

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Intervale (preferred) (VHLC File # 07-18)

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Route 720 N/A not for publication

city, town Swoope vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Augusta code 015

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input 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

name Victor and Linda Meinert

street & number Route 1, Box 91

city, town Swoope vicinity of state Virginia 24479

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Augusta County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Staunton state Virginia 24401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (See Continuation Sheet #1)

U.S. Works Progress Administration
title Historical Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1938 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia State Library

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Intervale is an excellent example of the larger brick farmhouses increasingly built by prospering farmers in the central Valley of Virginia in the first half of the 19th century. With the popularity of the new "I-house" model, builders often adopted the exterior form but retained more traditional decoration inside. Intervale's well-preserved interior clearly suggests the character of German folk art. In the 1880s, Intervale experienced a major facelifting in the Colonial Revival style. These extensive exterior changes make Intervale an early and rare Augusta County example of this newly-popularized style. Its two surviving farmbuildings -- a log barn and a two-level springhouse -- follow very common outbuilding forms for the mid-19th century in the County.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Situated along a tributary of Middle River, Intervale is located approximately two miles east of Buffalo Gap on the western edge of the central Valley of Virginia. The house is a five-bay, two-story brick dwelling, laid in Flemish bond on the facade and three- to four-course American bond on the side and rear walls. The transom-lighted front entrance and wooden window lintels with bulls-eye carved corner blocks reveal the graceful and reserved local Federal styles.

Like many early brick houses of this period in the Valley, the symmetrical shell encloses a central-passage or "I-house" plan, here with an integral one-story brick ell. Behind this rather conventional facade is a richly decorated interior, reflecting the heritage of the Germans who settled in this community in Augusta County at the turn-of-the-19th-century. The interior woodwork, particularly the mantels and stair, provides an excellent example of the creative designs found in the County during the first several decades of the 19th century. Unlike the more heavily-carved and turned mantels with urns, sunbursts, and pilasters found in the northern part of Augusta County and further north in the lower Valley, the mantels at Intervale display more unusual decorative motifs carved in lighter relief. Three mantels in the main block -- on the first floor, northwest room and in both second floor rooms -- date to the original construction of the house. The joiner used a simple architrave mantel design as a backdrop for his creative work. In all three examples, vines of foliage patterns divide the "frieze" into three parts, with an eagle in the center and "pinecone"-like motifs to each side. The mantels are all finished with different decorative reeded bands surrounding the fireplace openings, ovolo architrave molding around the entire composition, and a narrow shelf. The stair also reflects a clear German influence, with the traditional heart design piercing each stair bracket. Besides the turned newel and balusters, the stair suggests careful and unusual craftsmanship with the carved pendant drops and scalloped wooden trim along the stair landing.

The interior finish is typical for early 19th century houses in this area -- raised, six-paneled doors; chairrailing; ovolo-molded door and window trim, and beaded board ceilings on the second floor. The sheathed front door, with diagonal beaded board panelling inside, is another Pennsylvania feature brought into the Valley of Virginia in the early 19th century. The only alteration to the interior of the main

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600-1699	X architecture	..... education	..... military	..... social
..... 1700-1799	X art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian
..X 1800-1899	..... commerce	X exploration-settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater
..... 1900-	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics government	..... transportation
		..... invention		..... other (specify)

