

VLR - 6/17/98 NRHP - 4/14/00

(Rev. 10-90)
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 any 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 Ben Dover

other names/site number Ben Dover Farm VDHR # 37-78

2. Location

street & number 661 River Road West #36 (former); 115 Ben Dover Lane (current) not for publication N/A
city or town Manakin-Sabot vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Goochland code 75 Zip 23103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

M. Ann Jensen 2/15/2000
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper
Date of Action _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
secondary structure
RECREATION/ARTS bowling alley
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE horticultural facility
agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN Italianate
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK/POURED CONCRETE
roof SLATE
walls BRICK
other _____

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

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.)

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

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- 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)

ARCHITECTURE _____
 RECREATION/ARTS _____
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _____

Period of Significance 1853 - 1935 _____

Significant Dates 1853 _____
1930 _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Reed, William T., Sr. _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder Undetermined _____

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 193.94 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

X 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: Heather M. MacIntosh, Architectural Historian **with**

Organization: Department of Historic Resources Staff **date** January 1998

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue **telephone** 804-367-2323

city or town Richmond **state** VA **zip code** 23221

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)

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OMB No. 1024-4018

Ben Dover
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Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The Ben Dover Farm Land Trust c/o Frederick D. Preston

street & number 661 River Road West telephone 804-784-2253

city or town Manakin-Sabot state VA zip code 23103

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

Located in the small community of Manakin-Sabot, near Sabot Island and Manakin Village (VDHR#37-17), in Goochland County, Virginia, Ben Dover Farm lies between State Route 6 on the northeast and the James River on the southwest. About 194 acres of Ben Dover's property is included in this nomination. The main house, built in 1853 for William Beverly Stanard, was originally in the Italian Villa style probably derived from a design published in Andrew Jackson Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses. The house was transformed in 1930 when owner William T. Reed, Sr., put its Colonial Revival façade in place to mask decades of deterioration and poor patchwork. Reed, a major figure in Richmond's civic life in the early 20th century, was a friend and advisor to Virginia politician and Governor Harry Byrd, Sr. In addition to the primary dwelling, the Ben Dover property includes thirteen contributing buildings, ten contributing structures and eight contributing sites. Contributing buildings include tenant houses, converted servants quarters, a garage, a number of barns and sheds, a bowling alley, a smokehouse, and a stable. Contributing structures include three water towers, two well houses, animal feeders, a chicken coop, a silo and a swimming pool. Eight sites also contribute to the historic significance of the property. These sites include stone foundations or sites of buildings no longer standing, two ruinous barns, a bridge ruin, an old road trace, and remains of landscape terracing. Like the main house, this complex of buildings, structures and sites illustrates the evolution of the Virginia farm from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

Architectural Analysis

Building History: Main House

Exterior

Originally in the Italian Villa Style and probably copied from an illustration published in Andrew Jackson Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses (1851), Ben Dover was a fashionable addition to Goochland County's collection of plantation houses when it was built in 1853 for William B. Stanard. Its primary façade facing roughly north was an irregular composition of planes and volumes, departing sharply from the conventional architecture of the rural county. Goochland's domestic architecture employed traditional construction methods and conventional vernacular forms until the mid-nineteenth century. Ben Dover, like nearby Eastwood (VDHR #37-77) and Sabot Hill

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(VDHR #37-36), abandoned this regional formula in favor of a prosaic romantic style popular far beyond the region.

