

VLR - 9-15-92  
NRRP - 11-12-92

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 an 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 BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number VDHR FILE NO. 21-550

2. Location

street & number FOUR MILES WEST OF THE SHENANDOAH RIVER ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF US ROUTE 50/17. N/A  not for publication

city or town BOYCE  vicinity

state VIRGINIA code VA county CLARKE code 043 zip code 22620

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Joseph C. Miller 30 Sept 1992  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DIRECTOR, VA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
15	6	buildings
1	1	sites
1		structures
		objects
17	7	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET - PAGE 1

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET - PAGE 1

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK; STONE; CONCRETE

walls BRICK; STONE; Limestone; WOOD; Weatherboard; CONCRETE.

roof METAL; ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET - PAGE 2

**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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1825-1942

**Significant Dates**

1825

1926

1941

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**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,  
BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 712 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	755200	4327750
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	17	754300	4326240

3	17	752620	4327170
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	17	753020	4327820

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 MARAL S. KALBIAN-Architectural Historian EDWARD CONNOR-Director, Blandy Ex. Farm

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date APRIL 29, 1992

street & number ROUTE 1 BOX 86 telephone (703) 837-2081

city or town BOYCE state VA zip code 22620

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA - BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL STATION

street & number P.O. BOX 175 telephone (703) 837-1758

city or town BOYCE state VA zip code 22620

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 6&7 Page 1

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

### HISTORIC FUNCTIONS

DOMESTIC: Multiple dwelling  
Single dwelling  
Secondary structure

EDUCATION: Research Facility  
Education-related

LANDSCAPE: Other/Arboretum

AGRICULTURE: Storage  
Agricultural Outbuilding

### CURRENT FUNCTIONS

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling  
Secondary structure

EDUCATION: Research Facility  
Education-related

LANDSCAPE: Other/Arboretum

AGRICULTURE: Storage  
Agricultural Outbuilding

### ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION

FEDERAL  
COLONIAL REVIVAL  
BUNGALOW/CRAFTSMAN  
OTHER: VICTORIAN VERNACULAR  
OTHER: VERNACULAR HALL-PARLOR PLAN

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Blandy Experimental Farm Historic District is located in Clarke County, Virginia off of US Route 50/17 about four miles west of the Shenandoah River. The district contains 712 acres that Graham F. Blandy bequeathed to the University of Virginia after his death in 1926. Blandy requested that the property be used to educate students about different farming and agricultural practices. The property was historically part of the larger Tuleyries estate, also owned by Blandy.

The 712-acre section of the Tuleyries that he bequeathed to the University contained several building clusters including: a large, two-story, early-nineteenth-century, brick slave's quarters; a stone and brick stables that was later converted into a dwelling; a turn-of-the-century farmhouse and its associated agricultural and domestic-related outbuildings; a late-nineteenth-century vernacular hall-parlor-plan house; two historic dwelling sites; as well as orchards and fields of improved pasture. Shortly after the University began its program of agricultural biology at Blandy in 1927, part of the landscape was converted into an arboretum and the imposing ten-room slave's quarters, referred to as the Quarters, was converted into laboratories and student and faculty housing. In 1941 the Quarters building was greatly enlarged with the addition of three Colonial Revival wings designed by Stanislaw J. Makielski, a faculty member of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia. This addition created a U-shaped building with the original Quarters section as the east wing. A research greenhouse was also built at this time. After 1942 several machine sheds, a laboratory, and a genetics research complex were built on the property.

The district has much the same appearance that it had historically. The adjacent Tuleyries property, currently listed on the State and National Registers, has also retained its historical appearance and complements the Blandy Experimental Farm. The oldest of the standing buildings at Blandy is the east wing of the Quarters, which still retains its architectural integrity as do the other buildings that were on the site when it was acquired by the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3**BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA**

University. In 1986 the arboretum at Blandy was designated by the Virginia General Assembly as the State Arboretum of Virginia.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Blandy Experimental Farm Historic District is made up of 712 acres of prime agricultural land in Clarke County, Virginia. When the property was originally donated to the University of Virginia in 1926, the acreage consisted of a combination of orchard, pasture, and cultivated land. Presently, the Blandy complex is organized into three applications: the arboretum, commercial farming areas, and research areas. The Orland E. White Arboretum, located at the center of the property, is made up of 150 acres, with 100 acres planted in over 1,000 varieties of trees and shrubs. (Connor, p.1) The arboretum at Blandy has several landscape features such as Lake Georgette, an evergreen trail, terraces, a boxwood garden, a wildflower meadow, and a perennial and herb garden (photo 1). The focal point of the arboretum, however, is the Quarters, a U-shaped building which houses offices, laboratories, living accommodations, the library, the kitchen, the gift shop, and the dining room. The oldest part of the building is the east wing, which was built as a slave's quarters for the Tuleyries property.

Although it was added to in 1941, the original block of the Quarters is still highly distinguishable. Photographs taken around 1926 show the building in its original form (photo 2). Believed to have been constructed between 1825 and 1830, the Quarters is a two-story, five-bay brick building laid in five-course American bond with two interior-end and two interior brick chimneys. It sits on a low brick basement and has bold brick stepped-parapets which rise on each end of the building above the gable roof which is sheathed in standing-seam metal. The front of the building faces west and has six-over-six sash windows with flat brick arches above, a strong four-stepped brick cornice, and a central doorway. Its current form is very similar to the original (photo 3). The only major alterations are the replacement of the central doorway with a window, the removal of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

louver-wooden shutters, the replacement of the original wooden-shake roofing material with standing-seam metal, and the intersection of the 1941 wing. The Quarter's unusual stepped-parapet gable ends appear to have been a trademark of almost all of the outbuildings at the Tuleyries (photo 4).

The east side of the Quarters has changed even less. Again, a historic photo reveals that it originally had a two-story, two-level, ten-bay integral porch with square supports (photo 5). This porch has since been screened in (photo 6).

The plan of the Quarters building is a single-loaded-side-corridor type (photo 7). There are five rooms off of the side corridor on each story; each with its own door, fireplace, and window. The interior of this section of the Quarters is very plain. All of the mantels have been removed, the fireplaces closed-in, and closets added (photo 8).

When the University took over the property in 1926, no real changes were made to the Quarters building except that some of the rooms on the first floor were converted into laboratories. In 1930 an exterior stairway was constructed on the south end of the Quarters. This massive stone structure is made up of three arches of increasing height. At the time of the construction of the other wings in 1941, the original central front entrance to the Quarters was replaced with a window. In addition, a round-arched opening was made on each floor at the point where it connected it to the new central wing, an existing window on the second floor was closed-in, and the interior northeast staircase was moved to the center of the porch. The Quarters currently has laboratories on the first floor and dormitories and a bathroom on the second floor.