Specific dates 1819, 1885 **Builder Architect** attributed to Christian Bear

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the oldest brick farmhouses in the Churchville area, Intervale illustrates the blend of ethnic traditions that characterized Augusta County's domestic architecture in the early 19th century. Although the exterior displays the I-house facade and plan generally associated with English and Scotch-Irish settlers around 1800, the interior boasts a vibrant, decorative style of woodwork inspired by the early German settlers who moved here in large numbers at the turn of the 19th century. While many of the local, German-inspired mantels display heavy carvings or bright polychromy, Intervale reveals more personal woodworking style with lighter carvings and different decorative motifs. The eagle designs on the three original mantels aid in attributing the woodwork to Christian Bear, a German joiner and cabinetmaker who settled in the Churchville community around 1809. His imaginative joinery integrates popular Federal pattern book designs with other images reflective of German folk art. Even the stairwell is embellished by traditional German hearts piercing each stair bracket. With its two fine examples of local farm building forms--a log bank barn and two-level springhouse, Intervale survives as an excellent example of an early 19th-century Valley farmstead.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Bear family in Churchville has been recognized as some of Augusta County's finest joiners and cabinetmakers through the 20th century. Of German descent, Christian Bear, Sr. was born in York County, Pennsylvania, but moved to Rockingham County, Virginia, when he was quite young. As early as 1813, he was building furniture and making coffins in Rockingham County. In 1815, Christian Bear and his wife Elizabeth Hottle Bear moved to the Churchville community in Augusta County, settling on a large tract of land Elizabeth had inherited from her father. Within a few years after their settlement, the Bear family was operating a woolen mill, grist mill, and woodworking mill along Whiskey Creek at the site of the present-day Bear woodworking mill. Christian Bear was engaged in all types of woodworking from house finishing to furniture to caskets. Although Christian Bear, Sr.'s house has been razed, one mantel survives. The eagle and "pinecone" designs on the surviving mantel are almost identical to those on the three original mantels at Intervale. His creative work illustrates the diversity of German influence in the central Shenandoah Valley in the early 19th century.

Succeeding generations of the Bear family continued to run the mills and to be involved in construction and cabinetmaking in the 19th century, including Christian's son Christian Jr. Ephraim was particularly known for his cabinetmaking, although his business correspondence lists him as an undertaker as well, crafting "Handsome Metallic, Rosewood and Walnut Coffins." Ephraim Bear continued to supply construction materials,

9. Major Bibliographical References

Augusta County. Land Deeds. Augusta County Courthouse, Staunton, Virginia.
Augusta County. Tax Records. Augusta County Courthouse, Staunton, Virginia
Clem, Gladys, "Intervale," Augusta Historical Bulletin 13 (Fall 1977), pp. 43-7.
(See Continuation Sheet # 2)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name Churchville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	6	5	8	5	8	0	4	2	2	9	0	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification (See Continuation Sheet #3)

Beginning at a point on E side of VA 720 approximately 850' S-SE of intersection of said route with VA 832; thence extending approx. 700' NE; thence extending approx. 200' S to stream; thence extending approx. 550' SW following stream to a point on the E side of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date November 1984

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
title VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION date December 11, 1984

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

INTERVALE, AUGUSTA COUNTY

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 6, 7

Page 1, 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Augusta County Survey
1980, State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(3) HABS
1957, Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, DC

7. DESCRIPTION

block, besides several 20th-century closets, is a mid- to late-19th century Victorian mantel in the first-floor south room. With harp designs on the end blocks and a heavily-carved foliage pattern in the center of the frieze, this is again a more decorative and unusual design for its time. Local studies attribute this mantel to Ephraim Bear, a grandson of Christian Bear, and an active cabinetmaker and funeral director in the Churchville area in the mid-19th century.

The long dimensions of the original one-story brick ell suggest that this space may have been divided into two rooms at one time, although it is now opened into one large room. The original board ceiling and Federal trim as well as the 20th century chairrailing and plate rails decorate this room.

In 1885, Intervale was remodeled and enlarged, drawing upon the fashionable Colonial Revival styles emerging in the late 1870s and 1880s. The gambrel roof, dormers, and front portico added at this time all suggest the Colonial features entering into the builders' vocabulary with the Queen Anne movement. Yet, this Colonial Revival detailing at Intervale displays clear evidence of its late-19th century date--the new roof and portico balustrade is jigsawn in the carpenter's Gothic style rather than turned, as would have been found in the Colonial period. At the time of this major facelift, the entire dwelling was also enlarged. By raising the brick ell to two full stories, adding a kitchen off the end of the brick ell and extending the porch along the south side of the ell, the builders created the familiar local farmhouse plan popular at the turn of the century.