When it was built, Ben Dover was a paradigm of its type. Its asymmetrical volumes were constructed with locally fired bricks, stuccoed and scored to mimic ashlar. The roofline was irregular with a heavy flat fascia board and scroll-sawn brackets along the cornice line, punctuated by a three-story tower. Ben Dover's fenestration pattern exactly mirrored that of a Richard Upjohn villa featured in Downing's 1851 work. This similarity has led to arguments linking Ben Dover with Upjohn. The flatness of the original exterior details and the simple massing of primary volumes suggest derivation from a two dimensional illustration. The house copies details of the illustration that depicts the façade. Like this engraving, Ben Dover's two first-floor windows were pedimented with nonstructural brackets. Like the illustration, another set appears on the first floor of the tower. These were paired and round-arched, sharing a single wooden decorative arch. Ben Dover's second-floor windows were round-arched, with flat hood moldings. Round arches also appeared on the first-floor veranda, which projected from the northwest corner of the house. These exterior details, along with the overall composition of volumes, made Ben Dover a textbook example of the Italian Villa mode of the 1850s.

In the early decades of the 20th century, the main house and grounds at Ben Dover underwent substantive changes. In 1905 General W. Horace Rose acquired the property and about 1910, he added an extensive five-bay front porch with a one-bay second story. The square tuscan supports, with square balustrade and simple cornice are a classical variant. This wooden porch was painted white, as was the rest of the house, altering the original rusticated surfacing. Early photographs suggest a muted exterior, simulating the appearance of a provincial Tuscan villa. Painting the exterior subdued the romantic rustic hues, but protected the structure from rapid degeneration. The locally fired Goochland bricks were porous, which led to water damage by the first decades of the century. Poor patchwork executed at this time contributed to the deterioration of the building's exterior which demanded aggressive attention by the mid 1920s.

By 1930, the heavy wooden brackets on the fascia board were rotting and the second-floor bedrooms saw seepage from a deteriorating roof. The west side of the house, which included the three-story tower, was the most seriously affected. Piecemeal patching compromised the appearance of the exterior. Photographs from the 1920s suggest discoloration around the window openings and the cornice line. These problems probably precipitated the extensive alteration of the north façade of the

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house by William T. Reed, Sr., who acquired the property in 1925. The Colonial Revival style of this new façade, along with the removal of wooden window surrounds decorating the rest of the exterior, streamlined the once picturesque villa. This alteration removed the second-story portion of the front porch and screened in the one-bay recession left by the irregularity of the original composition. The addition of an Otis elevator in the early 1930s further modernized the building.

Although the original massing and fenestration patterns remain visible on Ben Dover's exterior, the interior spaces retain most of the original fabric.

Interior

The original interior reflected the romantic style of the exterior. The floor plan, like most Italian Villa style buildings, was a variation of a central-passage, double-pile format. This, like the north façade, was almost identical to the illustrations within Downing's Houses. A formal dining room and a library extended the double-pile scheme on the south side of the house. A seven-bay veranda wrapping around the dining room created a roughly square building footprint. The first floor, currently incorporating some of the utilitarian functions once served by the basement, includes several formal rooms, many with original details including decorative painted ceilings. The most elaborate of these are the dining room and a parlor on the west side of the hall. The dining room, which was once serviced by a dumbwaiter leading to the basement kitchen below, includes many original features such as a black marble mantle with cast iron fireguard. The opening is round-arched; the brackets and composition of the piece mimic original exterior motifs. The fireguard, an elaborate piece of cast iron, reflects the increased use of mass produced decorative elements by the mid-nineteenth century. Round-arched white marble mantles appear on the first and second floors, many with cast iron guards. The wooden door surrounds of the dining room are consistent with those on all entrances on the first floor with the exception of the east bathroom, which is a recent alteration. Most of the original hardware on the first floor is extant, including silver-plated doorknobs.

The moldings on most of the second-floor door frames are consistent with that of the first floor; most doorknobs are white ceramic. The floor plan is roughly consistent with the original scheme, which was a central-passage double-pile plan with an extensive library to the south.

