

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED ON:

NRHP: 12/14/2012

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Totomoi 2012 Update

other names/site number Totomoi Farm, L.C.; VDHR File #042-0039

2. Location

street & number 8055 Rural Point Road

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

not for publication

city or town Mechanicsville

vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Hanover code 085 zip code 23116

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local


Signature of commenting official

12/14/12
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	4	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
10	4	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

5

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/storage

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/ Federal

foundation: BRICK

walls: WOOD - weatherboard

roof: METAL – Standing seam sheet metal

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

See Continuation Sheets

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1800-1920

Significant Dates

1800, 1820, 1840, 1864

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

When Totomoi was listed in the National Register in 1976, its significance was based on a family tradition that the property was acquired in 1689 as a land grant to a Thomas Tinsley I and passed down through an unbroken line of six more Thomas Tinsleys. With the recent recovery of significant family documents, it is now clear that this family tradition was incorrect. The first Tinsley to own the property known as Totomoi purchased it from his wife's mother in 1800.¹ Based on this information, the period of significance is 1800, the date of construction of the main house, to 1920, the year that James Garland Tinsley, who was responsible for the post-Civil War agricultural success of the farm, died.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Rippe, Maria Wornom. *The Tinsley Family of Totomoi, Hanover County, Virginia, 1755-1920*. Richmond, VA: The Dietz Press, 2009.

Listed below are some of the manuscripts and other primary sources used by Maria Rippe in her 270-page study of the Tinsley family.

Hanover County, Virginia. *Wills and Deeds Book, 1783-1792*. 1867.

Hanover County Land Tax Books, 1782-1800. Virginia State Records Collection. Library of Virginia.

Journals of the Virginia House of Delegates, 1776-1793, 1797. Richmond: Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mutual Assurance Society Papers. Totomoi Insurance Policy. Library of Virginia

Nugent, Nell Marion. *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1800*. Richmond: Press of the Dietz Printing Co., 1934.

Porter, Pattie Tinsley Miller (1891-1969). *Totomoi*. Printed privately for her family, 1927.

Taliaferro Family Papers. Collection of Judge Harry Tinsley Taliaferro III, Warsaw, VA.

Tinsley, James Garland. Business Correspondence, 1891-1894. Collection of Margaret Moncure Conway, Fredericksburg, VA.

Tinsley, Thomas (1755-1822). Commission Paper. Captain. Hanover County Militia, 1781. Signed by Governor Thomas Jefferson. Collection of Giles and Carolyn Cromwell.

Tinsley, Thomas (1755-1822). Mercantile Account Book, Hanover town, 1791-1796. Virginia Historical Society.

Tinsley, Thomas (1755-1822). Slave Records, 1786-1829. Totomoi Collection.

Tinsley, Thomas (1731-1774). Tobacco Inspection Account Book. 1771-1773. Special Collections: University of Virginia Library: Charlottesville.

Tinsley, Thomas Garland (1788-1859). Diaries. 1851, 1853, 1855-1859. Totomoi Collection.

Tinsley Family letters, receipts, accounts, miscellaneous papers. Totomoi Collection.

Tinsley Family Bible Records (copy). Library of Virginia.

Tinsley Family Papers, 1722-1891 (microfilm). Brock Collection. The Huntington Museum and Library, San Marino, CA.

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Tinsley Family Papers. Virginia Historical Society.

Tinsley v. Treat. 205 *United States Reports*. October Term 1906.

Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia, 106-1786. Transcribed and edited by C. G. Chamberlayne.
Richmond: Published by the Virginia State Library Board, 1940.

Virginia Carolina Chemical Co. et. al. Indictment in the Circuit Court of the United States of America for the Middle District of Tennessee. 1906. Case 963. National Archives, Southeast Region, Morrow GA.

Walker, Joel. Survey of Property for Thomas Tinsley, 1810. Totomoi Collection.

Washington Henry Academy Papers, 1778-1867. Virginia Historical Society.

Woodson, Robert F. *Virginia Tithables from Burned Record Counties*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1982.

York County, Virginia. *Wills and Deeds*.

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 # 1969
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: Hampden Sydney College; Hanover County Records; National Archives, Morrow, GA; UVA; VDHR; VHS; W&M

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR File no. 042-0039

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

The acreage is the same as previously listed at 544 acres.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

The UTM's below are the same as previously listed.

1 18 292260 4172670
Zone Easting Northing

3 18 290250 4170710
Zone Easting Northing

2 18 292210 4170680
Zone Easting Northing

4 18 290300 4172730
Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The acreage comprising the Totomoi property is bounded by a line beginning at a point along State Route 643 .5 mile northwest of the intersection of State Routes 643 and 651, then following State Route 643 for approximately 4200 feet; then curving 300 feet to the southeast; then extending 3300 feet south/southwestward in a straight line to intersect with Totopotomoy Creek; thence following the creek for 6500 feet; thence extending 600 feet west/northwestward; thence extending approximately 2600 feet in a straight line north/northwestward, thence extending 1800 feet eastward in a straight line and intersecting with intermittent creek, then following intermittent creek approximately 3000 feet, thence extending 1200 feet north/northeastward in a straight line to point of origin.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are approximately the same as the historic boundaries surveyed by Joel Walker in 1810 for Thomas Tinsley. Walker's survey is preserved by Tinsley's descendants at Totomoi. The boundaries encompass all known historic resources associated with Totomoi during its period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maria Wornom Rippe
organization Independent Scholar, author of Tinsley Family History date June 2011, June 2012
street & number 221 W. Brook Run Drive telephone _____
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23838
e-mail mrippeprippe@aol.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Totomoi, Hanover County, Virginia VDHR File #042-0039

