

VLR-12/21/76 NRHP-3/15/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED MAR 14 1977
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Roxbury

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1.7 miles S of Oak Grove; W side of State Route 638; .1 mile NE of intersection of state routes 638 and 636.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Oak Grove

VICINITY OF
CODE
51

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First (Thomas N. Downing)
COUNTY
Westmoreland
CODE
193

STATE
Virginia

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

c/o Mr. Carl F. Flemer, Jr.

NAME

Ingleside Plantation Nurseries, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Oak Grove

VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia 22443

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Westmoreland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Montross

STATE
Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) (See continuation sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

KFEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
DC

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Roxbury, a two-story frame house completed in 1861, stands on a ridge near the Rappahannock River in Westmoreland County. The T-shaped building consists of a two-bay section parallel to the road, with a larger three-bay section set perpendicular to, and behind it. The entrances are in the larger section and open into a cross-hall at the junction of the two parts. The principal (east) entrance is sheltered by a one-story porch supported on coupled, bracketed columns and stretching the length of the stem. A similar porch, but covering only the doorway, shelters the rear entrance. All of the windows have six-over-six sash and, on the south and east sides, louvered blinds. The whole is surmounted by steeply pitched gable roofs with deep projecting eaves and gables. Two large gabled dormers break the outer plane of the south wing roof, with three similar dormers on each slope of the north wing roof. Small sawnwork ornaments are fastened at the apex of each roof and dormer gable, and each wing has a central chimney with four square stacks set in a lozenge pattern and joined at their corbelled caps.

A one-story, one room kitchen ell at the north end of the house, a one-story screen porch at the south, and demi-octagonal bay windows at either end of the south wing, all dating from the early twentieth century, are the only significant alterations to the exterior of Roxbury.

The plan of Roxbury is a complex one. The south wing, with two unequal sized rooms--a library at the west and a larger parlor at the east--is separated from the rooms in the north block by an entrance cross-passage. As one moves north from the passage, there is a dining room, a large kitchen, and, at the northwest corner, the small kitchen ell. A secondary passage, stretching along the west wall between the cross-passage and the kitchen, contains the stair.

Despite its picturesque exterior, the interior of Roxbury is relatively plain, with architectural embellishment confined primarily to the fireplace treatments and to the molded plaster cornices used in the parlor, library, cross-passage, and dining room.

The parlor mantel is a plain, light-grey marble piece consisting of broad pilasters supporting a plain frieze with a cambered soffit.

In the library, another light-grey marble mantel, this one with a round arched opening accented by beveled, triangular spandrel panels and a central console acting visually as a keystone for the arch and as a corbel for the shelf, is mounted on the projecting chimney breast. Built into the recesses at either side of the fireplace are a pair of Gothic-style bookcases. Each of these has in its tall upper section four glass doors, the heads of which form a pair of Tudor arches, with four plain doors below. A crenellated cornice surmounts each bookcase. Also worthy of note is the mid-nineteenth-century floral carpet which remains in this room.

The cross-passage is notable for the curving screen wall at the east end, which provides for closets at either side of the entry and, in addition, creates an indirectly lighted entrance vestibule of dramatic effect.

In the dining room, a light-grey marble mantel similar to that in the library,
(See continuation sheet #2)

FD

AT

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 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 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

1861

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roxbury is a notable example of a mid-Victorian house in the picturesque mode. Completed in 1861, it conforms stylistically to the type of house popularized by the nineteenth-century architect and theorist Calvert Vaux, a follower of Andrew Jackson Downing. In his widely read book, Villas and Cottages (1857), Vaux outlined how close adherence to Gothic, Greek, and Italian precedents could produce a house impractical for comfort. "The English country houses and cottages have undoubtedly claims to our best consideration. . .," he declared. While Vaux's designs are accented with historical motifs, they are highly original compositions and avoid the strict historicism of the romantically inspired houses of the previous decades.