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The basement, currently used as storage space, evidences a number of round and segmental arches. Its rough walls expose the structural system of the house that is obscured by stucco and paint; large hand-thrown bricks are laid in five-course American bond. Like the first floor, a central hall divides the basement. The room directly below the parlor is the largest of the basement's spaces. Allegedly used for dancing during the first decades of the twentieth century, this room is the most finished of the basement's interiors. A few extant details suggest such a use. Lattice work covers the painted brick walls of this room, and gas light fixtures appear on its west side. The molding of the round-arched door leading to what was once a servant's stairwell under the northwest terrace, is a simple cyma reversa and may be original. For the most part the hardware and moldings of this floor date to the early twentieth century however, and are probably part of the renovations which included the front porch.

Inventory of Contributing Secondary Resources

Most of the contributing resources date from the period between 1905 and 1925. Buildings, structures and sites near the house reflect an increased focus on recreational activities and suburban living. Those beyond the immediate environment of the house are mostly agricultural. These secondary resources are numbered here as they are on the accompanying sketch map.

Contributing Resources:

1. Bowling Alley (ca. 1905). This wood frame single-lane Brunswick bowling alley is one of the best preserved of its type in Virginia.ⁱ It measures 88'5" x 12'3" and is clad in white painted weatherboards. Concrete piers support the building; its front-gabled roof has returns and asphalt shingles. The windows are 2/2 double-hung sash. The only door is 6-paneled. The interior is finished in thin wooden horizontal boards.
2. Smokehouse (ca. 1900). This wood frame weatherboarded smokehouse has a pyramidal roof with asphalt shingles that replace the original slate.ⁱⁱ
3. Garage/Pool House (ca. 1910, ca. 1950). Originally equipped with electrical outlets for battery charging, this brick gable-roofed garage was converted into a pool house in the mid 20th century. A shed-roofed addition expanded the interior that includes male and female sleeping quarters.

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4. Servants' Quarters (ca. 1905). Built on the site of one of many slave quarters or an extensively remodeled quarters, this wood frame weatherboarded cottage has a hipped roof and central chimney. The details, including hardware, suggest an early 20th century date.
5. Barn/House (early 20th century). Large frame weatherboarded barn with hipped roof and cupola recently converted into a residence. Slate roof.
6. Cottage/Tenant House (1900-1920). Frame weatherboarded cottage with standing seam metal hipped roof and central chimney with corbelled cap. Two-bay recessed porch. Six-over-six, double-hung sash.
7. Hay Barn (1900-1920). Frame weatherboarded hay barn and tractor shed. Open construction, gable roof, wood pier foundation. Entrance is roughly arched.
8. Storage Shed/Barn (late 19th century). Two-part frame barn/storage shed attached to possible laborer's quarters. Gable standing-seam roof. May have originally been for grain storage.ⁱⁱⁱ
9. Chicken Coop (early 20th century). Frame with metal standing-seam shed roof. Contributing structure.
10. Shed (early 20th century). Frame with metal standing-seam roof.
11. Stable/storage shed (early 20th century). Frame stable with coursed rubble foundation.
12. Hay Barn (early 20th century). Large open frame hay barn with gable roof and symmetrical shed extensions.
13. Animal Feeder (early 20th century). Contributing structure.
14. Cow Feeder. (early 20th century) Frame with shed roof, clad in corrugated metal. Contributing structure.
15. Tenant House (ca. 1910). One-and-a-half story frame tenant house with solid brick foundation, central brick chimney and standing-seam metal gable roof.

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16 -17. Well Houses (ca. 1900). Related to complex of water-related buildings near a spring on northeast portion of property. Concrete construction, simple volumes. Contributing structures.

18 - 20. Water towers (post 1900). Set of three water towers, open wooden-frame construction, poor condition. Contributing structures.

21. Swimming pool (ca. 1905). Poured concrete slab construction, roughly square. Contributing structure.

22. Silo (early 20th century). Round, parged construction with standing-seam metal roof. Contributing structure.

23. Foundation (early 20th century). Poured concrete foundation. Contributing site.

24. Slave Quarters site (ca. 1853). Central, massive chimney remains, brick rubble, and slate shingles. Contributing site.

