

destroyed by fire 7/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	MAY 22 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Rhodes House, Roads House, Rodes House

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Rodes (Preferred), Fort Roads, Fort Rhodes

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 3 miles NW of Luray; .2 mile W of South Fork of the Shenandoah River;
.5 mile E of State Route 615; .7 mile NE of intersection of state
routes 615 and 654.

CITY, TOWN

Luray

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
Page

CODE
139

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. George W. Bauserman and Mr. & Mrs. Norman Webb

STREET & NUMBER

RFD #3

CITY, TOWN

Luray

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22835

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Page County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Luray

STATE

Virginia 22835

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1967, 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

2 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Rodes, on the west side of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, is situated in the shadow of Massanutten Mountain near a small stream in the rolling farmland of the Page Valley.

The house is a two-story structure built of logs joined with dovetailed corner timbering. It has three bays of openings on the front (south) and two bays on the rear. A one-story, late 19th-century porch stretches across the front of the house which was once covered with weatherboards. The present gable roof is a 19th-century rebuilding, probably done at the same time that the present pair of stone end chimneys replaced the original central stack. The present window openings with their 6/8 sash date from the same remodeling and partially obliterate the original short, horizontally elongated openings, the scars of which project beyond the jambs of the present window frames.

The plan of Fort Rodes is that of the three-room Flurkuchenhaus consisting of a narrow küche (kitchen) running along one end of the house--in this case, the east end--and two other rooms-- a large stube (parlor) and a smaller kammer (chamber)--occupying the remainder of the plan. The size and position of the original central chimney can be determined by observation of the ceiling timbers. The transverse partition of vertical beaded boards which runs between the küche and the kammer/stube was installed at the time the chimney was removed and probably at the same time the rear of the küche was set off as a separate room. This variation of the basic plan is often found as an original feature in Flurkuchenhauser, but the present vertical-beaded-board partition dates from the 19th century, and it is not clear whether it replaced an earlier one. The original partition between the stube and the kammer is made of vertical bevel-edged sheathing, and hung in it is a vertical-board door with tapered, dovetailed battens, a common feature in German houses. The present stair, in the southeast corner of the küche, replaces an original stair which formerly rose from the northwest corner of the (present) northeast room.

There is no applied decoration in the house. The 19th-century fireplaces have unembellished surrounds, and the interior log walls are whitewashed. In the second story, two square bearing joists run the length of the house and support equal-sized transverse joists which rest in three-inch channels cut into the bearing joists. The roof frame has been rebuilt but follows the traditional system of a common rafter roof supported on long purlins set atop posts.

Running along the north (rear) side of the house and entered from the east end is a narrow vaulted cellar of a type traditional in Germanic houses in Europe and America. Original access from the küche to the cellar has been closed, but in the northeast corner is a channel in the floor which directs the flow of a spring along the side of the room and out through a small hole in the wall. Above it is a hole in the vault which formerly allowed water to be drawn through the floor into the küche above.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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Fort Rodes Page County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

7. Two early outbuildings survive at Fort Rodes. Immediately to the east of the house, and formerly connected to it by a short passage, is a story-and-a-half, V-notched log kitchen in ruinous condition. Built when the central chimney of the main house was removed, it has a large cooking fireplace and an enclosed stair rising in the northeast corner. Just north of that is a small frame meat house.

In the front yard is a small monument commemorating the deaths of the Mennonite minister John Rodes and his family there in 1764.

DW

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Rodes is a distinctive example of the Rhenish houses of the Page Valley, called a fort for its vaulted cooling collar, a common feature of Germanic houses in Europe and America. A traditional Rhenish Flurkuchenhaus, the central chimney was removed and alterations were made in the 19th century to adapt the house to Anglo-American styles of living. The large, square log structure was probably built during the last quarter of the 18th century by John Rodes II as a successor to the house which was built soon after 1758 and burned in 1764 in the last recorded Indian attack in Page County. Rodes' grandfather, a Mennonite minister, and his family were killed during that massacre.

Following the Indian attack, the land passed to a son, Joseph Rodes, who died in 1766 leaving his son John II (who was apparently a very young child at the time) that plantation where my father by the Indians killed did live and dwell known by the name of John Rodes's...lying on the South River..."¹ John Rodes II next appears in the records in 1783, by which date he had presumably reached his majority. It is likely that the present house was built at about that time. He continued to live at the property and acquire land in the area until 1815, when he sold 321 1/2 acres to John Gatewood. Three years later he sold Gatewood another 1000 acres, comprising the remainder of his holdings.

