

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 an 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 Woodbourne

other names/site number DHR File No. 56-38

### 2. Location

street & number SR 657 (Thrift Road); 1 1/2 miles w. of jct. Bus 29 and / <sup>SR 657</sup> not for publication N/A

city or town Madison  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Madison code 113 zip code 22727

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

William A. Swanson May 5, 1999  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Woodbourne

Madison County, VA

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	9	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	9	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

noncontributing:

AGRICULTURE/ agricultural outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

foundation stone

walls brick

roof metal/tin

other wood

Narrative Description

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

please see continuation sheets

Woodbourne  
Name of Property

Madison County, VA  
County and State

**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.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

**Period of Significance**

1805-1814

**Significant Dates**

1805-1814

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**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:**

Department of Historic Resources

221 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia

Woodbourne  
Name of Property

Madison County, VA  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 52.38

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

117	7317	51610	42	511	51010
Zone	Easting		Northing		

  
2 

117	7317	91610	42	511	51410
Zone	Easting		Northing		

3 

117	7318	11410	42	511	11810
Zone	Easting		Northing		

  
4 

117	7317	41410	42	511	11610
Zone	Easting		Northing		

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 Maury L. Hanson, Jr., M.D.

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 17 January 1998

street & number P.O. Box 943 telephone (540) 948-3875

city or town Madison state Virginia zip code 22727

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)

Property Owner

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

name Maury L. Hanson, Jr.

street & number P.O. Box 943 telephone (540) 948-3875

city or town Madison state Virginia zip code 22727

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Woodbourne  
Madison Co., Virginia

### Narrative Description

#### Contributing Resources:

The house at Woodbourne is a two-story gable-roofed brick structure built between 1805 and 1814. The Madison County Deed Books indicate that the property on which this house was constructed was bought by Henry Price in 1805.<sup>1</sup> The personal property tax records of 1815 document the presence of a significant house on the property at that time.<sup>2</sup> This improvement is confirmed by the reassessment records of 1817.<sup>3</sup> The house has a chimney positioned at either gable end (east and west), a front porch, a two-story frame wing attached to either gable end, and a one-story rear frame wing. The old kitchen is a two-story building adjacent to, but not connected to, the house. A retaining wall extends from the east side of the house in front of the old kitchen; another extends in back of the house and old kitchen. The foundation of the brick house, the first story of the old kitchen, and the retaining walls are of fieldstone; the part of the north retaining wall that is directly behind the house was replaced with concrete in 1926. The interior of the brick house retains many of its original materials, including mantels, floors, windows and doors; the interiors of the wings reflect later additions from the 1940s and 1990s. The house is located in rolling Piedmont countryside. From the entrance, off State Road 657, the drive descends the hill, crosses a stream and then turns west, past a farm building and into the yard, which is on a gradual slope opposite the entry hill. The only buildings in the immediate vicinity are nine farm buildings, which probably date to the 1940s. The surrounding land consists of pastures with woods beyond. The field in front of the house slopes to the stream, on the other side of which lie the ruins of the foundation of an early barn, a contributing site. The land behind the house rises slowly to a ridge and a small grove of trees where the grave of the builder of the house, Henry Price, is believed to be located.

The front porch consists at present of a cinderblock foundation, painted wooden steps, wooden railings, four plain square columns and two pilasters and a shed roof covered in standing-seam tin. An 1899 photograph of the

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Woodbourne  
Madison Co., Virginia

house shows the original porch was supported on brick piers that were painted white. Wooden steps extended across the entire width of the porch and the four columns, with decorative moldings, were more closely paired, creating a wider entrance space. There were no railings on the stairs and the porch railings had a chinoiserie design. The roof was low and hipped, probably covered with wooden shakes, and contained a built-in gutter. Plans are in process to restore the porch as closely as practical to its original appearance.

The main house has a fieldstone foundation two feet thick. There are two windows in this foundation, one on either side of the porch. These openings were somewhat smaller in the original house and were filled with vertical wooden bars, painted white. Plans are also under way for restoration of the original fenestration. An original door leads through the foundation beneath the porch into an earthen floored cellar. This cellar was enlarged toward the back of the house (north) in the 1940s to accommodate plumbing. At that time concrete buttresses were placed around some of the interior foundation and a door was created near the southwest corner of the cellar to give access to a garage.

