

VLR-9/15/99 NRHP-12/22/99

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

historic name Inverness

other names/site number VA 067-0003

2. Location

street & number 884 Inverness Rd. not for publication N/A
city or town Burkeville vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Nottoway code 135
zip code 23922

2. 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 X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

McCallister Allison 11/12/99
Signature of certifying official Date

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

=====
Use 6. Function or
Use

=====
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE storage
AGRICULTURE animal facility
AGRICULTURE agricultural outbuildings

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE storage
AGRICULTURE animal facility
AGRICULTURE agricultural outbuilding

=====
7. Description

=====
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th-Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; concrete
roof Metal/tin
walls Wood/weatherboard
other _____

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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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 _____
Agriculture _____

Period of Significance 1800-1949

Significant Dates 1800
1845
1895
1907

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Not known

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
=====
(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:

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 321 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	17	749400	4119100	3	17	750040	4119040
2	17	750040	4119140	4	17	750130	4119020

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 Shirley Maxwell, historian; James C. Massey, architectural historian _____
organization Massey Maxwell Associates date July 9, 1999
street & number P. O. Box 263 telephone 540-465-4566
city or town Strasburg state VA zip code 22657

=====
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.

Inverness
Nottoway County, VA

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 National Trust for Historic Preservation

(Contact: George O. Siekenen, Jr., Senior Architect, Historic Sites, Stewardship of Historic
Sites; tel. 202-588-6259)

street & number 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW

telephone 202-588-6000

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20036

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The main house at Inverness was built in four distinct periods: ca. 1800-1820; ca. 1845; ca. 1895; and ca. 1907. The original building, constructed about 1800, was probably a three-room-and-center-hall dwelling, two stories high on the west side of the hall and one story on the east. The east end appears to have been raised to two stories in the early nineteenth century, creating a five-bay I house. A large, two-story, two-room wing on the south (rear) facade was added ca. 1845, forming an L. Around 1895 a crude, two-story kitchen wing, probably once separated from the house, was attached to the 1845 wing, and side porches were added. In its present form the house is a five-bay, two-story, gable-roofed, L-shaped frame-and-weatherboard single dwelling set above a high basement, with exterior end chimneys. A Classical Revival monumental portico with four Doric columns and a small second-floor balcony, installed ca. 1907, extends across the three center bays of the facade of the house. The exterior of the house is in generally good condition, while the interior is somewhat more deteriorated, with a peeling paint and falling plaster. Most significant architectural features remain intact, however. The house appears to be structurally sound, and no important changes have been made, inside or out, since ca. 1907. Overall, the building retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity, and each of its significant periods of construction is clearly represented in the physical fabric of the building. The house illustrates, in fascinating three-dimensional detail, the architectural, aesthetic, social, and economic changes that have shaped it and its community.

I. Original House (ca. 1800)

According to local tradition, the house was erected ca. 1800 when it and the farm were given by Thomas Dickinson to his nephew, Robert Dickinson, perhaps on the occasion of Robert's marriage. This date is consistent with the form and size of the front portion of the house, its two-story height, and on surviving trim, doors, and hardware. Interpretation of the architectural evidence is made difficult by subsequent remodeling and by the apparent widespread reuse of features such as doors and door frames. The form of the original house, 20'6" deep by 47' long on a raised basement, with large sloped exterior chimney stacks of traditional Virginia form at each end, is common in Southside Virginia. There is a central hall with stairs, with one room on each side of the hall on each floor, a form generally called an I house. There is a full basement beneath. The external appearance of the original front block, even with later remodeling, suggests that it was all built at the same time; there is no indication of construction in sections. However, in the attic, there is clear evidence that the west rooms and hall were built first, as there is one substantial section, as well as smaller pieces, of exterior wall cladding on the outside east wall of the hall section. It is of a basic clapboard shape with a bead 6" to 6-1/2" to the weather, with paint and signs of wear. This evidence indicates a two-story house

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with one room and a hall on each floor, also a traditional form, though here more indicative of an intention to erect the other third of the structure to the east (Rooms 101 and 102; and 201 and 202 on the floor plans; see Appendix A), with Rooms 103 and 203 being the rooms intended to be added later to complete the center-hall single-pile arrangement.

No evidence of two construction phases was found in the basement. The brick wall that divides the basement into east and west sections is a later insertion and is not tied into the outside walls, nor does it provide bearing for the partition above, which is the west wall of the first floor hall, rather than the east hall partition, or original outside wall of the house. The piers are also an insertion. Thus the basement was in one room extending under the front house construction. The brick basement walls are of uniform construction in brick size and appearance, and all sections are laid in a random common bond of two, three, or five courses. The exterior sills are 10" x 13" timbers, and appear to be uniform. Running north-south under the hall partitions (Room 102) are similar 10" x 13" beams set into the sill beams. The joists span front to back also, even under the narrower hall. They are about 4" x 8" to 9", varying up to 5" in width, and they are similar in appearance in the entire basement. The flooring above is a uniform 5-1/2" tongue-and-groove, rough-finished on the bottom throughout. There is a bricked-in fireplace (presumed) in the east chimney, none in the west. The entrances from the outside are wide, with housing of later construction set against the chimney and exterior wall. Thus the basement appears to be of a single construction and not in two parts as the attic evidence suggests. Upstairs the partitions between the front rooms and hall offer no evidence in this regard.

Since the cellar is all of one construction, three possibilities may be considered: 1) The east side (Room 103) was built originally in a single story, at the same time the west side (hall and Room 101; Photo #6) were built. 2) The west side alone was built but with a full basement, in anticipation of the addition. This seems less likely. 3) The basement was constructed when the east side was added, extending under the original west side, and all put on a new sill, the existing one. Moving the west portion on to the site from elsewhere and adding a new east wing is theoretically possible but unlikely.

