

7 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

The Farmer House is a handsome, early 19th-century dwelling set in the rolling farmlands of western Amelia County near the Nottoway and Prince Edward county lines. A two-story, five-bay structure on a high Flemish-bond brick basement, the house has exterior end chimneys, also built in Flemish bond, with two sets of stepped weatherings and flared caps. The windows have molded sills and 9/9 sash on the first floor, while 6/6 sash are used on the second floor. On the front (south) is an original pedimented porch with four slender piers, a round railing, and a flush-boarded tympanum. Original framing exists for an elliptical vaulted porch ceiling, but the plaster was never installed. The whole is clad with beaded weatherboards and covered with a gable roof trimmed with a plain box cornice. Remnants of a brick ground gutter survive.

The Farmer House has a standard I-house plan with a single room on either side of a central stair-passage. The plan is unusual, however, in that there is also a winder stair in the east room providing the only access to an east chamber which is completely separated from the other second-floor rooms.

The house retains all of its original trim. Throughout the first floor, the doors have six recessed panels with panels of vertical reeding on the reverse. In the east chamber, flush wainscoting with a reeded cap is carried around the room. The mantel consists of symmetrically molded pilasters supporting entablature blocks with bands of vertical reeding recessed within a panel, a molded shelf, and a central tablet with an elliptical sunburst.

The passage contains the open-string stair featuring a square newel, three square balusters to a tread, a round banister, and sawn brackets with gouged quarter fans. Wainscoting similar to that in the east room is used here.

The large west room is the most elaborate in the house. The mantel has symmetrically molded pilasters with unusually treated vertical ellipses on the entablature blocks and a central tablet with a bulging elliptical sunburst framed in a panel with corner fans. The shelf has a punch-and-dentil molding, and the surround has a delicate guilloche interlace. There is a molded cornice; applied-mold, raised-panel wainscoting with a symmetrically molded cap; and a plaster ceiling border with quadrant corners.

The second-floor mantels are plainer with pilasters supporting reeded entablature blocks and tablets and elaborately molded shelves. The pilasters in the west chamber are fluted, while those in the east chamber are symmetrically molded. The frieze is taller in the latter chamber, the shelf has a dentil base molding, and the mantel has original marbleizing.

Two early outbuildings survive. A square frame smokehouse with a gable roof stands just northeast of the house, while several hundred yards southeast of the house is a gable-end-opening barn. Both appear to be original.

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 ca. 1820-25

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Farmer House is a large frame I-house set in the rolling farmlands of western Amelia County. Built ca. 1820-25, it is distinguished for its unusual plan variant, handsome brickwork, elaborate trim, and remnants of original painted decoration.

Charles Farmer first purchased land in the area in 1807, when he bought 233 acres from John and Polly W. Mottley. Eleven years later he increased his holding to 366 acres, with the addition of more Mottley lands.

The first land tax books to list buildings separately, those for 1820, charge Farmer with \$1300 worth of buildings. The next year, the valuation was increased to \$1700 with the notation "New building added". This sum seems too small an amount to account for the present house. At Charles Farmer's death in 1822, the property was bequeathed to his brother Nelson, of Chesterfield County, and that year's buildings value increase to \$2500 is unannotated. Nelson obviously continued to develop the holding, and it is likely that the ultimate increase to \$3000 by 1825 does account for the construction of the present house and outbuildings. At any rate, there was no further change in the valuation of the property during Nelson Farmer's tenure.

The Farmers built an I-house, a two-story, center-passage, single-pile dwelling. The I-house appeared in large numbers in the Virginia countryside in the second quarter of the 19th century, reflecting both the higher expectations and the expanded economic power of comfortably situated (but not wealthy) planters of Middle Virginia in the opening years of the 19th century. A product of the adoption into tradition of 18th-century ideas of house planning and morphology, I-houses spread south and west from Virginia and the Middle Atlantic States and constitute Virginia's most significant contribution to the material folk culture of the Middle West. The Farmer House is an unusual variant in its use of a second stair to a separate second-floor chamber, an individualization of an otherwise standard house plan.