25. Road Trace (19th century). Old Patterson Road. Contributing site.

26. Foundation (19th century). Extensive coursed rubble and brick foundation with variable bonds. Contributing site.

27. Bridge ruin (early 20th century). Remains of beam bridge with central poured concrete pier, intermittent metal piers. Contributing site.

28. Terracing (1905-1925). Remains of three-tiered landscape terrace. Contributing site.

29 - 30. Barn Ruins. Frame construction. Contributing site.

The **noncontributing resources** include (31) a post 1965 metal frame construction carport and (32) a silo dating from the same period.

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8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

Located in the small community of Manakin-Sabot, near Sabot Island and the village of Manakin (VDHR #37-17) in Goochland County, Virginia, Ben Dover lies between State Route 6 and The James River. Built in 1853 for William Beverly Stanard in the manner of an Italian Villa illustrated in Andrew Jackson Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses, Ben Dover was one of three Italianate houses erected in the area in the decade before the Civil War. A series of subsequent property owners transformed Ben Dover and its landscape, imposing personal tastes that reflected broad trends in American domestic architecture and landscaping. The most famous of these residents was William T. Reed, Sr. (1864-1935), advisor to Virginia Governor Harry Bryd and one of the most influential businessmen in Virginia in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Justification of Criteria

Ben Dover is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria B and C. The property is eligible in the area of architecture as an Italian Villa style house remodeled in the Colonial Revival style with an interesting collection of domestic and agricultural outbuildings and secondary structures. It is also eligible in the area of entertainment/recreation for its well-preserved ca. 1900 bowling alley, one of few in Virginia.^{iv} Under criterion B, the property is eligible for its association with William T. Reed, Sr. (1864-1935), an important figure in the commercial, civic, and political life of Richmond and the Commonwealth between 1925 and 1935. The period of significance for the property extends from 1853, when construction on the main house began to 1935, the year William T. Reed, Sr. died. Ben Dover possesses local significance.

Historical Background

In 1853, William Beverly Standard's Ben Dover was part of the community of plantations near the towns of Manakin and Sabot in Goochland county, Virginia (VDHR #37-71). During the fifteen years prior to the Civil War, Sabot experienced a flowering of palatial homes influenced by new trends in American domestic architecture. These new homes, including Sabot Hill (VDHR #37-77) and Eastwood (VDHR #37-36), were built in the Italianate or Tuscan style that provided sharp contrast to the relatively modest houses of the 18th and 19th century such as Boscobel (VDHR #37-

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84) and Joe Brooke (VDHR #37-53). These aforementioned plantations lay near each other along the James River and were linked by familial ties. Breaking with Virginia's vernacular tradition of rectangular, symmetrical composition in red brick or wood frame, Ben Dover's massing and details celebrated domestic romanticism, popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses. Ben Dover's original design closely resembled an illustration of Richard Upjohn's villa, reproduced in Downing's 1851 publication. Arguments linking the Virginia house directly with Upjohn have been inconclusive; the design is probably derived from the illustration, rather than the renowned architect's drawing board.

This mode of house design proliferated throughout the 1850s and 1860s and appeared frequently in all parts of the expanding United States. The form was least common in the American South, due to a comprehensive drop in building following the Civil War. In 1853, it was a paradigm of its type. Its asymmetrical volumes were constructed with locally fired bricks, stuccoed and scored to mimic ashlar. The roofline was irregular with a heavy flat fascia board and scroll-sawn brackets along the cornice line, punctuated by a three-story tower. Ben Dover's second-floor windows were round-arched, with flat hood moldings. Round arches also appeared on the first-floor veranda, which projected from the northwest corner of the house. These exterior details, along with the overall composition of volumes, made Ben Dover a textbook example of the Italian Villa mode of the 1850s.

This new style of building incorporated the landscape. In England, where the ideal originated, landscape architects fabricated picturesque vistas framed by well placed trees. The relatively virgin landscape of the United States in the 1850s afforded natural environments well suited for romantic country houses. Andrew Jackson Downing advocated landscape design, and worked with architects like Alexander Davis to create complete environments incorporating natural and manmade design.