The brick on all sides of the original house is laid in Flemish bond, neatly pointed. In general, the brickwork is in good shape with only minor mortar damage and very rare spalling. Some old settlement cracks on the front were pointed up with Portland cement in the past, but this has been removed recently and will soon be repointed with mortar resembling the original. The window and door frames are original and in good shape, and many of the old window panes are intact. All of the windows, including those on either side of the chimneys in the attic, originally had shutters. The old hardware is still in place, even for the windows currently without shutters. The cornice consists of heavy, handsome wood molding in front and back. The gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The original roof had wooden shakes. The original front door was replaced long ago with a door with raised panels; however, the original lock was retained and the original front door, a simple six-panel pine door, has been found in a barn and will be replaced.

The interior of the old house has a simple two-over-two room plan with

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Woodbourne  
Madison Co., Virginia

an enclosed stairway. The original stair opened through a narrow door at the rear (north) end of the wall dividing the two rooms on the main floor. In the 1940s the stairway was reversed, with two steps at the front of the entrance room leading to a landing and stairway ascending toward the rear of the second floor. The opening in the wall at the main floor level was only as wide as the landing and rather heavy balustrades and newel posts flanked the two steps leading into the entrance room. The opening in the wall has been doubled in width and the balustrades and newel posts have been replaced by a single walnut balustrade and newel posts salvaged from the Fleming Lipscomb house in Orange, Virginia (built in 1838). The mantels are original to the house and are fine examples of vernacular workmanship, with reeding, cones and stylized sunbursts. The entry room mantel measures 105" X 70 1/2" and the dining room mantel 104" X 66". Hearths are of fieldstone. The original heart pine floors are in good shape (those in the dining room were covered with oak in the 1940s). The interior window sills measure 14 1/2" in depth and flared reveals allow more light to enter through the thick walls. The downstairs windows have nine panes over six, while those upstairs, which are narrower, have six over six panes.

The second floor of the old house consists of two rooms, a small hallway at the back of the house, and a bathroom in the northwest corner. The floors consist of original heart pine boards. The mantels are original, but simpler and smaller than those downstairs. The hearths are brick. The attic has original pine flooring and original framing.

The present east wing consists of one main room on each level: a basement, kitchen and bedroom, with a laundry room at the north end on the main level. This wing was built in the 1940s as a kitchen with an enclosed porch at its front (south) elevation. However, in an 1899 photograph, the shed roof of a lean-to can be seen in this spot. An opening on the outside of the east chimney for a stove pipe, and evidence of the destruction of a wooden structure attached to the gable end of the building (holes in the brick north of the chimney for ceiling joists, smoke discoloration of the bricks and charred remains in the ground between the east wing and the old kitchen) suggest that a kitchen was attached to this side of the old house at

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Woodbourne  
Madison Co., Virginia

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an early date.

The west wing was added in the 1940s and consists also of one room on each level: garage, library, and bedroom. A one-story addition was recently constructed at the back (north end) of this wing, creating a hallway, closet and bathroom.

The back wing is the present living room. When acquired by the current owner it contained a bathroom at its west end, two closets and a small room with a door leading into another enclosed porch, which, in turn, opened into the kitchen. The closet in the former exterior wall of the dining room was made into a display cabinet, the other closet and the bathroom were removed, the doors and windows were rearranged, the door to the enclosed porch at the east end was removed, and that porch was made into the present laundry room. The present Dr. George Nathaniel Thrift, a direct descendant of the first Thrift owner, remembers well the time spent at Woodbourne as a small boy; he reports that the family had its meals in this back room. Apparently from early times the door on the north wall of the entry room opened onto a porch and the door created from a window in the north wall of the present dining room led to the early dining room. It is clear then that for most of its existence the house has had one-room frame additions to its east and north sides.

The old kitchen consists of a stone first story with a large stone chimney with a brick stack at its eastern end. The second story is frame clad with weatherboard, and the roof is covered in standing-seam metal. There is a galvanized metal roof attached to the front of the kitchen. The area in front of the kitchen and extending to the east side of the house is paved with old bricks. The interior consists of a single room on the main floor with a stone fireplace and stone hearth at the east end. The floor is concrete covered with asphalt tiles. The interior walls have been whitewashed and then painted various colors. The room has a beaverboard ceiling and an enclosed stair to the second floor. The second floor has one room with two windows on the front (south) wall and one on the back (north) wall. The floor consists of crude planking, the walls are unfinished, and the