Although the use of this building has changed through time, the original configuration of rooms and almost all of the exterior architectural details on the Quarters are still intact. Thus, it is one of the largest and most original surviving examples of a nineteenth-century slave's quarters in the northern Shenandoah Valley.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5

## BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

The Quarters building was enlarged in 1941 with the addition of the front (central) block and two west wings. These additions were all two stories and constructed of concrete block with a brick stretcher-bond veneer. They were designed by Stanislaw J. Makielski, a faculty member of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. Makielski's designs not only respected the classical symmetry, subdued Federal details, and material of the original Quarters building, but also disturbed it as little as possible. His scheme consisted of a two-story U-shaped block reminiscent of the model set for college designs by the Wren building at the College of William and Mary.

The two-story wing which extends west from the original Quarters building is now the central block of the complex. The facade of this section is oriented towards the north and is approached from the front parking lot by a long walkway (photo 9). It is seven bays wide with a central round-arched entrance with two wrought-iron gates leading into the courtyard. This symmetrical facade has lunette windows with rounded rowlock-brick arches with keystones on the first floor, six-over-six sash windows with flat brick arches on the second floor, and is topped by a stepped brick cornice. An open cupola is centered atop the gable roof which is sheathed in standing-seam metal. This block is recessed one bay from each of the wings at its end. On the courtyard side of this wing is a seven-bay arcaded loggia on the first floor and a screened-in porch on the second floor (photo 10).

The west wing consists of two sections, both of which resemble the original Quarters building. The first section forms the west side of the U-shaped complex and houses offices and the dining room. It is constructed of concrete block with a stretcher-bond brick veneer and has brick stepped-parapet gable ends, side screened-in porches, paired full-height segmentally-arched twelve-over-twelve sash windows on the first floor, six-over-six sash windows with flat brick arches on the second floor, interior end brick chimneys, and an exterior-end brick stairway with an open archway beneath it (photo 10).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6

## BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

The second section is offset further to the west than the first section and extends to the south so as to provide a clear view of the mountains and arboretum to the south. It houses the kitchen and library on the first floor and faculty apartments on the second floor. It is connected to the dining room wing by a screened breezeway and has similar windows, screened-in porches, and chimneys. The brick parapets on this section are Flemish gables. The interior of the library reveals the restrained Colonial Revival details found throughout the 1941 additions (photo 11).

These new buildings enlarged the facilities at Blandy three-fold. They housed a dining room, kitchen, library, two three-room apartments for visitors, four more rooms for students, an herbarium, a storage room, a supply room, offices, a women's bathroom, two public restrooms, and three new laboratories. Counting the rooms in the old Quarters, there was now room to accommodate eighteen students and several visiting professors. (Schmidhauser, p. 85)

The Quarters is considered the main building at Blandy Experimental Farm. The other buildings are used either for housing, storage, or research. East of the Quarters is the Director's House (photo 12), constructed of stone with a brick addition and remodeled in the early twentieth century in the Craftsman style. The original three-bay, limestone section is 1 1/2-stories, with nine-over-nine sash windows, two gable-roofed dormers on the front, three gable-roofed dormers on the back, an interior-end brick chimney, wooden shingle in the half-story gable ends, exposed rafter ends, double-french front doors, and a gable roof covered in asphalt shingle. A one-bay pedimented portico with square supports, triangular brackets, built-in benches, and wooden shingles in the pediment, is centered on the front facade which faces east. The brick wing extends to the north and is also 1 1/2-stories, laid in five-course American bond. It has a central eyelid dormer with a four-light window. This wing is four bays wide, symmetrical, and has nine-over-nine windows, double four-panel doors, and a one-bay front porch with square supports on brick piers. It is also gable-roofed and clad in asphalt shingles. To the rear is a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

modern one-story, shed-roofed, frame addition and modern deck.

The stone section of the Director's house is believed to have been constructed during the mid-nineteenth century, and the brick section during the late nineteenth century. It is now used as a residence for one of the managers of Blandy, but appears on a 1905 map of the property labeled as the "old stables". (Map of Blandy) When it was converted into a dwelling in the early twentieth century, it was given exterior Craftsman details. A stone meathouse and a stone tool shed located behind the house date to the early twentieth century.

The Manager's House is a frame, hall-parlor plan vernacular dwelling located north of the Director's House (photo 13). It was moved to this site from another site on the Blandy property (21-550-017) around the year 1930. It is three-bays wide, with two-over-two sash windows, weatherboard siding, an interior-end brick flue, a plain frieze board, corner boards, and sits on a stone foundation. It is fronted by a three-bay, one-story, shed-roofed porch with chamfered columns and sawn brackets. The house has a rear 1 1/2-story gable-roofed wing. A frame tool shed and a frame equipment shed, both dating to the mid-twentieth century, are located on either side of the house.

The other dwelling in the Blandy Experimental Farm Historic District is part of a late-nineteenth-century farm complex located in the southeastern corner of the property. It was built by Jacob S. Garver between 1890 and 1900 and sold to Mr. Blandy along with 216 acres of farmland in 1905. (Garver interview) It then became part of the Tuleyries tract and was included in the land that Mr. Blandy left to the University of Virginia. The house faces Route 628 to the south and sits in a grove of mature trees surrounded by open fields.

This Victorian Vernacular-style, central-passage, single-pile-plan house is in remarkably original condition (photo 14). The two-story, three-bay, symmetrical, frame building clad in weatherboard sits on a stone basement and has one-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8

## BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

over-one sash windows (some paired) with louver-wooden shutters and is gable-roofed with a central-front gable. Some of the Victorian details include: a one-story protruding bay on either side of the front door, gable end returns, a plain freizeboard with applied scroll brackets, capped corner boards, two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps, four-light attic windows in the gable ends, and fishscale-wooden shingles and a round-arched one-over-one sash window in the central-front gable. The front door has a single-light transom and is fronted by a three-bay Victorian porch with turned supports and balusters, sawn brackets and pendants, and scroll brackets in the eaves. A gothic arch is formed in the end porch bays that meet the side protruding bays. The house has a two-story, gable-roofed, frame wing that extends five bays to the rear. It has a central brick flue, two-over-two sash windows, side two-story porches, capped corner boards, a plain frieze board, gable end returns, and louver-wooden shutters. This wing appears to have been built at the same time as the front of the house. The only major alteration to the house is the replacement of the original slate roof with asphalt shingle. A frame meathouse, chicken coop, and workshop are located behind the house.

The other outbuildings that are part of this complex are agriculturally-related and include historic and modern buildings. The bank barn and adjacent corn crib appear to have been built at about the same time as the house. The bank barn is located north of the house and has fine Victorian details such as louver-wooden vent-windows with pedimented surrounds, a pyramidally-roofed cupola with central-front gables and paired segmentally-arched louver-windows (photo 15). It sits on a roughly-coursed split-level stone basement and is gable-roofed clad in standing-seam metal. The driveway side has sliding doors and the barnyard side has five entrance bays for cattle. At the southwest corner is a small wooden water-tower that sits above the cistern. At the northern end of the barn is a tile silo that was built sometime between 1910 and 1925. The corn crib extends east of the barn and has an open central bay and a fine slate-clad gable roof. The other outbuildings, a sheep shed built around 1955 and a concrete

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA  
block workshop built in 1960, are considered noncontributing.