This complete package appealed to the middle class; Downing's manuals described homes and landscapes for any budget. The use of ornate fireguards throughout Ben Dover reflected the increased use of mass produced decorative arts in the mid to late nineteenth century. Mass production, and the publication of many illustrated manuals of style and taste, made a new, appropriate and "honest" lifestyle available to anyone. A. J. Downing championed the ideology of the American house in the mid-nineteenth century, not only illustrating the accouterments of a tasteful household, but espousing an ideology which explained the moral implications of well designed and furnished houses. This integrated system of coordinated interiors, decorative arts, landscapes and even clothing designs presaged late 19th and early 20th century movements like the Arts and Crafts

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style in England and the United States. The sometimes effusive ornamentation of many Italian Villa style houses corresponded with the rambling organic forms of the land and interior decoration. The painted decorative ceiling of the first-floor parlor at Ben Dover reflected this desire for organic ornamentation. Ben Dover's siting exploited the undulating topography of Goochland County, built on a ridge carved by the alluvial action of the James River.

Within its immediate surroundings, Ben Dover closely adhered to Downing's ideal. Beyond its well-shaded frame, Ben Dover was a working plantation like many others in Goochland County. In 1860, Ben Dover was an active farm, fueled by over 50 slaves. The outcome of the Civil War substantially altered the Manakin-Sabot community. The ensuing changes affected the immediate landscape around the main house, as well as the lives of its owners.

After the War, during the period of wide spread economic decline affecting most of the American South, "outsiders" acquired the property breaking the century and a half of occupation patterns begun in the early 18th century.^y In 1872, Stanard sold the property and the adjacent Joe Brooke plantation to a British engineer, James Murray, an eccentric who eventually returned to England leaving the property to his wife and two daughters upon his death in 1895. They sold the property in 1903 to individuals who sold Ben Dover only two years later. Union General W. Horace Rose acquired Ben Dover in 1905. Apparently he enjoyed Goochland as he passed through the county during the Civil War and chose to retire there. Rose and his family insinuated themselves into the community by taking part in civic activities and contributing to the development of the area. Rose's son Forest organized and financed the Manakin Telephone Company, the first in the county.

In the early decades of the 20th century, the main house at Ben Dover underwent changes transforming the ideal Italian Villa-style house into a regional idiom. Rose added an extensive five-bay front porch with a one-bay second story. The square tuscan supports, with square balustrade and simple cornice are a classical variant. This wooden porch was painted white, as was the rest of the house, altering the original rusticated surfacing. Early photographs suggest a muted exterior, simulating the appearance of a provincial Tuscan villa. Painting the exterior subdued the romantic rustic hues. This treatment was practical, however, for the locally fired Goochland bricks were porous, leading to water damage by the first decades of the century. One of Rose's servants repaired masonry damage; his patchwork contributed to the deterioration of the building's exterior which demanded aggressive attention by the mid 1920s.

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General Rose also recreated the immediate environment surrounding the main house into a well landscaped playground, which included extant terracing, a nine-hole golf course,^{vi} an aggregate swimming hole, clay tennis courts, and a one-lane bowling alley, one of the few in the Commonwealth.^{vii} Rose began recreating Ben Dover as a suburban home, contingent upon the automobile. His love of outdoor activities, including hunting and other sports, expanded the once insulated domestic environment around the main house. In the first decades of the 20th century, Rose created a circular drive and a series of walkways with yellow bricks from his kiln in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. A small car garage, outfitted with electric outlets for battery charging, lay on one side of the yellow brick drive. The aggregate concrete pool lay to the northeast of the house, in an open area free of the hedges and large shade trees that defined the area surrounding the main house. Many of these trees are extant.

