

VLR-3/14/01 NRHP-7/5/01

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 Cobbs Hall

other name/site number 086-0003

2. Location

street & number 582 Cobbs Hall Lane N/A not for publication

city or town Kilmarnock vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Northumberland code 133 zip code 22482

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.)

Michael W. Kruse May 2, 2001
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of 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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Cobbs Hall

Name of Property

Northumberland County, VA

County and State

6. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
2	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	2	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

8. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: SECONDARY STRUCTURE

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: SECONDARY STRUCTURE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof slate

other wood

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic value, 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.

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1853

Significant Dates

1853

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mrs. Martha Lee Harvey

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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Cobbs Hall
Northumberland County, VA

Description

Cobbs Hall, originally built on this spot circa 1720, burned in 1846 and rebuilt in 1853 on the foundations of its predecessor, stands today as a significant Northern Neck landmark as well as one of the earliest properties associated with the distinguished Lee family of Virginia. It is an exact copy of the eighteenth-century house with the exception of lacking windows on the north side of the house. Martha Lee Harvey, the Lee descendant who rebuilt her ancestral home, said she had grown up in the original house and never been warm a day in the winter time so she did not install windows on the north side of the new dwelling.

Built as a riverfront plantation seat for one of the Commonwealth's premier families, the house was constructed to overlook Dividing Creek in Northumberland County. The present ante bellum residence is a two-story, brick dwelling with a gable roof, built in the traditional manner of rising above a currently roughly finished, high-English basement. The house on the main floor consists of a large central hall with a double parlor, divided by large pocket doors, on the left (north) and a dining room, enclosed staircase and service rooms to the right (south). On the second floor, a central hall with two bedchambers each on either side again divides the house. The main floor is noted for its ante bellum plasterwork on the ceilings of the central hall and the double parlors, portions of which have been painstakingly restored by the present owner.

The main dwelling is a five-bay, double pile structure, constructed in common bond brick with stone sills and lintels. The window openings consist of six-over-six panes. The north and south elevations have two semi-exterior end chimneys flanking the peak of the gable. The roofline contains a simple cornice with returns and a modest dentil course at the eaves. The east and west elevations both have a central entrance with similar porches supported by paired Tuscan columns and single engaged Tuscan columns, with a simple balustrade above on the second level accessed by a central door on the second floor. Each entrance (on east and west) is via double leaf doors with decorative surrounds: diamond paneled, one-half length sidelights with panels below and an elaborate, full length transom with diamond and oval lights. There are two additional bulkhead entrances to the basement on the north and south elevations.

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Cobbs Hall
Northumberland County, VA

Description (continued)

The significant plasterwork in the ceiling of the central hall contains an egg and dart motif which runs the circumference of the hall and defines three inset panels, the central large panel containing an elaborate plaster medallion from which a handsome crystal chandelier hangs. The medallion is repeated though in a larger scale and without the fixture in the ceilings of both parlors. All of the crown moldings are also executed in plaster.

The house is approached on central axis by a drive that also passes the historic Cobbs Hall graveyard where many generations of the Lee family have been interred, including Richard Lee, the emigrant, who first patented the land on which Cobbs Hall sits in 1651, and his wife, Anna Constable.

To the north of the house stands the remains of an early one-and-a-half story brick, three-bay structure (38 ½ foot by 20-foot), of which only the walls remain. A determination needs to be made whether this building represents an earlier Cobbs Hall dwelling. To the south of the residence stand a brick, one-story meat house, measuring 13 ½ feet by 13 ½ feet and covered by a hipped roof and the 24-feet by 28-feet plantation kitchen that has been reconstructed on its original site. To the north of Cobbs Hall is a brick, hipped roof structure, measuring 13 ½ feet by 13 ½ feet, that houses the furnace and other utilities and is built on the site of the old laundry. The brick ruins and the brick meat house are contributing buildings to the nomination; the reconstructed kitchen and utility structure on the site of the laundry are non-contributing. On the northeast corner of the front lawn facing the river is the Harvey cemetery containing the remains of family members although only two stone markers are extant. It is believed that Martha Lee Harvey is interred here.

The sidelights and transoms of the entrances to the central hall contained colored-stained glass installed by Martha Lee Harvey. One set of which remains in place along with the transom of the other. A set of the other original side lights are in storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Cobbs Hall
Northumberland County, VA

Statement of Significance

Cobbs Hall is historically significant as one of the plantations associated with the distinguished Lee family of Virginia. Built on land, first patented by Richard Lee, the emigrant, in 1651, Cobbs Hall has remained in the ownership of his descendants to the present day. Architecturally, Cobbs Hall stands today as a two-story brick manor house, not only typical of its time and place but also noted for its outstanding plasterwork in the ceiling of the central hall as well as the ceilings of the two adjacent double parlors. The present Cobbs Hall was built in 1853 on the foundations of the original house, which was constructed by the Lees circa 1720. It is being restored by its present owner who has retained the bucolic setting appropriate for a rural Virginia plantation house.

Historical background and significance

Cobbs Hall in Northumberland County, Virginia is one of the noted Northern Neck plantations associated with the Lee family of Virginia since the middle of the seventeenth century. The plantation was originally part of the property first owned by Col. Richard Lee, the emigrant, who patented land there on Dividing Creek in 1651. At his death in 1663, Richard left by will 600 acres to his son, Charles Lee, and it was this inheritance that became the basis for the present Cobbs Hall. It is believed that Charles Lee lived in the residence of his mother, first with his parents and, after his father's death, with his stepfather, Edmund Lister, whom she married. Charles Lee died in 1701 and, by his will written the previous year, bequeathed "the 600 acres whereon I now am," referring to the Cobbs Hall property, to his son, Charles Lee. It was this Charles Lee who built circa 1720 the second Cobbs Hall on whose foundations the 1853 residence was built. Charles Lee II died in 1740, leaving Cobbs Hall to his son Charles Lee III (1722-1747). Charles Lee was married twice, both times to Lee cousins, his second wife being Leeanna (died post 1761), daughter of Lee Hannah Lee and her husband, William Jones and granddaughter of the first Charles Lee (died 1701). His son, Charles Lee IV (1744-1785) who married Sarah Hull (1747-1827), inherited Cobbs Hall. At his death, he left the plantation to his eldest son, Charles Lee V, who married but dying without issue in 1794 left Cobbs Hall to his brother, Richard Lee. At the time of Charles Lee's death in 1794 he had already sold 118 acres of the original 600 acreage to Roger Hughlett.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number a Page 4

Cobbs Hall
Northumberland County, VA

Statement of Significance (continued)

When Richard Lee died he left a son, Charles Lee VI, who died without issue, and seven daughters, one of whom, Martha Lee, became the next owner of Cobbs. Martha Lee (1803-1878) married in 1833 Lewis G. Harvey who actively began purchasing additional acreage from Lee heirs and adjacent landholders to expand the Cobbs Hall property more towards its original size. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey resided in the second Cobbs Hall which was destroyed by fire in 1846. They began construction of the present house in 1853 and resided there until their deaths.

In 1856 the Harveys purchased a 77-acre tract from Thomas Coppedge which Richard Lee had sold to him in 1801 and which bordered the ancient Lee graveyard, noted to be 27 feet by 30 feet. As mentioned previously, the historic Lee graveyard remains today about one-half mile from the present Cobbs Hall and appears to be the burial place not only of Charles Lee I (died 1701) and several generations of his family from Cobbs Hall but also of his father, Richard Lee (died 1663) and his mother, Anna Constable Lee Lister with her second husband, Edmund Lister. It is important to note that the Cobbs Hall property was inherited by Charles Lee I from his father who was apparently living in his own residence which was located in the vicinity of the present family graveyard so the property was once part of the plantation where Richard Lee, the emigrant lived and became the ancestor of so many distinguished descendants in Virginia and American history. After the death of Lewis Harvey and his wife, Cobbs Hall passed through two generations of Harveys, until one of their granddaughters sold the house and remaining acreage in 1992 to Richard Bland Lee V, another descendant of the family, thus allowing Cobbs to continue in unbroken Lee ownership since its first patent in 1651. The house is being restored to its ante bellum appearance, and the restoration has been true to form.

Cobbs Hall is significant as a reconstructed home of the distinguished Lee family of Virginia. It is noted for its architecture, notably the interior plasterwork and for the antiquarian impulses of Martha Lee Harvey who directed its design to closely resemble its colonial predecessor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9-10 Page 5

Cobbs Hall
Northumberland County, VA

Bibliography

1. "The Lees of Cobbs Hall," Magazine of the Society of the Lees of Virginia, vol. V, no. 2 (Dec. 1927), pp. 44ff.
2. Interview with Richard Bland Lee V at Cobbs Hall, Northumberland County, Virginia, May 10, 2000.

Verbal boundary description

The boundary of Cobbs Hall's 6.91 acres is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Boundary Survey Walter E. Harvey, Jr., Mary Frances Spangenburg, William Hurst Harvey April 13, 1992."

Verbal boundary justification

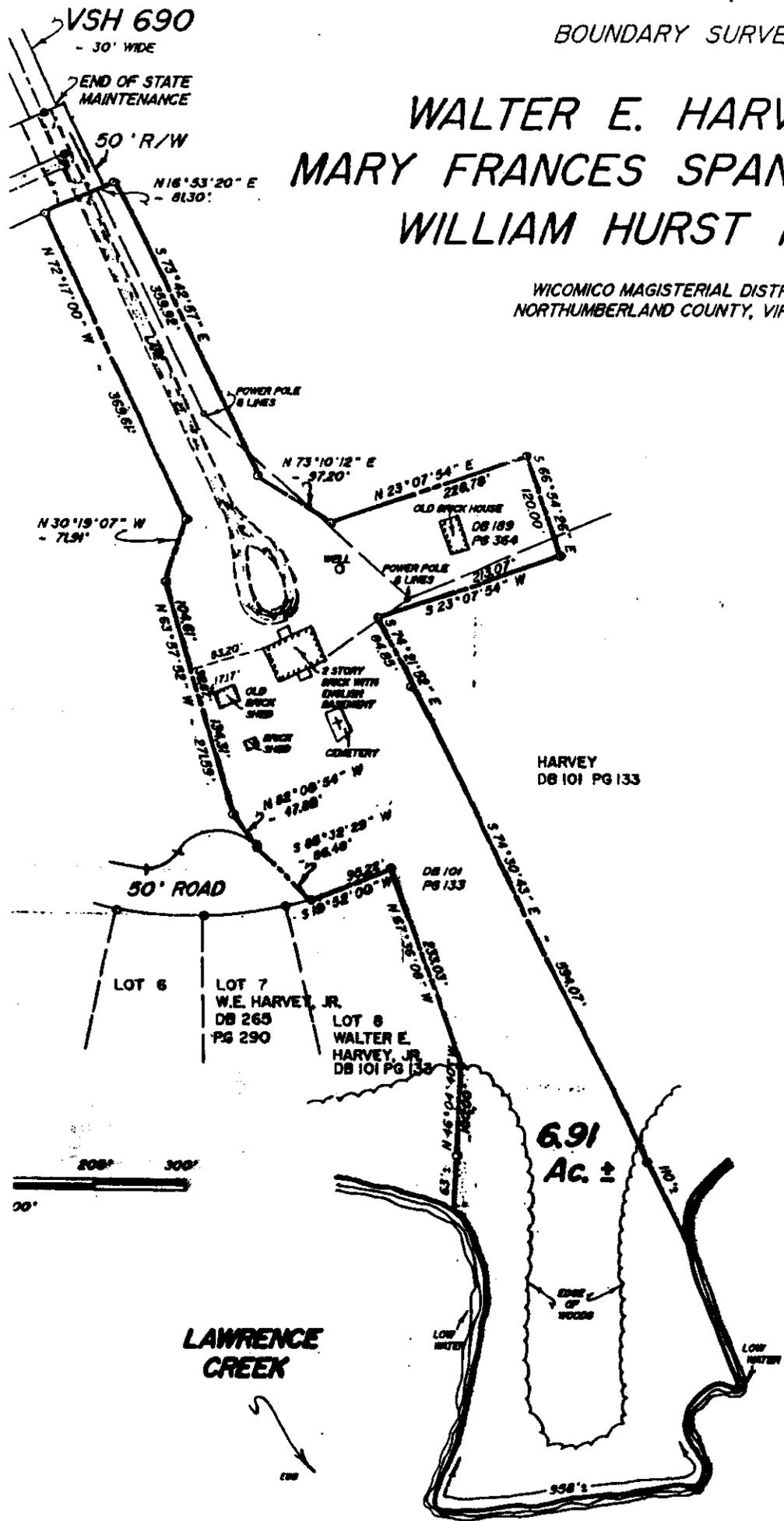
The nominated property includes the entire acreage, which continues to convey with the dwelling.

Cobbe Hall, Northumberland Co. Va.

BOUNDARY SURVEY

WALTER E. HARVEY, JR.
MARY FRANCES SPANGENBURG
WILLIAM HURST HARVEY

WICOMICO MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA



GENERAL NOT

- 1) THIS SURVEY DOES NOT REFLI FEATURES AND 1 OP SOIL STUDE
- 2) THIS SURVEY PREPARED WITH TITLE REPORT AND DOES NOT INDICATE ALL ENCUMBRANCES OI
- 3) PROPERTY REFERENCES: DB 1 DB 1

NOTE: ALL LINES DETERMINED BY SURVEY AND DB 189 PG 364. REVISED JULY 16, 1992 TO SHOW 1 A B B AND LOT 8 FOR OPTION AGP OLD BRICK HOUSE LOT DEEDED 18 BY 208.00' DEEP CONTAIN 0.578 INCLUDED IN 6.91 Ac. 1 PARCEL