The evidence of both the attic and the basement suggest that the front of the house was built as one story on the east and two stories on the west. This conclusion rests primarily on the absence, rather than the presence, of positive documentation or evidence. However, a good precedent consistent with the physical evidence within the Inverness house exists at Oakridge, another important Nottoway County house of the same period, where the hall on one side was built in two stories and the other side in one story, all at the same time (*The Virginia Landmarks Register*, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1986; p. 309)

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The construction of the east second-floor addition (Room 203) appears to have taken place quite soon after the original portion was built. The surviving doors, attic stairs, door hinges, and latch are all of the Federal period at the latest and lack the new fashion of Greek Revival moldings and doors that appear in the first-floor rear wing. There is no property transfer or family change known to indicate a possible date. Therefore the wing is believed to date from 1810 to 1820. The ca.1900 photographs show a simple molded cornice and tin gutter boxes of a design typical of the Federal period. Reused sash elsewhere suggests that the front windows were originally 6/6 sash.

II. Rear Wing, ca. 1845

The addition of the first and principal rear wing made the house into an "L" shape. (Photo #2) This was a common way of expanding houses in the pre-Victorian period. It is shown clearly in the plans as Stair Hall 104, Dining Room 105, and Passage 105A downstairs, and Stair Hall 204 and Room 205 on the second floor. The wing is 27'-9" x 18'-6" and is set against the rear wall of the east room of the original house. It provided a second entrance and a broad stair to the second floor (Rooms 104 and 204), as well as stairs to the basement under the upward-leading stair at the rear of a closet.

The evidence for this wing includes a traditional massive sloped brick exterior chimney on the south wall of the extension, the use of wide floorboards, 7"-8", and most importantly, consistent use of a common Greek Revival molding shape for doorways and windows throughout the wing. It is a molding seen generally from ca. 1840 to ca. 1850. Marked by a very flat slope replacing the traditional ogee, it was not generally used after the Civil War, when Victorian moldings were preferred, nor in the early Greek Revival period before 1830. The doors have two vertical panels with similar "flat" moldings, which are typical of the late Greek Revival period, probably from ca. 1840 to the Civil War, and they have different moldings than doors of the Victorian era. The doors are large and wide and have double architraves. The basement under this wing is limited to the stair area; it opens to the main basement but has only a crawl space rearward.

The low gable roof (north-south) admits only of a crawl space, and is clearly distinguishable on the exterior, marking the wing. The low slope is typical of the mid century, an age of steadily lowering roof slopes. The wide entry and hall (Rooms 104 and 204) are part of the addition, and the majority of woodwork is consistent. The position of the stair is clearly original, but the stair itself appears to have been rebuilt, probably ca. 1907, when the house was thoroughly remodeled. The plain 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" newel and the stair rail look more typical of the twentieth century than the nineteenth.

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The partition between the side passage (Room 105A) and dining room (Room 105) appears to be a later insertion at the time of the installation of the ornamental sideboard wall. The door, door moldings, and baseboard indicate a later period.

On the second floor, the one large bedroom, Room 205, is original to the wing including the blocky Greek Revival fireplace mantel and wide board floors.

Two curiosities in this wing are the small transom over the side hall door, with small panes and not nearly as wide as the door, and on the east wall of the 1845 addition hall (Room 105A), there is a window with appropriate 1845 trim but with 9/9-light double-hung sash. The window and transom both were probably reused from the earlier part of the house when the 1845 ell was added, as a long tradition of reusing house parts seems to have existed at Inverness as alterations and additions were made to the house.

III. Post-Civil War Alterations and Additions

These are difficult to codify in an orderly sequence. However, the Dickinson family, which had owned Inverness since its initial construction, sold the farm in 1869 to a Pennsylvanian, Colonel Samuel McLean (although the property may have been held in the names of two female McLeans), providing a natural occasion for change after the deprivation of the war. However, no major changes appear to date from this period, except possibly the replacement of original window sash with Victorian sash.

IV. Hall and Stair Alterations and Additions, ca. 1895

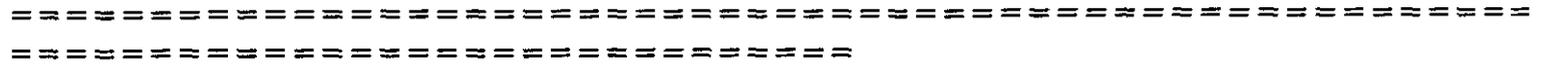
The next major work dates from 1895, following the 1892 purchase of Inverness by Samuel McLean's daughter Helen and her husband, J. Perkins Agnew. It included reworking the center-hall axis of the house by modernization and expansion. A Victorian three-bay front porch with spindle work and consoles at the posts shown in old photographs probably dates from this period. The wide popularity of spindle work appears to have been concentrated in the 1880-1900 period. The new front porch may have included a Victorian front door, possibly the one now found at the entrance to the second-floor east bathroom (Room 107). The second-floor front center windows (Room 202B), still existing, were probably installed at this time, replacing a single window. Perhaps access to a porch deck was intended. The second-floor front center bedroom (Room 202B) was created from the hall at this time. This depended