Photographer: Kristin Kirchen

Date Photographed: June 2011

- | | |
|---|---|
| Photograph 1 of 20: Main House North Elevation | Photograph 11 of 20: Smokehouse West Elevation |
| Photograph 2 of 20: Main House West Elevation | Photograph 12 of 20: Cemetery Looking Northeast |
| Photograph 3 of 20: Main House Southwest Oblique | Photograph 13 of 20: Quarters East Elevation |
| Photograph 4 of 20: Main House Ell Southeast Corner | Photograph 14 of 20: Agriculture Complex Looking West |
| Photograph 5 of 20: Main House Interior Hall | Photograph 15 of 20: Dairy Barn Southeast Corner |
| Photograph 6 of 20: Main House Interior Parlor | Photograph 16 of 20: Cannery Southeast Elevation |
| Photograph 7 of 20: Pumphouse Southwest Corner | Photograph 17 of 20: Granary Northwest Corner |
| Photograph 8 of 20: Garage West Elevation | Photograph 18 of 20: Stable Southwest Corner |
| Photograph 9 of 20: Greenhouse Southeast Corner | Photograph 19 of 20: Silos, Office, Dairy Looking North |
| Photograph 10 of 20: Robert's Hse Quarters Southwest Corner | Photograph 20 of 20: Silos and Dairy West Elevations |

Property Owner:

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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Summary Paragraph

Totomoi is located in a rapidly developing area of Hanover County, less than 15 miles from the state capitol in Richmond, yet the picturesque farm remains remarkably undisturbed. The two-story, thirty-two-foot-square Federal style dwelling has been owned by the same family since it was built in 1800. Totomoi was listed in the National Register in 1976. This updated nomination provides current documentation and more detailed descriptions of the resources associated with this historic property. Contrary to the statement in the original nomination, the two-story house was extended about 1820 with the addition of a one-story lean-to on the east side. About 1840 the lean-to was extended by the addition of a large, single room ell at a right angle to the original square. No alterations have been made since then, other than the addition of a second porch to the lean-to, and a modern bathroom to the ell. A careful restoration directed by Peter Post, an experienced historical properties contractor, was completed in 2008. His goal and the goal of the current owners was to maintain the structure's original integrity where possible.

Situated near the dwelling are an early smokehouse, slave dwelling, tenant house and other service structures. A large, late 19th century barn and an early 20th century state-of-the-art dairy barn and unusual double silo, both no longer used, stand some distance from the house. The complex is surrounded by 544 acres of farmland, woodland and wetland; 378.89 acres of which has been conveyed to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in two easements protecting the property. The property is bounded on the north by Rural Point Road and on the south by Totopotomoy Creek. Its western boundary line is less than a mile from US Route 301.

Narrative Description

Totomoi's once rural setting has changed in recent years with suburban and commercial growth moving north from Richmond and Henrico County. The long dirt road described in the 1976 National Register nomination as running through dense woods is now a street in a subdivision. That street ends on the south side of Totopotomoy Creek, and no longer accesses Totomoi. The house is now approached only from Rural Point Road on the property's north side, following an old dirt road that has cut across Totomoi's rolling fields for generations. This road passes the old dairy, silo, and barn before it turns east, through gate posts, leading to the house. Large specimen trees planted in the 1920s and 1930s by the current owners' great aunt, an accomplished gardener, shade the dwelling, outbuildings, and family cemetery.

Primary Dwelling, 1800; ca. 1820; ca. 1840; CONTRIBUTING

Rising from a brick foundation, the dwelling's main block is square in plan. The broad cross hall stretches thirty-two feet across the west side. It is, in effect, a double-pile, side-hall plan house rotated ninety degrees so that the broad hall stretches across the front (west) façade with two rooms behind. The two-story house was extended about 1820 with the addition of a one-story lean-to on the east (rear) side. About 1840 the lean-to was extended by the addition of a large, single room ell at a right angle to the original square. The exterior of the three-bay main block and its additions are clad with beaded weatherboards. A massive, double stack Flemish-bond brick chimney with a second floor pent containing a window stands between the east end of the main block and the lean-to addition. The first floor of the main block has nine-over-nine sash windows with six-over-nine sash windows used on the second story. Large twelve-over-twelve sash windows are used in the ell. All of the windows have early louvered blinds. The main block is decorated with a modillion cornice; the ell has box cornices.

The entire house is covered with a standing-seam metal roof. Three porches shelter double doors into the cross hall of the main block. The north and south porches are one-story, gabled-roofed structures, with plaster cove ceilings and scrolled soffits in their tympani, and are supported on slender chamfered posts. The west portico on the gable end of the house is two stories high. It has a shallow, gabled roof, a dentil cornice, and four square stylized Doric piers on each level. During

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the recent restoration, evidence indicated that fixed louvers below the railing on the second story of the portico are original. The restoration contractor also determined that a porch, now on the east side of the lean-to, had been on the east side of the main block and was removed and rebuilt in 1820 to shelter the lean-to door. The lean-to is divided into a series of service rooms.

Each of the three exterior double doors into the cross hall hangs on HL hinges and retains much of the early brass. The current owners still use the original beaded wooden bars for securing its doors. Two interior doors open to connecting rooms. The hall is decorated with flush wainscoting capped by an elaborate chair rail, and with a punch-and-dentil cornice. The dogleg stair rises in the southeast corner of the hall. The staircase has a molded banister, square newel, and two turned balusters to a tread. A high dado consisting of horizontal beaded boards of various widths is carried up the lower run.

The larger (north) of the two first-floor rooms is the more elaborately decorated. Like the hall, it has flush wainscoting with a chair rail and a punch-and-dentil cornice. The handsome mantel consists of fluted Roman Doric pilasters supporting entablature blocks and a molded shelf with a wall-of-Troy fret cornice. The shelf is broken out over the entablature blocks and central tablet, and the entire frieze is vertically reeded. An early iron and brass fire frame remains in place.