According to the current property owners, Rose converted the brick arched basement, previously used as utilitarian space, into a dance floor.^{viii} Rose's employees lived in converted slave quarters that line Old Patterson Road passing through the property to the southwest of the main house.^{ix} In addition to their recreational enhancements, the Rose family maintained the cultivation of the extended landscape until they sold the property in 1925 to Virginian, William T. Reed. Many of the agricultural outbuildings appear to date from this period.

As he helped modernize Virginia's government between 1925 and 1935, Reed streamlined the deteriorating exterior of the villa with a Colonial Revival façade. Friend and advisor to Harry Byrd, Governor of Virginia between 1926 and 1930, Reed played a large role in the young politician's ascent to the capitol. Byrd considered Reed, "the most valuable man in Virginia today (1933),"^x and upon his death Byrd announced, "without hope or desire for reward no man in many years has contributed so much to the welfare and progress of Virginia."^{xi} Reed headed the governor-created committee designed to reassess the efficiency of Virginia's bureaucracy. He sought to abolish what he perceived to be unnecessary offices, to reduce taxation, balance the budget, and change the deficit into a surplus.

Reed, like Governor Byrd, was a self-made man. Born in the Church Hill neighborhood of Richmond during the Civil War, he became one of the City's and the state's most successful businessmen. He began working for his uncle Charles Larus immediately after graduating from a public secondary school in the city. He became president of Larus and Brother Tobacco Company in 1908, and later

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served as president of the Tobacco Manufacturers Association of the United States. He often represented tobacco interests in Washington. In addition to his commanding role in Virginia's tobacco industry, Reed was a major player in Richmond's civic life of the early 20th century. During his active life of public service, he acted as president of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the city's United War Work Drive during World War I, chairman of the board of visitors of the Medical College of Virginia, and chairman of the finance committees of Union Theological Seminary and the Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond. He made charitable contributions to the Medical College of Virginia, the University of Richmond, the Collegiate School for Girls, and many other causes.

His active political and civic life won Reed many close friendships with influential personages. In addition to his close relationship with Governor Byrd, Reed was a friend of Charles Lindbergh, who landed his plane on the grounds at Ben Dover during a visit. Reed spent the last years of his life at Ben Dover; during his ownership he installed an Otis elevator, still operable and in use.

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Endnotes for Sections 7 and 8

ⁱ One other example is part of the extensive complex of buildings at Montpelier in Orange County, VA (VDHR #68-30-2).

ⁱⁱ Insurance records, Ben Dover Farm, William T. Reed Papers.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Another well preserved bowling alley of the period is part of Montpelier's extensive collection of outbuildings. (VDHR #68-30-2).

^v Patent, John Woodson, 24 April 1702, Robert Woodson acquired 1715, Thomas Randolph acquired 19 November 1728, William Randolph acquired 1729, Thomas Mann Randolph acquired 1745, Thomas Mann Randolph acquired 1793, Joseph Watkins and Thomas Rutherford acquired in 1804, Watkins Family acquired until 1844, Robert C. Stanard acquired 1840, Richard Sampson acquired 1847, William B. Stanard acquired 30 April 1853. Property history appears published within a description of Elie Weeks in Goochland County Historical Society Magazine, Autumn 1972.

^{vi} John Scott Entwisle, "Ben Dover Visited, April 15, 1988, ts.

^{vii} Interview, Marc Christian Wagner, National Register Coordinator, VDHR, January 15, 1998.

* Harry F. Byrd to William T. Reed, February 2, 1933, Reed Papers. Cited in Joseph A. Fry, "Senior Advisor to the Democratic 'Organization': William Thomas Reed and Virginia Politics, 1925-1935," Virginia Museum of History and Biography, v. 85, 1977, p.450.

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Goochland Co., Va.

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Ben Dover
Goochland Co., Va.

William T. Reed Sr., letter to Alice Reed, June 13, 1926.

- August 17, 1926.
- June 30, 1927.
- June 12, 1930.
- June 14, 1930.
- August 7, 1930.
- August 8, 1930.
- August 13, 1930.
- June 25, 1931.