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Woodburne  
Madison Co., Virginia

ceiling beams are exposed. A hole in the siding on the east wall gave passage to a stove pipe which fed into the chimney. The 1899 photograph shows that this kitchen was originally a story and a half with small windows on the upper level at the west gable end. Also the window on the front (south) side of the main floor was a small single window. At some time during this century, and during Thrift family ownership, the roof was raised and the loft was converted into a room. At that time probably the window on the front (south) wall was enlarged and the chimney was raised for clearance over the new roof. During recent work on the chimney the original chimney was found to be in fairly good shape and required only repointing; however, the extension added when the roof was raised was in deteriorated shape. Therefore, since there is no plan to use this fireplace and since the original collar to the old chimney was still intact, it was decided simply to remove the 20th-century addition. Restoring the interior and retaining the present framing for the second floor are planned.

The ruins of the foundation of the old barn, another contributing site, are located across the creek to the south of the house. This was the main barn for the property; it is described in the WPA Historical Inventory of 1937 as "a large barn on rock foundation."<sup>4</sup> In the late 1940s the drylaid stone foundation was reinforced with concrete and the log and handhewn timber framing, which was by that time in bad shape, was replaced. The year following this work the barn was struck by lightning and has been in ruins since then.

### Noncontributing Resources:

The frame farm buildings have, in general, similar construction, with concrete block foundations and weatherboards or board and batten. Probably all built during the 1940s, they consist of a two-story shed and granary, a three-bay shed, a hen house, a barn and shop, a cattle barn, a hog barn, two hay barns and a springhouse.

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Woodbourne  
Madison Co., Virginia

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### Notes

1. Madison County Deed Book 4, p. 76
2. Madison County Personal Property Tax Books, 1793-1818, on microfilm from the Archives Division, The Library of Virginia, reel 241
3. Madison County Land Books, 1793-1829, on microfilm from the Library of Virginia, reel #184
4. Works Progress Administration of Virginia, Historical Inventory for Madison County #107, March 2, 1937, on microfilm from the Library of Virginia

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Woodbourne  
Madison Co., Virginia

### Narrative Statement of Significance

The house at Woodbourne is a fine example of the Federal style of architecture in the Piedmont area of Virginia. Built between 1805 and 1814 for Henry Price, Woodbourne is architecturally distinguished by the fine quality of its masonry, the handsome crown molding of its cornice, the nice proportion of its rooms, the monumental quality of its main floor mantels, and the integrity of much of its original architectural fabric. After Henry Price's death the property was purchased by Dr. George N. Thrift,<sup>1</sup> a physician who achieved some notoriety because of a threatened duel with James L. Kemper who later became a Confederate general and governor of Virginia. Woodbourne remained in the possession of the Thrift family for approximately a century. Laid in a fine Flemish bond, the brick work has been attributed to master mason, William B. Phillips, who had worked for Mr. Jefferson and who was later, in 1828, involved with work on the Madison County Courthouse.<sup>2</sup> However, the attribution to Phillips cannot be established on architectural evidence alone. The simple, plain lines of the house, combined with the evident craftsmanship of the builders and the rustic charm of the countryside surrounding it present a beautiful picture of an early-19th-century Virginia farmhouse.

In general, the design of Woodbourne is simpler than that of many Federal-style houses in the region (the plain brick lintels, the absence of transoms, fanlights, and sidelights; the absence of a center hall; the enclosed stairway). Woodbourne resembles the Price family home, Coolwater, in Hanover County.<sup>3</sup> However, the relationship of Henry Price to the Prices of Coolwater has not been established. Henry Price, a prominent landowner, was purchasing land in Madison County as early as 1795 and by 1806 owned 886 acres.<sup>4</sup>

Henry Price is reported to have requested that his grave site be marked by a twenty-foot square wall of stone, filled in with stone.<sup>5</sup> Some of this stone remains as a mound on the hill behind the house. In 1848 the property

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Woodbourne  
Madison Co., Virginia

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was bought by a physician, Dr. George Nathaniel Thrift, son of Robert Thrift of Albemarle County. Dr. Thrift was prominent locally and achieved national notoriety when, as the result of a courthouse argument with his attorney, James Lawson Kemper, a duel was scheduled between the two. A local judge had both men arrested before the duel could occur, but the disagreement led to the publication of pamphlets by each of the men, putting forth their arguments.<sup>6</sup> The controversy bitterly divided the community for a long time. Dr. Thrift remained an active physician in this area; Kemper became a Civil War general and later governor of Virginia. The descendants of Dr. Thrift continued to farm Woodbourne, the name they gave the property, and lived here until 1943. There have been four owners since that time.