Several minor additions and alterations have been made in the 20th century. The ell rooms have been modernized to provide a dining room and kitchen on the first floor and bedrooms on the second story. A small service wing and garage were added off the kitchen ell and a brick bathroom off the ell porch in the 1930s. The dormer-roofed garret of the main block has also been remodeled into two bedrooms recently.

Two 19th-century farm buildings highlight this farmstead. A V-notched double-pen log barn remains east of the main house. The lower stable has been altered very little, retaining the original log and board partitions, stable doors, vents, and hardware. The main floor of the barn has been enclosed with a frame shell, typical of late 19th-century barns in the area. Built into a bank south of the house, the springhouse contains two levels in traditional local fashion, with a raised stone basement and upper frame room. The lower level retains a cement trough for cooling dairy products. The paired double doors and north windows to the lower level are framed by Federal-style elliptical arches. The frame upper floor has been remodeled into a guest house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

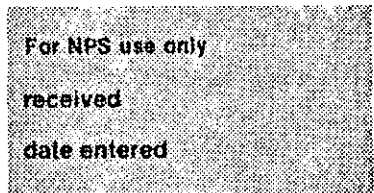
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

INTERVALE, AUGUSTA COUNTY

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8, 9

Page 1, 1



8. SIGNIFICANCE

including dressed flooring and weatherboarding. According to Bear family tradition, Ephraim Bear designed the 19th-century mantel currently in the first floor of the main house. Ephraim was a son-in-law of George A. Shuey and a brother-in-law of Theodore Shuey, both owners of the house in the second half of the 19th century. There is no documented evidence that Ephraim Bear was involved with the major additions and renovations to the house in 1885.

Intervale was built for Jonathan Shirley, who acquired a 170-acre tract here along Buffalo Gap in 1804. The tax records indicate that his house was built between 1818 and 1830, with a total value of \$2205 listed for buildings in 1820. In 1841, Shirley sold the property to the Shuey family, who remained here for over one hundred years. Christian Shuey initially bought the farm but sold it ten years later to his son George Adam Shuey. George A. Shuey was a minister and active leader in the United Brethren Church, which experienced substantial growth in the Churchville community in the mid 19th century. At his early death in 1877, the Shuey heirs sold the property to his son Theodore F. Shuey, also active in the United Brethren Church. The additions and renovations that Theodore Shuey made in the 1880s clearly reflect his wealth and prominence. In 1884, Shuey purchased three additional tracts adjoining his farm and increased the total acreage to 232 acres. The following year, the value of buildings rose from \$800 to \$2000 dollars, reflecting the Colonial Revival renovations and ell additions.

Intervale passed out of the Shuey family in 1942 when Theodore's widow sold the property to Bernard G. Bruening. Subsequent owners include Gifford and Marjorie Mabie in 1965 and Victor and Linda Meinert in 1984.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clem, Gladys B., "The Past and Present of Churchville, Virginia." Verona: McClure Press, 1976.

Hotchkiss, Jedediah and Thomas Waddell, Historical Atlas of Augusta County. Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Co., 1885.

Shuey, D. B., History of the Shuey Family. Galion, Ohio, 1919.

U. S. Works Progress Administration, Historical American Buildings Survey, Augusta County, Virginia, 1937.

Interviews:

- Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Bear, Churchville, VA, 1981, 1984.
- Mr. and Mrs. Gifford Mabie, Swoope, VA, 1980, 1984.
- Mrs. Marion Shuey Jones, Swoope, VA, 1980, 1984.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

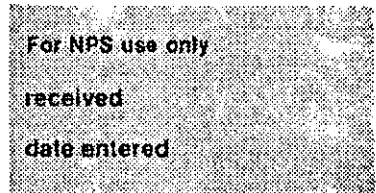
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

INTERVALE, AUGUSTA COUNTY

Continuation sheet 3

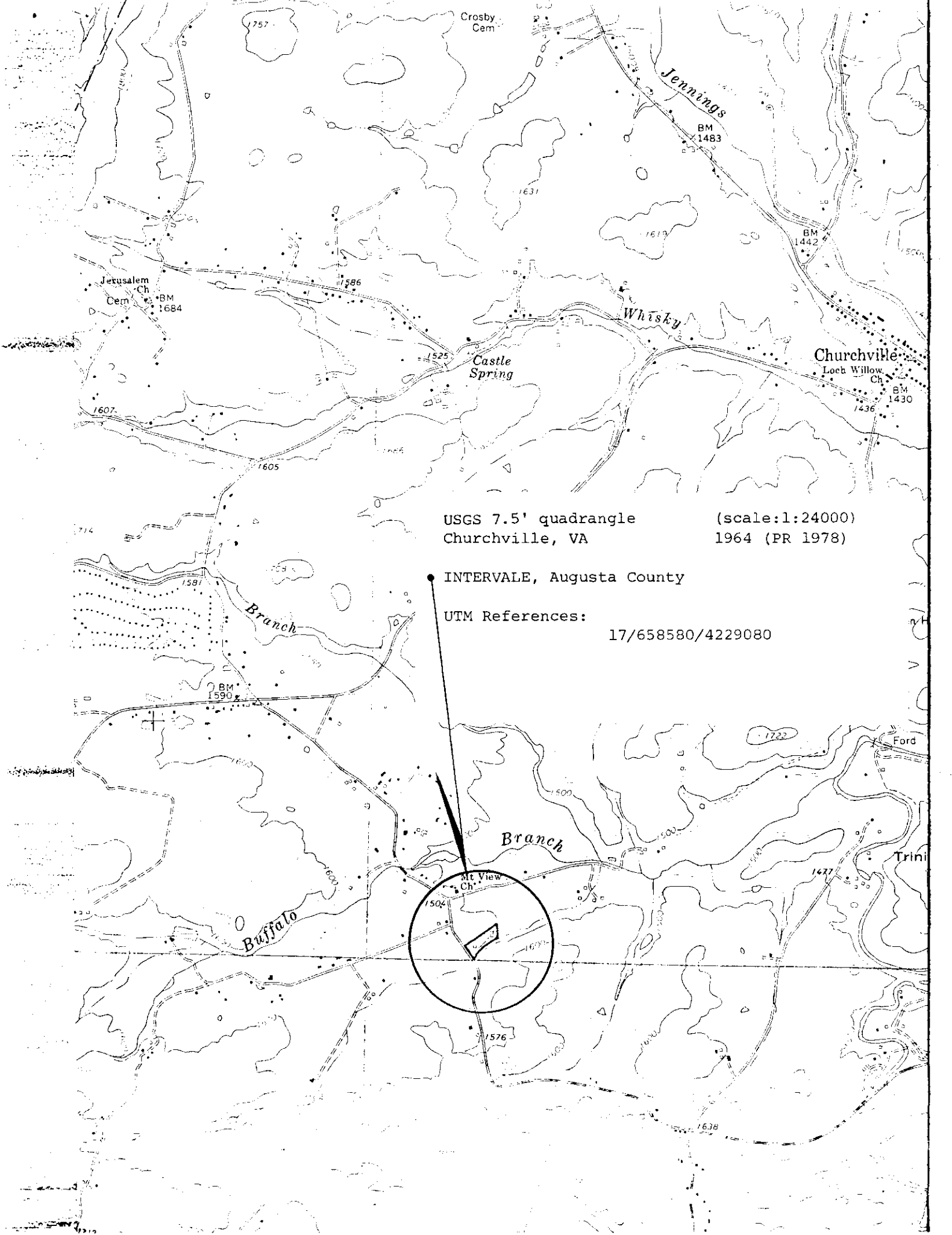
Item number 10

Page 1



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VA 720 to point of origin. The bounds have been drawn to include the house and the two related farm buildings, a barn and springhouse.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Churchville, VA

(scale:1:24000)
1964 (PR 1978)

● INTERVALE, August County

UTM References:

17/658580/4229080

