

VLR-2/18/75 NRHP-6/10/75

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Chesterfield
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Trabue's Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Pleasant View

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .5 mile north of Route 60; North side of Route 677; .6 mile northwest of intersection of Routes 677 and 147.

CITY OR TOWN: (Midlothian vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Chesterfield CODE: 041

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input 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 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Jay G. Kauffman

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1, Box 49

CITY OR TOWN: Midlothian STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Chesterfield STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE:  
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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

Trabue's Tavern, known to its nineteenth-century owners as Pleasant View plantation, stands on the old Buckingham Road near Midlothian in Chesterfield County. Though it is now engulfed in a housing development, the property retains a significant portion of the core of the old plantation, including six early-nineteenth-century outbuildings and the family cemetery.

The present house is in two parts--an early one-and-one-half-story western wing with a lean-to and a later two-story eastern wing with a one-story rear lean-to. Both are framed structures with gable roofs and box cornices covered with beaded weatherboards. The two-story portion is, in addition, brick nogged. The three principal chimneys (one exterior chimney at each end and one between the wings) all date from the early-nineteenth century and have Flemish-bond brickwork with stepped weatherings. The fourth chimney, an exterior chimney on the lean-to of the western wing, has been heavily rebuilt.

The western wing is two-bays long with two pedimented dormers on the south (front) slope, a lean-to-type porch on the rear, and pent closets flanking the principal chimney. The larger wing is four-bays long with the front door in the second bay from the west. It has a full cellar with a Flemish-bond brick basement, but its rear lean-to was built on brick piers which have since been infilled. All of the first-floor windows on the facade of the house have early-nineteenth-century nine-over-nine sash. The second-floor sash in the east wing are six-over-nine, and the dormers of the west wing have six-over-six sash.

The house has had a curious structural history. Presently its plan consists of a large front room and a single lean-to room in the earlier wing and an entrance and stair hall flanked on the west by a small parlor and on the east by a very large one in the east wing. The lean-to in the latter wing is occupied by a sun room, a bathroom, and a bedroom (west to east). Mutual Assurance Society policies dated 1802 and 1805, respectively, along with structural evidence, show that this form of the house postdates the early-nineteenth century. The policies show that the lean-to in the east wing was once a closet and an open porch and that the small room to the west of the stair hall was once much smaller. The 1805 policy shows it as a 10' by 10' "small room that unites the wing to the m(ain) body." The sun room behind it was once an open porch. This, when combined with the physical evidence, presents a picture of Trabue's Tavern in the early-nineteenth century as a building having a one-and-one-half-story wing and a two-story wing connected by a one-story hyphen and unified by a one-story front porch stretching most of the way (56 feet) across all three portions. (The porch was removed after 1956.)

The west wing, reputedly built around 1730, was heavily damaged by termites and its interior stripped out. However, it retains some early raised-panel doors with their hardware, a closed winder stair in the southeast corner, and handsome exposed beaded joists. The front room has been refinished using beaded horizontal chestnut sheathing from an outbuilding. The fireplace in the lean-to, which was once divided into two rooms, has a pleasant mid-nineteenth-century mantel with simple quatrefoils in the frieze. (see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet) #1

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7. DESCRIPTION

In the two ground-floor rooms of the east wing are fine, though unpretentious, early-nineteenth-century mantels with paneled pilasters. The fireplaces here, as in the rest of the house, are of the shallow type designed to burn coal from the Trabues' Midlothian mine. Both the front and rear doorways of this wing have double-tier, ten-light transoms and double three-panel, raised-panel doors with original HL hinges. The rear doorway also retains its original bar and staples. In the stair hall, in the large eastern parlor, and in both upstairs rooms are double-beaded chairboards. The rear first-floor bedroom, once a porch, still has its beaded weatherboards in which the scar of a closed-off window in the north wall of the large front room can be seen.

The house apparently underwent a renovation in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. It is likely that the small hyphen room in the east wing was enlarged and raised to two stories at this time, for with the exception of the first-floor mantel, all of the woodwork on both floors in this section of the house is of the Greek Revival style. The door into the chamber displays early graining as well.

The outbuildings at Trabue's Tavern are outstanding in their own right. They are ranged along a street extending north from the rear of the house. Closest to the house is the well house, a nineteenth-century structure of substantial construction containing an early pump and a square wooden bucket. The present owners have added an unobtrusive pump house to the east end.

Next to the well house is the dairy with a dovecote in its gable. Like all the other outbuildings, this is a framed structure with a gable roof and box cornice. It features latticework under the eaves on the front and pigeon holes in the south gable. Through a window in the north gable can be seen the nesting compartments.

