

PH 0503002

ENTERED 5-6-80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 22 1977
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Berry Hill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

On the south side of State Route 863; approximately .5 mile southeast of the intersection of State Routes 863 and 880; north of the Dan River and .3 mile north of the North Carolina-Virginia state line.
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Berry Hill

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Pittsylvania

CODE

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Robert V. Sims

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Cascade

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24069

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pittsylvania County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

STATE

Virginia 24531

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See continuation sheet #1)

TITLE
(1)

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Berry Hill, a large tract near the North Carolina state line in southwest Pittsylvania County, includes a large, frame farmhouse built in several sections between the early nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, and a notable group of twenty log or frame outbuildings reflecting the growth of the farm over 160 years.

The original section of the main house consists of a two-story, three-bay structure connected by a hyphen to a story-and-a-half wing set perpendicular to the main block. In its original form Berry Hill was a frame version of the brick house, Little Cherry-stone, also in Pittsylvania County. Projecting from the west end of the original wing, also connected by a hyphen, is a one-story, single-cell wing probably built ca. 1840-50. To the east of the original house, enveloping its original front wall and the hyphen, is a large, two-story structure built ca. 1910 with a shallow gambrel roof with bell-cast eaves. A one-story porch shelters the east and north sides of the 1910 addition.

The nineteenth-century sections of the house are clad with beaded weatherboards; plain weatherboards are used on the 1910 wing. All sections are covered with standing-seam sheet metal.

The two-story section of the original house has nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-nine sash on the second, with louvred blinds used throughout. The gable roof is embellished at the eaves with a modillion cornice and there is a Flemish-bond exterior end chimney with stepped weatherings. A lead downspout dated 1843 survives on this section.

The hyphen was rebuilt as a two-story structure in the 1910 campaign. The original wing has six-over-nine and nine-over-nine sash, louvred blinds and modern slat blinds. There are two pedimented dormers on each slope of the roof, and a modillion cornice at the eaves. The Flemish-bond chimneys are not matched. The west chimney has two sets of stepped weatherings and a flared corbelled cap; that on the east end has a square uncapped stack and a single set of stepped weatherings. There is an original lean-to along the south side. The west end was enclosed originally; the east end formerly served as a recessed portico, but was enclosed after 1968.

The mid-nineteenth-century wing is devoid of any ornament except for a distyle porch. The wing is two bays wide and has six-over-six sash and a stone exterior end chimney at the west.

The 1910 wing has one-over-one and two-over-two sash and louvred blinds. Its porch is supported on a series of unfluted Roman Doric columns. An interior brick chimney surmounts it.

The plan of Berry Hill is less complex than the massing. The original house consisted of a single-pile, side-hall plan main block, a small hyphen, and a two-room, hall-parlor type wing with an additional lean-to room. There was a single chamber in the mid-nineteenth-century wing. The 1910 addition was constructed with two plain square rooms joined to the main block by removing walls in the original side passage and hyphen to combine them with an entrance passage in the new wing to form an L-shaped living hall after the Shingle style and Colonial Revival fashions.

The original parlor remains the most formal room in the house. In it is a handsome mantel consisting of a reeded architrave surround and an unsupported shelf decorated with flutes and a cable molding. The mantel retains its striking gold-colored marble-izing. A plain pedestal chair rail and a picture molding are carried around the room.

The living hall is decorated in the Colonial Revival manner with woodwork closely resembling the original trim. A recessed panel wainscot encircles the odd-shaped

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Early nineteenth century;
Ca, 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in southwestern Pittsylvania County near the North Carolina border, Berry Hill, with its rambling dwelling house and twenty outbuildings, is a remarkably complete Southside Virginia plantation complex. The number of outbuildings is unusually high even for an area where many small outbuildings were standard for farms. The main house with its several additions reflects the nine generations of occupancy by the Perkins-Wilson-Hairston-Sims family who have owned the property since the 1760s. The singular dwelling evolved over a century from a Federal farmhouse to a jumble of wings, chimneys, porches and roofs, the latest main section of which was erected ca. 1910. Few Virginia farmsteads have dwelling houses or outbuilding collections that can compare in complexity.

Nicholas Perkins, a Justice of the Peace for Halifax County (of which Pittsylvania County was then a part), was the first of his name to acquire land in the Berry Hill area. When he died in 1762 his son Peter, later a Revolutionary War soldier, inherited the land which is now Berry Hill. The younger Perkins continued to accumulate land in the area. In 1800, he made a gift of 640 acres, the present Berry Hill property, to his son Nicholas Junior, who sold the tract, then 700½ acres (the present size of the farm) to his first cousin Peter Wilson ten years later. By 1812, the property appeared in the tax books as Berry Hill. Architectural evidence suggests that Wilson developed the property, and that the present house was begun at that time.

Wilson was dead by 1814 and in 1819 Berry Hill passed to Robert Hairston, the brother-in-law of Wilson's daughter. Hairston and his widow owned the plantation until 1881 when it was bequeathed to a niece, Ruth Hairston, the great-granddaughter of Peter Wilson. By 1898 Ruth Hairston had married Albert Varley Sims; their descendants continue to own the farm. Berry Hill was apparently a tenant farm from the time young Ruth Hairston, who lived in nearby Henry County, inherited it in 1881. Early in the present century it became a summer home for the Sims family and continued to serve as one until 1966 when Robert V. Sims, the present owner, inherited the property and established his residence there.

DTU/VDS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Clement, Maud C. The History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Lynchburg, Virginia: 1929.
 Fitzgerald, M. V. Eighteenth-Century Landmarks of Pittsylvania County. Lynchburg, Virginia: 1967.
 Halifax County Deed Book Number 2.
 Halifax County Will Book O.
 Pittsylvania County Deed Books 1789, Number 12, Number 17.
 Pittsylvania County Land Books 1782-1970. (See continuation sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Brosville, Va. - N. C.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	6,2,3	7,3,0	4,0	4,5	3,0,0	B	1,7	6,2,3	7,3,0	4,0	4,5	0,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C	1,7	6,2,3	5,5,0	4,0	4,4	9,8,0	D	1,7	6,2,3	3,5,0	4,0	4,4	9,8,0
E	1,7	6,2,3	3,5,0	4,0	4,5	1,8,0	F	1,7	6,2,3	4,9,0	4,0	4,5	2,9,0
G							H						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The boundaries are arbitrarily drawn to include the house, cemetery, gardens, and significant outbuildings. Beginning at a point on SE side of Route 863, about 2650' SW of intersection of said route with Route 880; thence extending about 800' E, then about 700' S, then about 600' W, then about 300' S, then about 650' W to S side of private drive

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

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

January 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Resubmitted: 12/28/79

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

DATE FEB 15 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Berry Hill, Pittsylvania Co., Va.

CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7,9,10 PAGE Page 1

(6)

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1963, 1966, 1968, 1975, 1976 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(9)

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pittsylvania County Surveys 1746-1782.
Pittsylvania County Will Books Number 3, Number 8.
Scully, Vincent. The Shingle Style and the Stick Style. New Haven: 1974.

(7)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The area included incorporates the house, its immediate yard and gardens, the cemetery, and all significant early outbuildings, and little else.

(10)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

then about 650' N to SE side of 863, then about 600' NE along said side to point of origin.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Berry Hill, Pittsylvania Co., Va.

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE #2

(7)

DESCRIPTION

room to give it visual unity, and a Federal-type mantel modeled on the parlor mantel embellishes the projecting chimney breast. It has an architrave surround and unsupported shelf as in the parlor, and reeding on the surround and the shelf. An open-string stair, probably dating from the 1910 reworking, rises in the position of the original stair in the former passage.

In the west room of the original wing is a mantel consisting of an unsupported shelf and an architrave surround with two recessed panels in the frieze. Recessed panel wainscoting with a pedestal chair rail is used in this room as it is in the smaller east room where, however, the mantel is a later Greek Revival one with plain pilasters and frieze and an unmolded shelf.

The mid-nineteenth-century wing also has a plain Greek Revival mantel with unembellished pilasters and frieze, but this one retains original black-and-gold marbleizing. In the corner rises an L-plan open string stair with a square newel, round banister, and two rectangular balusters to a tread. The exterior door is grained.

The two large rooms in the 1910 wing are undecorated.

Berry Hill possesses an unusually large collection of outbuildings. Forming a courtyard behind the house are (from east to west) the former kitchen/laundry, a one-story frame building, three bays wide, with a central brick chimney and a rear lean-to; the 'lumber shed,' a single-story frame building with one opening in each facade; the smokehouse, a gable-roofed frame structure with an off-center door; and the dairy, of the same size and form as the smokehouse, except that there is a band of S-shaped vents at the eaves level on the front and the rear.

Behind these to the south are a small gable-roofed cabin built of square-notched logs, with a stone interior end chimney and a new roof structure. Next to it is a chicken house of the same size and form as the smokehouse. It was not always a chicken house -- it once had a chimney--but it is in too dilapidated a condition to determine its original function.

Southwest of the house is a V-notched log slave house with a stone end chimney at one end and a frame lean-to at the other. Beyond it is a modern metal equipment shed.

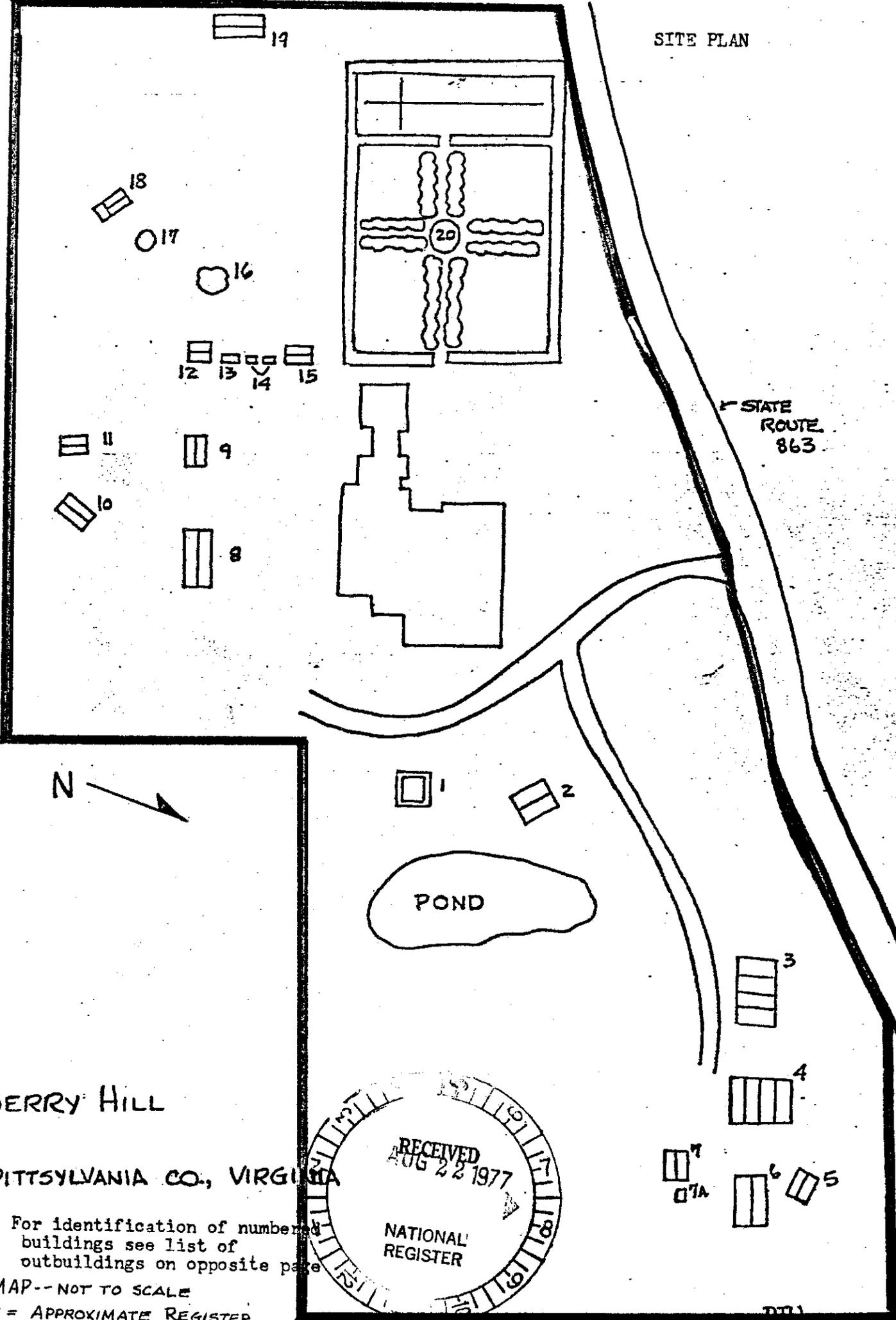
To the northeast of the house are a twentieth-century frame building and the ruins of a stone springhouse. Down the hill beyond these are (from west to east) a square-notched log crib with a frame second story, a large transverse crib, a square-notched log stable, a diamond-notched crib, a modern concrete block barn which replaces a frame granary, a twentieth-century, square-notched log shed, and a twentieth-century frame outhouse.

There is a large, walled garden with a nineteenth-century gazebo west of the house, and a family cemetery beyond that.

DTU

(see Continuation Sheet #1)

SITE PLAN



STATE ROUTE 863

POND

BERRY HILL

PITTSYLVANIA CO., VIRGINIA



For identification of numbered buildings see list of outbuildings on opposite page

KETCH MAP-- NOT TO SCALE
 DASHED LINE = APPROXIMATE REGISTER BOUNDARY

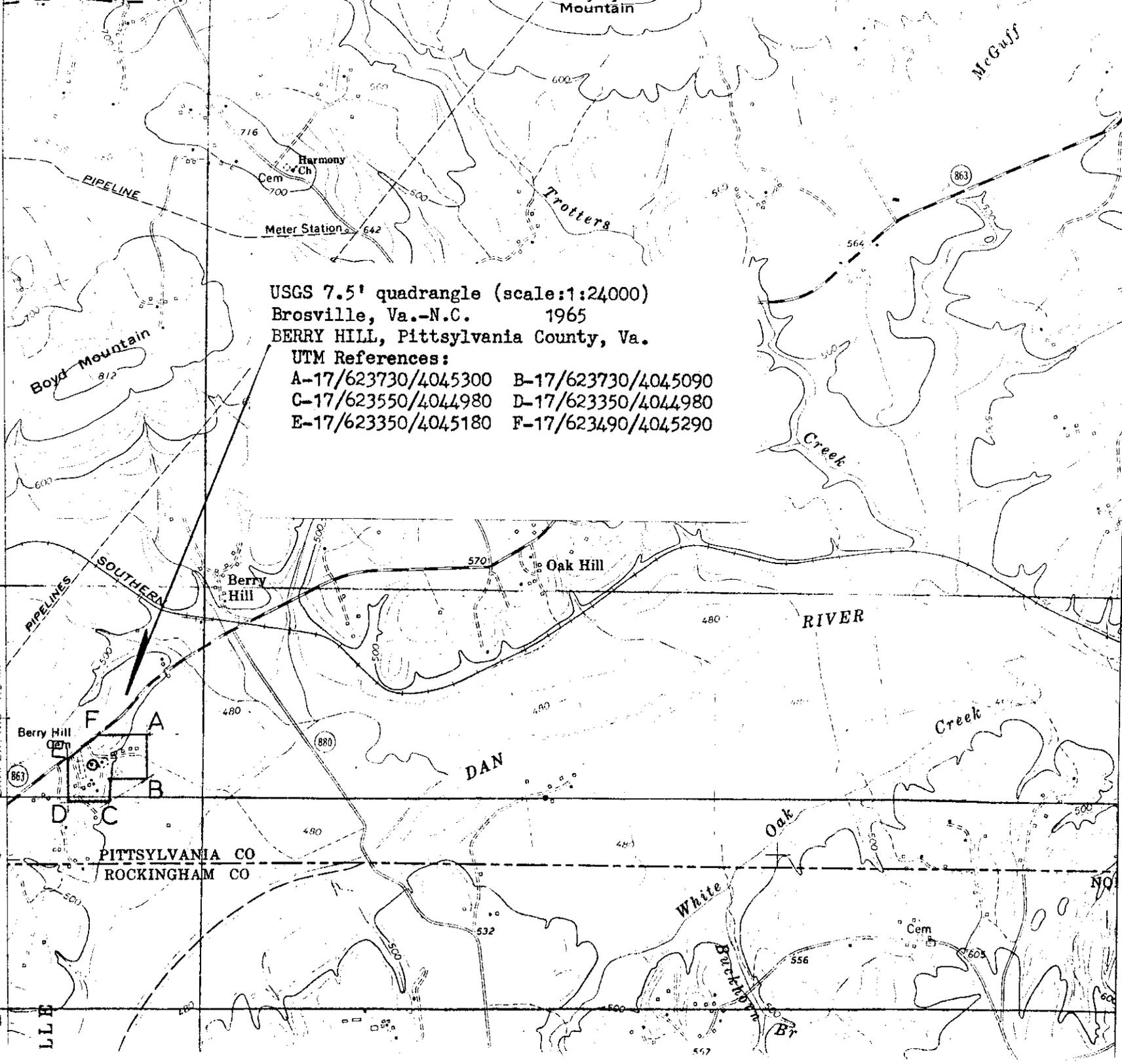
RIGHT WAY VIA VA 4021 (5 MI)
CASCADE 3 MI

5057 II SW
(DRAPER)
4047

DRAPER M.C. 4.5 MI

32'30"

4044



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Brosville, Va.-N.C. 1965
 BERRY HILL, Pittsylvania County, Va.

UTM References:
 A-17/623730/4045300 B-17/623730/4045090
 C-17/623550/4044980 D-17/623350/4044980
 E-17/623350/4045180 F-17/623490/4045290

PITTSYLVANIA CO
 ROCKINGHAM CO

LL E