

VLR-4/16/74 NRHP-8/13/74

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:	Fluvanna
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Point of Fork Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Fluvanna CODE: 065

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: Dr. R. N. Snead

STREET AND NUMBER: Point of Fork Plantation

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Palmyra STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Fluvanna

ENTRY NUMBER

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DATE

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Point of Fork Plantation is located on a wedge-shaped piece of land at the junction of the James and Rivanna Rivers. The plantation house is set on a ridge overlooking the bottom lands and the rivers. The front fields are crossed by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad which is built on the towpath of the James River and Kanawha Canal. To the west of the house are broad lawns with fine trees. In the southwest corner of the yard are the outlines of formal terraced gardens.

The imposing two-story house is set on a high basement and has approximate ground dimensions of 40' X 50'. Covering the house is a shallow hipped roof from which project four interior end chimneys. The house's west or land front is sheltered by a large two-story tetrastyle portico with Greek Doric columns and no pediment. The portico serves to de-emphasize the asymmetry of the west facade which has two windows to the north of the entrance and one to the south. Surrounding the house, as well as the portico, is a Doric cornice with mutules and dentils. The river or east front has a small porch sheltering the entrance. The porch is supported on pairs of fluted Doric columns. Unlike the west front, the east front is symmetrical with two windows on either side of the entrance. Other notable exterior features include the rectangular white marble window sills and lintels, and the marble water table. Unornamented white plaster panels are employed between the first and second story windows on all but the west front. All four walls are laid in unusually fine Flemish bond brickwork with thinly tooled joints. The brickwork is in a good state of preservation.

Point of Fork's interior is divided into a central hall with pairs of rooms on either side. The most outstanding feature of the spacious first floor is the beautiful spiral stair which ascends in the southwest corner of the hall against a correspondingly curved wall. The hall is divided in the center by an elliptical arch supported by Doric pilasters with carved caps. The arch's architrave is ornamented with an intricately carved guilloche.

The first floor's north rooms were retrimmed in the early part of the present century. The woodwork around the wide opening between the rooms, as well as the mantels are in a comparatively heavy Neo-Classical Revival style, featuring bas-relief panels of classical figures. Aside from this trim, as well as some Corinthian pilasters in the north rooms, most of the remaining woodwork throughout the house is original. The house is well maintained and in a good state of preservation.

Two interesting early outbuildings survive on the grounds: a servants' house and an office. The servants' house is a two-story, five-bay brick structure in a poor state of repair. The brick office is temple form with a wooden facade in the form of a somewhat crude Doric portico in antis. Both buildings are unusual examples of their respective types.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The large Classical Revival mansion of Point of Fork plantation is one of two nearly identical houses erected in the 1820's by William Galt for his two great-nephews. Born in Ayshire, Scotland, Galt immigrated to Virginia in his early youth and settled in Richmond where he became a prosperous merchant. He became associated in business with his niece's husband, John Allan, foster-father of Edgar Allan Poe. His successful business ventures enabled him to acquire extensive landholdings in Fluvanna County where he established two plantations, Point of Fork and Glen Arvon.

Upon Galt's death in 1826, his Fluvanna plantations passed as he intended to his two great-nephews, William and James Galt. Glen Arvon went to William and Point of Fork went to James. Prior to his great-uncle's death James had been sent back to Scotland for schooling, (accompanied on this trip by Edgar Allan Poe.) Having been born and educated in Scotland, James Galt was considered by law to be a British subject. Therefore it was not until 1828, when he was admitted United States citizenship, that he was able to take title to Point of Fork.

Point of Fork derives its name from its situation at the junction of the James and Rivanna Rivers. The Point traditionally is the location of Rausawek, capitol of the Monocan Indian nation. Captain John Smith made an expedition up the James in 1607 and found two Monocan villages in what are now Chesterfield and Powhatan Counties. It is not known if he actually reached Rausawek, but he noted its location on his map. It is said that one of the Monocan chiefs is buried near the present gate to the property.

The point was of strategic importance during the Revolution. Established there was one of the Commonwealth's principal military installations which included a training ground, barracks, supply depot, and an important arsenal. The arsenal site has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In March, 1865, Federal troops under General Philip Sheridan occupied the plantation and Sheridan set up headquarters in the house. The plantation as well as the surrounding area was plundered but the house and its contents were untouched. James Galt lost slaves, livestock and provisions. Many of his crops and fencing were burned, and his slaves who were not carried off were robbed of their personal possessions. Galt was pardoned by President Johnson after the war, and was nominated to represent his district in the General Assembly. He served in the 1865/66 and 1866/67 sessions.

In addition to its historical associations, Point of Fork ranks among the major examples of plantation architecture in the upper James

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Fluvanna	
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8.
region. The handsomely proportioned house has highly sophisticated architectural detailing, and illustrates the transition of the Adam style of the Federal period to the Greek Revival style. The large portico is one of the early uses of the Greek Doric order in Virginia. The house also exhibits unusually fine craftsmanship in its detailing. The very even Flemish bond brickwork is outstanding, and wood features such as the exterior Doric cornice and the spiral stair on the interior are exceptional.

CL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Dairy of James Galt of Point of Fork," Bulletin of the Fluvanna County Historical Society, Nos. 13 & 14, October 1971.
 "The Galt Family," Bulletin of the Fluvanna County Historical Society, Nos. 13 & 14, October 1971.
 "Point of Fork - - "Home of the Galts," Bulletin of the Fluvanna County Historical Society, Nos. 13 & 14, October 1971.
Fluvanna County Sketchbook 1777-1963, 1963.
 Sale, Edith T., ed., Historic Gardens of Virginia, Richmond, 1923.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 45' 27"	78° 11' 08"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 45' 27"	78° 09' 51"				
SE	37° 44' 48"	78° 09' 51"				
SW	37° 44' 48"	78° 11' 08"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 265 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: March, 1974

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., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____
 Date _____

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

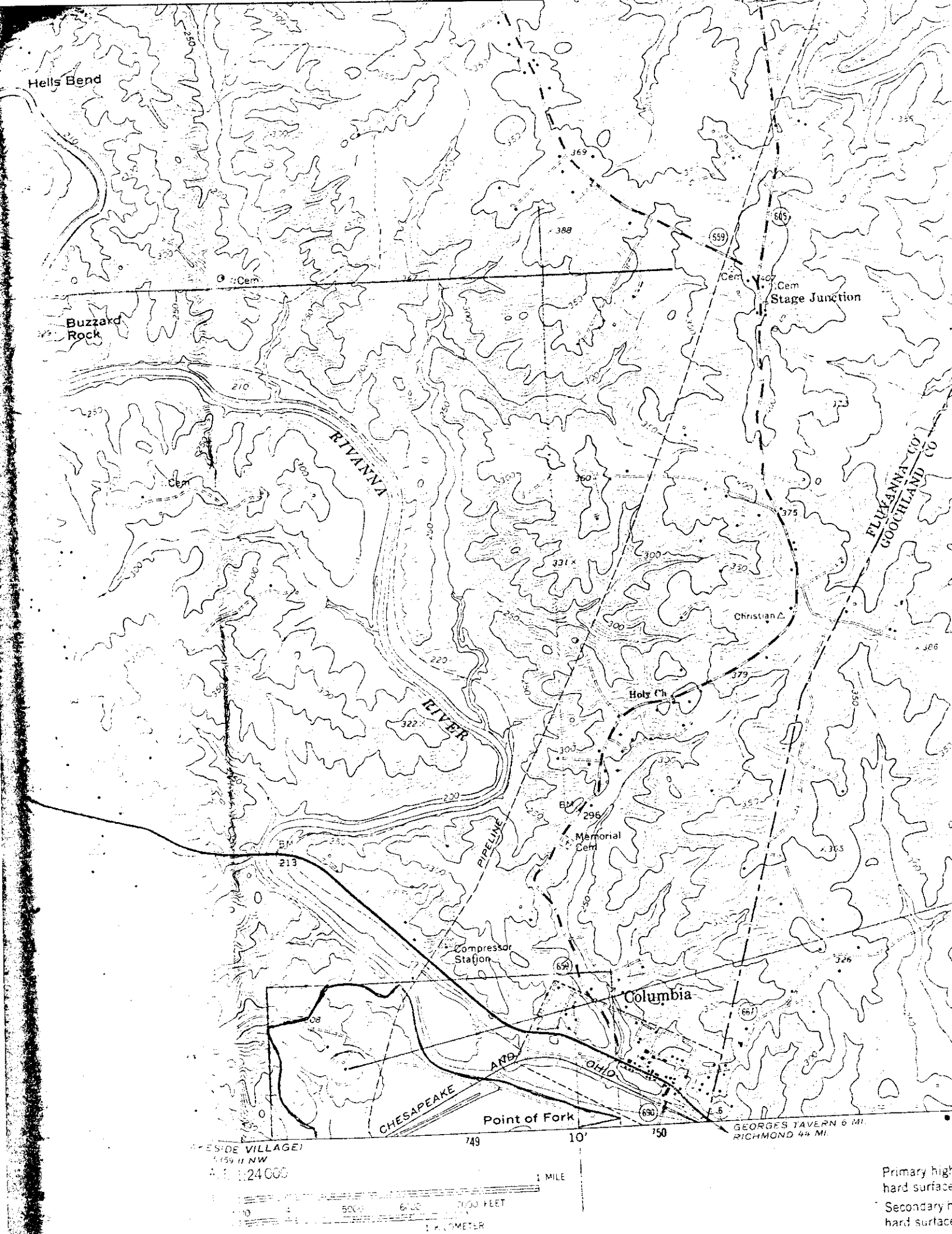
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Hells Bend

Buzzard Rock

RIVANNA RIVER

PIPELINE

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO

FLUVANNA CO
GOOCHLAND CO

Cem Stage Junction

Holy Ch

Memorial Cetr

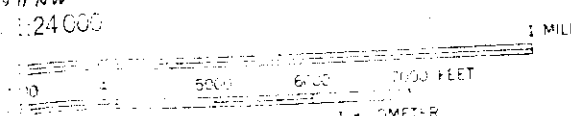
Compressor Station

Columbia

Point of Fork

GEORGES TAVERN 6 MI.
RICHMOND 44 MI.

ESIDE VILLAGE)
159 11 NW
A 1:24000



Primary high
hard surface
Secondary h
hard surface