In 1847 Nelson Farmer willed to his son, Charles W., all of the property with the exception of a mill and a cotton gin, left to both Charles and his sister, Mary, to share. Farmers owned the house until recently, when it was purchased by Richard J. Aubry.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Amelia County Deed Books 22, 25; Land Tax Books 1782-1850; Will Books 8,9,10,11,15.
 Nugent, Nell M. Cavaliers and Pioneers. Vol. 1, 1623-1666. 2d ed. Baltimore:
 Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1963.
 . Cavaliers and Pioneers. Vol. 2, 1666-1695, indexed by Claudia B. Grundman.
 Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1977.
 Knorr, Catherine L. Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns of Prince Edward County,
Virginia, 1754-1810. Pine Bluff, Arkansas, 1950.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

United States Census. 1782, 1790, 1810, 1820, 1830.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising the Farmer House property is bounded by a line beginning at a point at the edge of the tree line approximately 550' ENE of the house; thence extending approximately 700' SSW, crossing field and entering wooded area; thence extending approximately 850' WNW, crossing open area, drive, and entering wooded area; thence extending approximately 700' NNE, across open area to E edge of wooded area; thence extending approximately 800' ESE across field to point of origin.

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

April, 1978

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

Jules Hill

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE APR 18 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

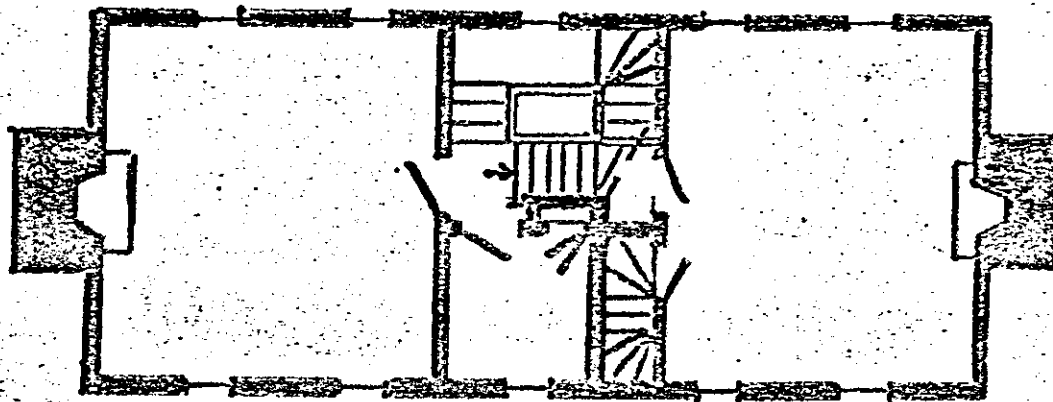
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

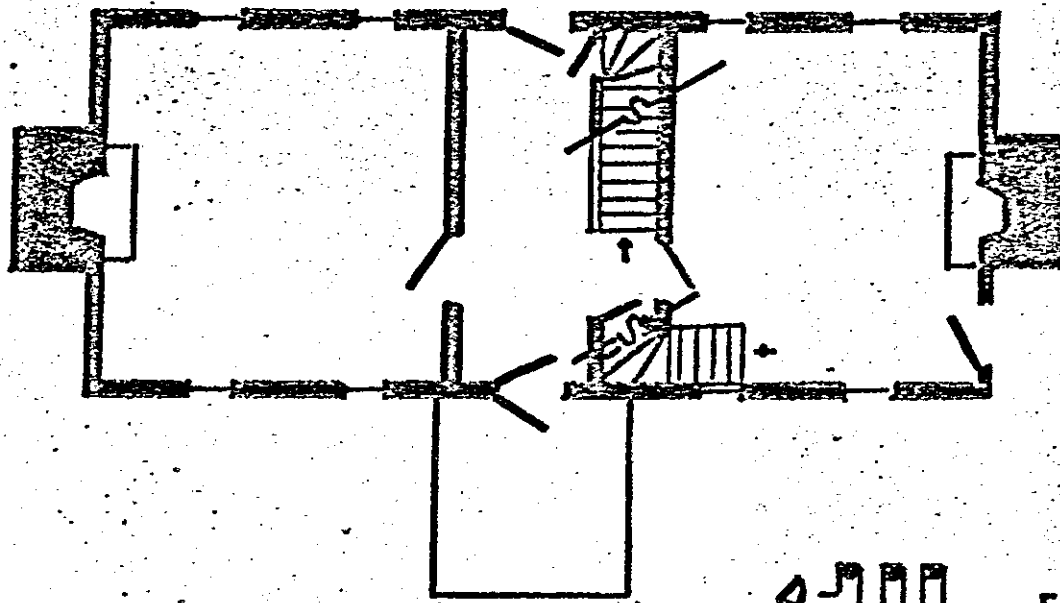
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

