

VLR = 2/19/74 NHP = 5/3/74

053-0446

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Loudoun
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Oatlands Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Oatlands Historic District

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 9 mi. N of Goose Creek, .5 mi. NE of Rt. 15, 1 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 15 and Rt. 651

CITY OR TOWN: Leesburg vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Tenth (Joel T. Broyhill)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Loudoun	CODE 107
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>archaeological</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: National Trust for Historic Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER: 740-748 Jackson Place, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

CODE: 11

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Loudoun County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Leesburg

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designated a National Historic Landmark February 1972, Oatlands included the house and approximately 300 acres. It was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places 21 August 1969 by the Virginia Historic Landmark Commission. Recently through easements and gifts this district has been trebled in acreage to include more of the environment that has been associated with George Carter's plantation.

Prior to the initial nomination, three easements were accepted by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to maintain the surrounding open space. Acquisition of two properties (Oatland Mills and Mountain Gap School) and pending easements on the Church of Our Savior and additional land, all originally part of Oatlands, require the expansion of the already designated district. Combining the National Trust properties with the areas under easement creates a contiguous district.

Expansion of the district permits presentation of a visually integrated ensemble to the public. All of the areas and structures cited in the proposed expansion are related historically. The proposed district delineates the operational center of Carter's plantation. Major portions of the proposed district have been recognized by the federal government, while easements have been accepted by the state on the open space areas of the valley. Expansion of the district to include the newly acquired properties will enable the National Trust to fulfill the goals stated in the Oatlands deed of Gift and assist in the maintenance of this historic landscape.

a. Oatland Mills -

The existing appearance of the mill site consists of brick, stone fragments and evidence of the mill race. On the east bank of Goose Creek the fragment of the stone wall measures 150 ft. in length and 3' to 7' high above the creek bed. The stones are set without mortar. Stones in the creek bed indicate that the dam crossed diagonally above the rapids. The mill race from this point appears along the west side of U. S. Highway 15 and resumes on the east side diagonally across the original Leesburg-Aldie Turnpike, terminating at the mill head. Stone foundations, approximately 3'-0" thick stretch 66'-0" along the north bank of the former creek bed. A fragment of a brick wall bonded every 4th course with headers stands on the west end of the stone foundation. It is 1'-10" thick, 16'-0" long. There is evidence of a window 4'-4" above the stone wall. Thirty-two feet north of this wall parallel to it is evidence of another stone foundation wall which measures approximately 38'-0" in length. These dimensions appear to approximate the two story section of an early undated photograph. At the extreme east end of the foundation wall along the creek appears a definite corner block. Forty-eight feet north of this corner block are fragments of another foundation wall, extending 28'-0"

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7. Description (cont.) Page 2

westward. This evidence seems to indicate that the original ell-shaped millhouse had overall dimensions approximately 66'-0" x 48'-0". No trace of the original mill equipment remains.

b. Mountain Gap School

This is a simple one-room rectangular building, 20'-3" x 30'-3", excluding the porch and the coal shed. The peak of the gabled roof which is covered with standing-seam sheet metal is 20'-6" above the rubble stone foundation wall. The clapboard walls and eave brackets are painted red. At the entrance on the east is a wood porch, 6'-5" x 6'-0" with a wood railing and wood steps and railing on the north. The 6'-0" x 8'-0" lean-to on the west has random width, rough-sawn vertical board siding and a corrugated metal shed roof. The entrance door on the east contains a pair of wood doors with five recessed panels. There is a glazed transom with four lights, 10" x 17", above. The flat trim at the doorway has a beaded edge, and the transom bar is moulded. High in the gable over the doorway is a small window with four lights, 8" x 10". On the north and south walls there are three double-hung wood windows with six over six lights, 10" x 18". In the interior the east end has been partitioned with T & G beaded vertical siding to create an apparent hand-wash room on the north and an enclosed coat closet on the south of the central entrance way. The north, south and west walls are plastered above a 2'-5" beaded board wainscot and chair rail. There is a large blackboard of recent vintage above the chair rail on the west wall, behind the raised teacher's platform. Two smaller blackboards are located between windows on the north and south wall. There is a coal stove in the center of the room with a vertical stove pipe up to the chimney. Electricity has been installed.

c. Church of Our Savior (Protestant Episcopal)

The original Church was a simple rectangle. According to Mrs. David E. Finley, (Margaret Eustis) her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis, added a small rectangular apse with an arched leaded stained glass window. Later the Choir Dressing Room was added south of the altar and a small furnace room was added on the north. Over-all dimensions are now 23'-0" x 33'-0". The rubble stones of the foundation wall have been dressed to a relatively smooth face and brought up to window-sill height. A bead of mortar has been