The house is an interesting case study of the transition from German to Anglo-American architectural forms. It is believed that as Germanic groups became acculturated, they gradually adopted English notions of house planning and design. An intermediate step, visible in such houses as nearby Fort Stover, was the erection of houses with a Flurkuchenhaus (three-room) plan but with end chimneys. Other houses, like the Abraham Spittler House in the same county, were altered from a central-chimney to an end-chimney plan. Fort Rodes provides support for this theory of the change, for it represents a similar alteration of a central-chimney house but one performed by a purchaser of Anglo-American descent.

DJ, MTP

1. Frederick County, Will Book 3, p.351.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Augusta County Deed Book I.
 Chappell, Edward A. "Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement." 1977. Manuscript at Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.
 Frederick County Will Book 3.
 Kercheval, Samuel. A History of the Valley of Virginia. 2d edition. Woodstock, Va.: John Gatewood, Printer, 1850.
 Kerkhoff, J.A. Old Homes of Page County, Virginia. Luray, Va.: Lauck and Co., Inc., 1962.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	7	717320	4285500
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C			

Shenandoah County Deed Book F.

Land Tax Books, 1782-1830.

Strickler, H.M. A Short History of Page

County. Richmond, Va.: Dietz Press, 1952.

B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 5 acres on which Fort Rodes is set are bounded by a line beginning at a point located on W bank of South Fork of the Shenandoah River, .8 mile NE of intersection of state routes 615 and 654; thence extending approximately 300' SE along said W bank; thence extending approximately 800' SW, paralleling intermittent stream, to NE end of private drive; thence extending approximately 300' NNW, crossing said stream; thence extending approximately 700' NE to point of origin.

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 / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE NOV 15 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE MAY 22 1978

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE MAY 22 1978

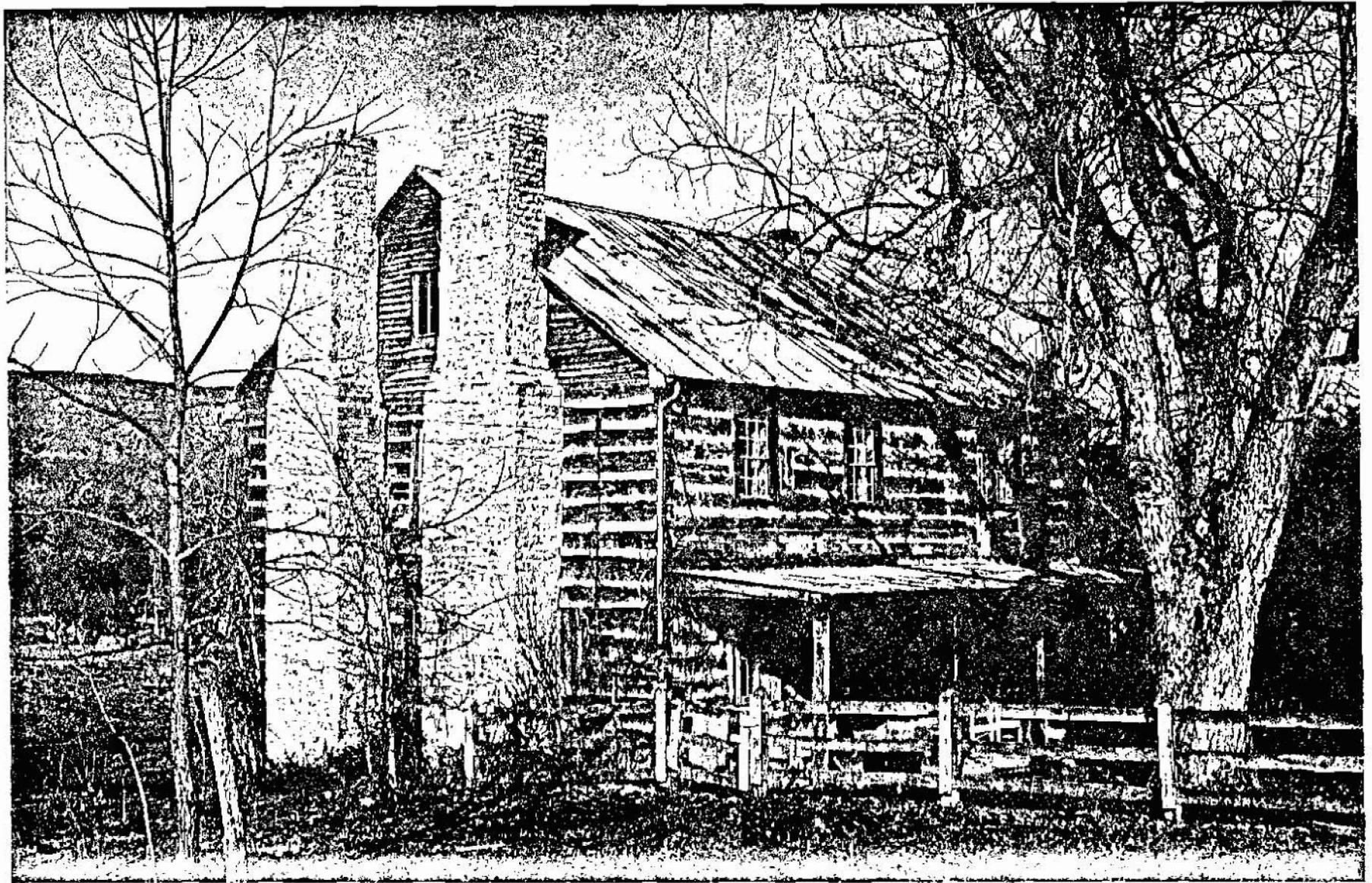
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