The remaining buildings in the historic district are related to the functions of the experimental farm and are located near the Quarters building. The oldest is a turn-of-the-century packing shed that was recently converted into classrooms (photo 16). Located northeast of the Quarters building, this one-story, frame, gable-end building is clad in weatherboard and sits on a raised brick basement. It has six-over-six sash windows, double entrance doors, a six-light attic window in the gable end, three-light basement windows, corner boards and is topped by a gable roof clad in standing-seam metal. It was built as a packing shed for the many orchards that were on this property when it was taken over by the University in 1926. Although it has been renovated for use as a classroom, it is still in very original condition.

The Old Greenhouse at Blandy was constructed in 1941, at the same time that the additions were made to the old Quarters building (photo 17). It is made up of glass panels within a metal framework, and has a large square exterior-end concrete block chimney, and double glass and wood entry doors. It was used for growing and propagating plants for research and is currently being restored.

The remaining buildings at Blandy were constructed after the period of significance. They include a sheep shed, machine shed, a laboratory with an attached greenhouse and a laboratory where genetic plant research was conducted (photo 18). These are all located north of the front parking lot.

There are also two contributing sites on the property. One is the original site of the Manager's house. Although the house was moved to its current location, the old well and a brick root cellar at the original site are still evident.

The oldest site in the district is located behind the Quarters building and appears to be a late-eighteenth- to early-nineteenth-century building site. The foundation, a stone retaining wall, and a large stone chimney are clearly evident (photo 19). The outline of the foundation roughly

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 10

## BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

measures twenty feet by thirty feet, while the large limestone double-flue chimney in the center measures five feet by six feet. The chimney appears to have once been a central chimney, probably for a dwelling. While this site is an important component to the early history of the property, it predates the period of significance and is therefore considered a noncontributing site. Perhaps further archaeological investigation would yield more clues to this building's role in the history of the property.

The most recent building constructed in the district is a pyramidally-roofed gazebo in the front parking lot that displays information for the visitor about the arboretum.

Surrounding the Quarters building and extending over one-half mile to the east, the Orland E. White Arboretum is the only mature arboretum on limestone soils in the eastern United States. The arboretum consists of over 6,000 specimens of trees and shrubs arranged in a counter-clockwise progression from the more primitive cone-bearing plants (gymnosperms) to the more recently evolved flowering plants (angiosperms) in groupings of taxonomic families. For example, in the vicinity of the Quarters one finds the more primitive Pines, Firs, and Spruces. Southward across Lake Georgette (a small sinkhole pond named for Georgette Borland, Graham Blandy's wife), one finds the more recently evolved Oaks, Chestnuts, and Hickories (photo 1). To the east of these specimens, one then finds the even more recently evolved Magnolias, Roses, and Pea families, and so on until returning to the area north and east to the Quarters building where the most recently evolved Honeysuckle and Catalpa families are located. Within each of these areas numerous specimens representing many different species and cultivated varieties are planted for display.

The particular evolutionary arrangement displayed in the Orland E. White Arboretum follows that of Victor Engler (German, 1885-1917) and Prantl. (Flory, p. 4) This system was popular among biologists at the time the arboretum was established. In contrast, the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, founded in 1875, follows a different system of evolutionary arrangement developed by George Bentham (English, 1800-1884)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

and Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (English, 1817-1911). Arboreta being developed today using an evolutionary arrangement follow a more recent system developed by Bessy.

In addition to the familial collections, thematic gardens have also been developed. The largest of these is the Boxwood Memorial Garden which was established by the American Boxwood Society. This garden is located immediately northwest of the Quarters buildings and houses the largest collection of boxwood varieties in North America.

Among the specimens on display in the arboretum are numerous rare or unusual plants, for example: what is probably the largest remaining individual of *Quercus variabilis*, a Korean oak species; the largest collection of species of Pine trees in North America; the endangered Virginia Round-leaf Birch (*Betula uber*); the Arizona Cypress (Orland E. White's pride and joy since they are not supposed to be cold hardy in our climate); the Alligator Juniper; the Formosan Sweetgum; and many others.

The grounds for the arboretum not only include paths created by Orland E. White, but also old roads and miles of stone fence that date back to the period of the property's association with the Tuleyries (photo 20). These roads and fences are now incorporated into the arboretum design. Small wooden signs and stone gateposts are located at the main entrance of US Route 50/17 and also at the secondary entrance along County Route 628.

**REFERENCES**

Connor, Ed. "The State Arboretum of Virginia: How do we compare?". Arbor Vitae. Volume VI, No. 1, Spring 1989, p.1.

Devers, Robert. Personal interview. 7 April, 1992.

Flory, Walter S. "A thumb-nail sketch of the Blandy Experimental Farm and the Orland E. White Arboretum." Manuscript, 1969. Blandy Farm Collection, p.18.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA  
Garver, Jerome. Telephone interview. 7 April, 1992.

Map of Blandy Experimental Farm., Stuart Edmonds, 1962.

Schmidhauser, Thelma L. The Blandy Experimental Farm: A History. Blandy Farm Collection, Manuscript, 1985.

**BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY**

NOTE: ALL BUILDINGS AND SITES ARE CONTRIBUTING UNLESS INDICATED (NC) FOR NONCONTRIBUTING; LETTERS AT END OF EACH ENTRY ARE KEYED TO ACCOMPANYING SKETCH MAP.

**BLANDY QUARTERS BUILDING 21-550-01 (A):** ca.1825-1830, 2-story, 5-bay, brick (5-course American bond), gable-roofed, corridor-single-loaded-plan, Federal slave's quarters with a 2-story, 2-level, side screened-in porch. The building was converted into student and faculty housing and laboratory space shortly after 1926. In 1942, 3 large wings were added to the quarters building making the complex of buildings U-shaped. These 1942, 2-story, concrete block (stretcher-bond veneer), gable-roofed wings housed the library, dining room, kitchen, herbarium, offices and additional faculty and student housing. Architecturally, they relate well to the original Quarters building. This complex is at the center of Blandy Experimental Farm and constitutes its most significant building.

**BLANDY FARMHOUSE 21-550-02 (B):** ca.1890-1900, 2-story, frame (weatherboard), gable-roofed with central front gable, 3-bay, Vernacular Victorian farmhouse with a 1-story front porch.

Frame meathouse and chicken coop located north of the main house - 2 contributing buildings.

**BLANDY DIRECTOR'S HOUSE 21-550-03 (C):** ca.1840-1860, 1 1/2-story, stone, gable-roofed, dwelling with a ca.1860-1880, 1 1/2-story, brick (5-course American bond), gable-roofed, side wing. This building appears on a 1905 map labeled as the stables. It was highly remodeled in the Craftsman/

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Bungalow style and converted into a dwelling.

Stone, ca. 1926-1935, shed and meathouse located behind the Director's house - 2 contributing buildings.