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on the removal of the original stairs from the first floor and the construction of a new set. The original stairs' probable trace is noted on Floor Plan 2. With the change in stairs, this room was probably partitioned off from the hall proper and extended a bit to the east into Room 201, as the present partition does not line up with the hall below, nor is it symmetrical with the facade. New main hall stairs (Room 202A) were required to make these changes, adding to the presumption of extensive hall remodeling at this time. The new stairs are contained in a rear addition to the hall (Rooms 102A and 202C) and probably date from 1895, after the Agnews' purchase and well before the Classical Revival 1907 remodeling. (Photo #7) This south addition behind the original house and to the west side of the ca. 1845 wing provided space for the new stairs, a small sitting area with fireplace behind, and a direct entry to the dining room from the hall. (Room 102A). The removal of the original stairs from this hall (Room 102) necessitated the installation of a new finish floor; there are no traces of the original floor as are seen upstairs. The existing parquet entrance floor with a striped and diamond border is typical of this period and was probably installed at this time. On the second floor, as mentioned above, the front center bedroom (Room 202B) was partitioned off, and a new south bedroom (Room 202C) was added at the rear of the hall extension. To date these improvements from the general remodeling of 1907 would be possible but functionally unconvincing. Stylistically the new Victorian main stairs with a diamond-shaped colored-glass light on the landing (now covered from the rear by the wall of the 1950 bathroom stack) are more late-Victorian-Aesthetic Movement than early twentieth century. These stairs appear to have been bought as a package from a millwork catalog, a common practice in rural areas, as they fit awkwardly into the hall and are architecturally out of keeping with the rest of the building. The stair case is an exact match of one in *Late Victorian Architectural Details*, reprinting the *Combined Book of Sash, Doors, Blinds, Mouldings, Stair Work, etc.*, 1898 edition (Design #1454, p. 169; copy of illustration appended). Although this stair design, with its distinctive rectangular motif, appeared in several variant forms by the 1890s, it was not included in the 1903 edition, nor is it found in any of several pattern books of the 1870s and 1880s that were examined. The 1895 installation date is confirmed by Nottoway County assessment records which show an increase from \$700 to \$1,000 for 1896, the only change for several years preceding.

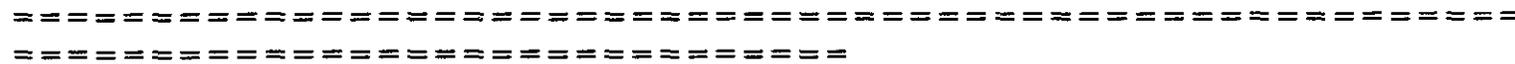
The dining room, in the 1845 wing, Room 105, is a thorough remodeling of the original space. The principal feature is the splendid end-wall built-in sideboard with pairs of glass-door cabinets flanking a central arched and mirrored motif. (Photo #9) As with the 1895 staircase, it appears out of keeping with the house and seems to have been created from stock millwork designs as well. No comparable has been located. Whether this was carried out in 1895 or in the Classic Revival rehabilitation of 1907, is not certain. It could fit either period. Our conclusion in the absence of specific evidence is that it was done with the 1895 work, as it is more in tune with the late Victorian-early Colonial Revival than with the more sophisticated work of 1907, which is exemplified by a fine mastery of the new

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century's styles. Family tradition holds that the sideboard was a Christmas present to Helen McLean, suggesting that it was not built at exactly the same time as either of the two major remodelings. The date of ca. 1895-1907 can be used.

The partition between the dining room (Room 105A) and the east passage was probably built at this time. Moldings on the door to the passage have late nineteenth-century pilaster trim. The Victorian marbled slate fireplace mantel with incised scrollwork probably replaced a Greek Revival mantel similar to the one in the rear bedroom (Room 205), which retains a chastely designed wood fireplace. The wainscot, doors, and trim were redone, as was the cornice, which has a large dentil molding unlike any other in the house. Before these changes, the dining room and hall appear to have been a single large room, like the one above it on the second floor. The dining room has one 1845-period window, located on the south wall next to the fireplace. On the west wall are a pair of windows, the northern one being in the presumed location of one dating from ca. 1845 and matching the location of east-side and second-floor windows. The southern window was added. All the windows were resashed with Victorian sash.

To the rear of the ca. 1845 ell are kitchen and service facilities of uncertain date. (Photo #3) Before the present wing was built, the kitchen may have been in a separate structure, a practice common in lowland Virginia, or a smaller kitchen once appended to the rear may have been demolished when the present facilities were built. No physical evidence has been found to support either possibility.

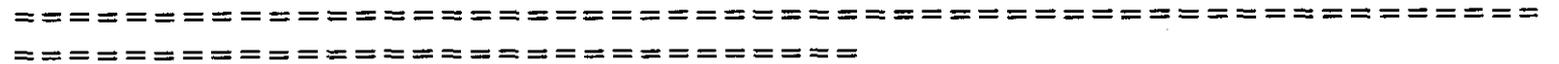
The east side porch is presumed to predate the second-floor bathroom (Room 207). (Photo #2) The bathroom was clearly inserted after the porch was built. There is a trace of a former roof attachment, probably on an earlier porch, on the south side of the front east chimney wall. The ca. 1845 wing with a prominent wide entry to the side hall would call for an entry stoop or a more elaborate porch. The doorway to the second-floor bathroom over the porch is of exterior door width and has ca. 1845 trim, suggesting that there was a second-floor deck here in the mid-nineteenth century. Such two-story porches were reasonably common in Virginia. The bathroom door is a late-Victorian design with small multi-colored panes around a clear center light, appropriate to about 1890-1895. It was probably moved to this location from elsewhere, probably the front door, in 1907. It is not typical of bathroom doors, in either its design or its size. This would have been the first bathroom in the house, unless an earlier one had been built at the rear of the house and later demolished. Logically, the present bath would seem to be the first and was probably built around 1907. The porch construction and design are basic, its construction blocky, suggesting it was most likely built by a local mason in the 1895 alterations if not earlier.

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V. 1907 Comprehensive Remodeling

It is readily apparent that this was a comprehensive remodeling, featuring a large, two-story portico with Doric columns. (Photo #1) There is good documentary evidence in a 1908 note by Laura Scott Agnew, written on the back of a photograph, which refers to the house being "re-modeled entirely." The Agnews reacquired the house in August 1904, The house shows its Victorian state in a photograph taken "about 1900." With the dated note of 1908 by Laura Scott Agnew, this provides a bracket of probable dates, say 1904-1907. Nottoway tax assessment records indicate that the first rise after 1896 came in 1908, a thousand-dollar increase. This indicates the alterations and addition were done in 1907.

The portico dominates the front, and it is typical of the Classic Revival tendency of the opening years of the twentieth century. Although tetrastyle, the four columns are not evenly spaced; there is a wider opening in the center bay, to emphasize the approach, stairs, entry, and balcony. The doorway contains a large, paneled single door, with transom and sidelights in the manner of twentieth-century design. The doorway may have been bought "as a piece," although the transom and sidelight glass--beveled and leaded--may have come separately. Although there is not an exact parallel in *The Uniform Design Book...* of 1903 or in the E. L. Roberts *General Catalog No. 500*, also of 1903, which primarily used the designs in the *Standard Uniform Design Book*, for the lights or doorway, they are close in design character to one in the 1903 catalog.

On the inside, the doorway (Photo #6) is somewhat at odds with the 1895 staircase and hall alterations, as it clearly belongs to a later design period. The portico has a classic modillion cornice, more late eighteenth-century than Greek Revival in character. This extends on the front to the ends of the original hall, replacing a simple molded box cornice that was original. Plain downspouts replace the original tin gutter boxes.

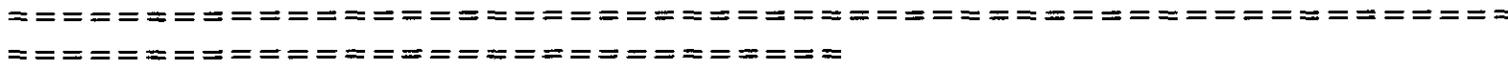
The shutters were probably replaced at this time as well. The other major exterior front feature is the fine second-floor balcony (Photo #1) that juts out 4' and is 11' wide and hangs from the overhead structure by 1-1/4" iron rods. The balcony shares the classical revival motifs of the portico and the low Victorian center windows open on to it from Room 202B. The front windows otherwise remain a mixture of 2/1, 2/2, and 2/4 sash. These were probably installed in one or more Victorian renovations, but some could be from 1907. However, in a "complete re-modeling" in 1907 in the Classic Revival, one might expect replicas of the original small-pane sash, which was probably 9/9. Also part of this remodeling was the cornice, replacing one shown in old photographs.

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As discussed earlier, the east porch is lacking in classic refinement and so is presumed to have been constructed somewhat earlier than this portion, probably 1895, if not earlier.

On the interior, major rooms received new fireplaces, styled in the Arts and Crafts mode, of brick and molded brick, in Rooms 103 and 102A, with more typical 1907 examples in Rooms 101 (Photo # 8) and Room 203, both with mirrors. These are all typical of the opening years of the century, and similar examples abound in the 1903 *Universal Design Book*. The molded brick of the two first-floor fireplaces is very stylish and not what might be expected, considering the classicism generally adapted for the house.

The dining room oak sideboard wall, Room 105 (Photo #9), with its dentil cornice and beaded board wainscot, could fit either 1895 or 1907 or some time between those two dates, as noted before, as could the pair of windows in the west wall. The new mantelpiece, however, is more Victorian than Classical Revival, as is the pilaster trim with headblocks found at the window and door openings.

The fine Federal-period mantel piece in bedroom 201 is of uncertain age. Stylistically, it is a perfect example of a fine and stylish Federal period mantel, appropriate for the construction date of the original house. However, it is perhaps *too* fine and too perfectly detailed for a small, unpretentious, rural, and geographically remote house. Rural mantelpieces of this period tend to have regional peculiarities and to be somewhat crude in execution. Also, this mantel shows no signs of wear that might reflect 190 years of use, and there is too little paint on it to reflect long use. Compared to the wear and patina of the surrounding chair rail, it looks too unscarred. Such mantels were stylish by 1907, as part of the revival of colonial and federal taste, and it is our suggestion that this example probably dates from 1907. It is suitable indeed for the best bedroom. However, it may be a restored original from here or elsewhere that was installed here in 1907. This question can be resolved by removing the mantel and studying its construction and nails. An almost identical mantel is illustrated in the 1923 Morgan millwork catalog, *Building with Assurance*, (pattern no. M-514, p. 213). Other similar mantels probably may be found in earlier editions as well.

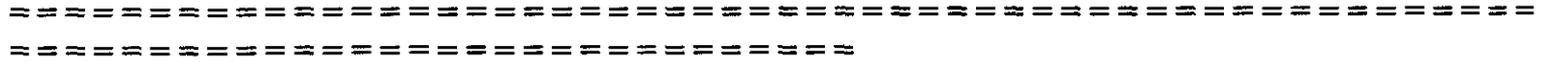
There are also many doors and pieces of trim in the house that reflect the revival of classical design--six-panel doors and molded trim, new narrow wood floors, for example. Much wallpaper appears to reflect this period, plain patterns, machine printed, of no design significance but typical of the period. The hot-water heat and fancy radiators (American Radiator Company's "Rococo" pattern) are also probably from this remodeling, as well as the installation of electric lights and switches throughout the house. Some places still reveal knob-and-tube wiring of this era.