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J. W. Randolph, Farm Records, 1843.

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Census, Goochland County, 1860.

Census, Goochland County, 1870.

Census, Goochland County, 1880.

Goochland County, aerial photograph, Virginia Department of Soils, 1939. Virginia Department
of Transportation Archives.

Goochland County, aerial photograph, Virginia Department of Soils, 1954. Virginia Department
of Transportation Archives.

Historic photographs, collection of Mrs. Robert Preston Jr.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Ben Dover
Goochland County, VA

Section 10 Page 15

Geographical Data

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	18	258720	4166160
2.	18	258500	4165360
3.	18	258280	4165310
4.	18	258200	4165750
5.	18	257890	4165420
6.	18	257820	4165480
7.	18	257460	4165090
8.	18	257260	4165290
9.	18	257600	4165840
10.	18	257790	4165790
11.	18	258030	4166050
12.	18	258360	4166410

Boundary Description

The nominated acreage for Ben Dover includes four parcels of property designated as 62-15-A, 62-15-C, 62-15-F and 62-19-B3 on the tax parcel maps for Goochland County, Virginia.

Boundary Justification

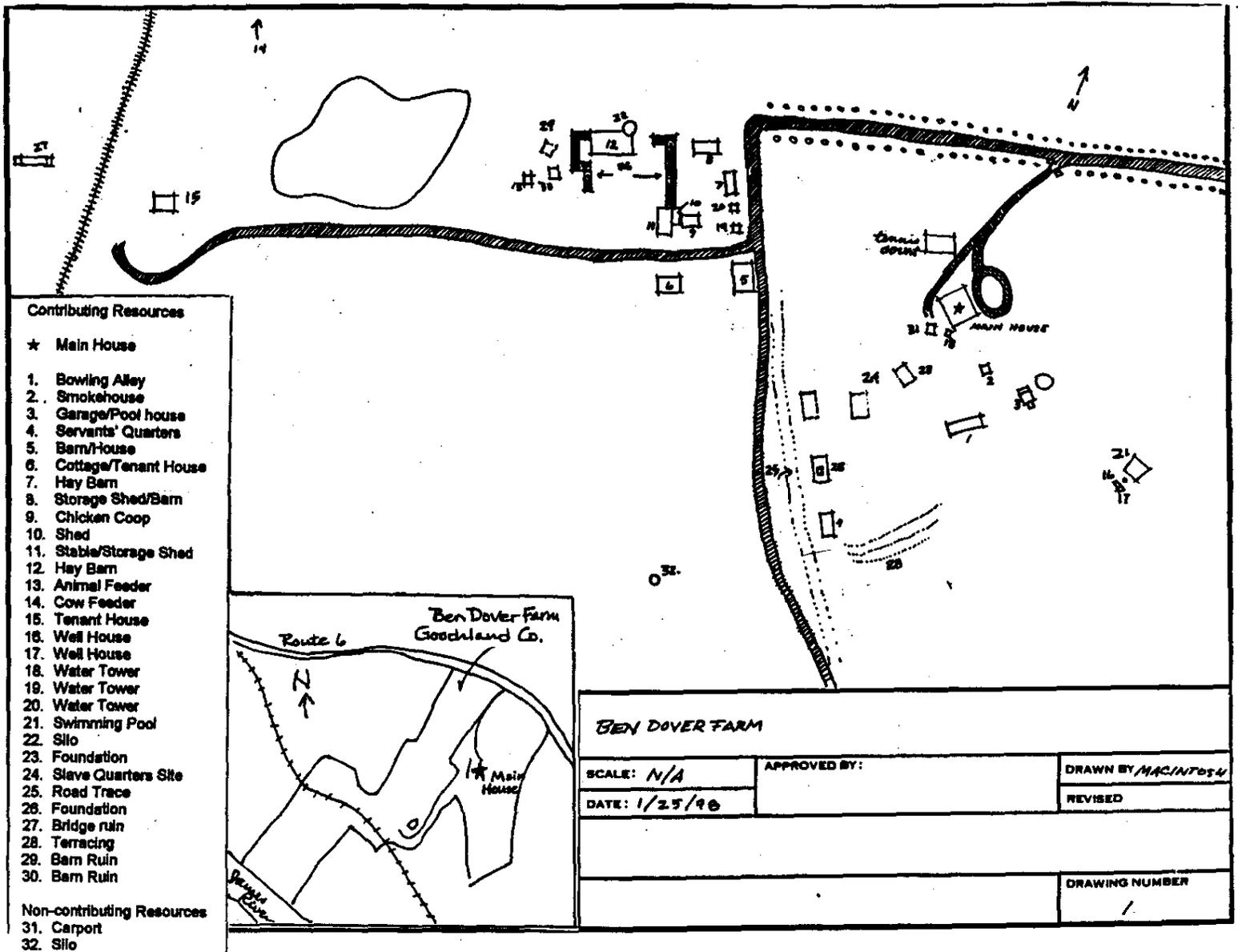
The boundaries for Ben Dover have been drawn to include the parcels of property containing the resources that make up the historic farm complex, including the main house and its associated outbuildings and agricultural buildings and structures.

