

VLR-4/22/92 NRHP-9/24/92

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historicname HURSTVILLE
other names/site number VDHR File No, 66-35

2. Location

street & number E side SR 605 3500 ft 8 of jct with SR 606 net for publication N/A
city or town Kilmarnock vicinity x
state Virginia code VA county Northumberland code 133 zip code 22579

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Hugh C. Miller 14 Aug 1992
Signature of certifying official Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Signature or Keeper Date
of Action

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC

OTHER: Southern Post-Colonial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

roof ASBESTOS

walls WOOD: weatherboard

other BRICK

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

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- 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 circa 1777-circa 1825

Significant Dates c1777
c1825

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.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 305 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	383600	4180380	3	18	383000 4179560
2	18	384540	4179280	4	18	382840 4181300

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Calder Loth, Senior Architectural Historian
organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date March 1, 1992
street & number 221 Governor Street telephone 804-786-3143
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

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Additional Documentation
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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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name W. T. Thompson, III, Trust Manager, A. G. Edwards & Sons
street & number 1313 East Main Street telephone _____
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.
Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hurstville
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county and State

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Hurstville is a small Northern Neck plantation, the focal point of which is a compact, late eighteenth-century frame dwelling noted for its unusual plan and for the distinctive brickwork of its large exterior end chimney. As with many eastern Virginia plantations, the house is water-orientated, being sited on an inlet of Ball Creek with a view to the Chesapeake Bay and Tangier Island in the distance. The property also incorporates a portion of Cress Field, the former Ball family plantation on which is located the Ball family cemetery and the site of the Cress Field dwelling. Except for the forestation of portions of the property, Hurstville remains little changed from the 18th century and preserves the remote, isolated character of a Tidewater Virginia plantation of two centuries ago.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Setting

Hurstville is a scenic waterfront property on Northumberland County's Ball Neck with over a mile of shoreline on Ball Creek. The shoreline consists of several small peninsulas separated by creeks, inlets and marshes. The Hurstville dwelling is situated on the larger, centermost peninsula, between two narrow inlets. Although much of the property is now forested, it was mostly open in the 18th century. However, the peninsula on which the house is located remains in cultivated fields, thus preserving the character of the eighteenth-century landscape. The siting of the house is particularly striking as it looks out over a marsh towards the mouth of Ball Creek and the Chesapeake Bay beyond. On clear days it is possible to see Tangier Island in the distance.

Hurstville Dwelling

Hurstville's dwelling house, though small by today's standards, is the type of house lived in by one of the region's more prosperous planters of the mid- to late 18th century. Erected for Thomas Hurst following his purchase of the property in 1776, the house is a

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three-bay, story-and-a-half, double-pile structure with exterior end chimneys. In plan, the house is almost square, measuring 28' X 30', being slightly deeper than it is wide. The steep gable roof and narrow dormers emphasize the house's vertical lines.

The general appearance of Hurstville today is the result of a restoration and modernization which took place following the purchase of the property by Mrs. Jessie Ball duPont in 1940. The goal of the restoration was to remove nineteenth-century alterations and restore the eighteenth-century character of the house. A photograph¹ taken circa 1900 shows that the house had lost its original sash and had one-over-one sash in the facade windows and two-over-two sash in the dormers on at least one of the second-story side windows. Also, a late nineteenth-century porch with turned posts extended the length of the facade. A small shed porch with similar posts sheltered the doorway on the south side. The photograph also shows a one-story wing with shed porch extending from the north end. The wing was also supported on turned posts.

In the restoration the front porch was removed and replaced by a gable-fronted, one-bay, Federal-style porch sheltering the front (east) entrance. A similar porch was placed on the rear. The side porch was rebuilt with square posts. All three porches are screened. The north wing appears to have been completely rebuilt as all of the surface fabric is modern. It may incorporate some of the framing of the earlier wing but it was not accessible for examination. All of the sashes were replaced with small-pane, Federal-style sash. Most of the weatherboarding is modern but it matches some early beaded weatherboarding intact beneath the side porch. The house undoubtedly had a wood-shingle roof originally. The old photograph shows a metal roof: the present roofing is modern composition shingles. The nearly square north pent closet has been extensively rebuilt but follows the lines of the closet shown in the old photograph. The south pent closet, on the west side of the chimney, preserves more early fabric. Each pent closet is lighted by a small square window. The dormers appeared to have much replacement fabric but the general configuration is probably original. They are unusual for having wide molded eaves rather than a simple crown molding.