Despite the lapse of time and the number of owners, the two main-floor rooms of the old house remain essentially unchanged, except for the reversal of the stairs and the creation of two doorways. Additions were necessary for family life and all indications point to the presence of east and north wings from the early years of the house. The west wing, although it dates from the 1940s, gives some symmetry that seems appropriate to the simple lines of the main house. The early wings were frame and it seems fitting that the 1940s wings should be frame. This choice also avoided the need to paint the main house in an effort to hide discrepancies between old and new brick.

The general appearance of the house, therefore, is not harmed by the east and west wings. The house remains an attractive, simple farmhouse, looking much as it must always have looked, in its tranquil, bucolic setting.

### Notes

1. Madison County Deed Book 19, p. 4
2. Dove, V., Madison County Homes, p. 10
3. Lancaster, R. B. Old Homes of Hanover County, p. 121
4. Madison County Land Books, 1793-1829, on microfilm, reel # 184
5. Dove, V., *ibid.*
6. Woodward, Howard R., The Confederacy's Forgotten Son, pp. 20-22

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Woodburne  
Madison Co., Virginia

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### Major Bibliographical References

#### County Archives:

1. Madison County Deed Books, Madison Courthouse, Madison, Virginia
2. Madison County Land Books, 1793-1850, on microfilm obtained from the Library of Virginia, Richmond, reels 184,185
3. Madison County Personal Property Tax Books, 1793-1850, on microfilm obtained from the Library of Virginia, Richmond, reels 241,242
4. Madison County Will Books, Madison Courthouse, Madison, Virginia

#### State and Federal Archives:

5. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Survey Form, #56-38
6. Works Progress Administration of Virginia, Historical Inventory for Madison County: \*107, George N. Thrift Home, March 2, 1937  
\* 246 Price Graveyard on George N. Thrift Property, March 2, 1937, both on microfilm from the Library of Virginia

#### Private Publications:

7. Dove, Vee Madison County Homes, 1975, pp. 10-11.
8. Lancaster, R. B. Old Homes of Hanover County, Hanover Co. Historical Soc., 1983.
9. "Notes on the Price Family, Cool Water, Hanover County, Virginia... to the Year 1906. Compiled by Theodore H. Price and Charlotte P. Price," typed manuscript from the Archives Division, The Library of Virginia, Richmond.
10. Woodward, H. R., Jr., The Confederacy's Forgotten Son, Rockbridge Publishing Co., 1993, pp. 20-23, with references to:  
Kemper, J. L. A History of the Late Difficulties, Washington, 1853  
Thrift, G. N. A Reply, Washington, 1854  
Tooke, H. Whose Overcoat Have You Got On?, New York, 1854

#### Personal Communications from:

1. Mrs. Barry Thrift Brown, Chester, New Jersey
2. Dr. George Nathaniel Thrift, Richmond, Virginia
3. Mrs. Kathleen B. Thrift, Chester, New Jersey
4. Mr. Robert J. Thrift III, Scott Depot, West Virginia
5. Mrs. Martha K. Yowell and her son, Richard Yowell, Plano, Texas

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Woodbourne  
Madison County, Virginia