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Ben Dover
Goochland County

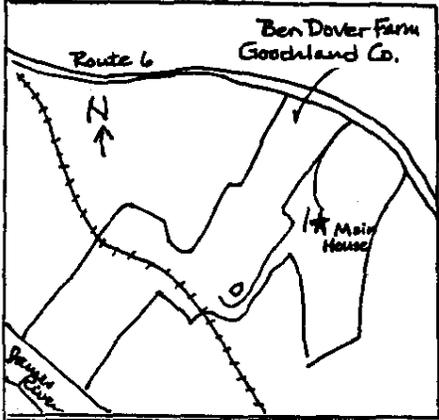
Section Sketch Map Page 17



Contributing Resources

- ★ Main House
- 1. Bowling Alley
- 2. Smokehouse
- 3. Garage/Pool house
- 4. Servants' Quarters
- 5. Barn/house
- 6. Cottage/Tenant House
- 7. Hay Barn
- 8. Storage Shed/Barn
- 9. Chicken Coop
- 10. Shed
- 11. Stable/Storage Shed
- 12. Hay Barn
- 13. Animal Feeder
- 14. Cow Feeder
- 15. Tenant House
- 16. Well House
- 17. Well House
- 18. Water Tower
- 19. Water Tower
- 20. Water Tower
- 21. Swimming Pool
- 22. Silo
- 23. Foundation
- 24. Slave Quarters Site
- 25. Road Trace
- 26. Foundation
- 27. Bridge ruin
- 28. Terracing
- 29. Barn Ruin
- 30. Barn Ruin

- Non-contributing Resources
- 31. Carport
 - 32. Silo



BEN DOVER FARM		
SCALE: N/A	APPROVED BY:	DRAWN BY: MACINTOSH
DATE: 1/25/96		REVISED
		DRAWING NUMBER
		1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

77°45' 00" 258000E 259 260 42' 30"
37°37' 30"

BEN DOVER
GOOCHLAND CO., VA.
Zone 1E
Easting Northing

- | | | |
|-----|--------|---------|
| 1) | 258720 | 4166160 |
| 2) | 258500 | 4165360 |
| 3) | 258280 | 4165310 |
| 4) | 258200 | 4165750 |
| 5) | 257890 | 4165420 |
| 6) | 257820 | 4165480 |
| 7) | 257460 | 4165090 |
| 8) | 257260 | 4165290 |
| 9) | 257600 | 4165840 |
| 10) | 257790 | 4165790 |
| 11) | 258030 | 4166050 |
| 12) | 258360 | 4166410 |

MIDLOTHIAN
U.S.G.S.