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The house is set on a low brick foundation laid in English bond. Most of the foundation brickwork appears intact. One of the most interesting features of the house is the massive brick chimney on the south end. A classic example of early Tidewater Virginia masonry, the chimney has two sets of tiled weatherings as well as a beveled water table. The brickwork below the water table is laid in English bond. The brickwork above is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. Most of the original grapevine mortar joints are intact. Lending particular distinction to the chimney are the tumbled courses (bricks laid on a 45-degree angle in a wedge-shaped section) at the weatherings. The chimney is large from necessity as it serves four fireplaces -- adjacent corner fireplaces on the first floor. The chimney on the north side is slightly smaller in overall proportions but is similarly treated. Except for a small area of original brickwork near the base, the north chimney was completely rebuilt in the restoration, probably using many of the original bricks. It presently serves only the hall (living room) fireplace. It may originally have served a second-floor fireplace but there is none there now.

Hurstville has a double-pile, four-room, hall-parlor-chamber plan - an elaboration of the standard hall-parlor plan.² The west entrance opens into a small passage from which an enclosed stair ascends to the upper floor.³ In the northwest corner of the house was a small unheated room which is now divided into a closet and passage. The passage leads into the north wing.

Hurstville's interior preserves much original woodwork including most of the door frames and paneled doors. The window and window frames, however date from the restoration. The mantels in the hall (living room), parlor (dining room), and chamber (kitchen) are all early nineteenth-century Federal mantels. The mantels were added not necessarily to replace earlier mantels but, more likely, because the house originally had no mantels. Many smaller eighteenth-century houses had fireplaces without mantels or shelves, but rather had the fireplace opening framed by simple moldings or nothing. Another Federal alteration is the exterior door in the dining room which may have been a window originally. It is difficult to tell when the adjacent window opening dates as all its fabric is 20th-century.

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The living room, dining room, and passage all are trimmed with what appears to be original, bilaterally symmetrical-molded chair rails. All of the first floor rooms are currently decorated with trompe l'oeil painting executed over the past ten years by Robert Carter Ball, the caretaker and current occupant of Hurstville. The paintings include paneled chimney breasts, dentil cornices, and various decorations emphasizing the real woodwork. On the living room walls are murals depicting various historic themes of the Northern Neck. The decorations are interesting and effective, and give character to what is otherwise a relatively simple interior.

The upper level of the house is reached by an enclosed winding stair reached through a doorway on the north wall of the passage. At the top of the stair is a short section of original railing consisting of a pencil-post newel and diagonally set square section-balusters. The upper level is currently divided into five rooms although one or more of the partitions dividing the spaces on the west side may be modern. Two very simple mantels frame the fireplaces of the rooms on the south end although the mantel in the southeast room appears to be a modern reproduction. The southwest room has been converted into a bathroom. The upper level doors are board-and-batten. Hurstville's roof framing is common rafter type.

Cress Field Site and Ball Family Cemetery

The western portion of the property, at the head of Ball Creek was originally part of Cress Field, the ancestral Ball family home.⁴ At the end of a lane leading from county Route 605 is the site of the Cress Field house, burned in the 1920s. According to Robert Ball this was said by the family to have been a frame colonial dwelling similar in scale to Hurstville. The site is undisturbed; no archaeological survey or testing has been performed.

Near the site of the Cress Field house is the Ball family cemetery, a large and impressive family cemetery surrounded by a handsome iron fence. Although there are some nineteenth-century markers, the majority of the markers are beautifully designed 1920s gray granite markers erected over the graves of members of the Ball family. These markers were installed under the direction of Mrs. Jessie

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Ball duPont, some replacing earlier markers that had disappeared. In the middle of the cemetery is a large granite obelisk with an inscription listing all the members of the family buried in the cemetery, beginning with the immigrant Capt. William Ball (1641-1694). Also buried in the cemetery are Thomas Ball (1814-1849) and Maria Louisa Hurst (1817-1907), grandparents of Jessie Ball duPont.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Hurstville's grounds include three non-contributing but architecturally sympathetic buildings. To the southwest of the house is a mid-twentieth-century frame garage/servants' quarter building. Its general configuration is meant to suggest a kitchen outbuilding. Immediately to the west of the house is a modern fuel storage and tool house built to resemble a smokehouse. To the north of the house is a wooden, twentieth-century equipment shed of no historic interest. No archaeological survey has been conducted on Hurstville's grounds.