**BLANDY SHEEP BARN 21-550-04 (D):** ca. 1954, metal-sided, gable-roofed, machine shed on a concrete block foundation. (NC)

**BLANDY PACKING SHED 21-550-05 (E):** ca. 1910-1930, 1-story, frame (weatherboard), gable-roofed, gable-end, building which sits on a raised brick basement. It was originally used as a packing shed for surrounding orchards and was recently converted into a classroom.

**BLANDY OLD GREENHOUSE 21-550-06 (F):** 1941, 1-story, metal and glass, gable-roofed, greenhouse with an exterior end concrete block chimney and a concrete block raised foundation.

**BLANDY FEED BARN 21-550-07 (G):** ca. 1960, 1-story, gable-roofed, metal pole building originally built as a sheep shed and now used as a cattle shed. (NC)

**BLANDY WORKSHOP 21-550-08 (H):** ca. 1900, 1-story, frame (weatherboard), 2-bay, shed-roofed, workshop and garage. This outbuilding is associated with the Blandy Farmhouse (21-550-02).

**BLANDY BANK BARN 21-550-09 (I):** ca. 1890-1900, 2 1/2-story, frame (vertical clapboard), gable-roofed, bank barn on a stone (coursed) foundation. This outbuilding is associated with the Blandy Farmhouse (21-550-02).

**BLANDY SILO 21-550-10 (J):** ca. 1910-1925, terra-cotta tile silo with a side tile chute and missing roof. This silo is located off the north end of Blandy Bank Barn (21-550-09) - contributing structure.

**BLANDY CORN CRIB 21-550-11 (K):** ca. 1890-1900, frame, open central bay, gable-roofed (clad in slate), corn crib adjacent to the northeast corner of the Blandy Bank Barn (21-550-09), with a modern shed addition.

8057(?) →

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

**BLANDY GENETIC COMPLEX 21-550-12 (L):** ca. 1955-1965, frame, 1-story genetics research building and small control room shed. (NC)

**BLANDY MANAGER'S HOUSE 21-550-13 (M):** ca.1880-1910, 2-story frame (weatherboard), 3-bay, gable-roofed, vernacular hall-parlor plan house with a 1-story front porch, and a rear 1 1/2-story frame wing. The house was moved to this site before 1930 from another site on the property (21-550-17). Frame tool shed and frame equipment shed - 2 contributing buildings.

**BLANDY MILLER LAB 21-550-14 (N):** 1960, 1-story, frame and aluminum (aluminum siding), gable-roofed, 4-bay, workshop with a greenhouse attached to the west end. (NC)

**BLANDY ADDITIONAL STRUCTURES 21-550-15 (O):** ca.1960 1-story concrete block, gable-roofed workshop associated with the Blandy Farmhouse (21-550-02). ca.1987 pyramidally-roofed gazebo located in front parking lot. - 2 noncontributing buildings.

**BLANDY HOUSE SITE RUINS 21-550-17 (P):** Late-19th-century house site with remains of a root cellar and well. The Manager's House (21-550-13) was originally located on this site -contributing site.

**BLANDY CHIMNEY AND FOUNDATION 21-550-18 (Q):** Late-18th to early-19th-century building site. The area of the foundation measures roughly 20'x 30' with a large 5'x6' limestone double-flue chimney in the center. The chimney appears to have once been a central chimney probably for a dwelling - noncontributing site.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 15

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Statement of Significance

The 712-acre Blandy Experimental Farm Historic District in Clarke County is significant as the official State Arboretum of Virginia, and is home to one of the largest collections of trees and shrubs in the eastern United States. The property was bequeathed to the University of Virginia in 1926 by Graham F. Blandy, a wealthy New York stockbroker who owned the large Tuleyries estate in Clarke County. The Tuleyries property was over 900 acres and included a large mansion and many outbuildings. Mr. Blandy left a 712-acre portion of his estate, which included a large brick slave's quarters and several other buildings, to the University of Virginia under the condition that it be used to educate "...boys farming in the various branches." Since its inception in 1927, Blandy Experimental Farm has been dedicated to the education of students and the public in the areas of botany, genetics, horticulture, and agriculture. The 712-acre property is organized into three applications: the 150-acre arboretum that was begun by Blandy Farm's first director, Orland E. White, in 1927; commercial farming areas; and research areas. At the center of the arboretum stands the imposing Quarters building, whose original section was the early-nineteenth century slave's quarters associated with the Tuleyries. Although greatly enlarged in 1941, the architectural integrity of the original Quarters building is extremely high and it remains today as one of the largest surviving examples of an antebellum slave's quarters in the northern Shenandoah Valley. The district also retains good examples of nineteenth- and twentieth-century dwellings and agricultural buildings, as well as a historically significant landscape that includes features from the period of the property's association with the Tuleyries through to the present. The district, along with the adjoining Tuleyries property currently listed on the State and National Registers, not only contributes to an understanding of antebellum-plantation architecture in Clarke County, but also to the consideration of early-century education and research concerning botany and horticulture. The arboretum was officially designated by the General Assembly of Virginia as the State Arboretum in 1986.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

8 16

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Justification of Criteria

The Blandy Experimental Farm Historic District meets the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places because it possesses significance in local and Virginia history and architecture and exhibits integrity of association, design, feeling, location, material, workmanship, and setting. The district qualifies under criterion A because of its association with the practice of education and research concerning botany, genetics, horticulture, and agriculture. Owned and run by the University of Virginia, Blandy Experimental Farm has operated continuously as a center for the study and research of these subjects since 1927. It is one of the two major biological research stations in Virginia, along with the Mountain Lake Biological Station. It is noted historically for its contributions to research in plant genetics, cytogenetics, systematics, and the mutagenic effects of radiation. It also contains the oldest and largest arboretum in Virginia and one of the oldest arboreta in the southeastern United States.

The district also qualifies under criterion C as an associated collection of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century buildings including: a large, two-story, brick slave's quarters; a stone and brick Craftsman-style dwelling; a Victorian Vernacular-style farmhouse, and its associated domestic- and agriculturally-related outbuildings; and several outbuildings relating to the research and study of plants. The most significant of these buildings is the brick Quarters, constructed around 1825 and enlarged in 1941. Although the use of this building has changed through time, from slave's quarters to offices and dormitories for faculty and students, the original configuration of rooms and almost all of the exterior architectural details of the Quarters are still intact. Thus, it is one of the largest and most original surviving examples of a nineteenth-century slave's quarters in the northern Shenandoah Valley. The district also retains a large number of landscape features relating both to its association with the Tuleyries property until 1926 and as Blandy Experimental Farm until 1942.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 17

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Historical Analysis

The early history of Blandy Experimental Farm is associated with the adjoining Tuleyries estate. The 712-acre property was part of the Tuleyries Farm until 1926, when it was left to the University of Virginia by Mr. Graham F. Blandy. Originally, the Tuleyries was part of a 50,212-acre tract of land that belonged to Robert "King" Carter and that had been part of Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck Proprietary. The property passed through several ownerships including the Carters, Burwells, and Hendersons.

In 1806, it was purchased by Joseph Tuley, a native of New Jersey, who moved to Clarke County and established a large tannery in Millwood. Part of the property that later became Blandy Experimental Farm was then known as Tanner's Retreat (Griffith, p.51). It is not known whether Tuley lived on the property at that time. The ruins of the chimney and foundation located behind the present Quarters building could in fact be the site of a dwelling from this period of ownership.

After Tuley's death in the early 1820s, his son Joseph Jr. inherited the tract of land under consideration as well as the profitable tanning business in Millwood. Shortly afterwards, he began construction of the large Federal-style mansion that he called the Tuleyries. Tax records indicate an increase in the assessment of the buildings on the property in 1825 from \$225.00 to \$562.50, and a larger increase to \$10,562.50 in 1834 (Griffith, p.17). The increase in 1834 implies that year as a completion date for the Tuleyries mansion.

Tuley died in 1860 and his wife sold the house to his cousin Belinda Frances Wright and her husband Colonel Upton Boyce, a successful lawyer from St. Louis. Boyce is best known for his role in raising funds for the completion of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, which later became part of the Norfolk and Western system. The Clarke County town of Boyce, established at the intersection of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad and the Millwood-Winchester Turnpike, was named in his honor.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

In 1903 the Tuleyries property was purchased by Mr. Graham F. Blandy a wealthy New York stock broker. Mr. Blandy purchased several tracts of land adjacent to the Tuleyries and greatly improved the house and surrounding acreage.

Upon his death in 1926, Mr. Blandy willed 712 of his 910 acres to the University of Virginia. Blandy's wife, Georgette Borland, received the Tuleyries mansion and a life interest in the other assets of the estate which were placed in a trust managed by the United States Trust Company of New York. The residual of the trust reverted to the University in 1939 upon Mrs. Blandy's death.

The conditions of the bequest required that the University of Virginia name the farm "The Blandy Experimental Farm," and use the farm to "teach boys how to farm." The University of Virginia had no instructional or research program in agriculture, so the acceptance of the bequest was not without debate. Almost immediately there were some disputes over the terms of the will. The trustees expressed some doubt about the ability of the University to meet its terms and conditions. Most of these were resolved through carefully negotiated agreements and by the demonstration over time that the University intended to establish a program at Blandy. This bequest did cause some problems for some members of the University's Board of Visitors who were uneasy about accepting a bequest requiring the University to establish a new program. Mrs. Munford, a member of the Board, eventually abstained from the vote to accept the terms of Mr. Blandy's bequest. Those members of the Board who voted on the resolution to accept Blandy Farm were unanimous in support of the terms of the bequest (Wilkerson, p. 4).

The Board appointed a faculty committee to visit the Farm and to consider what the University should offer in the way of a program in agriculture. The committee included two of the three professors of the Miller School of Biology, as the biology department was then called, Ivey F. Lewis and Bruce D. Reynolds. The other two members of the committee were Chapin Jones and J.L. Newcomb, a future president of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

University. The committee recommended that a professor of agricultural biology be appointed and that a set of fellowships be provided for graduate students to conduct their research at Blandy Farm during the spring and summer terms. The faculty member and students were to spend their fall term in Charlottesville.

The first director of Blandy Experimental Farm was hired for the academic year 1927-1928. The choice of Orland Emile White (1885-1972) proved to be a wise one as he was to occupy the position of director for the next twenty-eight years. During that period more than thirty students were to complete their graduate research under his direction, the broad framework of the arboretum which now bears his name would be planted out, and the physical facilities at the farm would more than double. Orland E. White was born in Iowa in 1885 but grew up in the Dakota territory before admission to the Union as the state of South Dakota. He received a bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University and eventually went to Harvard's Bussey Institute to pursue research in the newly discovered and exciting field of genetics. While at the Bussey Institute he no doubt became familiar with the resources of the Arnold Arboretum, one of the first scientifically directed collections of woody plants in the United States. In fact, the grounds of the Bussey Institute bordered those of the Arnold Arboretum. The ambitious goal of the Arnold Arboretum was to collect for display and research every species of tree worldwide that is hardy in the rather severe New England climate. Mr. White would set a similarly ambitious goal for the new arboretum he would found at Blandy Farm. Orland E. White went from graduate school at Harvard to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York City in 1913 where he was Curator of Plants. He held several positions before leaving to come to the Blandy Experimental Farm.

White's doctoral research dealt with aspects of the genetics of the garden pea, following the work of Gregor Mendel of Austria in 1865. Mendel's laws of inheritance had been largely ignored and then rediscovered simultaneously in 1900 through the work of Carl Correns, Ernst Von Tschermak, and Hugo DeVries. By the time that White was appointed Director of Blandy Experimental Farm, he was the world-leading authority on the genetics of the garden pea. Once at

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 20

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Blandy, he put his first students to work studying the genetics, cytogenetics, systematics and cytology of various economic plants.

White's connection with the Arnold Arboretum and his employment at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden convinced him of the value of arboreta and botanic gardens in university research and instruction as well as for the broader benefit of humankind. In his initial correspondence with the University of Virginia regarding his potential appointment to the directorship, White mentioned his desire to establish an arboretum at the Blandy Experimental Farm to promote "local interest and pride, and eventually ... nation-wide interest."

White served as the Director of Blandy Experimental Farm and the Miller Professor of Agricultural Biology from 1927 until his retirement from the University in 1955. During that time White established the collection policies and landscape plan for the arboretum as well as undertook many collecting expeditions to gather many of the specimens that became the arboretum. White also continued his research in collaboration with numerous graduate students and colleagues in the fields of plant genetics, cytogenetics, cytology, and systematics.

When initially donated to the University, Blandy Farm consisted of a combination of orchard, improved pasture, and field crops with a series of residences, barns, and other agricultural buildings. The University hired a succession of farm managers to attempt to derive a profit from farming part of the land, but abandoned this practice in 1977 in favor of leasing the land to a neighboring dairy farmer. The orchard was removed between 1938 and 1941 when the arboretum was greatly expanded.

The physical facilities of the Blandy Experimental Farm also expanded greatly under White's stewardship. In 1927 the building now known as the Quarters consisted of a two story building with five rooms on each floor. The upstairs was used as the living quarters, and the kitchen and laboratories were located on the ground level. The Quarters is believed to date from approximately 1825 when it served as a slave quarters for the plantation of Joseph

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 21

## BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Tuley, Jr. An outdoor cold shower and privy served White and his students sanitary needs. In 1941 the Quarters building was greatly enlarged and modernized to serve the growing need for living and laboratory space. A grant of \$45,000 provided by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation paid for the expansion of the building and the construction of a new greenhouse. Stanislaw J. Makielski who was then a member of the faculty of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia was given the task of designing the building expansion and modernization. The old part of the building became the east wing of a U-shaped building and still housed laboratories downstairs and dormitory rooms upstairs. The North or entry wing of the building housed offices and a herbarium downstairs, and living quarters upstairs. The entrance is merely a passage-way into a courtyard between the wings of the building. However, with the help of the plantings added later by Orland White, the appearance of the front of the north wing provides no hint of the extensive wings on its south side. The west wing is considerably longer than the east wing and housed the library, dining facilities, and offices. The other building project occurring in 1941 was the construction of a glass and iron greenhouse north and east of the Quarters building. This appears to have been the first greenhouse located at Blandy Farm and it served for growing and propagating plants for research and for the Arboretum collections.