HARVEY
DB 101 PG 133

DB 101
PG 133

LAWRENCE
CREEK

6.91
Ac. ±

MAGNETIC MERIDIAN
DECEMBER 11, 1975

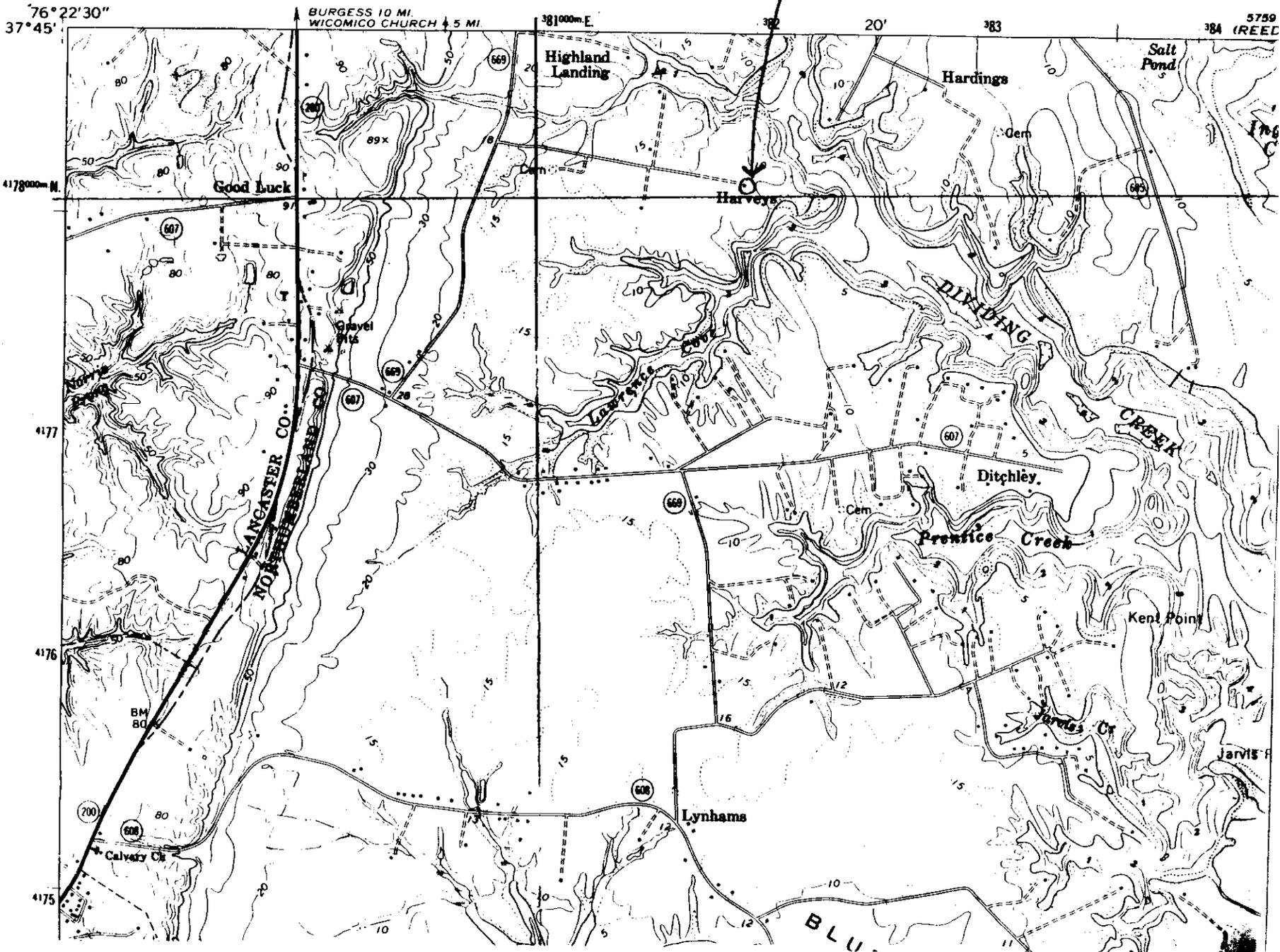
5759 N. 54 W. (LANCASTER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CORBBS HALL
VDHR file# 066-0003

E 381960
N 4178030

COMMONWEALTH
DIVISION OF MIN.



5739 N SW
(LANCASTER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

E 381960
N 4178030

COBBS HALL, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA
VDHR file # 066-0003

COMMONWEALTH
DIVISION OF MINES

(FLEETS BAY
QUAD)