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The rearmost wing, Room 106, 106A and 106B (Photo #3), has been wrapped around two sides south and east of the 1845 wing and its prominent traditional sloped chimney. Its division into complex small spaces, especially the pantry, 106B, and the bath, 206B, is confusing. It is like a 20'-6" x 20'-6" square, flat-roofed two-story addition cut off as it fits around the dining room. It is clear that the first floor, Room 106, was (as it still is) the house kitchen, and that the ca. 1845 south chimney was used as a flue for the kitchen stove. It is not known whether an earlier, smaller kitchen wing preceded this wing. The access to the ca. 1845 house wing looks old and seems to suggest there was direct access to the room from a kitchen. In support of this conjecture, portions of the brickwork in the raised basement look quite old.

The southeast corner space (Room 106A), hall and stair, was originally an open porch and stair. Later, perhaps, ca. 1940, it was enclosed, and an outside entry porch was added (Plan 1, Photocopy A) which more recently was demolished and the door changed to an awning window. Under this area, according to Perkins Agnew, the old well was located, also suggesting an earlier date for this as a kitchen location. The simple exterior form--square, two-story, flattish roof, no ornament, 4/4 windows--suggests a construction date no earlier than the 1895 renovations and it may possibly have been part of the ca. 1907 remodeling. Of note is the pantry, Room 106B, which is in two sections with doors, finished in bead-board, with large storage bins for bulk items.

VI. Later Construction

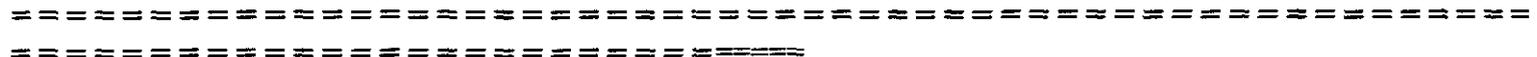
A two-story bathroom stack (Rooms 101A and 201A; Photo #5), was built off the two main rooms about 1945-1947, according to Perkins Agnew. The screened porch (Room 102C; Photo #4) is also modern and was not screened in until after 1969, according to 1969 photographs in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Inverness, located at 884 Inverness Road, near Burkeville in Nottoway County, Virginia, is significant under Criterion A for its association with the broad patterns of Virginia and Nottoway County history and under Criterion C as an intact example of the evolution of architecture and building practices in Nottoway County from 1800 through the early years of the twentieth century. As a working farm throughout its history, Inverness has typified the development of Nottoway County's agricultural middle class, from the moderately sized but self-sufficient, slave-worked plantation of the prosperous early nineteenth century, relying on cash crops of tobacco raised for export to English markets, through the economic decline of the Civil War and Reconstruction years, and finally the rise and eventual fall of the dairy and beef cattle industry in the twentieth century. Architecturally, the main house presents an unusually complete picture of the ways in which early small dwellings erected during Southside Virginia's settlement period gradually were expanded into substantial I houses, then into L-shaped Greek Revival manor houses, which in turn gave way to late-Victorian houses with large service wings and stylish porches, before finally being transformed into Classical Revival, porticoed rural "mansions" in the early twentieth century. Owned by only two families throughout its long existence, Inverness is a poignant and particularly instructive case study in the social, economic, and architectural history of its region. The 321-acre property contains eight historic resources: three contributing buildings (the main house, a twentieth-century frame and cement-block dairy barn, and a twentieth-century frame milk shed), two noncontributing buildings (a ruinous early-twentieth-century frame dairy barn and an inaccessible abandoned and ruinous tenant house, believed to be early twentieth-century); two noncontributing structures (a small twentieth-century pump house and a twentieth-century cement-block equipment shed), and one contributing site (a former ice house pit, now filled in).

Historical Background

The 321-acre farm now known as Inverness lies in softly rolling pasture land, just beyond the eastern edge of Burkeville in Nottoway County, Virginia, on the south side of the old road to Crewe (now County Rte. 624) and immediately west of a modern road, Rte. 723. It sits well back from the road, down a bifurcated entrance drive, one part of which runs straight from the main road in line with the front door of the house through a grove of large old maples and cedars mixed with younger trees. The other section of the drive stretches along the eastern edge of the front yard to join a farm road that leads to the barns and fields south of the house lot. The farm house itself, which has been inhabited by only two families in almost two centuries, evolved from a simple three-room dwelling constructed about 1800 to a small but impressive Classical Revival mansion in 1905. It is one of several early houses remodeled in this fashion in early-twentieth-century Nottoway County. The physical evidence of each of the several phases leading

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to its present appearance survives remarkably intact in the structure, and the house speaks poignantly of its time and place as a continuously occupied farm house.

Nottoway County's land records first refer to an area recognizable as the present farm tract in 1800. Originally part of a land grant obtained by a man named Jeter (given name unknown), it is described as containing 486 acres "on both sides of Mallory's Creek." The size of the farm has varied, but its core has remained remarkably stable. It is believed that Maria Jeter, presumably a daughter of the original owner, inherited the property, which later passed to her husband, Richard Broaddus. Broaddus sold it in 1800 to Robert "Dickerson",¹ who is apparently the same person referred to in tax records, his 1819 will, and local histories written in the 1930s as Robert Dickinson. The name Dickinson is used consistently throughout this nomination.

The first house on the farm is said to have been constructed around the time of Dickinson's purchase.² From surviving physical evidence, it appears to have been a five-bay center-passage house, with a two-story, two-bay section on the west side of the passage and a one-story, two-bay wing on the east. Some clapboards that are believed to be original to the ca.1800 period may still be seen in the attic on the east passage exterior wall. The east portion of the house was apparently raised to two stories not long afterward, resulting in a two-story, five-bay I house.

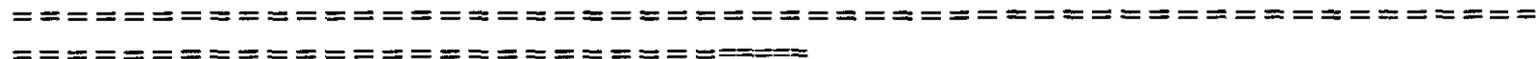
Census records of 1810 and 1820 indicate that Robert Dickinson, the head of his household, was over the age of 45 at the time, and that another white male living on the property, presumably his son, was between the ages of ten and fifteen. No slaves are recorded in the 1810 or 1820 census, although the 1805 property tax records for Nottoway County indicate that Dickinson owned 11 slaves. By 1810 the number of slaves counted in the property tax book had increased to 15 and by the time of Dickinson's death in 1819, to 28 including two children (presumably infants) listed with their mothers. These relatively modest figures are probably typical of prosperous medium-sized farms of the area during the early nineteenth century. Of the 23 male slaves listed, one is identified as a carpenter and one as a blacksmith. Each of these craftsmen is valued at \$1,000, making them by far the most valuable of the slaves. Slaves were, in fact, the most valuable of Dickinson's possessions. The inventory also suggests the type and scope of the farm's output. Tobacco was obviously a significant cash crop (three hogsheads unsold in Manchester are valued at \$237.90, or \$6.00 per cut), and substantial amounts of wheat and corn are also listed. Livestock in the inventory include pigs, horses, cows, and oxen, turkeys. Farm structures specifically mentioned are a dairy, corn house, and still house. Dickinson also owned ten shares of Virginia Bank stock at \$85 per share.

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The Dickinson family retained the farm more or less in the I-house configuration until the mid-nineteenth century and then added a spacious two-story, two-room rear ell around 1845. Although the farm was part of the camp site of Federal troops under General Philip Sheridan in 1865, the house itself seems to have rested peacefully at the edges of history, and there are no visible traces of the conflict here. Nonetheless, one member of the Dickinson family who was at Inverness during the Battle of the Crater in July 1864 later recalled having heard the sound of the explosion during the battle fifty miles away.³

After the war, the farm was sold to Samuel Swann McLean, Thomas Darling, and Theodore Sitgrave, of Easton, Pennsylvania.⁴ A second deed is recorded on December 7, 1869, in the names of several female members of the McLean family, all residents of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.⁵

Nottoway County historian W. R. Turner writes that Samuel McLean (born 1826) was a lawyer who settled in Miner's Gulch (later Helena), Montana, became the Attorney General of the provisional government of the Colorado territory in 1861, and served in Montana's first territorial delegation to the United States Congress from 1863 to 1865. When Miner's Gulch became the capital of Montana, McLean is said to have been charged with the responsibility for choosing a new, more elegant name for the town; he chose Helena, in honor of his little daughter Helen. As a young man McLean had taken part in the California Gold Rush. He acquired the sobriquet "Colonel" as a result of service in a western border regiment fighting against the Indians. Family tradition and Turner's book credit McLean with naming the farm "Inverness" to commemorate the family's Scottish roots.⁶ The name first appears in an 1866 deed referring to a deed of 1862 that was, according to the later record, "destroyed in the late war"⁷ (presumably when Federal troops occupying Nottoway Courthouse vandalized many of the records stored there).

In 1884 Helen McLean married James Perkins Agnew, who according to the marriage record was employed as a Nottoway County druggist. He later became a cashier at the Crewe bank, in addition to running a dairy farm. In 1892, J. P. and Helen Agnew purchased Inverness from William Wilson and his wife Martha W., of Easton, Pennsylvania.⁸ The Agnews sold the farm in 1903 to B. Rudolf and Wilhelmina Kuehn, who were residents of Minnehaha County, South Dakota, then bought it back from the Kuehns a year later, suggesting that the sale to the Keuhns may have been one of convenience.⁹

The 1892 deed reveals that Helen Agnew contributed nearly half the purchase of the house (\$2,450), while her husband's share of the purchase price was \$2,650. According to family members, Helen Agnew initiated the extensive

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late-Victorian (ca. 1895) remodeling and expansion of the interior of the oldest part of the house and the first floor of the ca. 1850 wing and, later, the transformation of the north facade of the residence from a simple rural I house to a small Classical Revival mansion (ca. 1905). The later work probably removed a late-Victorian front porch. The rear kitchen wing, a two-story assemblage of late-Victorian pantries, porches, and possibly an earlier separate kitchen, was probably built or consolidated during this period.

Inverness has no extant farm outbuildings that predate the early twentieth century. The farming emphasis in the twentieth century has been on dairy cattle and the raising of the grain crops needed to feed them. In the nineteenth century, however, the emphasis appears to have been on tobacco production, and possibly more corn and small grains were also grown. There is no present trace of slave housing on the property. There was once a barn southeast of the present barn, and there were three twentieth-century tobacco barns south of it. The portion of the rear kitchen wing called the "servants' quarters" dates from the 1890s and 1900s. A mound east of the house is the site of the chimney of an early kitchen. A brick, hip-roofed smoke house pictured in a ca. 1950 photograph (Perkins Agnew collection) no longer stands, although portions of the foundation remain below grade southeast of the house. Other than the kitchen wing, the only identified contributing resource associated with Inverness' vanished nineteenth-century farm buildings is the original pit of the old ice house. The depression is near a pine to the east of the house and provides unique tangible evidence of the outbuildings and lifeways of an earlier period. While the site has historical significance in its own right, it could yield important information about successive inhabitants of Inverness if tested archeologically. In this century it was common practice for ice pits to become trash pits as ice houses lost their usefulness to farm families. Mr. Agnew recalls that the ice house was extant during his memory and was covered by a small gable-roofed superstructure. (A ca. 1900 photograph also appears to show a small structure in that location.) Mrs. Lillian Agnew Leath, last owner of the property, recalled that there had also been a greenhouse, chicken house, and smaller sheds along the southern edge of the backyard, as well as a privy at the southwest corner of the yard.¹⁰ A gambrel-roofed former tenant house, long abandoned and now in severely deteriorated condition, is located in an overgrown and inaccessible site near the northeast corner of the farm just west of Rt. 723. The house is believed to date from the early twentieth century.

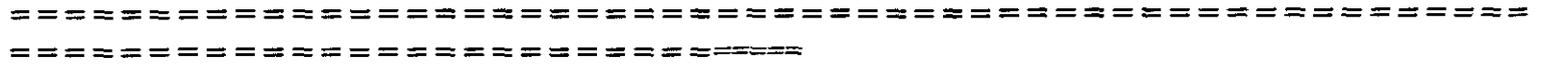
Following the death of Helen Agnew in 1919 and J. P. Agnew in 1923, the property passed to their children, James Stuart Agnew and Laura Scott Agnew. Stuart Agnew bought his sister's portion of the farm and continued his father's work as a prominent dairy farmer, becoming president of the then-emerging Southern States Cooperative, and expanding the Guernsey dairy cattle herd his father had begun at Inverness. After Stuart Agnew's early death in 1937, his wife, Elizabeth Bostick Agnew, continued to operate the dairy, which by then had a herd of approximately fifty cows. Her sons, J. Perkins and William Agnew, took over the farm operations after World War II, and Perkins

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Agnew, the elder son, continued to run the dairy until the late 1970s, when he replaced the dairy herds with beef cattle.

After the early twentieth century, few changes were made to the main house at Inverness. The outbuildings and other farm features, however, were in a constant state of repair, removal, and replacement. A gable-roofed frame dairy barn, now in ruinous condition, is beside the large pond east of the house. The pond is in its original location though enlarged in modern times. A cement-block milk shed and a small modern pump house next to it appear to date from the early twentieth century. There is a modern cement-block equipment shed west of the milk shed. A second, larger dairy barn with a cement-block base and frame gambrel-roof upper section, was rebuilt after a lightning fire, ca. 1925. There is an addition to the east side, date unknown. A wooden silo on the west side of the barn was destroyed in the same fire; it was replaced by one of structural tile. A second structural tile silo immediately south of the replacement already existed at the time of the fire; it was damaged but not destroyed. Both silos were used to store small grain (wheat, barley, etc.) for cattle feed. Two other ponds on the property are of recent construction.

Water was once pumped to the house from a spring near Mallory Creek by means of an iron pumping device, or hydraulic ram, on the spring. This ram disappeared during the Depression. Water is now provided by a well and pump located in the pump house described above; an earlier well was located under the southeast corner of the present kitchen wing.¹¹ At least since the 1930s (possibly ca. 1937, when an electric utility easement was granted across the farm), electricity has been provided by a public power company.

In 1968 Lillian Agnew Leath purchased the entire property from the other Agnew heirs. In 1993 Mrs. Leath gave the house and farm to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Gifts of Heritage Program, reserving a lifetime right of occupancy for Mr. and Mrs. J. Perkins Agnew.¹² Now unoccupied, the house will be resold with open space and preservation easements insuring its continued use as a farm and residence and the preservation of its significant architectural features.

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End Notes:

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1. Nottoway County Land Records, Deed Book 2, September 2, 1800.
 2. W. R. Turner, *Old Homes and Families in Nottoway*, p. 163.
 3. *Ibid.*, pp. 164-165.
 4. Deed Book 1, p. 300, March 16, 1869.
 5. Deed Book 1, p. 356.
 6. Turner, *op. cit.*, pp. 164-165.
 7. Nottoway County Deed Book, p. 356.
 8. Deed Book 17, p. 426.
 9. Deed Book 18, p. 191.
 10. George Siekenen, Director of Historic Properties, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Memorandum to the Files, March 30, 1993. Interview with Lillian Agnew Leath.
 11. Interview with J. Perkins Agnew, August 1998.
 12. Deed of Gift, February 23, 1995, National Trust for Historic Preservation files.

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----- *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968.
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- Victorian Architectural Details: Two Pattern Books by Marcus Fayette Cummings and Charles Crosby Miller.*
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century pattern books by Cummings and Miller.
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1950.
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- *The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1946.