The smokehouse, the next building along the street, has a laundry attached as a lean-to to its north gable end. The smokehouse is a close-studded building with a striking diamond-studded, double-thickness door. It has a brick floor but no firebox. The interior of the attached laundry is sheathed with horizontal beaded boards and its brick chimney, on the back wall, is laid in irregular American bond.

Across the street from the smokehouse is the building now known as the kitchen. Once dirt-floored, a wooden floor has been inserted in it by the present owners. At an earlier date the chimney was removed and a rear door was blocked.

Adjacent to the smokehouse to the north is another building identified in the 1805 insurance policy as the kitchen. It is a two-bay building which has had a lean-to added to the west gable end and a chimney removed from the same end. It has been heavily robbed of materials but is worthy of repair as an integral part of the group.

(See continuation sheet #2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) #2

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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

Another two-bay building very like the old kitchen terminates the street on the north. Known as the schoolhouse, it has a brick chimney with stepped weatherings, laid in irregular American bond, on its west end and a simple Federal-type mantel inside. Its joists were exposed and whitewashed but not beaded. It is from this building that the chestnut sheathing now in the west wing of the main house was taken.

Though no stones survive, a cast-iron fence, provided for in the mid-nineteenth-century will of Macon Trabue, still encircles the family graveyard which is west of the street of outbuildings. Until 1969, there was a plaque with the legend "Trabue" on the gate.

Also standing in 1969, but now vanished, was a large barn northeast of the house. It fell victim to the housing development.

DTU

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Trabue's Tavern stands as a relic of Midlothian's busy coal-producing era and is an important example of a Southside plantation complex. The house served as the home of one of the principal mine-owning families as well as an inn patronized by travelers and miners alike. Trabue's Tavern also possesses an outstanding street of early-nineteenth-century outbuildings unrivaled in the area, though its rural setting on the old Buckingham Road is rapidly being obliterated by a housing development.</p> <p>The first American Trabue was Antoine Strabo, from Montaubon, France, whose name was Anglicized after his arrival in Virginia in the late-seventeenth century with a group of Huguenot refugees. Many of these refugees, including Trabue, settled south of the James River in that part of Henrico County which has since become Chesterfield and Powhatan counties. When the original Trabue died in 1724, he left part of his holdings, including the land Trabue's Tavern stands on, to his son Jacob, who is believed to have built the west wing of the house in about 1730.</p> <p>As early as 1709, coal was discovered on the estate of William Byrd II near Falling Creek in the present Chesterfield County, and other deposits in the Midlothian area were uncovered soon after that. Byrd established a private mine, and by the 1730s several other local families had done so as well. Twenty years later, the first commercially produced coal in America was being mined at Midlothian. The Trabues became involved in the industry very early, for when Jacob Trabue died in 1767, he left the tavern to his son John, along with "the free liberty of digging Coles in the Lands devised my son Daniel" for a period of ten years.</p> <p>The house and the mine remained in the Trabue family for many years. Coal mining in Midlothian disappeared by 1925, but the house did not leave the family until 1956. John Trabue bequeathed it to his son John Elmore (who probably enlarged the house and built the outbuildings) in 1791, and he in turn left it to Macon Trabue in 1828. It passed to Thomas Macon Trabue, then to a cousin, Alexander Macon Trabue, and finally to the latter's nephew Stafford Philips. The property was sold out of the family to Mrs. Ruby Inge in 1956 and was purchased by Raymond L. Scott in 1969. It has recently been sold again.</p> <p>As interesting as the house and its connections are the outbuildings which formed the core of the farm alternately referred to by John Elmore Trabue as "my plantation calld pleasant view" and "my plantation called (see continuation sheet #3)</p>			

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Trabues Tavern" in Mutual Assurance Society policies of 1802 and 1805, respectively. These buildings include the ever-present smokehouse, which is distinguished by its brick floor and seventeenth-century-type diamond-studded door, a kitchen, a schoolhouse, and a dairy with a latticework ventilator. Also present are a dovecote (included in the dairy), a survival of the earlier upperclass habit of eating squab, and a laundry, a necessary service in a large establishment, especially one which served the public. While other sites possess examples of these and other outbuildings, it is quite unusual to find so many or to find them surviving along a plantation street. The Trabue's Tavern outbuildings are deserving of every effort for their preservation.

