

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP-10/15/66 NAL-

Theme: The American Revolution  
and Politics and Diplomacy, 1775-1783

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

12/1/65

STATE: Virginia 42-30  
COUNTY: Hanover

1775  
1783

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**  
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY DATE:

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Scotchtown

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Patrick Henry Home (Scotchtown)

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ten miles northwest of Ashland on Virginia Route 685

CITY OR TOWN:  
Beaver Dam

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Seventh (7th)

STATE: Virginia 23015      CODE: 51      COUNTY: Hanover      CODE: 085

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Hanover County Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Scotchtown

CITY OR TOWN: Beaverdam      STATE: Virginia 23015      CODE: 51

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Hanover Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hanover      STATE: Virginia 23069      CODE: 51

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress/Annex

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Prints and Photographs Division

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Hanover  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

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DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>a. <b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION:</b> Scotchtown was Patrick Henry's home during the period of his leadership in shaping the course of events leading to Revolution and Independence. He lived there from 1771 until he was elected first Governor of Virginia in 1776 and moved to the Governor's palace at Williamsburg. He continued to maintain his residence at Scotchtown until 1777 when he sold the plantation to Colonel Miles Carey. While living at Scotchtown, Patrick Henry attended both the First and Second Continental Congress. He headed the Hanover Volunteers against Governor Dunmore's seizure of the powder and went to St. John's Church in Richmond to stir the people of Virginia with his unparalleled burst of eloquence. He became Virginia's first governor; received and aided George Rogers Clark. The years during which he lived at Scotchtown were the greatest and most fruitful in the life of Patrick Henry.</p> <p>During his lifetime, Patrick Henry lived at eleven different places in Virginia. Red Hill, Scotchtown, and Hanover Tavern are the only ones remaining. Red Hill was Henry's final home in the years after his retirement from public service; the present structure is largely reconstruction, and later additions.</p> <p>Hanover Tavern was operated by Patrick Henry's father-in-law, John Shelton. Henry lived there during the early years of his marriage and at the time of the Parson's Cause. The rambling two-story frame structure has been altered, but still retains some of the original features. The tavern now houses the Barksdale Theatre.</p> <p>The house at Scotchtown is original and is of unusual design and appeal. Scotchtown was built by Colonel Charles Chiswell of Williamsburg for his country home on a tract which he acquired in 1717. The exact date of construction is uncertain. Since the land grant provided that the property be seated within two years, it is believed that the house was built about 1719. Patrick Henry bought Scotchtown in 1771 and lived there until 1777.</p> <p><u>Condition of Site:</u> The Scotchtown house, 93 x 35 feet, one of the largest in the colony, was a frame story-and-a-half structure on a brick foundation with enormous roof. The roof is of an unusual design--it is of the early Jerkin-head type. Two massive chimneys pierced the roof a room's length from the east and west ends of the building. On the first floor was a wide central hall extending from the front to the rear porches. On either side of the hall were four rooms grouped around the chimneys. The full basement was partitioned into eight rooms and a wine cellar with exterior entrances on the north and east sides. The attic, reached by a staircase from the one room at the northeast corner was one very large room, unfinished and without partitions.</p> <p>In the rear yards were the outbuildings--a schoolhouse, office, kitchen, smokehouse, wash house, ash house, blacksmith shop, plantation warehouse or store, and guesthouses. Half a mile from the mansion on</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Scotchtown house, 93x 35 feet, was one of the largest in the American colonies. Its story-and-a half frame structure supports an enormous, early Jerkin-head type roof. It rests on a brick foundation, enclosing a full basement of eight rooms and a wine cellar. Two massive chimneys project from the roof one room's length from the east and west ends of the building. On the first floor a wide central hall extends from the front to the rear porch; on either side of the hall are four rooms grouped around one the chimneys. The attic is unfinished and without partitions, so that the excellent restoration work is readily visible there.

Extensive changes were made on Scotchtown following its acquisition by the Taylor family in 1832. These included the razing of the chimneys and their replacement by four new ones; movement of interior partitions to conform with the new chimneys; and removal of some of the original mahogany and walnut panelling and marble mantelpieces during remodeling. In 1958 the house and 26 acres of surrounding land were purchased by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Since then fifteen acres have been added to the site, the house has been almost completely restored, and several outbuildings have been reconstructed: the Law Office, Ice House, Caretaker's House, & old well. A kitchen is in the process of reconstruction, above recently discovered 1824 foundations.

Restoration of the main house was begun under the direct supervision of the architectural firm of Macomber and Peters, Washington, D.C. Before entering private practice, Mr. Macomber was architect for Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. The restoration work at Scotchtown has employed the techniques and practices which guided the restoration at Williamsburg. Primary reliance has been on the careful examination of the structure to determine original architectural details, supplemented by photographs and descriptions of the building and archeological excavations around the exterior foundations. Restoration on the house proper was virtually complete by 1962. The work has apparently been very authentic, both exterior and interior. The additional chimneys have been removed and the two originals reconstructed. This has made possible the removal of the 1823 partitions and a return to the original floor plan.

BOUNDARIES

The 41 acres at Scotchtown owned by the APVA were all part of the property owned by Patrick Henry during his residence there.

As shown by the red line on the accompanying sketch map A entitled "Patrick Henry Home, Scotchtown" and dated October 25, 1974, from a point labelled A on Route 685, about 200 feet southwest from the side road; proceed about 700 feet northwest to a point B, then north

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7 a. CONT'D.

The Association had by 1962 spent approximately \$75,000 on the restoration and anticipated that a like sum would be needed to complete the restoration program. The Virginia General Assembly in 1960 appropriated \$30,000 for the Scotchtown restoration and an additional \$30,000 in 1962, payable \$15,000 for each of the fiscal years 1963 and 1964--thus assuring funds to continue the project.

A furnishing committee has made excellent progress on the task of securing furniture and furnishings of the period for the sixteen rooms of the residence. A number of donations will undoubtedly be made, but principal reliance will be on the purchase of selected pieces. The committee is making a special effort to obtain authentic Henry pieces.

A graveled entrance road and parking area have been provided for public use. The grounds have not yet been landscaped. Some of the old boxwood walk is still in place, although in a bad condition. Efforts are being made to revive it.

b. BOUNDARIES: Scotchtown consists of approximately 41 acres. The acreage is bounded on the south by State Route 685. State Route 740 splits through the acreage, from a northwest to a southeast direction. Approximately 26 of Scotchtown's acres are located east of Route 740 and north of Route 685; the remaining 15 acres are located west of Route 740 and north of Route 685.

From the junction of State Routes 685 and 740, proceed west along Route 685 for approximately 637 feet; thence in a northwesterly direction for approximately 973 feet; thence in an easterly direction for approximately 468 feet; thence in a northerly direction for approximately 258 feet to Route 740; thence in a northeasterly direction for approximately 135 feet; thence in a southeasterly direction for approximately 1704 feet; thence in an easterly direction for approximately 635 feet to State Route 685; thence in a westerly direction along Route 685 for approximately 1700 feet to point of beginning.

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7 a. CONT'D.

New Found River was the mill and slave quarters.

In the 1820's, the Taylor family acquired Scotchtown and shortly thereafter remodeled the residence. The two massive chimneys were razed and replaced by four chimneys and interior partitions were moved to conform to the location of the new chimneys. During the remodeling, some of the original mahogany and walnut paneling and marble mantle-pieces were torn out and discarded.

The residence continued to be maintained in reasonably good condition. The original wood-shingle roof was replaced by a metal cover in the 1920's. The outbuildings and grounds, however, were neglected and the general appearance of the place began to deteriorate. In the 1930's, the house was turned over to tenant occupancy and began to suffer from lack of proper maintenance. In succeeding years serious deterioration occurred.

In 1949 settlement of the estate offered the opportunity to purchase the house and remaining lands. The local Hanover Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities began a campaign to raise funds to preserve Scotchtown. After protracted litigation involving the estate and a long campaign for funds, the Association bought Scotchtown in June 1958 for \$37,000. Subsequent land sales reduced the cost to the Association of the house and 31.6 acres which they now hold.

Restoration of the residence was begun under the direct supervision of Mr. Walter M. Macomber of the architectural firm of Macomber and Peters, Washington, D. C. Before entering private practice, Mr. Macomber was architect for Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. The restoration work at Scotchtown has employed the techniques and practices which guided the restoration at Williamsburg. Primary reliance has been on the careful examination of the structure to determine original architectural details, supplemented by photographs and descriptions of the building and archeological excavations around the exterior foundations. Restoration work on the house proper was virtually complete by 1962. The work has been excellent and authentic, both exterior and interior. The additional chimneys have been removed and the former two have been reconstructed. This has made possible the removal of the alteration in partitions and a return to the original floor plan. Reconstruction of the front porch remains to be done.

One of the outbuildings has been reconstructed to serve as a caretakers cottage. The law office, kitchen, and at least another building will eventually be reconstructed. It is planned to have Henry's law office serve as the entrance point and gift shop.

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LANDMARKS))

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about 250 feet to a point C touching the west curbline of the side road. From point C proceed about 350 feet northeast to a point D, then about 600 feet southeast to a point E, then about 700 feet slightly south of east to a point F touching Route 685 on the north an east curb. From point F proceed west and south along the curbline of Route 685 about 1400 feet to point of the beginning.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known) 1771-1777

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                      |  |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>The War for</u>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>Independence</u>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |                                      |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This huge frame mansion was the home of Patrick Henry from 1771 to 1777, when he was helping shape the course of events leading to Revolution and Independence. He left to become Governor of wartime Virginia. The house, owned by the Hanover County Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, is being restored as an historic house museum.

HISTORY

Scotchtown was purchased in 1717 by Charles Chiswell, who named it thus in order to attract Scottish workers. The plan failed, and after several changes in hands, the property was bought by Patrick Henry in 1771. He lived there until his election as Governor and removal to Williamsburg in 1776. The property is thus associated with the most critical years of Henry's activity.

BIOGRAPHY

Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was born in Hanover County, Va. and educated at home by his father, John Henry, a surveyor, colonel, and justice of the Hanover County Court.

As a youth, Henry failed twice in seven years as a storekeeper and once as a farmer, meantime marrying Sarah Shelton in 1754. In 1760 he was admitted to the bar, and at last met with great success.

In 1763 Henry gained wider recognition through his handling of the famous Parson's Cause. This suit grew out of the Virginia law, disallowed by the king, that permitted payment of the Anglican clergy in money instead of tobacco when the crop was poor. Henry was so eloquent in defending the colonist's position that in 1765 he was seated in the House of Burgesses. He immediately established himself as a vociferous opponent of the British Stamp Act, introducing resolutions asserting the right of the colonies to legislate independently of England. His oratory in defense of these proposals included the famous "Caesar-Brutus" speech: "Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third... George the Third", he continued, as cries of "Treason! Treason!"

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filled the room, "may profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it."

For the next ten years Henry was a leader of the radical opposition to the British government. His purchase of Scotchtown in 1771 suggests his position was not entirely unpopular. He was a member of the first Virginia Committee of Correspondence and a delegate to the Continental Congress of 1774 and 1775. At the Virginia revolutionary convention on March 23, 1775, in St. John's Church, Richmond, he delivered the speech which assured his position as one of the world's great orators and advocates of human freedom:

"There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged. their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston. The war is inevitable--and let it come! I repeat it sir, let it come!! It is vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God--I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Henry's proposals for arming the Virginia militia were passed; in April the battles of Lexington and Concord initiated hostilities between England and her American colonies. In 1776 Henry resigned his command of the Virginia forces and served on the committee which drafted that state's first constitution. He was elected governor that same year and was re-elected in 1777 and 1778, thus serving as long as the new constitution permitted. As wartime governor Henry gave George Washington plentiful support in men and supplies; he also authorized the expedition of George Rogers Clark into the Illinois country.

Henry returned to public life in 1780; he had remarried following the death of his first wife in the interim. He served as a leading member of the state legislature from 1780 to 1784. He then served two years as governor before returning to the legislature, 1787 to 1790. He declined to attend the constitutional convention of 1787, and strongly opposed its adoption in Virginia the following year. This was due to his fear that the northern states would abandon Mississippi navigation rights to Spain, and that state and individual rights would be trampled on. The Bill of Rights, which he helped to pass, reconciled Henry to the new federal government.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William B. Dodd, "Patrick Henry," Dictionary of American Biography (New York, 1946); Robert Douthat Heade, Patrick Henry, Patriot in the Making (Philadelphia, 1957), Vol. I; "Report on Redesignated 11, Last Home and Burial Place of Patrick Henry" (unpublished report, Southeast Region, National Park Service, Richmond, 1962); Charles A. Porter, "Scotchtown, Hanover County, Virginia" (unpublished report, Southeast Region, National Park Service, Richmond, 1936); Marion Marsh Sale, "Patrick Henry's Scotchtown," The Commonwealth, the Magazine of Virginia, Vol. XXIX (November, 1962); "Scotchtown, Hanover County, Virginia, Home of Patrick Henry" (illustrated folder, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, circa 1958).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37	50	53	77	35	13			
NE	37	50	47	77	35	19			
SE	37	50	30	77	34	55			
SW	37	50	46	77	35	13			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Frank S. Melvin

ORGANIZATION: Virginia State Office, National Park Service  
DATE: 6/30/72

AND NUMBER:  
Box 10008

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond  
STATE: Virginia 23240  
CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

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After 1790 Henry declined a series of high government posts due to family responsibilities and ill health. In 1799, however, he consented to run again for the state legislature, in order to oppose the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions, which claimed a state veto over federal legislation. During his successful campaign he made his last speech, a moving plea for American unity. He never took his seat; on June 8 he died at Red Hill near Brookneal, Virginia.

# PLAN OF YARD

Caretaker's House



Ice House



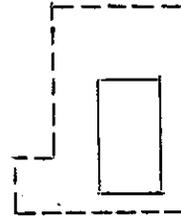
Law Office



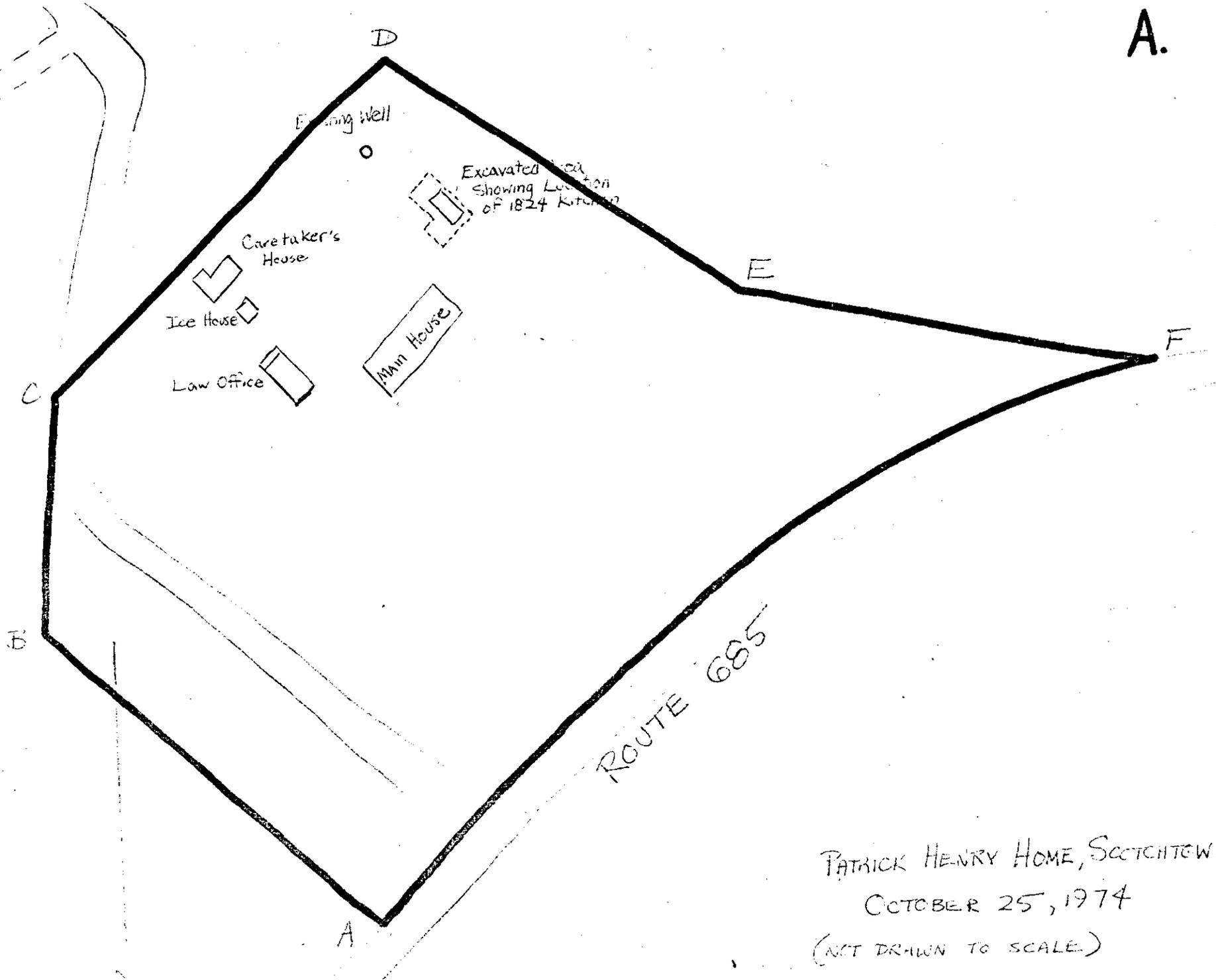
Dwelling House

○ Existing Well

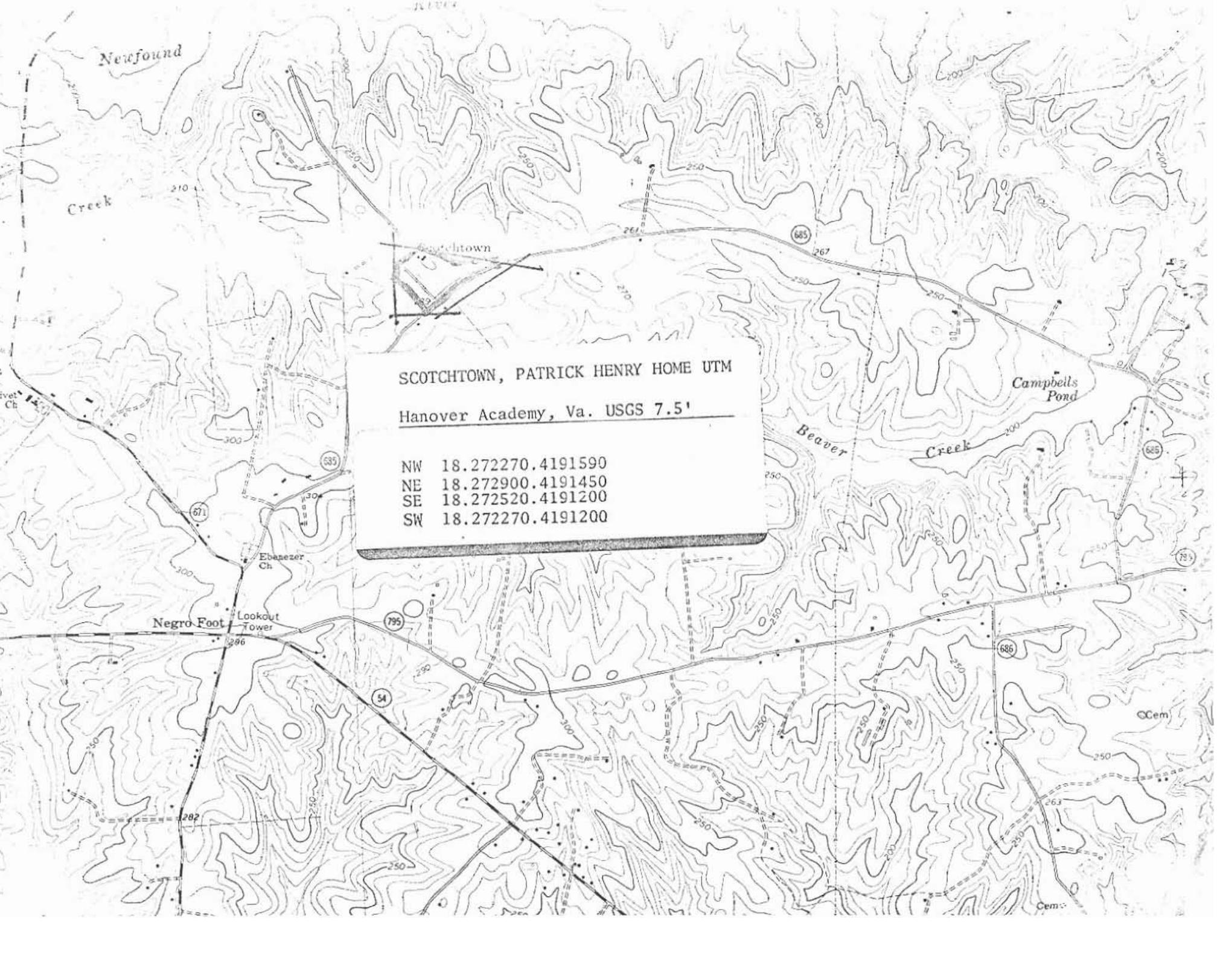
Excavated Area  
Showing Location  
of 1824 Kitchen



*shown on back of  
page.*



PATRICK HENRY HOME, SCOTCHTOWN  
OCTOBER 25, 1974  
(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)



SCOTCHTOWN, PATRICK HENRY HOME UTM  
Hanover Academy, Va. USGS 7.5'

NW	18.272270.4191590
NE	18.272900.4191450
SE	18.272520.4191200
SW	18.272270.4191200