The smaller (south) room is also decorated with flush wainscoting, and has a molded cornice. The segmental-arched fireplace here is framed by a white plaster surround and an "eared" architrave, with a heavily molded, unsupported mantel shelf with punch-and-dentil work and reeding above. An original closet in the northwest corner of the room is decorated with punch-and-dentil cornice and pulvinated frieze.

The 1840s ell is decorated with woodwork in the Greek Revival style. The doors and windows are framed with symmetrically molded trim and cornice *paterae*, rather than the architrave frames which are used in the original section. A pedestal-type chair rail is carried around the room, and the fireplace is framed by a mantel with symmetrically molded pilasters supporting an entablature with plain blocks and tablet, and by an unmolded mantel shelf which may be a replacement.

Secondary Resources

In addition to the main house, the Totomoi property contains multiple contributing outbuildings and one contributing site. There are two main clusters of outbuildings and a couple outliers. A cluster of domestic outbuildings is located immediately to the east of the main house and the family cemetery is located immediately to the northwest of the house, all of which are located within a fence line. A cluster of early 20th century agricultural outbuildings is located to the north of the main house. An early 20th century tenant house is located along what is now the main driveway to the north of the main house and a mid to late 19th century two-room dwelling is located in the woods well north of the main house near the site of a 19th century cannery operation. Non-contributing resources include the sheds and storage building built after the 1920s and 1930s. Resources were evaluated as contributing or non-contributing based on their construction date, integrity, and association with Totomoi during its period of significance.

The property is also rich with archaeological potential that has not been investigated. The site of a ca. 1800 frame barn, which fell down within the last ten years, is beside the standing stable and the general location of a 19th century cannery operation is known to exist about a half-mile north of the main house complex. There is also rumored to be a house site on the property that predates the main house, though the location is not known. A race track was supposedly located to the west of the current main house in what is now a cultivated field. Other archaeological sites, including the original kitchen and multiple slave quarters, are also likely located on the property, though they have not been identified with subsurface testing.

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Secondary Resources Located Within the Curtilage

Smokehouse, early 19th century, CONTRIBUTING

The frame smokehouse is located just to the southeast of the main house. It has a steep gabled roof covered with wood shingles (1980s vintage), a boxed cornice, plain weatherboard siding, a board and batten door, and it rests on concrete piers.

“Robert’s House”, Servants quarters, early 19th century with 20th century addition, CONTRIBUTING

This one-story frame building was identified as the kitchen in the 1976 National Register nomination, but the Mutual Assurance Policy from 1803 describes the kitchen as measuring twenty-by-twenty-eight feet and being located thirty-eight feet east of the main house.² The extant building does not match those dimensions. The southern section of this building is the oldest and it appears contemporary with the main house. It has beaded weatherboard siding on the west façade with a boxed cornice and bed molding and a board and batten door. This section of the building has a steep side-gabled roof covered with standing seam metal and rests on brick piers with later brick infill on the south elevation. The rear (east) elevation of the foundation is not continuous and the ground drops off, creating an open crawlspace under the building. The visible joists are hewn. The northern section of the building appears to have been added in the early 20th century. It also has a side gabled roof covered with standing seam metal, though it has a different pitch than the earlier section. The later section has plain weatherboard siding, circular sawn joists visible underneath, and rests on cinderblock piers. An interior brick chimney is centrally located between the two sections. The current owner reports that this building was always called “Robert’s House” because when her father inherited the property (date unknown) an elderly black man named Robert, who had worked on the property for years, lived in this building off and on.

Greenhouse, 1920s, CONTRIBUTING

A one-story, partially subterranean brick greenhouse is located south of the main house. This small square building has a hipped roof covered with standing seam metal and the south elevation is made up of a bank of twelve-light fixed windows.

Pumphouse, ca. 1920s, CONTRIBUTING

The small frame pump house is located immediately to the east of the main house and is the closest building to it. It has a low-pitched gabled roof, a board and batten door in the gable end, no windows, and exposed rafter tails. The current owner believes that the building was associated with the generation of electricity in the 1920s.

Garage, ca. 1920s, CONTRIBUTING

The garage is located northeast of the main house. It is a frame building with a hipped roof covered with standing seam metal, exposed rafter tails, and three sliding wood doors across the west elevation. A number of additions have been made to the rear of the building to house dog kennels for the current owner’s dog rescue operation. Kennel runs and fences also extend from the rear of the building. In 2011, a pit saw, which was found in a now-gone 19th century barn on the property and believed to have been used in the construction of the main house, is hanging in the garage.

Cemetery, 19th century, CONTRIBUTING SITE

The family cemetery is located just to the northwest of the main house on the other side of the current (2011) dirt driveway. The remains of an iron fence enclose the plot which contains 13 marked graves. The earliest, a large raised flat stone, marks the grave of Mary Tinsley Johnson (1786-1819), a daughter of Col. Thomas Tinsley. A small obelisk marks the graves of Mary’s brother, Thomas G. Tinsley (1788-1859), their mother, Susannah Thomson Tinsley (1765-1844), and Thomas G. Tinsley’s two wives: Harriet W. Tinsley (1803-1841) and Patsey R. Tinsley (1803-1873). Also buried there are Thomas Tinsley (1825-1873), oldest son of Thomas G. Tinsley; Augustus S. Rutherford, a brother of Patsey R. Tinsley,

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and Fanny Taliaferro (1852-1865), granddaughter of Thomas G. Tinsley. Four stones at the edge of the cemetery mark burial sites of Tinsley cousins: Sallie A. Hendree (1788-1875) and her husband George (1792-1834), two infants and their daughter Sue Hendree Bartlett. (See additional items for further cemetery details.)

Shed, post 1930, NONCONTRIBUTING

A frame shed with a shed roof and a mixture of corrugated metal and wood siding is located on the very edge of the curtilage to the south east of the house. At one point part of it may have served as a chicken coop.