Section number 10 Page 10

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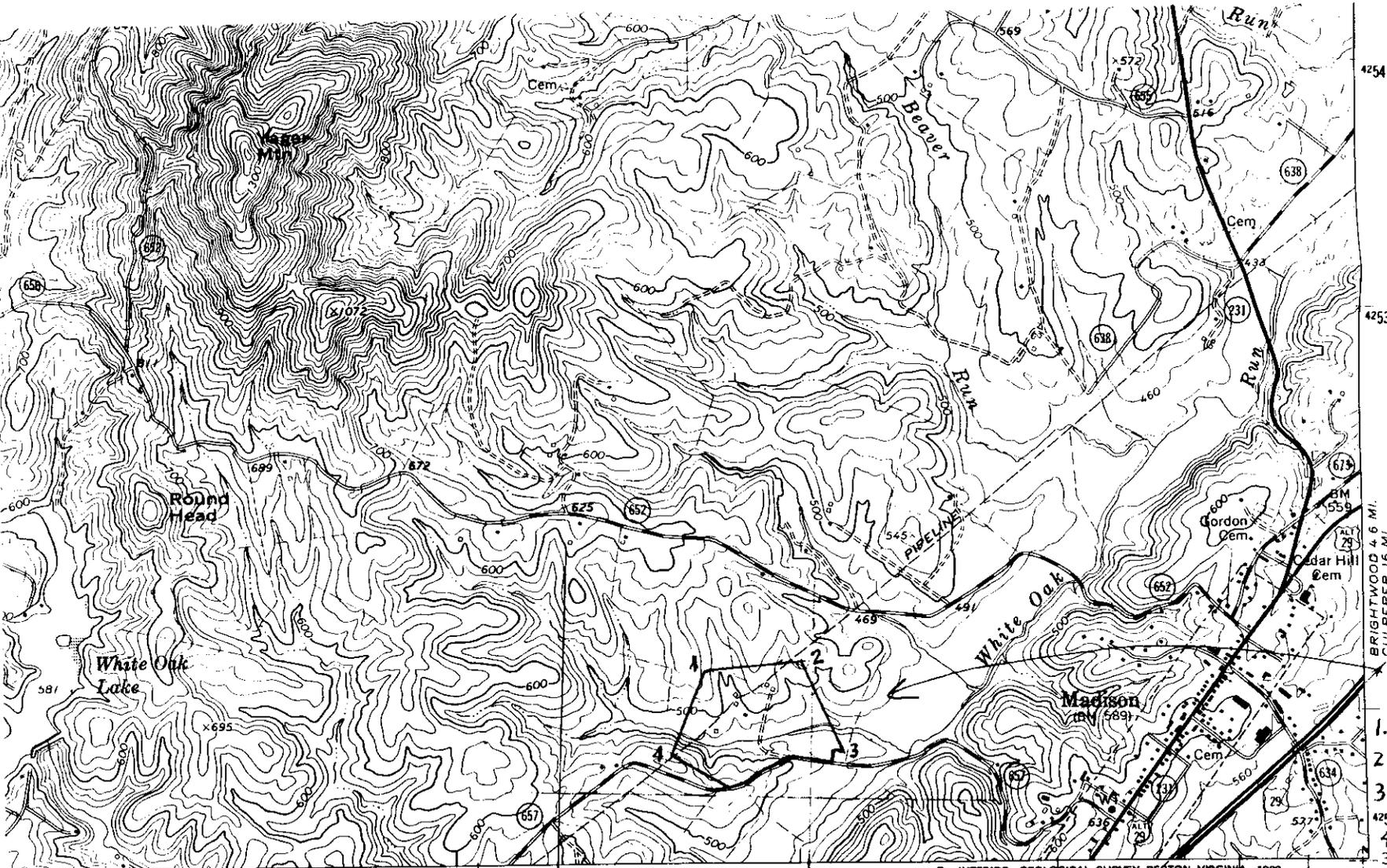
### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of Woodbourne are described in Madison County Deed Book 237, pp. 653-654, and indicated on the accompanying map, entitled "Woodbourne, Madison County, Virginia," a copy of the map in Madison County Plat Book 20, p. 1.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the house, old kitchen and the farm buildings, all of which, together with the surrounding land, are historically associated with the property.





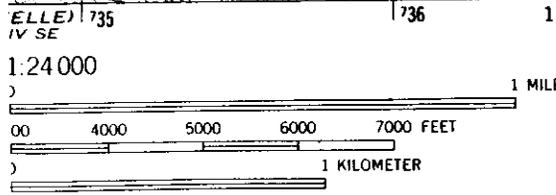
WOODBOURNE  
MADISON COUNTY, VA

UTM REFERENCES:

1. 17/737560/4251500
2. 17/737960/4251540
3. 17/738140/4251180
4. 17/737440/4251160

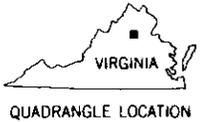
4251000m N  
38°22'30"

(MADISON MILLS)  
560' SW



RVAL 20 FEET  
TICAL DATUM OF 1929

IONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
ESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 9 meters south and  
23 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1989  
SHELBY 4.5 MI. 740000m E. 78° 15'

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
	⬡ U. S. Route		○ State Route

**MADISON, VA.**

38078-D3-TF-024  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1984  
1964  
PHOTOREVISED 1972  
DMA 5360 IV NE—SERIES V834