Footnotes

1. A print of this photograph was supplied to the Department of Historic Resources by Camille Wells in 1991.
2. The floor plan might be said to be a vernacular version of the floor plan of Kenmore, Fredericksburg.
3. Camille Wells in her research on early Northern Neck houses examined Hurstville in 1986 and concluded that the stair had been largely rebuilt, being made wider in the process. Calder Loth and Jeff O'Dell visited Hurstville in 1991 and did not see anything about the stair that made it evident it had been altered.
4. Cress Field was formerly part of Bay View, another Ball family property. Part of Bay View plantation, on the north side of Ball Creek is owned separately by the Thompson family, owners of Hurstville. Although the properties are contiguous, they are under separate deeds.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hurstville's dwelling house is a distinctive example of Tidewater Virginia's late-eighteenth-century vernacular architecture. In contrast to the stately brick dwellings of the leading landed families, the house, with its moderate size and wooden construction, is typical of the type of dwelling favored by the lesser gentry of the period. The property is part of a 1651 grant to John Waddy. The present house was most likely erected soon after 1776 when the land was acquired by Thomas Hurst. It is noteworthy for its rare four-room, hall-parlor-chamber floor plan and for its large south chimney, an excellent example of eighteenth-century Virginia brickwork. In addition to the glazed-header Flemish bond, the chimney features the infrequently employed device of tumbled courses. In 1940 Hurstville was purchased by the noted philanthropist, Jessie Ball duPont, who had the house restored as a residence for her sisters. The property includes what was formerly a portion of Cress Field, a Ball family plantation, on which is located the Ball family cemetery, also restored by Mrs. duPont. Scenically located on a tidal creek with a view of the Chesapeake Bay, Hurstville preserves its eighteenth-century riparian ambience.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Located on one of the scenically unspoiled tidal creeks of Virginia's Northern Neck, Hurstville is part of a grant of 1651 to John Waddy. The Waddy family occupied the property until 1776 when it was sold to Thomas Hurst. Although it has been posited that the present house was built by the Waddys early in the eighteenth century or even the late seventeenth century, architectural and historic evidence points to the house dating from the ownership of Thomas Hurst. An inventory of the Waddy residence made in 1773 suggests that the Waddy house was smaller than the existing structure and had only one fireplace. Hurstville's present house was built with four fireplaces. Thus, while it is clear that an earlier house once stood on the property, no archaeological survey had been undertaken to determine its location or configuration.

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Little is known of Thomas Hurst. The Hurst family was among the lesser gentry of the Northern Neck and the architecture of the house reflects the lack of ostentation characteristic of this class. The survival of well-known colonial mansions such as Berkeley, Shirley, or nearby Ditchley, cause many today to assume that most of Virginia's colonial planters lived in finely appointed brick structures. However, only a tiny fraction of the population knew such surroundings; the majority of the planter class occupied wooden houses on the scale of Hurstville or smaller. Most of the more diminutive and elementary dwellings of the lesser gentry have disappeared. Indeed, it is difficult to appreciate the primitive conditions with which many land-owning Virginians contended in the eighteenth century. For most of these freeholders, a house such as Hurstville, with its finely crafted chimneys, roomy floor plan, and good joinery would have been luxurious. Hurstville thus tells us that while an average eighteenth-century Virginia planter may not have been privy to the elegance of a Wilton or a Carter's Grove, at least some could enjoy a dwelling house where some care was given to building quality and aesthetic appearance.

Hurstville, while in some ways a typical medium-size plantation house, has several distinctive features. A wood-frame, story-and-a-half house would not be unusual in late eighteenth-century Virginia, but most houses of this type would have had the standard single-pile, central-passage or the more fundamental, hall-parlor plan. Hurstville differs by having a more complex double-pile plan (rare for story-and-a-half houses) with a hall-parlor arrangement on one side and a chamber and passage with an enclosed stair on the other. Hurstville's plan, and variations on it, appear with little consistency in eastern Virginia.