Slave quarters, ca. 1850s, CONTRIBUTING

Actually located just outside the curtilage to the southeast of the house in a field is what the family believes to be the last remaining slave quarters on the property. According to Thomas G. Tinsley's diary kept in 1858, Tinsley employed a man named Metterd to construct a new slave quarter and paid a man named Kersey to build a chimney of salmon colored bricks.³ The frame building is in an advanced state of collapse and only the standing seam metal gable roof remains intact, resting mostly on the ground. The frame building had a lean-to addition on the east elevation which remains partially upright. No chimney is visible though there are scattered bricks on the ground. According to family tradition, this building was used as a schoolhouse after the Civil War.

Early 20th Century Agricultural Outbuildings North of the House

Silo Barn, ca. 1900, CONTRIBUTING

This interesting building stands two stories tall with a side gabled roof and is located just east of the current (2011) driveway north of the main house. The frame building is windowless but has two gabled dormers with small wooden shutters on the west side of the building. The interior of the building is made up entirely of two square concrete silos that extend into the ground to a depth of at least ten feet. There is no space between the frame walls of the barn and the walls of the concrete silos - the frame building is no more than an envelope. Interestingly, a section of both silos is open from the ground to the top plate of the frame building on the rear elevation, as if one of the corners of each square had been shaved off. These openings are framed by the wood framing of the barn and there appears to be a system of groves set into the framing that would allow horizontal boards to be inserted to close these openings as the depth of the silage rose. Each dormer provides access to the top of a silo.

Dairy Barn, ca. 1900, CONTRIBUTING

The frame dairy barn is located next to the silo barn. It rests on a continuous concrete foundation that also forms the floor of the barn. A side gabled roof has an extension to form a rain hood over the hay loft on the south elevation. The side elevations are made up of a continuous bank of six-over-six windows. Each window has a small opening beneath the window that would have been covered with some type of screening for the purposes of ventilation. Above the banks of windows on the side elevations is a single window-sized opening into the hay loft. The north and south gable ends of the building feature large barn doors but no windows. The south elevation does have two openings above the barn door, stacked one on top of the other, both providing access to the hay loft. The exterior of the building is clad with weatherboard siding held in place with wire nails. On the interior, the barn features a center aisle with twenty milking stanchions on either side. The walls and ceiling are plastered and painted white. The floor of the barn is pitched slightly to the north and a system of concrete drains built into the floor is designed to carry waste out of the barn and down a slope to the north of the barn to a cistern.

Office, ca. 1900, CONTRIBUTING

A small office building is located slightly behind the dairy barn and silo barn. The one-story building appears to consist of one room covered by a side gabled roof with a shed roofed addition extending from the east elevation. The side gabled portion of the building rests on a concrete foundation and is covered with weatherboard siding while the shed roofed

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addition is covered with corrugated metal. The side gabled section has a single six-over-six wood window on the west and south elevations and a door on the north elevation. The shed roofed addition also has a door on the north elevation and a

six-light window on the east. Immediately to the west of the building is reportedly a large brick-lined well that is now capped with concrete. The owner reports that a blacksmith shop was located in this building at one time or in an addition to the building that is now demolished.

Shed, post 1920, NONCONTRIBUTING

A low, open, gable roofed shed is located to the east of the dairy barn. The owner reports that it may have been used as a chicken house at one time. It is open on one side with vertical slats on the other and is in poor condition.

Stable, ca. 1900, CONTRIBUTING

The frame, gable roofed stable is located east of the dairy barn and silos, slightly separated from that complex by a tree line and gully. The stable faces south and has sliding double barn doors on the north and south gable ends. The south elevation also features two double leaf openings, stacked one on top of the other, above the main door. These openings are covered with vertical board doors and presumably provide access to the hay loft. The side elevations of the stable feature six-light window openings evenly spaced; most sash are missing. Like the other buildings in this complex, the stable is covered with weatherboard siding held in place with cut nails and this building rests on a cinderblock foundation. On the interior, the stable has a center aisle flanked by stalls. A tack room is located in one corner. Part of the floor is concrete. In 2011, this stable housed a carriage and wagons from the late 19th century. The site of a ca. 1800 frame barn is located just to the south of this stable.

Shed, post 1920, NONCONTRIBUTING

A gable-roofed run-in shed is located next to the stable. The structure is completely open on one side and sheathed in vertical board siding on the other three. It is in poor structural condition.

Granary/Barn, ca. 1900, CONTRIBUTING

The dual purpose granary and barn building is located closest to the main house complex. This gable roofed frame building is essentially a three-bay barn with a granary attached to one gable end and an open shed attached to the other. The building has a poured concrete foundation, wire-nailed weatherboard exterior, and an interior that is divided into a granary with storage bins and a barn for equipment and hay storage.

Storage Building, post 1920, NONCONTRIBUTING

A small gable-roofed storage building is located just to the east of the granary barn and the garage. In 2011, it was located inside the fence of the dog rescue area so wasn't accessible. It has a lean-to on one side and is covered in weatherboard siding. It is in poor structural condition.

Isolated Secondary Dwellings

Tenant House, ca. 1920, CONTRIBUTING

The two-story frame tenant house is located northwest of the main house complex right on what is now the main driveway to the main house. The two-bay double-pile house has a hipped roof with exposed rafter tails and a central interior brick chimney. A full width front porch is supported by classical columns. The house has weatherboard siding and mostly six-over-six double-hung wood windows.

Two-Room dwelling, mid-late 19th century, CONTRIBUTING

Located about a half-mile north of the main house is the site of a 19th century cannery operation and a single standing dwelling. The cannery was a sizeable operation but it is not known when the building(s) were demolished and the exact

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site isn't known. A grove of trees beside an agricultural field with several very large trees marks the approximate location. It is not known if the dwelling was associated with the cannery operation or if it predated it.

The one-story, two-room frame dwelling has a side gabled roof and a central interior brick chimney and rests on a low brick pier foundation. It is sheathed with weatherboard siding held in place with cut nails and the framing is circular sawn. It has a simple boxed cornice. There is one doorway and one window opening on both the north and south elevations. The doorways provide access into different rooms. Small, square window openings are located in the gables on the east and west sides of the building, providing light into the garret. No window sashes survive. On the interior, there are two rooms and the remains of back to back fireplaces. The bricks of the fireplaces have been mostly robbed out and only a single pilaster of one mantle remains. The plain wooden pilaster has a simple wooden capital and plinth. There is an interior door between the two rooms and a stair rises out of the west room to the attic. The walls and ceiling of the first floor rooms consist of wide boards painted white. The building is in failing structural condition and was not safe to enter.

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Summary Statement of Significance

When Totomoi was listed in the National Register in 1976, its significance was based on a family tradition that the property was acquired in 1689 as a land grant to a Thomas Tinsley I and passed down through an unbroken line of six more Thomas Tinsleys. With the recent recovery of significant family documents, it is now clear that this family tradition was incorrect. The first Tinsley to own the property known as Totomoi purchased it from his wife's mother in 1800.⁴ The story of this Thomas Tinsley (1755-1822) and that of his son Garland (1788-1859) and grandson James (1843-1920), their slaves and employees is substantiated by deeds, diaries, letters, accounts, slave records, family memorabilia as well as primary source material in institutional collections. Together these documents provide insights about the property from the era of the early American republic to the first decades of the 20th century.

Totomoi was originally listed under Criterion C for architecture at the state level. Totomoi is also significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of agriculture. Totomoi is significant as a remarkably undisturbed and well-preserved example of a Federal-period plantation with domestic and agricultural outbuildings ranging in date from the early 19th through the early 20th century. The Federal-style house is distinguished by its plan, a version of the side-hall plan with the hall entered by three exterior double doors, one sheltered on the gable end by a two-story portico, and one door on each side sheltered by matching porches. Although enlarged twice in the early 19th century, the house has not been altered appreciably since 1840. Totomoi is significant under Criterion A for its association with agricultural improvements during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, especially innovations carried out by James Garland Tinsley over the course of a productive career that spanned more than four decades. The property lines are approximately the same today as shown on a survey drawn for Tinsley in 1810. The current owners of Totomoi are Tinsley descendants. The period of significance is 1800, the date of construction of the main house, to 1920, the year that James Garland Tinsley, who was responsible for the post-Civil War agricultural success of the farm, died. This nomination update provides a more detailed and accurate statement of significance for Totomoi's significance under Criteria A and C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Tinsley family was well-known in Hanover and surrounding counties before the American Revolution for their tavern in Hanover town, a port town laid out in 1762 on the Pamunkey River. The family had lived in the county since it was formed in 1720 from New Kent County. No documentation has been found to date to substantiate the claim made in the 1976 nomination that the family came from Sheffield or any other place in England. There is evidence now that this Tinsley family has roots in the south of Ireland, according to a direct descendant whose statement from a New York dispatch was republished in *The State*, a Richmond newspaper, on August 4, 1890.⁵

During the American Revolution, Thomas Tinsley (1755-1822) was licensed to operate a tavern in Hanover town after the deaths of his father in 1774 and his oldest brother Crutchfield (d.ca.1776). Thomas served as a member of the Hanover militia, and received a commission as captain signed by Governor Thomas Jefferson on 15 May 1781. He and Susannah Thomson (1765-1844), daughter of Ann and John Thomson, married in 1782. The couple's first home was in or near Tinsley's Tavern and store in Hanover town. Tinsley was chosen in 1786 to serve on the reorganized vestry of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover, and was elected three years later to serve his first of eight consecutive one-year terms as a Hanover County delegate to Virginia's General Assembly. Politically he supported President Washington's Federalist policies and remained a Federalist for the rest of his life. In 1794 Tinsley was promoted to Colonel of the 74th Regiment, Virginia Light Infantry. He served as Sheriff of Hanover County in 1799.⁶

Real estate tax records for 1800 show that Colonel Tinsley purchased 400 acres (the nucleus of Totomoi) from Ann Sydnor. At that time, she was the widow of John Thomson and later of William Sydnor, but more importantly, she was

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Tinsley's mother-in-law. Two hundred of Tinsley's 400-acre purchase had been parcels purchased by David Thomson in 1747 and John Thomson in 1758. The family copy of the 1747 deed states that this land had been part of a larger patent granted to George Wilkinson in 1703.⁷ Both deeds were passed down in the family in the Tinsley family and given to the Virginia Historical Society by a descendant in 1972. The deeds recorded in court records for the other 200 acres were lost when public records stored in Richmond burned in April 1865.

More than likely Colonel Tinsley built his Federal-style house the same year that he purchased his wife's family land, although the house could have been built a year or two earlier or later. When the house was undergoing extensive restoration between 2001 and 2006, the contractor found evidence suggesting that it had been built quickly, but no evidence was found in the foundation to support the family legend that the house was built on the site of an earlier house destroyed by fire. Tinsley did insure the house and kitchen in 1803 with the Mutual Assurance Society and renewed the policy in 1815.

Colonel Tinsley's lifestyle and involvement as a leading citizen of Hanover County suggest that he designed his new dwelling as a place where camaraderie could flourish as it did in the days when his Hanover town tavern was a lively hub. Decades later Tinsley's son made frequent reference in diaries to the racetrack field where he grew wheat. Most likely that field was flat land once visible from the two-story portico of Tinsley's dwelling before trees blocked the westward view. In 1802 the Colonel owned ten horses and by 1805 he had thirteen in his stable, suggesting he had a mare for breeding. Like many Virginia gentlemen, he enjoyed the challenge of racing his horses against those of his neighbors, and enjoyed partying afterward. Tinsley's long hall was ideal for dancing reels, especially on hot summer nights when breezes came through open double doors on three sides of the hall. During that same decade the Colonel began what became a long tenure as principal trustee of Washington Henry Academy. With guidance from the Academy's tutor, the trustees organized the Hanover Book Society and met occasionally at nearby Totomoi.⁸ Tinsley's large parlor with its fireplace surrounded by an impressive Federal style mantle provided a stately setting for Society members to discuss literature and current events.

Thomas Tinsley's wife, Susannah, lived on at Totomoi for twenty-two years after her husband's death in 1822. Their only surviving son, Thomas Garland (1788-1859), had married and settled at Ringfield, his first wife's birthplace in York County. He and his family made Totomoi their primary residence about 1838, probably because his elderly mother needed care. There is no record dating the addition of the large one-story ell. Most likely it was built about that time to provide an accessible room for Susannah.

Garland Tinsley worked diligently as a farmer at Totomoi and Ringfield to improve the fertility of the soil. He read the *Southern Planter* (issues in family collection), spread guano imported from South America, experimented with night soil (poudrette) supplied by a New Jersey company, and followed time-tested practices for resting and enriching his fields. When he read about McCormick's reaper, he thought it was a gimmick until he saw the "wheat machine" at work in a neighbor's field. A few days later, Tinsley and Tom Gardner agreed to joint ownership of the reaper.⁹ The Tinsleys were staunch members of Polegreen Presbyterian Church. Garland's will, written in 1858, recorded in 1859, and re-recorded in 1867, directed that his Hanover farm pass to his second wife, Patsey Rutherford Tinsley (1803-1873), and at her death to their only child, James Garland Tinsley, who was born at Totomoi in 1843.¹⁰

During the Civil War, Patsey Tinsley managed to hold her house and farm intact. She saved receipts showing taxes paid on Totomoi's 504.75 acres and three lots at Hanover town where Tinsley's tavern once stood. Personal property taxes in her name for 1862 included 14 slaves; taxes for 1863 and 1864 included 12 slaves. Patsey's most difficult days at Totomoi came in May 1864 when Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant surged into Hanover in an attempt to take Richmond from the north. Her neighbor's house at Rural Plains (now a National Park Service-owned property) was used by the Union Second Corps as headquarters. Her only child, a private in the Second Company, Richmond Howitzers, was camped near Atlee's Station, less than two miles from Totomoi. James did not know that his mother stayed in the

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basement at Totomoi instead of seeking safety with her family in Richmond. Patsey did not know whether James was dead or alive until inconclusive fighting along Totopotomoy Creek had moved further east.¹¹

Twenty-two year old James Tinsley returned home after the war emotionally weathered but physically whole. Even though the value of his father's estate had dropped significantly with the collapse of the slave economy, he and his mother were not financially ruined. Records suggest that some, if not all of her Rutherford inheritance had been invested outside the South. James knew the farmer's world instinctively and how to proceed with repairs and soil improvement. Before his college days at Hampden-Sydney ended in 1861, he studied chemistry, and then as a private in the Richmond Howitzers, he worked with nitrates and other natural resources. Home again at Totomoi, he shifted focus from firing howitzers to mixing those same raw materials as fertilizer for his war-torn fields. In due time, neighbors noted his results and inquired about the specialty fertilizers he had developed for wheat, vegetables, and other crops.¹²

By the late 1870s with more fresh produce than could be consumed locally, James built a cannery near present-day Rural Point Road. Carloads of canned goods under Tinsley's labels were shipped from a rail siding near Totomoi to commission merchants in Northern cities. A small residence once used by a tenant farmer, overseer, or manager associated with Tinsley's cannery still stands near the site.

During the 1880s Tinsley moved his wife, son and seven daughters to a Henrico County farm overlooking the Chickahominy lowlands near Meadow Bridge, a location more convenient for his commute to his Richmond office. His home at Totomoi became the residence of his overseer, W. H. (Buck) Butler and the Butler family. By that time, Tinsley had a fertilizer plant on the north side of the James River near the city docks and railroad lines. He and Isaac Davenport, a Richmond financier, established a partnership known as James G. Tinsley and Co. Later that decade Tinsley and Samuel Travers organized Richmond Chemical Works, a joint stock company that manufactured and supplied the emerging fertilizer industry with sulfuric acid and acid phosphate.¹³

In 1895 Tinsley was a founding partner of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company and served as its first treasurer. Eleven years later, the Richmond-based fertilizer business, headquartered in a handsome, new building, was investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Sherman Antitrust Act, but after two years of litigation was found not to be a monopoly. Soon thereafter, Tinsley sold his interest in V-C and retired to his Henrico farm.

Sometime in 1911 Tinsley and his longtime overseer, Buck Butler, entered into a partnership to operate a dairy farm at Totomoi. That year the real estate assessment for Tinsley's farmland in Hanover County was raised from \$1,774 to \$3,200 and improvements jumped from \$800 to \$3,200, reflecting construction of a state-of-the-art dairy complex the previous year. The most advanced feature was the double concrete silo for storage of silage (green corn) to feed the cows. Concrete silos were very expensive in 1910, but were a vast improvement over wood, stone, or even brick structures that did not guarantee air-tight, water-tight, frost-proof storage. Fresh silage was needed twice daily to operate a successful dairy farm. The barn for milking cows, sited on the north side of the silos, was built with a concrete floor slanted slightly downhill to ease cleaning into a drain after milking forty cows.¹⁴ A small office was built nearby as well as a stable for horses and mules, and another barn for storage of farm equipment was constructed close to the dwelling. The Totomoi dairy farm was a model of efficiency: fertilizer produced more corn which, when cut, made more silage to feed more cows who produced better milk and more manure returned to pastures and fields.

Tinsley died in 1920. An inventory of Totomoi farm in 1923, after J. G. Tinsley's and W. H. Butler's deaths, shows the total value of livestock, equipment, and feed as \$7,903.75. In November of that year, T. G. Butler and F. R. Butler, surviving partners, sold their half of the partnership to Tinsley's daughter who inherited Totomoi. It is not known when the dairy operation ended. Clair Tinsley Jones and her husband, Seddon, renovated the old house, added modern conveniences, and developed ornamental gardens around the dwelling. After her death, the farm passed to her nephew and is owned now by his three daughters. As one turns into Totomoi today and slows down on the long gravel lane, passing fields and

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barns before arriving at the main house, one can step back in time easily to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The lives of the Tinsleys who lived there in close proximity with their slaves and later their employees are significant for what they tell us about America's challenges and accomplishments.

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Totomoi Cemetery Tombstones

One large stone, four small foot stones

1. Susannah T[homson] Tinsley, born December 5, 1765, died July 29, 1844
(*Wife of Colonel Thomas Tinsley, mother of Thomas G. Tinsley*)
2. Thomas G[arland] Tinsley, born December 20, 1788, died September 14, 1859
(*Son of Colonel Thomas Tinsley, 1755-1822*)
3. Harriet W[ashington] Tinsley, born July 24, 1803, died July 13, 1841
(*First wife of Thomas G. Tinsley; middle name, Washington; maiden name, Bryan*)
4. Patsey R[utherford] Tinsley, born August 18, 1803, died May 30, 1873
(*Second wife of Thomas G. Tinsley; daughter of Thomas Rutherford*)

Large raised flat stone:

Mary, consort of David Johnson, daughter of Thomas and Susanna Tinsley of Hanover County, Va. She was born on the 16th of August 1786, and died [in Louisa Co.] on the 22nd of September 1819 in the 31st year of her age.

Headstones:

1. Fanny, daughter of J[acquelin] P[lummer] & H[arriet] B[ryan Tinsley] Taliaferro
Born February 5, 1852, died December 18, 1865 [at Westwood in Amelia County]
(*Granddaughter of Thomas G. and Harriet Bryan Tinsley*)
2. Augustus S[mith] Rutherford, died August 10, 1875 in the 64th year of his age
(*Gus was youngest son of Thomas & Sallie Winston Rutherford; brother of Patsey Rutherford Tinsley*)
3. Thomas Tinsley, born October 8, 1825, died July 14, 1873 [Ringfield, York County, VA]
(*Thomas was oldest son of Thomas G. & Harriet Bryan Tinsley*)

Four stones for the Hendree family:

1. Sallie A[ustin] Hendree, relict of George Hendree, died December 15, 1875 in her 87th year
(*Sallie Austin - middle name was Austin - was the daughter of John Tinsley, a niece of Colonel Thomas Tinsley, and a first cousin of Thomas G. Tinsley*)
2. George Hendree, who was born at Portsmouth September 26, 1792 and died in Richmond, July 8, 1834. This stone is erected as a memorial of affection by his wife & children.
(*George, a noted cabinetmaker in Richmond, was Sallie's husband*)
3. Two infants of G[eorge]. and S[allie] A[ustin] Hendree.
4. Sue A. Hendree, wife of S. M. Bartlett, daughter of George & S[allie] A[ustin] Hendree
died April 14, 1879 in her 54th year.

According to family tradition, the cemetery at Totomoi was full by 1880. Sue Hendree Bartlett was buried there in 1879, but her husband who died in the 1880s was buried at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

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Endnotes

¹ Hanover County Land Tax Records, 1800, Box 3, Virginia State Records Collection. Library of Virginia (LVA). See also Tinsley Family Bible. LVA.

² *Mutual Assurance Society Papers*, Library of Virginia.

³ Diary of Thomas Garland Tinsley, 1858. Totomoi Collection.

⁴ Hanover County Land Tax Records, 1800, Box 3, Virginia State Records Collection. Library of Virginia (LVA). See also Tinsley Family Bible. LVA.

⁵ Samuel Tinsley, a younger brother of Thomas (1755-1822), had a mulatto son named John who was manumitted and eventually settled in Toronto, Canada. John Tinsley's story includes what he learned from his father about his paternal family.

⁶ Virginia Gazette (Rind) 1769-05-05, 4, 1. Virginia Gazette (Purdie and Dixon), 1774-0804, 3,1; 1775-11-3. Thomas Smith to Thomas Tinsley, Williamsburg, 9 December 1778, 2 January 1779, Tinsley Papers, Virginia Historical Society (VHS). Tinsley Papers, Totomoi Collection. Commission for Thomas Tinsley, Captain, Hanover County Militia, now in collection of Carolyn and Giles Cromwell, Richmond, VA. Tinsley Family Bible, LVA. Mercantile Account Book, 1791-1796, VHS. Tinsley Family Papers, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. Journal of the House of Delegates, Richmond, VA. Tinsley's militia ranks and regiments are marked on a monument in a small cemetery in western Hanover County near Hylas on property once known as Spring Grove. Harold E. Bradley, comp., "Hanover County Sheriffs, 1721-1982," in *Hanover County Historical Society Bulletin*, 26 (June 1982).

⁷ Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3:78.

⁸ Washington Henry Academy Papers, VHS.

⁹ Diary of Thomas Garland Tinsley, 1851. Totomoi Collection.

¹⁰ Diaries of Thomas Garland Tinsley, Totomoi Collection. Hanover County Wills and Deeds, 1867. Taliaferro Family Papers, Collection of Judge Harry Tinsley Taliaferro III, Warsaw, VA.

¹¹ Property tax receipts. Totomoi Collection. *Survey of Civil War Sites in Hanover County, Virginia*, County of Hanover, VA, 2002, 54-59.

¹² Maria Wornom Rippe, *The Tinsley Family of Totomoi, Hanover County, Virginia, 1755-1920*, Richmond: The Dietz Press, 2009.

¹³ James G. Tinsley, Business Correspondence, 1891-1894, Collection of Margaret Moncure Conway, Fredericksburg, VA.

¹⁴ <http://www.archive.org/details/siloandsilage00cookgoog>, The silo and silage (1889);

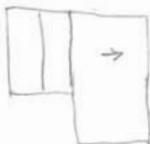
<http://www.archive.org/details/constructionofsi129atwo>, Construction of a silo (1910);

<http://www.archive.org/details/soilingcropssilo00shaw>, Soiling crops and the silo; how to cultivate and harvest the crops; how to build and fill the silo; and how to use silage (1900).

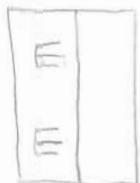


Totomoi, Hanover County, VA
DHR # 042-0039
October 2011

dairy barn



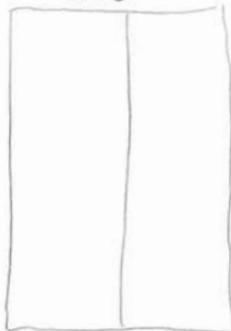
office



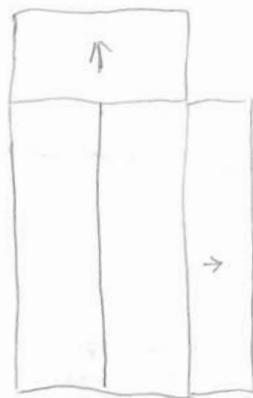
silo barn



stable



Site of
19th c. barn



granary / barn



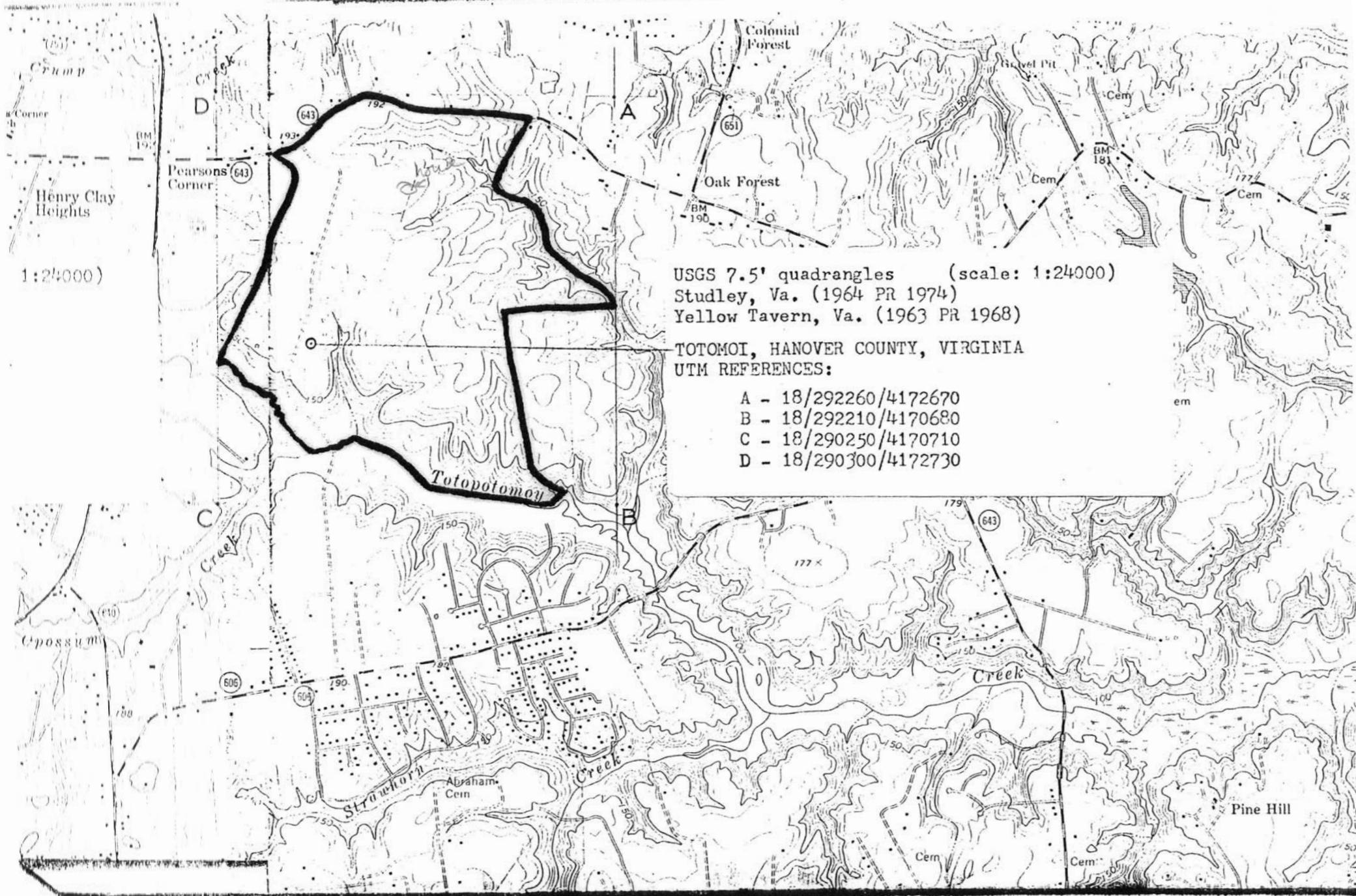
↑ N
Not to scale

Agricultural Complex
Tetotomoi, Hanover County, VA
DHR #042-0039
October 2011



Totomoi, Hanover County, VA
 DHR # 042-0039
 October 2011

- 14 - cont. buildings - □ c
- 4 - NC buildings - ■ NC
- 1 - cont. site - ⊠ c



1:24000)

USGS 7.5' quadrangles (scale: 1:24000)
Studley, Va. (1964 PR 1974)
Yellow Tavern, Va. (1963 PR 1968)

TOTOMOI, HANOVER COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM REFERENCES:

- A - 18/292260/4172670
- B - 18/292210/4170680
- C - 18/290250/4170710
- D - 18/290300/4172730