During White's tenure as director, the bulk of the trees and shrubs that comprise the arboretum were planted. Before his retirement over 10,000 accessions of plants had been recorded. White was particularly interested in cold-hardiness and was proud of his ability to successfully grow plants such as Arizona Cypress and Alligator Juniper at Blandy Farm in a much colder climate than they had been previously grown. With the assistance of Dr. A.V. Beatty, the arboretum's arrangement was revised using the Engler-Prantl system of plant grouping in 1937 (Flory, p.3). This new arrangement reflected the prevailing views of the evolution of seed bearing plants, placing the primitive Gymnosperms in the northwestern part of the arboretum and the successively more recently evolved plant groups in a counter-clockwise fashion on the two ridges that serve as the southern and northern limits to the arboretum. Upon his retirement the University's Board of Visitors named the arboretum the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 22

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Orland E. White Research Arboretum in his honor.

Dr. Walter S. Flory who was the second student to complete his PhD. studies under Professor White's supervision in 1931, returned to the University of Virginia in 1947 as a Professor of Biology, Vice Director of Blandy Farm, and Curator of the Arboretum. Dr. Flory provided continuity in the research and instructional programs of the University during the period in which the directorship of Blandy Farm passed from Orland E. White to W. Ralph Singleton. Dr. Flory resigned from the University of Virginia to become Professor of Biology at Wake Forest University in 1963.

In conjunction with White's retirement a search was conducted to find a new Miller Professor of Biology and Director of Blandy Experimental Farm. W. Ralph Singleton (1900-1982) a noted expert on the effects of radiation on genetics was brought from the Brookhaven National Laboratory to assume these duties. Singleton was born in Missouri in 1900 and took his bachelors and masters degrees at Washington State College in 1922 and 1924, respectively. He then went to the Bussey Institute at Harvard University as had Orland E. White where he obtained his SC. D. in 1930.

Singleton had a number of positions before coming to Blandy Experimental Farm, including twenty-one years as a geneticist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and seven years as senior geneticist at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (1948-1955).

Singleton's research focused on the use of ionizing radiation to induce useful mutations in economically important plants. He established what became known as the "radiation pit" at Blandy Farm, a facility in which a Cobalt-60 source was used to irradiate plants for research purposes. This research was sponsored by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (A.E.C.), and was one of only two such facilities in North America capable of conducting such research. Singleton used this facility for studies of the genetics of sweet corn as well as many other plant species including specimens still growing in the Orland E. White Arboretum.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 23

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

During Singleton's tenure as director the involvement of graduate students in research at Blandy Farm declined, and the physical facilities were only modestly expanded. The A.E.C. provided a grant in 1960, matched by the University, that enabled the construction of a greenhouse/headhouse complex designated the "Miller Laboratory." As an adjunct of Singleton's research on the effects of radiation on plant genetics the "radiation pit" and a support laboratory were constructed with funds provided by the American Genetics Society.

When Singleton reached the mandatory retirement age for administrators at the University in 1965, he stepped down as director of Blandy Experimental Farm, but continued as the Miller Professor of Biology until his retirement in 1970.

The field of biology was changing rapidly in the 1960's with the sub-specialty of cellular biology generating much excitement. After Dietrich Bodenstern was appointed to the Chair of the Department of Biology at the University, he endeavored to re-focus the research and instructional program of the entire department on cellular biology. When scientists who had been studying whole plants and not just plant cells left the University they were replaced by cellular biologists. In 1963 Professor Walter Flory resigned as Vice Director of Blandy Experimental Farm and Professor of Experimental Horticulture to be followed by Professor Singleton's retirement as director by 1965. With the departure or retirement of the two faculty who had been actively using Blandy Farm for their research and for training their graduate students, Blandy Experimental Farm was without any academic direction. Mr. Alan Caspar who had served as Professor Singleton's research assistant beginning in 1956 was designated Acting Director of Blandy Experimental Farm and maintained that position through a series of one-year appointments until 1972 (Schmidhauser, p. 134). No effort was made to recruit new faculty to use Blandy Farm for research or to serve in its direction.

In 1972 Mr. Thomas E. Ewert was hired to serve as the director of Blandy Farm. Mr Ewert was trained in the management of botanic gardens and had no academic ties to the University. In fact, the administrative supervision of the farm was removed from the responsibilities of the Department of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 24

## BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Biology and given to Professor B.D.F. Runk and his successor Mr. Richard Shutts, who held administrative positions in charge of managing the outlying properties of the University of Virginia. During this period Blandy Farm was used occasionally by the Department of Landscape Architecture in the Campbell School of Architecture at the University of Virginia for class field trips, and Mr. Ewert encouraged use of the farm for instruction in animal husbandry by the Lord Fairfax Community College. No research was conducted at Blandy Experimental Farm during this period.

Shortly after the Department of Biology narrowed its focus, the Departments of Geology and Geography began discussions concerning merging the two departments. This led to the formation of a new program to be named the Department of Environmental Sciences in 1970. This new department was to house not only the earth sciences, but also the emerging discipline of Ecology. When a new director of Blandy Experimental Farm was selected in 1972, Professor H. Grant Goodell, Chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences attempted to insure that a scientist with academic ties to the University was selected. However, the argument that it was more important to hire a caretaker for the arboretum held sway. From 1972 to 1982, the Department of Environmental Sciences made no use of Blandy Experimental Farm. The ecologists initially hired onto the faculty in Environmental Sciences conducted their research in the marine environments of the Chesapeake Bay.

In 1982 with prodding from the University administration and interest by new faculty, the Department of Environmental Sciences submitted a proposal to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to once again use Blandy Experimental Farm as a field research station. The proposal submitted by Environmental Sciences made several specific recommendations concerning Blandy Experimental Farm: 1) that it be viewed as a University research station and not the domain of any one academic department of the University, 2) that its administration be through an academic chain of command such as the Provost's Office, 3) that a member of the academic faculty whose research program could be focused at Blandy Farm be appointed director, 4) that a resident scientist and research coordinator be hired, and 5) that the Arboretum be opened for public visitation and education. Over

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

the next three years these recommendations were implemented. In 1985 Mr. Thomas Ewert was reassigned the duties and title of Curator of the Orland E. White Arboretum, and Mr. Edward F. Connor, Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences, was appointed director. Mr. Michael A. Bowers from the University of Arizona was also appointed Research Coordinator and Resident Scientist in the summer of 1985.

Since 1985 the research and instructional use of Blandy Experimental Farm has grown steadily. In that time seven advanced degrees and three bachelor's degrees with honors in Environmental Sciences, and five advanced degrees in Landscape Architecture that have involved study or research at Blandy Farm have been conferred by the University of Virginia. In addition over one hundred students and visiting researchers from institutions world-wide have visited and used the facilities at Blandy Experimental Farm. The facilities at Blandy Farm have also been greatly improved since 1985. Laboratories have been modernized and research equipment acquired, greenhouses renovated and expanded, library re-catalogued and expanded, and computer facilities established.