Maps:

Gilmore
Dunn

Historic Photographs:

- Aerial photograph of Inverness, ca. 1970 [USDA], Farmville, Va.
Collection of J. Perkins Agnew, Burkeville, VA:
Inverness, ca. 1900
Inverness, ca. 1900
Inverness, 1908
Inverness smoke house and outbuildings, ca. 1950
Inverness. Parlor. Ca. 1980.
Inverness screened porch, ca. 1969

Nottoway County, Va., Land Records
Nottoway County, Va., Property Tax Records
U.S. Census Reports, Nottoway County, Va., 1810-1850

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM Coordinates:

5. 17 750130 4118580
6. 17 750220 4118580
7. 17 750220 4118200
8. 17 750040 4118200
9. 17 749730 4117960
10. 17 749760 4117640
11. 17 749950 4117420
12. 17 749810 4117120
13. 17 749540 4117300
14. 17 749450 4117080
15. 17 749540 4117160
16. 17 749470 4117640
17. 17 749060 4117720
18. 17 749270 4118340
19. 17 749340 4119020
20. 17 749400 4119020

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the nominated property are defined as Lots 59A and 60, Section 17, Haytokah District, on the tax maps of Nottoway County, delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the UTM reference points listed above.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the nominated property are those traditionally associated with the Inverness farm and include the house, outbuildings, fields, forests, and watercourses that have been historically part of the farm and that maintain its historic integrity.

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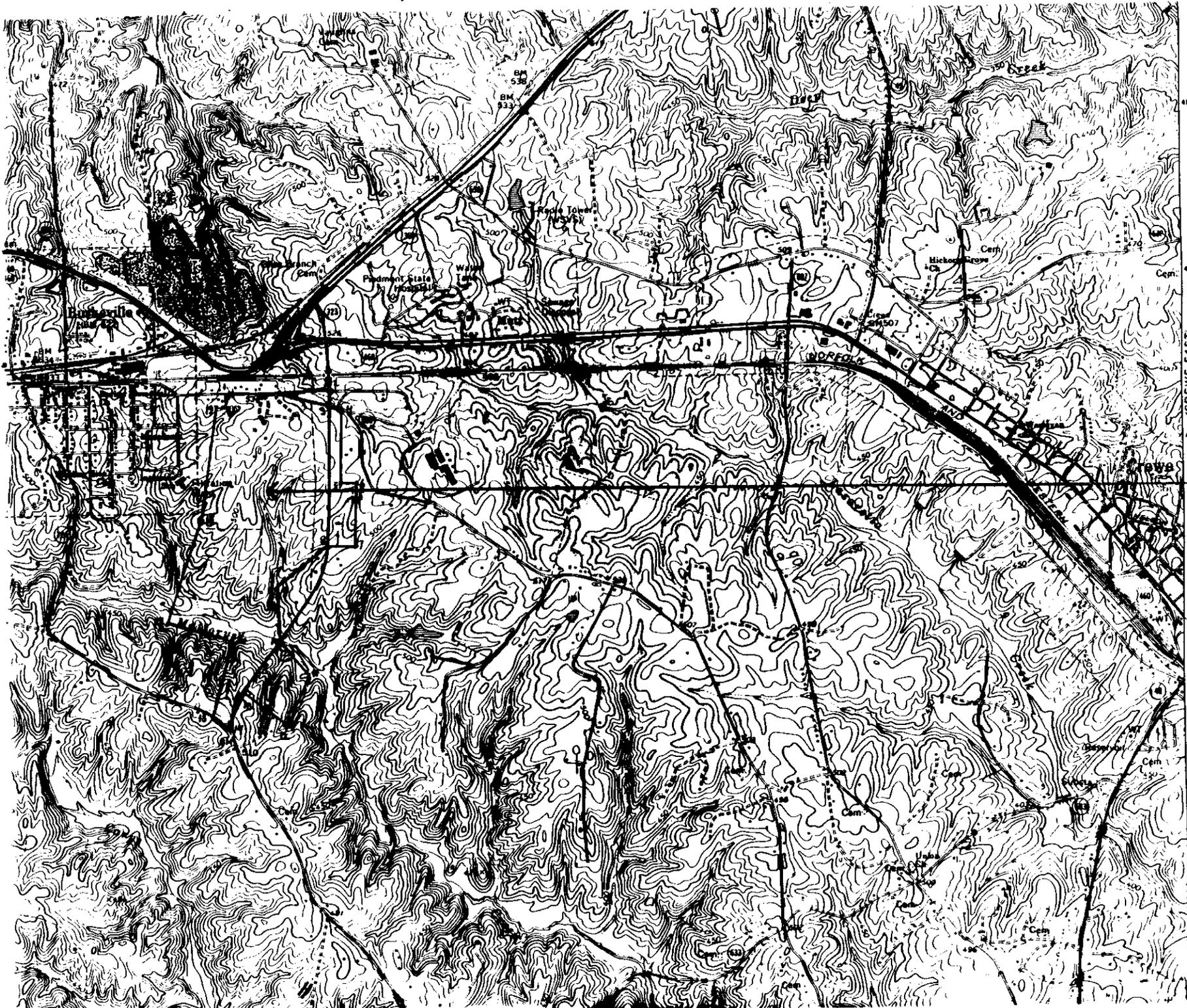
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Appendices:

1. First-floor plan 1998
2. Second-floor plan, 1998
3. Construction phases plan, first floor, 1998
4. Construction phases plan, second floor, 1998
5. Site plan, 1998
6. Nottoway County, Virginia, Haytokah District Tax Map, Section 17
7. Designs for Stairs, p. 169. *Combined Book of Sashes, Doors, Blinds, Mouldings, Stair Work, Mantels, and All Kinds of Interior and Exterior Finish*, 1898 ed., reprinted in *Late Victorian Architectural Details* (Watkins Glen, NY: American Life Foundation Study Institute, 1978)
8. Photo Key 1, Site Plan
9. Photo Key 2, First-floor Plan
10. USGS map, Crewe West, Virginia, Quad. 1:24,000



INVERNESS
NOTTOWAY CO.
VIRGINIA

4121
4120
4119
4118
4117
4116

(CREWE EAST)
5338 11 NE

NOTTOWAY 4 MI
PETERSBURG 46 MI