronted by a shed roof porch that is framed into the structure of the cottage. Immediately to the west of the second cottage is a two-room, gable-end-front frame structure that has not been positively identified as dating from the Randolph occupancy. Behind these two buildings is an early smokehouse. On the lawn just to the west of the present residence is a low rough boulder marking the site of John Randolph's first grave.

Roanoke Plantation still evokes the image of Randolph's time and milieu, and suggests something of his personality. While one of his "cabins" has been replaced by a later larger house, the second (with its kitchen and an additional outbuilding), remains in a good state of preservation. The wood has been cut back, but not eliminated. The roadway through the plantation has been improved, but follows the original roadbed. At some distance from the house complex, there is another early building; this may have been an overseer's house and is presently in poor condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

H.P.P.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anon., "Grave of John Randolph," Littleton's Living Age, XI (1846):195.
 Bruce, William Cabel, John Randolph of Roanoke, 2 vols., 1922.
 Bryan, John Randolph, Letters from, Richmond Times-Dispatch, May 20, 1878;
 (Richmond) State, Dec. 12 & 13, 1879; Mss account of Roanoke in the
 Virginia Historical Society.
 Carrington, J. Cullen, Charlotte County Virginia, 1907.
 Grigsby, Hugh Blair, "The Library of John Randolph," Southern Literary
 Messenger, XX (1854), 79-82.
 Harrison, Fairfax, The Roanoke Stud, 1795-1833, 1930.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36 ° 55 ' 45 "	78 ° 43 ' 25 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	36 ° 55 ' 45 "	78 ° 42 ' 14 "				
SE	36 ° 53 ' 45 "	78 ° 42 ' 14 "				
SW	36 ° 53 ' 45 "	78 ° 43 ' 25 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 926 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION: **VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION** DATE: **August, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____ J. R. Fishburne, Director Va. Historic Landmarks Commission Title _____ Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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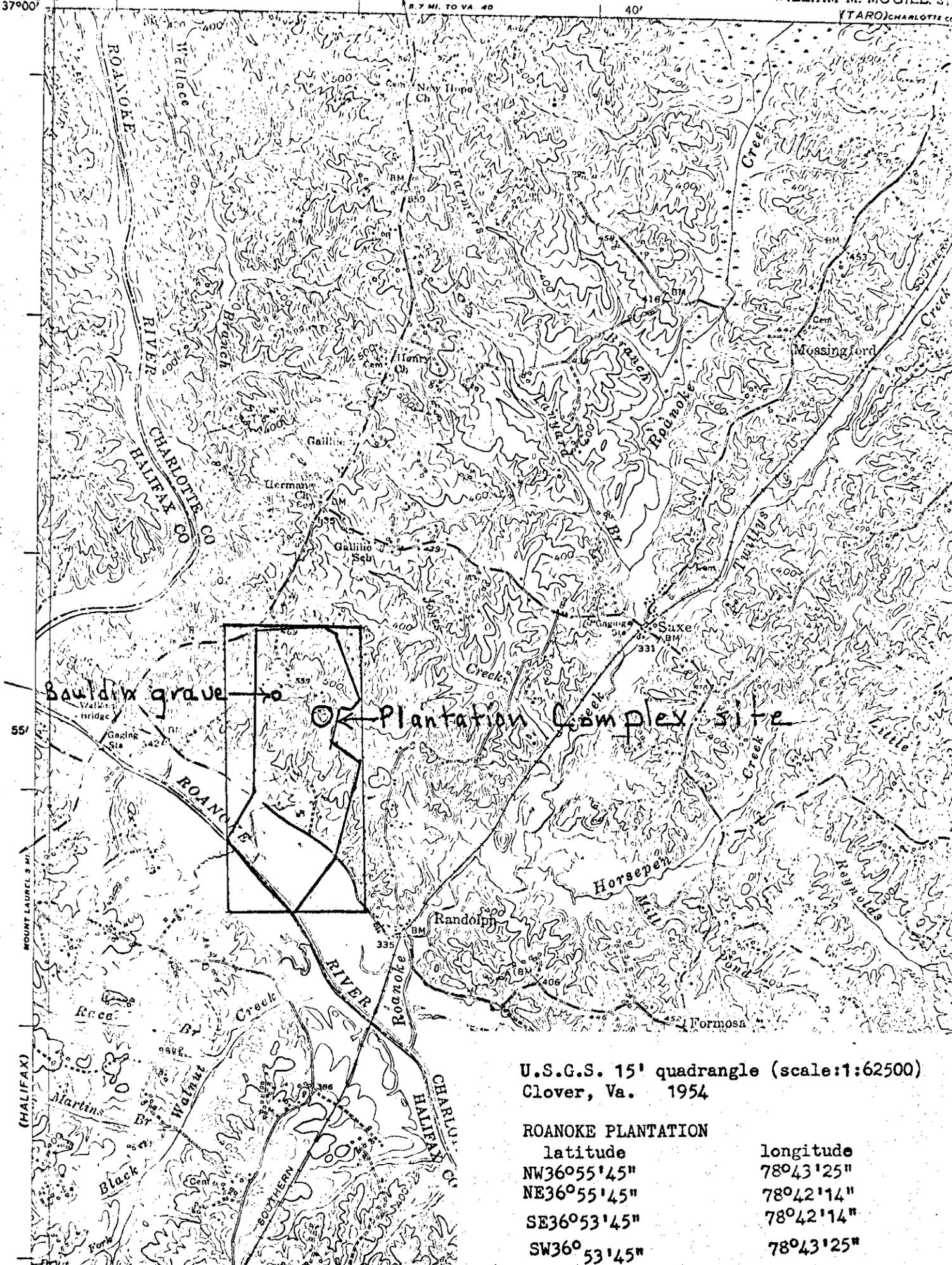
(Number all entries)

Howe, Henry, Historical Collections of Virginia, 1845.
Kirk, Russell, Randolph of Roanoke: A Study in Conservative Thought, 1951.
(Tucker, Nathaniel Beverley), "Garland's Life of Randolph," The Southern Quarterly Review, IV, n.s. (1851): 41-61.
Wise, John S., The End of An Era, 1899.

78°45'
37°00'

0.7 MI. TO VA. 40 40'

Over-bridge



U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle (scale:1:62500)
Clover, Va. 1954

ROANOKE PLANTATION	
latitude	longitude
NW36°55'45"	78°43'25"
NE36°55'45"	78°42'14"
SE36°53'45"	78°42'14"
SW36°53'45"	78°43'25"