The current focus of research at Blandy Farm is the ecology and evolution of the interactions between plants and animals. The arboretum and the other plant communities at Blandy Farm serve as the subjects for this research. Understanding what makes plants susceptible to pest insects and pathogens, what effects grazing mammals have on changes in plant communities, and how the mosaic of habitats characteristic of human dominated landscapes affect animal abundance and persistence are but a few of the topics of current research.

Beginning in 1984, a survey and assessment of the value of the Orland E. White Arboretum was begun. The entire collection was survey mapped, plants individually tagged, and outside consultants brought in to evaluate the collections. Based on this survey it was decided that not only was the arboretum an invaluable research and instructional tool for the University, but a valuable asset to the broader scientific community and to the public. In 1984, a public support organization, originally named the Friends of Blandy, but now the Friends of the State Arboretum, was established to

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 26

## BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

encourage public participation in the Arboretum. Through the advisory role of the Friends Board, and their volunteer and fiscal efforts on behalf of the arboretum, improvements to the arboretum and public educational programs began to be established. Display labels were placed on specimens, trails and brochures were prepared and disseminated, lectures and workshops were conducted, and an environmental education program for school-aged children was established. Many of these advances in the programs of the arboretum have come since the resignation of Mr. Thomas Ewert in 1986, and his replacement by Dr. Christopher F. Sacchi, a plant ecologist in 1987. Dr. Christine Flanagan, an ecologist, was also hired in 1986 to serve as Assistant Curator for Education.

At present the arboretum has approximately 20,000 visitors each year and displays over 6,000 specimens representing approximately 1,000 different types of trees and shrubs. The arboretum, which was given the honorific designation - The State Arboretum of Virginia - by the General Assembly in 1986, boasts the largest collection of boxwood and pine in North America, and many other fine and unusual trees. With assistance from the Virginia General Assembly, a master plan for the Orland E. White Arboretum was developed in 1989. This plan envisions expansion of the public programs, the gardens, and the addition of staff and facilities to serve these programs.

**References**

- Flory, Walter S., Jr. "A thumb-nail sketch of the Blandy Experimental Farm and the Orland E. White Research Arboretum." Manuscript, 1969, pp.17. Blandy Farm Collection.
- Griffith, Richard E. "The Tuleyries." Manuscript, October 30, 1986, pp. 52. Blandy Farm Collection.
- Schmidhauser, Thelma L. "The Blandy Experimental Farm: A History." Manuscript, 1985, pp. 154. Blandy Farm Collection.
- Wilkerson, William R. "A History of the University of Virginia's Blandy Farm." Manuscript, January 8, 1986, pp. 12. Blandy Farm Collection.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 27

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

"A History of the University of Virginia's Blandy Farm."  
Blandy Farm Collection. Author Unknown. Date Unknown.

Chappelear, B. Curtis. "Robert Burwell's Land on the  
Shenandoah River." Proceedings of the Clarke County  
Historical Association. Vol.5, 1945, pp.10-17, 68-69.

Connor, Ed. "The State Arboretum of Virginia: How do we  
compare?". Arbor Vitae. Volume VI, No. 1, Spring 1989,  
p.1.

Devers, Robert. Personal interview. 7 April, 1992.

Flory, Walter S. "A thumb-nail sketch of the Blandy  
Experimental Farm and the Orland E. White Arboretum."  
Blandy Farm Collection, Manuscript, 1969.

-----". "The Orland E. White Arboretum", Blandy  
Farm Historical Collection, Manuscript, May 1959.

Garver, Jerome. Telephone interview. 7 April, 1992.

Griffith, Richard E. "The Tuleyries".. Blandy Farm  
Collection. Manuscript, October 30, 1936.

Griffith, Richard E. "The Tuleyries" Proceedings of the  
Clarke County Historical Association, Volumes 11 and  
12, 1951-1953, pp.49-115.

Land and Community Associates. Survey of State-Owned  
Properties: Institutions of Higher Education. ,  
Charlottesville, Virginia. July, 1988.

Map of Blandy Experimental Farm. Stuart Edmonds, 1962.

Orland E. White Photograph Collection ca.1927-1955., Blandy  
Experimental Farm Photograph Collection.

Schmidhauser, Thelma L. The Blandy Experimental Farm: A  
History. Blandy Farm Collection, Manuscript, 1985.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9&10 Page 28

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Wilkerson, William R. "A History of the University of  
Virginia's Blandy Farm." Blandy Farm Collection.  
Manuscript, January 8, 1986.

### SECTION 10

#### UTM REFERENCES - CONTINUED

E 17/753500/4327580  
F 17/754030/4328470

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

**NOTE: REFER TO USGS MAP FOR BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at a point located on the southern right-of-way of US Route 50/17 delineated by UTM reference point A 17/755200/4327750; proceed southwest approximately 5800' to a point on the northern right-of-way of county Route 628 delineated by UTM reference point B 17/754300/4326240; thence proceed westerly along said right-of-way approximately 6250' to its intersection with an unnamed light-duty road delineated by UTM reference point C 17/752620/4327170; thence proceed north approximately 2450' to a point delineated by UTM reference point D 17/753020/4327820; thence proceed east approximately 1800' to a point delineated by UTM reference point E 17/753500/4327580; thence proceed north for approximately 3300' to a point along the southern right-of-way of US Route 50/17 delineated by UTM reference point F 17/754030/4328470; thence proceed southeast along the said right-of-way approximately 3300' to the point of origin.

#### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Blandy Experimental Farm Historic District boundaries are drawn to include the landscape features and buildings which have historically been associated with the property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 29

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

### PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

The following information applies to all the photographs unless otherwise noted: 1) Photographer- Maral S. Kalbian; 2) Location- Blandy Experimental Farm Historic District; Clarke County, Virginia; 3 Date of photograph- January, 1992; 4) Location of negative- Virginia State Library Richmond, Virginia.