Also, the house features unusually fine quality in its south chimney, a massive brick structure serving four fireplaces. The south chimney is laid in exceptionally well-preserved Flemish bond with glazed headers. The chimney also has tumbled courses (bricks laid on a 45-degree angle in wedge-shaped sections) at the chimney shoulders. Tumbled courses, primarily associated with gables on seventeenth-century Dutch and English buildings, were employed infrequently in this country. Scattered examples, mostly from the late eighteenth-century, can be found in the Piedmont sections of

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both Virginia and North Carolina and, more rarely, in the Tidewater area. Difficult to construct, tumbled courses are evidence of the presence of superior quality masons.

Hurstville passed from Thomas Hurst to his son, Major James Hurst, a officer in the War of 1812, who in 1818 sold the property to William Harding, Jr. It was probably following its purchase by the Hardings that the interior of Hurstville underwent some minor remodeling. The mantels and some of the trim are Federal style and appear to date from the 1820s. The property passed through various ownerships for the next century, most of them members of area families. From 1880 to 1939, Hurstville was owned by members of the Ball family, whose original family home, Bayview (which included Cress Field), was an adjoining plantation. Thomas Ball, who bought Hurstville in 1880, was related to the Hurst family.

In 1940 Hurstville was acquired by Ditchley, Inc., a corporation originally formed in the 1930s by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred I. duPont for the purpose of purchasing Ditchley, a plantation south of Hurstville, also in Northumberland County. Mrs. duPont, the former Jessie Ball, was a native of Northumberland County and Cress Field was her ancestral home. Mrs. duPont was also a granddaughter of Thomas Ball and Louisa Hurst Ball. It was Mrs. duPont's intention to restore the house as a home for her sisters, Isabelle Ball Baker and Elsie Ball Bowley.

The duPonts also acquired with Hurstville part of the Cress Field property including the site of the house, which burned in 1892, and the Ball family cemetery. The Ball cemetery contains along with many others the grave of the family immigrant, Captain William Ball of Millenbeck (1641-1694), ancestor of Mary Ball, mother of George Washington. Mrs. duPont erected a large granite obelisk in the cemetery honoring the family. She also replaced many missing or damaged markers with elegantly designed granite table tombs. Hurstville, along with the Cress Field site, today belongs to a family trust whose elder member is Jessie Baker Thompson of Richmond, daughter of Isabelle Ball Baker.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ball, Robert Carter. "Hurstville," Northumberland County, VA. MS on file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

O'Dell, Jeff. Notes on site visit to Hurstville, November 27, 1991. MS on file. Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Waring, Lucy Lemoine. *Hardings of Northumberland County, Virginia and Their Related Families*. Privately printed (Wicomico Church, VA., 1971) p. 110-111.

Wells, Camille. Notes, plans, and correspondence relating to Hurstville, Northumberland County, VA. MS on file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the north bank of the Ball Creek delineated by UTM reference A 18/383600/4180380, proceed southerly along the shore of said creek approximately 2.6 miles to a point on the Chesapeake Bay delineated by UTM reference B 18/384540/4179280, then proceed west approximately 5200' to a point on the eastern right-of-way of county route 605 delineated by UTM reference C 18/383000/4179560, then proceed north along the said right-of-way 5800' to a point delineated by UTM reference D 18/382840/4181300, thence southeast approximately 3800' to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the dwelling house, fields, marshes, woodlands (formerly open fields), and Ball Creek shoreline that historically have been part of the Hurstville tract since the mid-eighteenth century and that preserve the scenic rural context of the property. The boundary also takes in a portion of Cress Field, including the site of the Cress Field house and the Ball Family cemetery. This portion of Cress Field has been part of Hurstville for over fifty years and is historically related to Hurstville by family intermarriage. The Ball family cemetery contains the graves of former owners of both Hurstville and Cress Field.