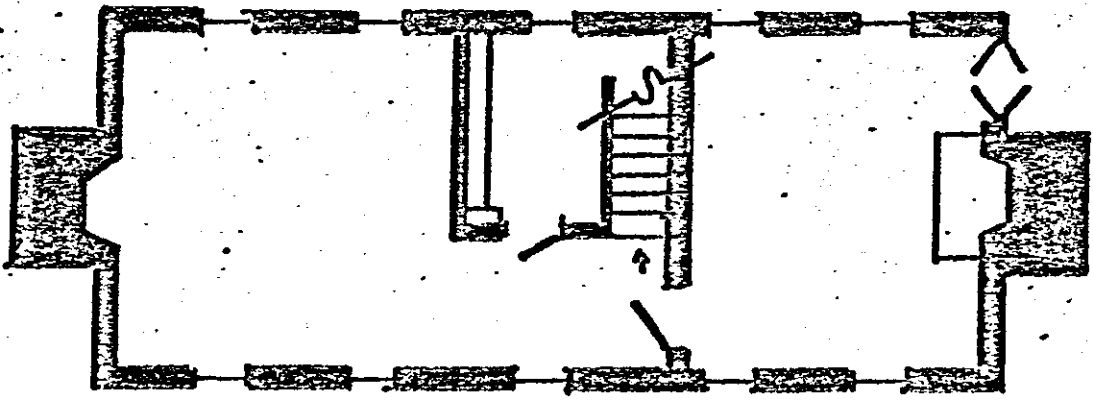
Farmer House, Amelia County, Va.
Floor Plans - Scale: 1"=10'
Credit: Va. Historic Landmarks
Commission, 1978



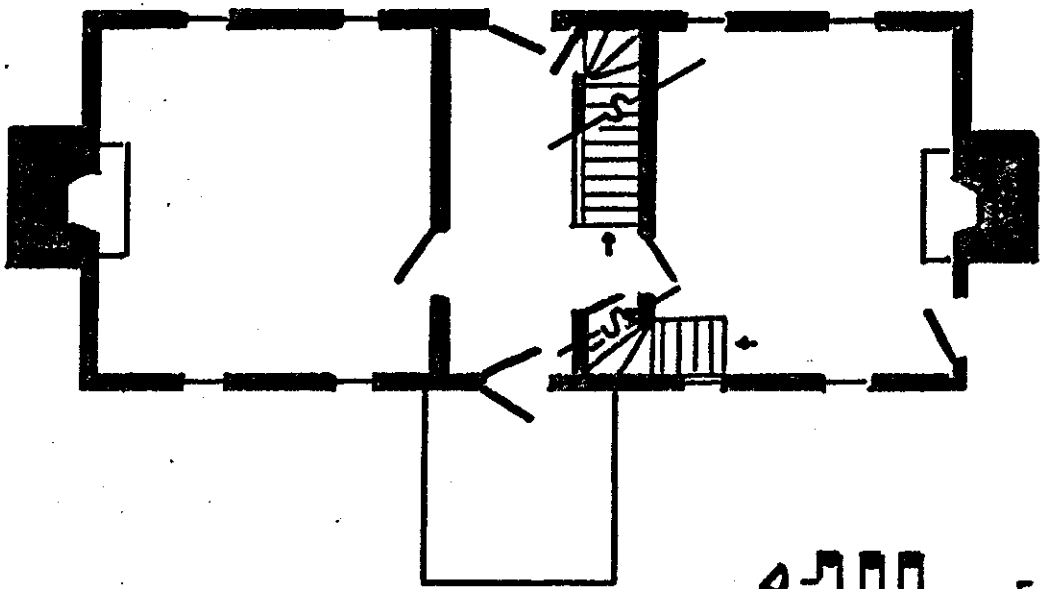
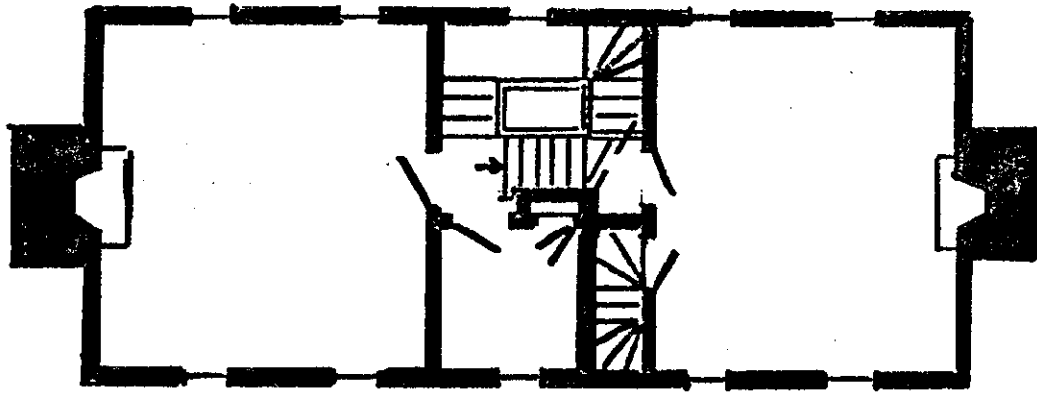
Second Floor



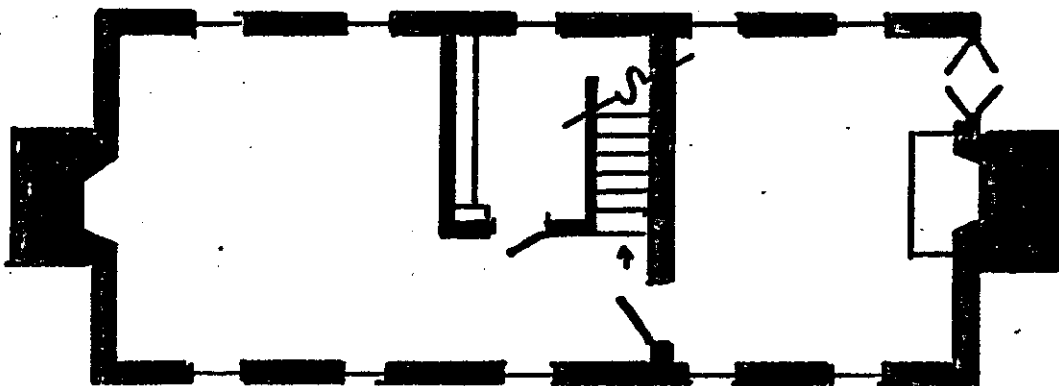
First Floor



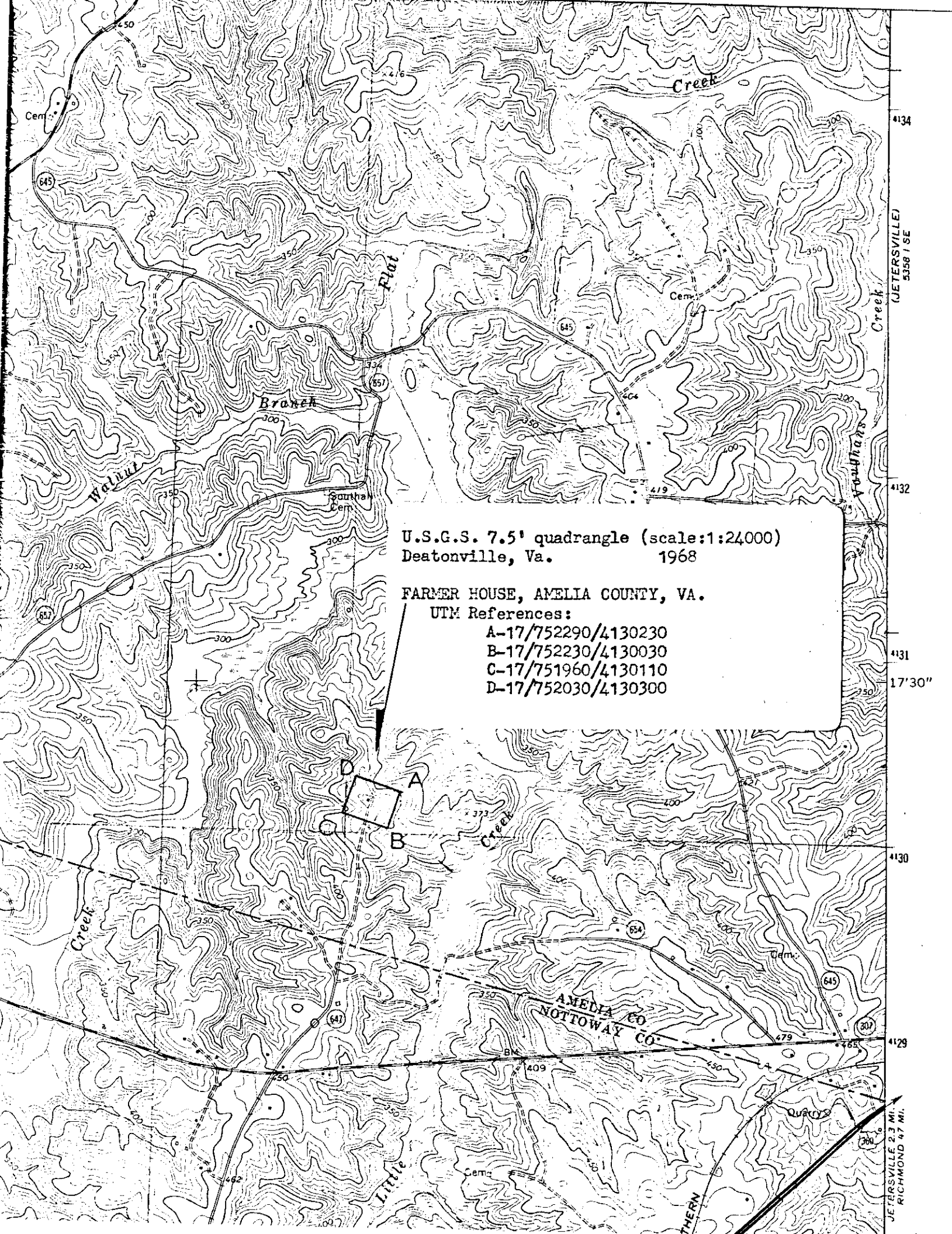
Basement



0-5-10



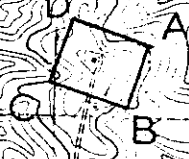
Farmer House



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Deatonville, Va. 1968

FARMER HOUSE, AMELIA COUNTY, VA.

- UTM References:
- A-17/752290/4130230
 - B-17/752230/4130030
 - C-17/751960/4130110
 - D-17/752030/4130300



4134

(JETERSVILLE)
5356 7 SE

4132

4131

17'30"

4130

4129

JETERSVILLE 2.3 MI.
RICHMOND 47 MI.