Dwellings following Vaux's formulas are relatively common in northern states, but they are extremely rare in the South, especially in Virginia. The building of fine houses in Virginia all but ceased with the outbreak of the War Between the States and remained at a halt through Reconstruction. Roxbury is thus an important architectural document for its time and place. With its asymmetrical plan and many-gabled roof, it meets Vaux's definitions of "irregular" and "picturesque." While sophisticated in concept and execution, no architect has been directly associated with its design; the house may, in fact, have been designed by an area builder working with a pattern book by Vaux or one of his contemporaries.

Roxbury was built for Dabney Carr Wirt (1814/15-1888), oldest brother of William Wirt, Jr. and son of William Wirt, the noted jurist, statesman and author. William Wirt, Jr. was the builder of Wirtland, an outstanding Gothic Revival mansion located less than a mile away. Because of the proximity of these fine houses, the ridge on which they are located was known locally as "Quality Ridge." Although the architecture of the two houses is dissimilar, they may have shared designers or artisans.

Dabney Carr Wirt was married to Julia Augusta Washington, a relative of the first President. Her branch of the family remained in Westmoreland County and occupied the Washington ancestral landholdings on the Potomac. The sixty-three acres forming the original Roxbury estate were owned in 1840 by Eliza Collins and had buildings there valued at \$500. The buildings were destroyed by fire in 1842, and in 1850 the property was sold to H. T. Garnett. In 1852 he transferred the property with a building valued at \$100 to Juliet Washington, mother of Julia Washington Wirt. (The \$100 building was probably the log kitchen/laundry that stands near the house today.) It was Juliet Washington who paid for the construction of the existing mansion which in 1861 was valued at \$3000. It is in the books of that date that the property is first referred to as Roxbury. The house and land remained in Juliet Washington's name until 1872 when the title was transferred to Dabney Wirt, who had been living there since its completion.

(See continuation Sheet number 3)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vaux, Calvert. Villas and Cottages. Da Capo Press Reprint, New York: 1968.
 Westmoreland County Land Tax Books, 1837-1872.
 Westmoreland Deeds and Wills, Book 36, p. 111 (1859-1860).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

QUADRANGLE NAME: Rollins Fork, Va.
 QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1:24000

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries include Route 638 on the south, a tree line on the west, woods on the north, and the edge of the front field on the east.

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

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

November 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

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

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

DATE DEC 21 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1969, 1970, 1976 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

but with an interesting shell figure carved into the central bracket, is used. In the kitchen is a very plain wooden mantel with unadorned pilasters and a frieze with a cambered soffit. The open-string stair, in its narrow passage, has a molded rail, bulbous turned newel, and two turned balusters to a tread.

One early outbuilding survives--a mid-nineteenth-century, story-and-a-half double-pen structure built of logs with dovetail and half-dovetail notching. There are five openings in the facade--doors at the ends, and six-over-six windows in the inner bays; in addition, there is a central door which provides direct access to the stair, which is built against the central brick chimney and which is also accessible from both rooms. The gables are weather-boarded, and the roof is covered with pressed tin with shingle impressions. There are two gabled dormers with six-over-six sash in each plane of the roof. The interior is characterized by plain whitewashed joists, Greek-Revival window trim, and a chimney wall partition of beaded horizontal boards in the south room. The building was designated an office on a 1909 plat map in the possession of the owners.

DTU

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries are drawn to include the house and its immediate yard. Also, the field to the east is included, as it was originally graded to make an orderly vista to and from the house.

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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Around the turn of the century, Roxbury was purchased by F. W. Alexander of New Hampshire who after settling there inaugurated the original movement to acquire and restore Stratford Hall. Alexander was the author of a book on Stratford and the Lee family. Alexander's widow, Lesbia Spilman Alexander, carefully maintained Roxbury until 1960 when it was acquired by Ingleside Plantation Nurseries, Inc. Today it is maintained as a residence for a member of the Flemer family, proprietors of the nursery.

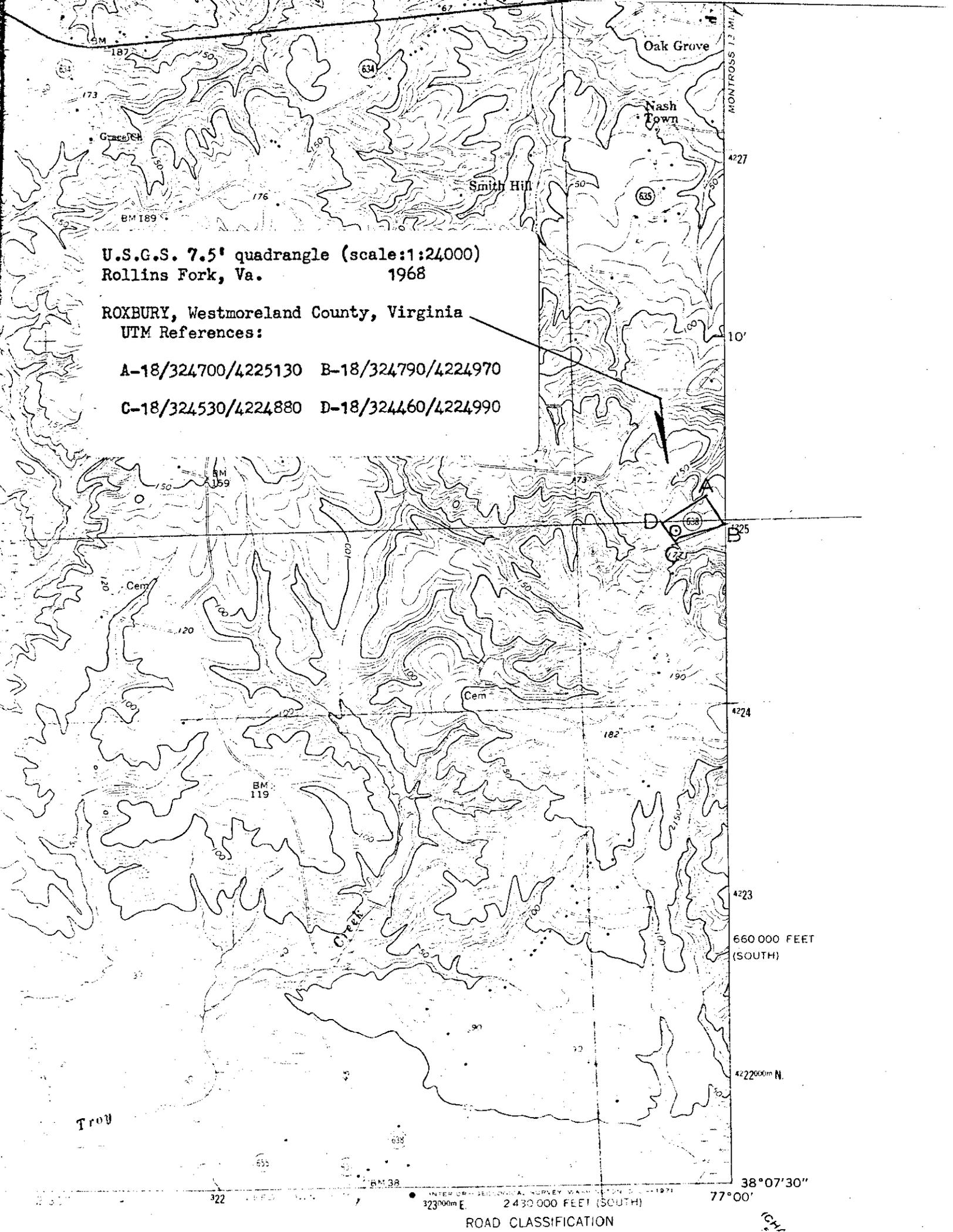
CCL & MTP

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Rollins Fork, Va. 1968

ROXBURY, Westmoreland County, Virginia
UTM References:

A-18/324700/4225130 B-18/324790/4224970

C-18/324530/4224880 D-18/324460/4224990



MONTROSS 1.3 MI

4227

10'

4225

4224

4223

660 000 FEET
(SOUTH)

4222000m N.

38°07'30"

INTER-OFFICIAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D.C. 1971
323000m E 2 430 000 FEET (SOUTH)

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

100'