

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Sunny Bank

AND/OR COMMON

Sunny Bank

2 LOCATION

.8 mile WNW of South Garden; .7 mile west of State Route 712; 1.3
STREET & NUMBER miles WNW of intersection of State Routes 712 and 631.

CITY, TOWN

South Garden

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
Albemarle

CODE
003

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Andrew D. Hart

STREET & NUMBER

Sunny Bank

CITY, TOWN

North Garden

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22959

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Albemarle County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

STATE

Virginia

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

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1967, 1968

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Sunny Bank is an imposing, Federal-period frame plantation house in a provincial version of Jeffersonian Classicism. The main part of the facade is divided into seven bays with a two-level pedimented portico projecting from the center three bays. The portico is supported on six columns (four across the front, two against the house), each turned from a single tree. An entablature consisting of a pulvinated frieze and architrave at the portico's second-floor level causes the columns to appear as one-story posts on each level rather than continuous members. The pediment with its modillion cornice and pulvinated frieze follows classical proportions, but the turned columns, which appear more like large balusters than any element of classical derivation, render the portico a decidedly provincial flavor.

As originally built, the east and west wings were only one story high: the house followed the Palladian format of which the Semple House in Williamsburg is the prototype. The wings were raised to their present height probably within twenty years after the completion of the house. This supposition is based on the fact that the entire house is covered with uniform beaded weatherboarding of early origin. The modillion cornices on the wings may be the originals, moved to their present positions when the wings were raised, as they match those on the center section. The only other significant exterior additions include one-story porches at either end of the east and west wings. The porches were enclosed in recent decades; the west porch serves as the kitchen, and the east porch now contains a bathroom and small bedroom.

The windows throughout the house have uniform architrave trim and molded sills. The four-over-four sashes in the majority of the windows probably date from the time of the wing enlargement. Two apparently original six-over-nine sashes survive in the second-floor windows of the rear wing, suggesting that the original sashes in the somewhat taller windows in the rest of the house had nine-over-nine panes. All the windows are hung with early louvred shutters. The main doorway is composed of a pair of two-panel doors with a semi-circular fanlight. A similar doorway opens onto the upper level of the portico. Interior end chimneys rise behind the pedimented gables of the side wings. The rear wing is heated by an exterior end chimney with a single set of weatherings near the top. The chimney, like the brick foundations, has been stuccoed.

Sunny Bank's first-floor plan consists of an entrance hall across the front of the center section with a large parlor in the wing behind. The flanking wings each contain a single room: the dining room is in the west wing; a bedroom is opposite. The original dining room was in the basement of the west wing, but that area is now used for storage. The stair rises from the northwest corner of the entrance hall. Upstairs, a large bedroom is located in each of the flanking wings. The rear wing is divided into two narrow bedrooms, each with a corner fireplace. A small room, now a bathroom, is located in the southeast corner of the upstairs hall. Irregularities in the floorboards and chair rail of the second-floor hall suggest that the stair may have had a well open to the second-floor ceiling. The stair itself is original and does not seem to have been altered, although it ascends somewhat awkwardly with treacherous winders. It has heavy turned newel posts similar in character to the columns on the portico. The balusters (two to a tread) also are turned, and the step ends are ornamented with scrolled brackets. A wide, molded handrail connects each newel.

The architectural decoration of the rooms shows a mixture of original and Greek Revival details. That in the parlor consists of plain wainscoting and a rather heavy cornice

(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 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sunny Bank is a handsomely preserved Piedmont plantation with a dwelling house and out-buildings of considerable architectural interest. Begun around 1797, the house is an imposing, if somewhat provincial, version of the Palladian idiom introduced to the region by Thomas Jefferson. In its original form, prior to the raising of the wings to two full stories, the house followed the general format of the early phase of Monticello, having a two-story center section fronted by a two-level portico and flanked by one-story wings. Also like Monticello, the house is sited atop an eminence with panoramic views of exceptionally scenic countryside and mountains. The house and much of the plantation's original acreage remain in the possession of descendants of Andrew Hart, the first owner.

The son of a clergyman of Linlithgow, Scotland, Andrew Hart came to Virginia soon after the Revolution. By 1797 he had acquired 700 acres of the James P. Cocke estate in the South Garden section of Albemarle County and began the construction of his house soon thereafter. In addition to his farming, Hart was engaged in mercantile activity, operating a store at Jumping Hill on the old road between Staunton and Scottsville. Hart also was active in public affairs, devoting much time to the execution of trusts. At his death in 1832, Sunny Bank passed to his second wife, Elizabeth Bickley Hart. It then was inherited by their son, William D. Hart, who in 1877 left it to his wife, Elizabeth D. J. Hart. The family's sense of attachment to the property is evinced in Elizabeth Hart's will recorded in 1885. In it she states: ". . . I give to my grandson Andrew D. Hart my Sunny Bank farm. As this farm has been in the family for four generations it is my wish that it shall continue undivided in the possession of any one of his children. . . . I would prefer that he be called William D. or Andrew D. Hart, but I wish my grandson to use his best discretion in his choice and give it to the one who will more nearly follow in the footsteps of his grandfather." Sunny Bank currently is owned and occupied by Andrew D. Hart, great-grandson of Elizabeth D. J. Hart.

CL

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Berger, J., C. Koch, and N. Recchie, "Sunny Bank," (Unpublished ms. by University of Virginia Architectural students), 1974, in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

Rawlings, Mary. Ante-Bellum Albemarle. Charlottesville, Va., 1935.

Records of Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Policies for 1802, 1805 and 1816.

Woods, Rev. Edgar. Albemarle County in Virginia. Bridgewater, Va. 1964.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 105 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	70,73,2,0	4,19,97,4,0	B	1,7	70,73,4,0	4,19,89,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	70,61,6,0	4,19,89,1,0	D	1,7	70,61,4,0	4,19,96,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising the Sunny Bank property is bounded by a line beginning at a point a little less than .4 mile west northwest of the intersection of State Routes 633 and 712; thence extending approximately 1600 feet northwestward in a straight line; then curving generally westward for a distance of approximately 1900 feet to the intersection with the eastern side of Southern Railroad track; then following the eastern side of said track for approximately 1600 feet; thence extending approximately 1400 feet southeastward in a straight line; (See continuation sheet # 1)

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

March, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3143

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

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

DATE APR 20 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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1968, 1975 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

then extending approximately 1000 feet north northeastward in a straight line to intersection with a dirt road off State Route 633; then extending less than 100 feet south, following west side of dirt road to intersection with State Route 633; then following north side of said Route 633 to point of origin.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

with dentils. The mantel is ornamented with somewhat crude Greek Doric colonettes and has Greek Revival moldings in the cornice shelf, all suggesting that the mantel is an early replacement. The mantels in the first-floor wing rooms, while different from one another, display a more Georgian quality and probably are original. Both, however, are provincial interpretations of their more sophisticated prototypes. These rooms also have plain wainscoting and heavy cornices but with no dentils. The woodwork in the second-floor rooms of the rear wing is original and very simple. That in the second-floor rooms of the side wings is Greek Revival, further establishing the later origin of these rooms. A narrow, enclosed stair ascends from the second-floor hall to the attic.

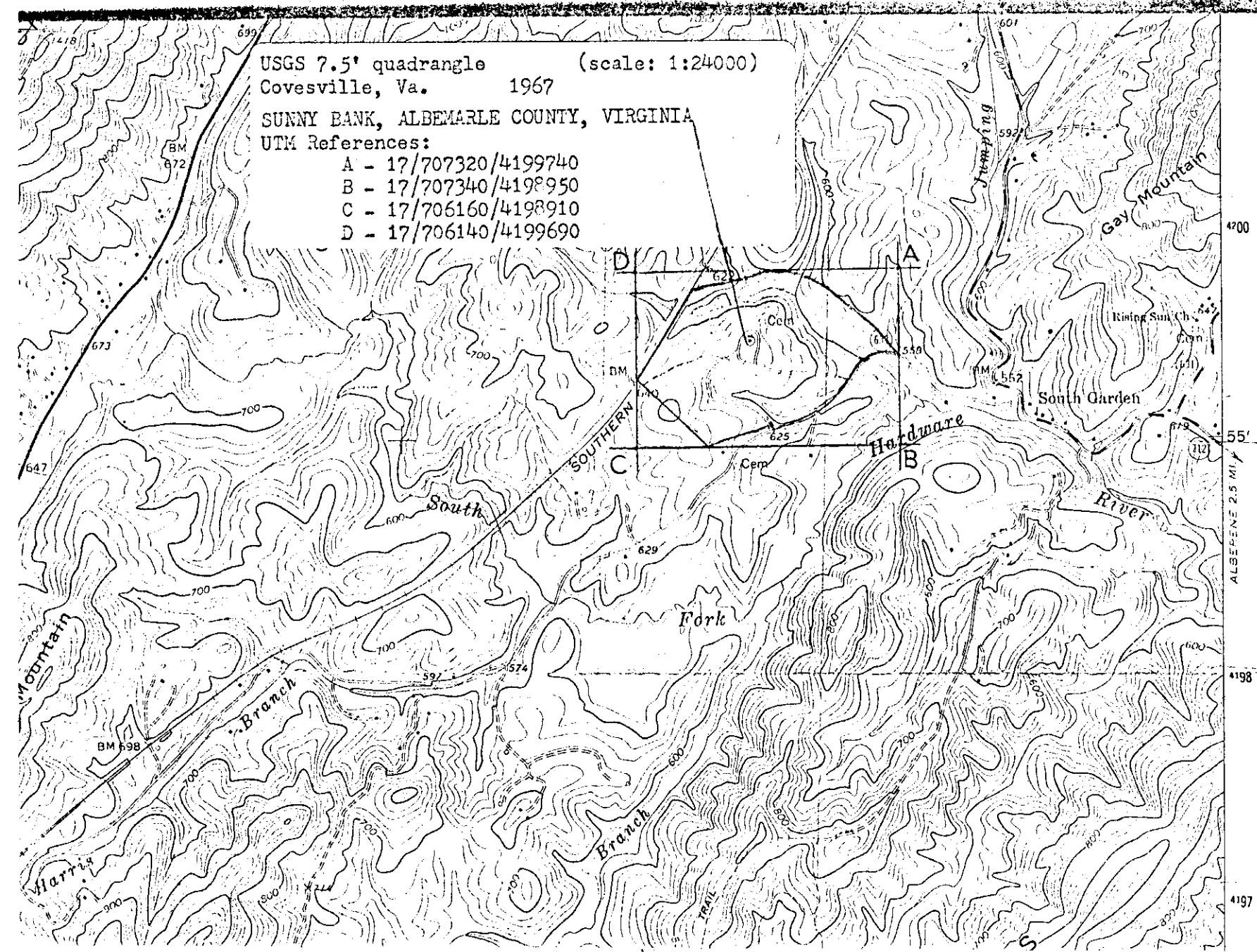
Sunny Bank is set in exceptionally scenic rolling countryside. The house occupies a commanding position atop a hill with grand views of surrounding fields, woods, and mountains. Practically no other houses are in sight. In front of the house is a broad sloping lawn planted with both deciduous and evergreen trees. On the west side of the lawn is a small one-story frame office with an exterior end chimney, beaded weatherboarding, and a gable roof. In an area to the west of the house is a formal garden consisting of four main squares bordered with boxwood. Within each square are concentric circles of beds. In the center of the garden is a handsome marble urn. Immediately to the west of the house is the old kitchen and laundry outbuilding. It is a one-story frame structure with a center chimney and modillion cornice. To the north of that is a twelve-foot-square smokehouse. Other outbuildings include a log shed and a more modern garage. Northeast of the house, in a grove of evergreen trees, is the family graveyard. The house, grounds, and outbuildings are all maintained in excellent condition.

CL

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Covesville, Va. 1967

SUNNY BANK, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References:

- A - 17/707320/4199740
- B - 17/707340/4198950
- C - 17/706160/4198910
- D - 17/706140/4199690



4200

55'

4198

4197

ALBEMARLE 2.5 MILE