DTU

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Lutz, Francis Earle. Chesterfield: An Old Virginia County. Richmond: William Byrd Press, 1954.  
 Weaver, Bettie Woodson. Chesterfield County Virginia -- A History, 1970.  
 \_\_\_\_\_, "History in Towns--Midlothian, Virginia," Antiques, October 1969.  
 \_\_\_\_\_, "Trabue's Tavern Has Few Changes," Richmond Times-Dispatch, November 11, 1957.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA See continuation sheet #4**

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	0 . .	0 . .		37° 30' 42"	77° 37' 18"	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 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: January 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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:

National       State       Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.  
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date FEB 18 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #4

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Chesterfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

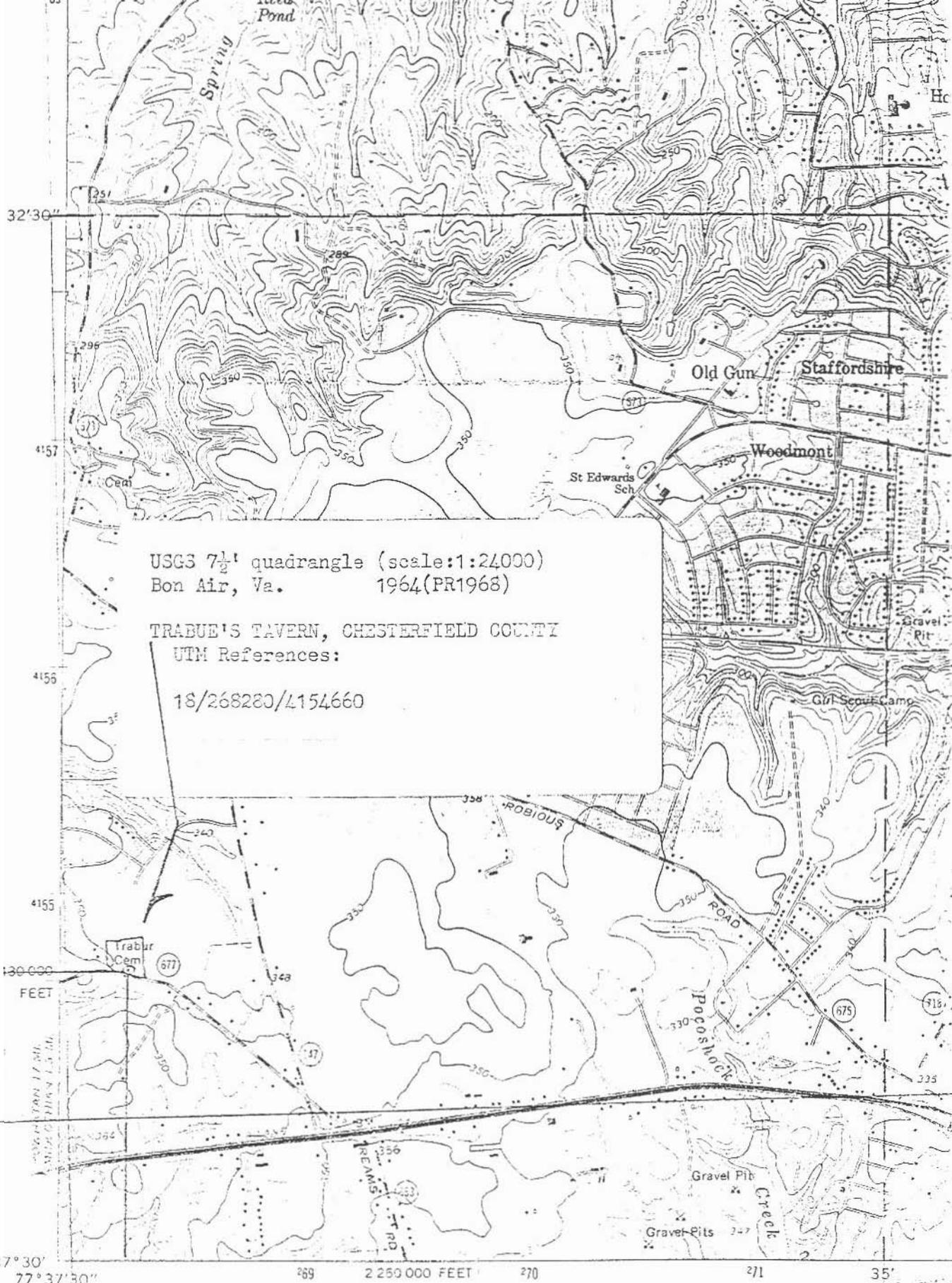
(Number all entries)

**10** GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	2, 6, 8	2, 8, 0	4, 1	5, 4	6, 6, 0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C						

B						
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
D						



USGS 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Bon Air, Va. 1964(PR1968)

TRABUE'S TAVERN, CHESTERFIELD COUNTY  
 UTM References:  
 18/268280/4154660

268280/  
 4154660

(HALLSBORO)  
 5458 1 NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
 photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1964  
 Supersedes Army Map Service Westhampton map dated 1936

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue