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drawn across the irregular-sized stones to simulate regular ashlar coursing. The red brick bearing walls begin with a header course on the foundation wall. The wood window-sills are set in this header course. Every sixth course of brick is a header course in the common bond. The west gable wall incorporated a projecting brick cross, approximately five feet high. The Choir Room addition is also red brick. The furnace room is concrete block painted dusty rose. A concrete stoop with two risers leads up to the wood sill of the entrance door on the west. It should be noted that a small fragment of a stone block carved into two steps stands free against the south wall of the church. The entrance doorway on the west consists of two wood doors, each with two recessed panels, framed by simple pedimented wood frontispiece attached to the face of the brick wall. Two 3/4-engaged wood Tuscan Columns on a low modern brick plinth support the undecorated entablature. The raking cornice is formed by simple large-scaled crown mouldings. A scrolled iron bracket is attached to the tympanum. Above the entrance doorway is a low, hipped roof, wood belfry surmounted by a cross, painted dark green. All windows except the stained glass window are wood, double hung with nine over nine lights, 12" x 20". Lintels are flat radiating brick arches. There are fixed louvered wood shutters at all double-hung windows, except that the louvers on the north side have been replaced by solid wood panels. All are painted dark green. Roofs over the nave, the lower apse and the Choir Room are gabled and shingled. The shed roof over the furnace room is also shingled. On the interior the single space of the nave is entered through a small narthex which projects into the nave at the west end. The enclosed winder stairs are located in the northwest corner. Beginning on the north wall of the narthex they rise to the rear gallery, with sloping floor, supported by two slender Tuscan columns. These columns rest directly on the wood floor without plinths. The 9'-0" wide rectangular apse has a plastered barrel-vaulted ceiling. The arched opening is trimmed by a white flat wood banding with an applied wood keystone at the arch and simplified wood Doric pilasters at the sides. The pilasters rest on the wainscot shelf. Edges of the pilasters and the arched trim are chamfered. The wood floor of the apse is two risers above the main wood floor. An additional step leads up to the altar railing and altar. The foundation wall which projects five inches beyond the plastered interior wall is faced with beaded vertical T & G wood wainscot with a shelf. Walls and ceilings are smooth plaster. There is central heating and electricity, but no plumbing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>a. Oatland Mills:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A ledger identified on its spine as "Oatlands Mills - G. Carter," has entries from the period of December 1816 - September 1825. This is the only known ledger to have survived. The numerous accounts offer a picture of George Carter's extensive business operations and services performed. In addition to the produce accounts for wheat, flour, corn, rye, bran, and buckwheat, there are also entries for the following services: grinding plaster, carding machines, ships stuff, and saw mill. While the purchase of a plaster machine in 1809 can be documented, no evidence has been located concerning the construction of the mill complex. Due to the extensive plantation operations in the region of Robert Carter, George Carter's father, it is possible that the building dated from the last quarter of the eighteenth century.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Oatland Mills was a major destination of the Goose Creek and Little River Navigation Company. Chartered in 1832 by the General Assembly, the proposed navigation project was to connect landlocked portions of Loudoun, Fauquier and Prince William counties with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Recognizing the importance of the project to his operations, Carter was the largest subscriber, and thus elected president. Located at the point where the Oatlands Road and the Leesburg-Aldie Turnpike crossed Goose Creek, the mill site served as a nucleus about which developed a small crossroads community. Prior to the destruction of the mill about 1905, there existed a blacksmith shop, the Church of Our Savior, post office, store and several residences. During the past seventy years the mill site has been robbed of its building materials. A portion of the south wall and foundations remain. Study of the remaining buildings and an archaeological investigation of the mill site will add immeasurably to the interpretation of Oatlands and the plantation's operation.</p> <p>b. Mountain Gap School</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The starting point of a recent film produced by the Virginia State Department of Education, the Mountain Gap School was the last operating one-room school in Loudoun County when closed in 1953.</p>			

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8. Statement of Significance (cont.) P. 2

Although William Carr, James Carr, Robert Fulton, Gustavus Elgin and David Fulton purchased the property from George Carter in 1827, "being desirous of building a house by public subscription for holding and keeping a public school for the education of the youth of the neighborhood...", the present structure appears to date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century. For many years, it ably served the residents of the immediate area. Upon closing, the structure was purchased by one of its most illustrious graduates, Wilbur C. Hall. Entering the Virginia House of Delegates in 1918, at age 24, he was, in 1935, the first full-time appointment to the position of Chairman of the Virginia Conservation Commission. Mrs. Eustis was a major supporter and intimately involved with her school's activities until the time of its closing.

Interested in the county's history, Mr. Hall, purchased the school with the intention of opening it as a museum after its restoration to the period of his school days. Presently the building is equipped with seven "Orin #2, 1872" benches and desks, two "Globe Desks," and an Acme Giant coal stove, model #20, manufactured by Wehrle Company, Newark, Ohio. One antique desk remains. The little red school house with its open public space stands along the side of the highway as a mute reminder of a bygone era in America's growing public education system.

c. Church of Our Savior (Protestant Episcopal)

On 26 March 1875, George Carter, Kate P. Carter, his wife, and Elizabeth O. Carter his mother, deeded the church site to John Gillespie, John F. Elgin, John T. Iden, Joseph Lewis Harding and Benjamin G. Carter. These men represented The Protestant Episcopal Congregation which worshipped in the Oatlands chapel. According to the Autobiography of Rev. Sewall S. Hepburn, an abandoned blacksmith shop adjacent to the site had been "fitted up for a chapel." The present structure, consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Francis M. Whittle on 21 August 1878, replaced the earlier temporary chapel.

Although built after the Civil War, the church retains a "slave gallery" above the west entrance supported by two elongated Tuscan columns. Located adjacent to where the Leesburg-Aldie Turnpike crossed Goose Creek, the church was part of a small commercial center consisting of the Oatland Mills, miller's residence, overseer's house, blacksmith shop, store and post office. In this setting, the simple unadorned form of the Church of Our Savior served the immediate community. Recent years have seen a growing concern and active interest on the part of the congregation in the maintenance of its rural character.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

a. Oatland Mills

1. Maps

- a. Survey of Goose Creek and the Little River and Beaver Dam, 1832. Virginia State Archives.
- b. Loudoun County, 1853. Yardley Taylor Surveyor. Library of Congress, Map, Division, Arlington, Va.
- c. "Surveys for Military Defences," Map of N. Eastern Virginia and Vicinities of Washington, 1862, Library of Congress, Map Division.
- d. Loudoun County-Leesburg District 1880 (?) Library of Congress, Map Division, Arlington, Va.

2. Deed Book 578, pages 192-195, Loudoun County Courthouse

3. Oatland Mills Accounts Book, 1816-1824, National Trust for Historic Preservation.

4. Manuscript compiled by Helen H. Marsh, copy of Chap. 5 in possessing National Trust for Historic Preservation.

b. Mountain Gap School

1. Deed Book 3P, Pages 249-252, Loudoun County Courthouse
2. Deed Book 338, pages 95-97, Loudoun County Courthouse
3. Deed Book 584, pages 456-8, Loudoun County Courthouse
4. Firm Records, Craig, Wood & Broune, Architects, 6000 Stevenson Ave., Alexandria, Va.
5. Blue Ridge Herald Newspaper, June 9, 1955, p.9
6. Superintendent's office, Loudoun County School Board, Leesburg, Va.

c. Church of Our Savior

1. Deed Book 6 G, pages 334-336, Loudoun County Courthouse
2. Autobiography of Rev. Sewall S. Hapburn in the Virginia Diocesan Library
3. Diocesan Council Journals, 1875-1879

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

- 1) Plotting of the property boundaries extends from the Leesburg Quadrangle (Virginia-Loudoun Co., 7.5 minute series) to the Lincoln Quadrangle (Virginia-Loudoun Co., 7.5 minute series).
- 2) The following description includes properties currently owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, under acquisition by the National Trust, pending easement to the National Trust and presently under open space easement to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the district, the property line extends WEST along State Rt. 651 crossing Rt. 15 to the Northwest corner of the Mountain Gap School site; turning to the WEST-SOUTHWEST the line extends approximately 4300' to the westernmost point where turning to the SOUTH, the line extends to the southern edge of State Rt. 733; turning EAST, the line runs along the south edge of State Rt. 733 to a point slightly west of Rt. 15 where it turns NORTH for a short distance and then EAST crossing Rt. 15, omitting three houses at the junction of Rts. 733 and 15, it proceeds south along the east side of Rt. 15 to the junction of Rts. 15 and 650; where, turning west, it recrosses Rt. 15, to the bank of Goose Creek, opposite the junction of State Rts. 15 and 650; then extending EAST along the north bank it passes under Rt. 15 to the Oatland Mills site; it turns NORTH bounded on the east by State Rt. 650, to a point approximately 150 yards north of BM 317 where it turns due North returning to the point of beginning on State Rt. 651 bounded by the lands of Edgar Young Estate, Kathleen C. England and Melvin Bush; the whole containing 947 acres, more or less.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 03' 03"	77° 37' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39° 03' 03"	77° 36' 35"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	39° 01' 37"	77° 36' 35"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	39° 01' 37"	77° 37' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 947 (see attached description)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Woodrow Wilkens, HABS and Thomas M. Slade, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Trust for Historical Preservation

DATE

November 6, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

740-748 Jackson Place, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

CODE

11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

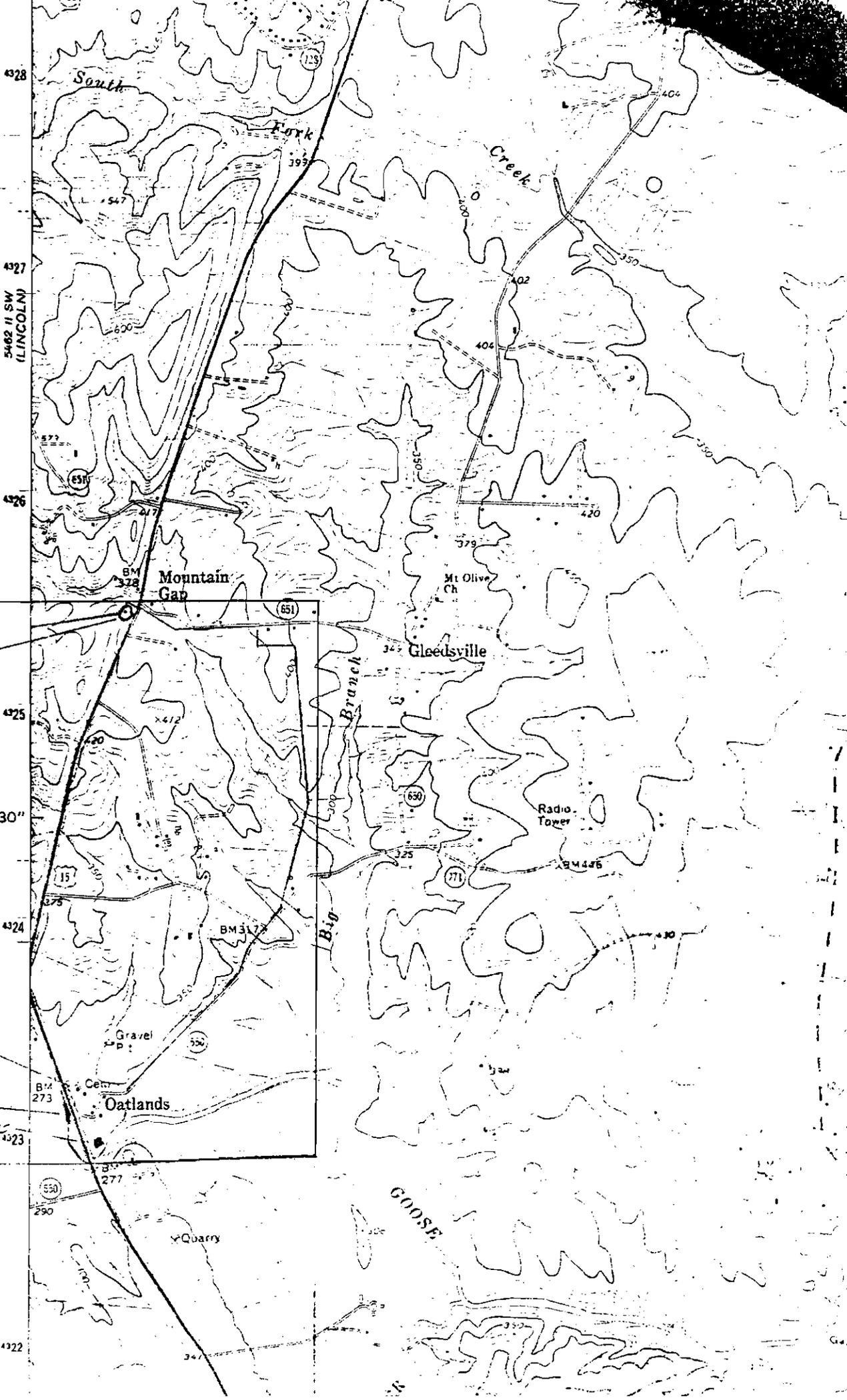
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

LEESBURG  
QUAD



39° 03' 03"

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

OATLAND HILLS RACEWAY & DAM  
MILL FOUNDATIONS

39° 01' 37"