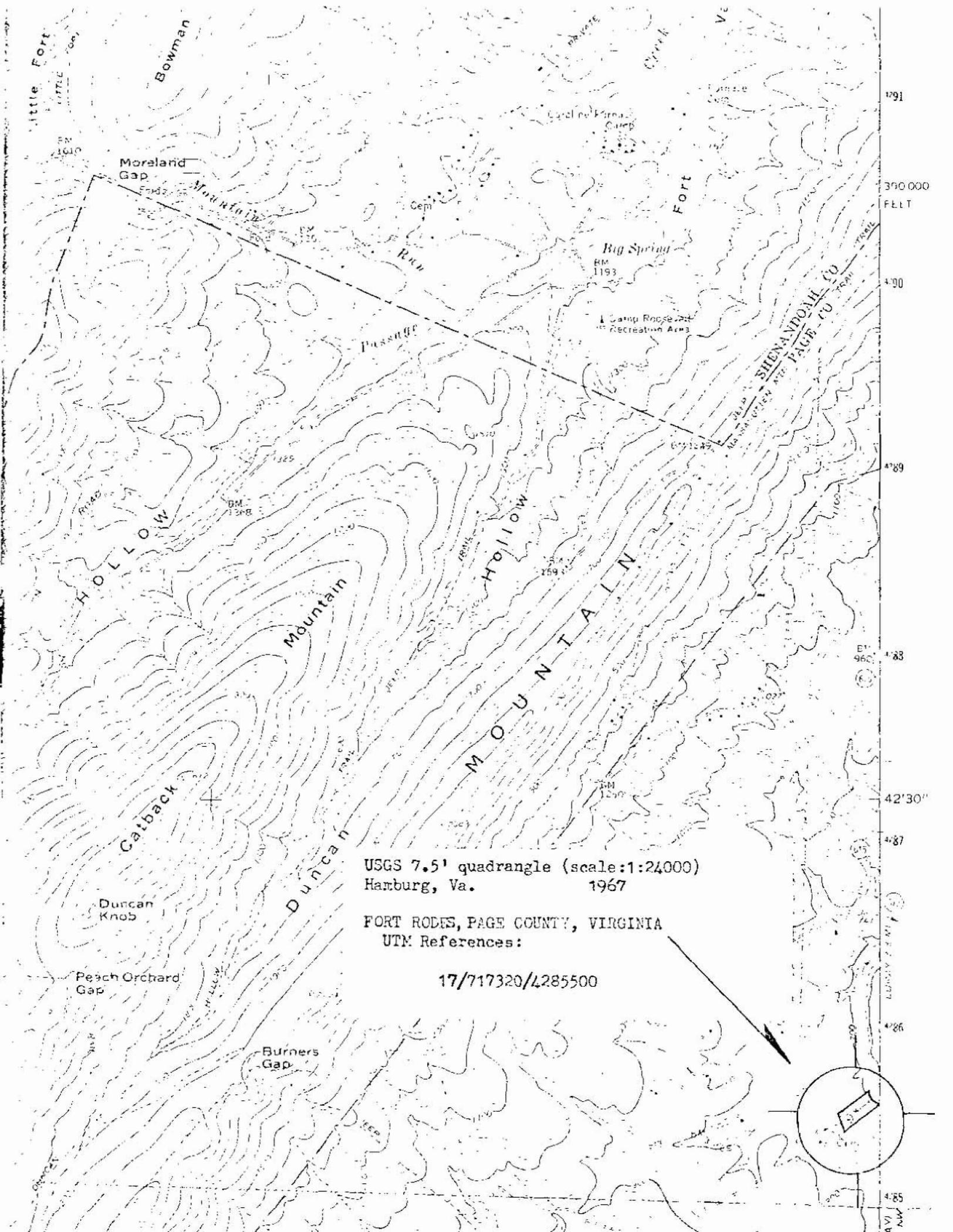
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 20219

FORT RODES, Page County, Virginia
1977
Credit: Edward A. Chappell, Jr.
Neg. Filed: Va. State Library, Richmond, Va.

Exterior View from SW

1 of 1





USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Harburg, Va. 1967

FORT RODES, PAGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References:

17/717320/4285500