SUBJECT: View of Lake Georgette  
VIEW: Looking southeast  
NEGATIVE NO.:11708  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-16  
PHOTO 1 of 20

SUBJECT:Old photograph of Quarters Building  
VIEW: Looking southeast  
NEGATIVE NO.Blandy Experimental Farm Photograph Collection  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Unknown  
DATE: ca.1926  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 2 of 20

SUBJECT: Quarters Building  
VIEW: Looking northeast  
NEGATIVE NO.:11813  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 3 of 20

SUBJECT: Outbuildings at the Tuleyries, Clarke County, VA  
VIEW: Looking northeast  
NEGATIVE NO.:11703  
DHR FILE NO.:21-82  
PHOTO 4 of 20

SUBJECT:Old photograph of Quarters Building  
VIEW: Looking southwest  
NEGATIVE NO.Blandy Experimental Farm Photograph Collection  
PHOTOGRAPHER:Unknown  
DATE: ca.1926  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 5 of 20

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number        Photos        Page 30

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

SUBJECT:Quarters Building  
VIEW:Looking west  
NEGATIVE NO.:11813  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 6 of 20

SUBJECT:Quarters Building, interior of second-story porch  
VIEW:Looking south  
NEGATIVE NO.:11813  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 7 of 20

SUBJECT:Quarters Building, interior of second-floor north  
room.  
VIEW:Looking northwest  
NEGATIVE NO.:11724  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 8 of 20

SUBJECT:Quarters Building  
VIEW:Looking south  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Beverly Pearce  
NEGATIVE NO.:11709  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 9 of 20

SUBJECT:Quarters Building  
VIEW:Looking north  
NEGATIVE NO.:11813  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 10 of 20

SUBJECT:Quarters building, interior of library  
VIEW:Looking south  
NEGATIVE NO.:11703  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-1  
PHOTO 11 of 20

SUBJECT:Director's House  
VIEW:Looking southwest  
NEGATIVE NO.:11703  
DHR FILE NO.:21-550-3  
PHOTO 12 of 20

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos \_\_\_\_\_ Page 31

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT: CLARKE COUNTY, VA

SUBJECT: Manager's House  
VIEW: Looking northwest  
NEGATIVE NO.: 11653  
DHR FILE NO.: 21-550-13  
PHOTO 13 of 20

SUBJECT: Blandy Farmhouse  
VIEW: Looking northwest  
NEGATIVE NO.: 11653  
DHR FILE NO.: 21-550-2  
PHOTO 14 of 20

SUBJECT: Blandy Bank Barn  
VIEW: Looking northeast  
NEGATIVE NO.: 11725  
DHR FILE NO.: 21-550-9  
PHOTO 15 of 20

SUBJECT: Blandy Packing Shed  
VIEW: Looking east  
NEGATIVE NO.: 11653  
DHR FILE NO.: 21-550-5  
PHOTO 16 of 20

SUBJECT: Blandy Old Greenhouse  
VIEW: Looking east  
NEGATIVE NO.: 11653  
DHR FILE NO.: 21-550-6  
PHOTO 17 of 20

SUBJECT: Blandy Genetics Building  
VIEW: Looking southeast  
NEGATIVE NO.: 11725  
DHR FILE NO.: 21-550-12  
PHOTO 18 of 20

SUBJECT: Blandy Foundation/Chimney  
VIEW: Looking southeast  
NEGATIVE NO.: 11813  
DHR FILE NO.: 21-550-18  
PHOTO 19 of 20

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 32

---

BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:CLARKE COUNTY, VA

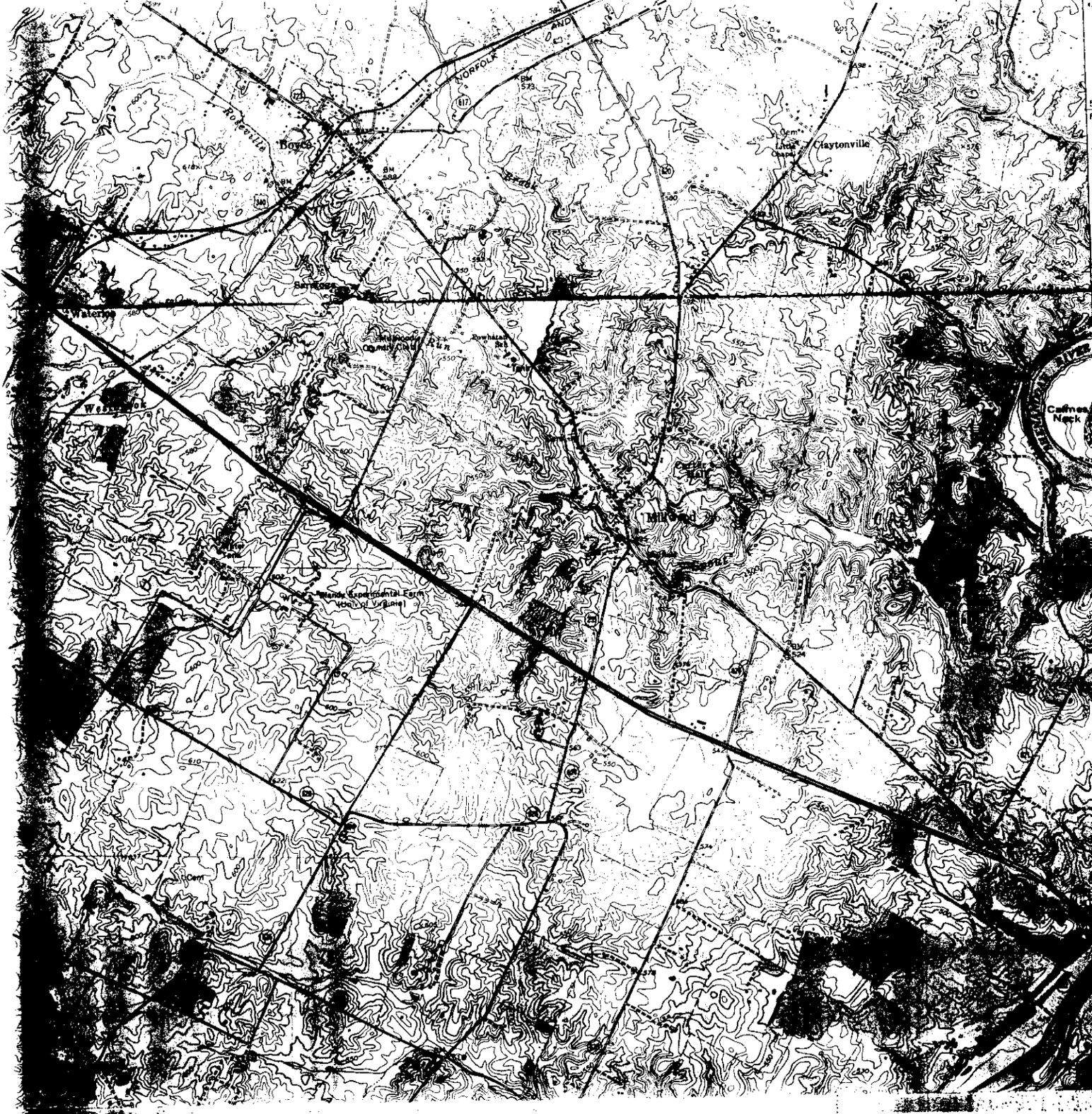
SUBJECT:Blandy Landscape, old road and stone fences.

VIEW:Looking west

NEGATIVE NO.:11653

DHR FILE NO.:21-550-16

PHOTO 20 of 20



432  
520 000  
FEET  
431  
5  
429  
427  
426  
4230'

**BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL  
FARM HISTORIC  
DISTRICT**

UTM REFERENCES

- A 171755200/4327750
- B 171754300/4326240
- C 171752620/4327170
- D 171753020/4327820
- E 171753500/4327580
- F 171754030/4328470

ASHBY GAP  
4327520  
MIDDLEBURG VA  
4327520