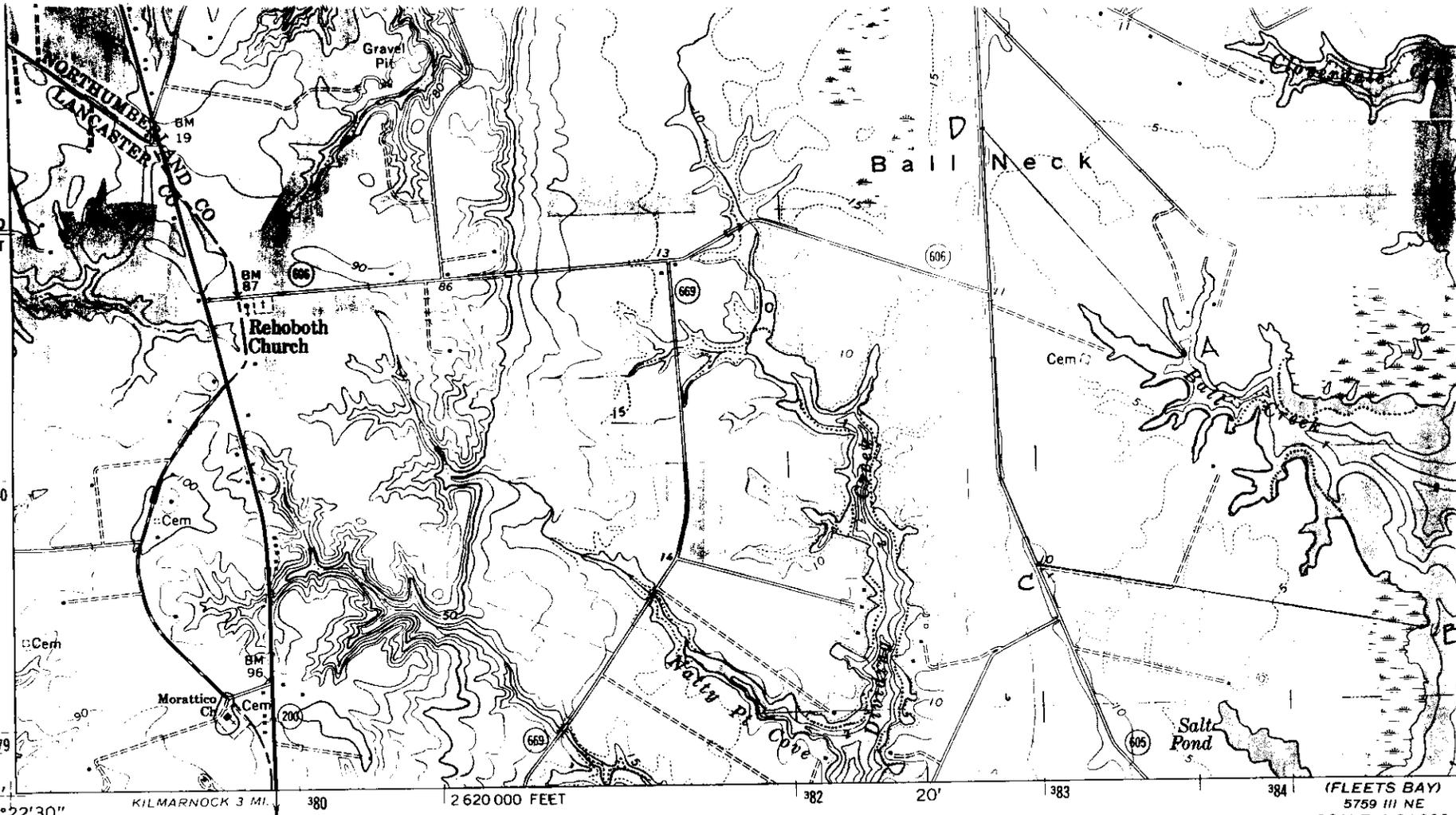
IRVINGTOWN,
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COUNTY
REDBELL QUAD 530 000
UTM REFERENCES:

A 18/383600/
4180380

B 18/384540/
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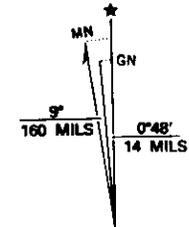
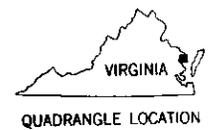
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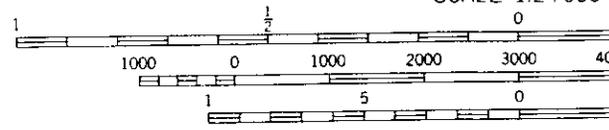
37°45' 76°22'30" KILMARNOCK 3 MI. 380 2 620 000 FEET 382 20' 383 384 (FLEETS BAY) 5759 III NE SCALE 1:24000

IRVINGTOWN
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Produced by the United States Geological Survey and the National Ocean Service
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial photographs
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18 shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 9 meters south and 29 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10
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AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES,
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYF