

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Farnley other names/site number DHR 21-30

2. Location

street & number Virginia Route 658 city, town White Post state Virginia code VA county Clarke code 043 zip code 22663

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories. Totals: 16 contributing, 6 noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. Signature of certifying official: VA Department of Historic Resources Date: 9/29/89

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other. (explain:)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

AGRICULTURE: storage, agricultural fields,
animal facility

DOMESTIC: secondary structures

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE: storage, agricultural fields,
animal facilities

DOMESTIC: secondary structures

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, brick

walls stone, brick, stucco

roof metal, wood shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located in the vicinity of White Post in Clarke County, Farnley is a collection of buildings picturesquely sited in the gently rolling hills of the lower Shenandoah Valley. Ranging in date from around 1815 to the 1940s, the structures that comprise this collection consist of two nineteenth-century residences constructed by the Hay family in addition to numerous dependencies and agricultural buildings. The extremely high integrity of the buildings situated within this four hundred acre farm, coupled with the unchanged rural setting, results in an unusually complete and evocative example of a Virginia planter's residence that has evolved over time. The earliest structure on the property is the Meadows, William Hays's brick I-house built sometime between 1815 and 1820. The focal point of the property, however, is its namesake Farnley, a sophisticated Federal residence built for James Hay about 1836 that is prominently positioned on the crest of a low hill overlooking open fields and the mountains to the east.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

A long tree-lined drive on axis with Farnley leads from Virginia Route 658 and terminates in a circular approach to the house. Located on either side of this road are expansive and rolling fenced pastures. The house is elevated above the road and overlooks a fenced and overgrown area below, at the center of which is a spring and springhouse. A road at the southern edge of this circular approach leads to the rear of Farnley and to roads leading to the other buildings on the property. A rear entrance road to the north off of Virginia Route 658 leads first to the farm buildings and the Meadows and eventually joins the road at the rear of Farnley.

Farnley consists of approximately four hundred acres of gently rolling and cleared fields, all of which are fenced and utilized as pastureland. Scattered throughout the property are rock outcroppings typical of this

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c 1815-1938

Significant Dates

c 1815-1820
1836

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Farnley is a collection of buildings located in the gently rolling hills of the lower Shenandoah Valley, in Clarke County. The structures that comprise this collection range in date from about 1815 to the 1940s. They include a brick I house constructed between 1815 and 1820 for William Hay, a sophisticated late Federal residence built for his son James Hay about 1836, and an assortment of nineteenth- and twentieth-century farm buildings including a stone slave quarters. The two main dwellings are more typical of the Tidewater than the Valley and illustrate the desire of the Hay family, formerly residents of Williamsburg and Richmond, to replicate the material culture from which they sprang. Despite their common source of inspiration, however, the dwellings also stand in contrast to one another: William Hay's earlier building is a simple vernacular structure, while James Hay's later complex is a sophisticated--even extravagant--example of late Federal-style architecture. Perhaps James Hay sought, as have other sons before and since, to outdo his father. If so, his achievement only brought him transitory satisfaction and led ultimately to his financial ruin. His mansion still stands, however, as a monument to his ambition as well as to his Tidewater-influenced taste and style. The Farnley complex retains much of its architectural and agricultural integrity and remains an unusually complete and evocative example of a Virginia country seat that has evolved gracefully over time.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

Farnley is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The structures on the property include a brick I house constructed between 1815 and 1820, a sophisticated late Federal residence built about 1836, and an assortment of nineteenth- and twentieth-century farm buildings including a stone slave quarters. The complex retains much of its architectural integrity, as well as the integrity of its general surroundings.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

VA Department of Historic Resources
Richmond, VA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 400 acres

UTM References

A

1	7	7	4	8	8	8	0	4	3	2	3	2	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

1	7	7	4	9	4	3	0	4	3	2	4	4	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	7	7	4	8	8	8	0	4	3	2	3	3	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	7	7	4	9	5	7	0	4	3	2	4	3	5	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the remaining acreage historically associated with the Farnley tract.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Salmon, Historian and Julie Vosmik, Architectural Historian

organization VA Division of Historic Landmarks date December 1988

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

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portion of Clarke County. With the exception of a couple of farm buildings, all of the structures on the property are to the west of Borden Marsh which consists of a barely discernable stream in the gently rolling landscape. In the distance to the east and west the silhouettes of the Blue Ridge (east) and Allegheny Mountains (west) are visible.

The earliest building on the property is the William Hay House, also referred to as the Meadows, the Culver House and the Garner House, built by William Hay sometime between 1815 and 1820. In its design it is typical for the area; a brick I-house that was a popular house form in the Shenandoah Valley. Like Farnley it is elevated above the surrounding fields and the farm complex located a short distance away. Large trees and a wood fence surround the house, which faces west towards a level expanse of pasture and the mountains approximately five miles distant.

The Meadows is of brick construction, laid in five-course above a foundation of rough field stone. Though obscured by gutters, the cornice is embellished with a single row of mousetoothing. Originally consisting of three bays, the house possesses a wing to the north that is of similar construction and detailing. This was added by the current owner approximately forty years ago. Because it is built into a slope, the basement is fully exposed at the rear, thus the house appears to be three stories at the rear (east) elevation while from the front (west) it is only two.

The first and second floors of the front and rear three-bay elevations are identically fenestrated, with a center first floor entrance, nine-over-six double-hung windows on the first floor and six-over-six sash on the second floor. The rear basement elevation consists of an entrance door located at the left corner, to the right of which is a three-over-three double-hung window flanked on either side by paired six-light casements. The basement level of the addition has a single window and an entrance door. Three paired four-light basement windows are found on the front elevation. All windows, including those of the addition, have brick jack arches, wood sills and louvered shutters.

The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal with snow guards just above the eaves. The original nineteenth century core of the house has two interior end chimneys, while the twentieth century wing has an exterior chimney. The south end elevation has a single-door entrance at the right corner with two four-light single-sash attic windows in the gable end. The north end wall is obscured by the two-bay wing that was added sometime in the 1940s.

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The front entrance has a pedimented one-bay front porch supported by two pair of square columns and detailed with a pair of square pilasters, wood side rails and a dentilled cornice. The wood door has six panels and a three-light transom.

A wood porch that extends across the first floor of the west and south elevations is a twentieth century replacement and consists of a wood-railed deck supported by wood posts. This porch is accessed by steps at the southeast corner and the south parlor door and the rear entrance hall door.

The plan of the Meadows is typical of a single-pile center-passage house. The stair consists of a straight run that turns at a landing above the rear entrance. It has a walnut railing and turned balusters and newel. Woodwork throughout the house, including the addition, is consistent and includes six-paneled doors with architrave surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks, and simple beaded baseboards. The entrance hall is further detailed with a simple chair rail. The flooring is heart pine and the walls are plaster. Each of the four rooms in the original portion of the house has a wood mantel. The mantel in the north downstairs room has the same architrave molding and corner blocks surrounding the opening and a molded shelf, while the mantel in the south room is has two pilasters beneath a bracketed shelf and a center panel of reeding. The two mantels in the upstairs bedrooms are identical and consist of elongated pilasters supporting a molded shelf. A bathroom was added at the east end of the upstairs hall sometime in the 1940s.

A straight-run stair is the basement is located directly beneath the stair between the first and second floor. Originally the basement was divided into two principal spaces that functioned as the kitchen and dining room. These areas have been reconfigured over the years and presently are devoted to a kitchen, bath, and storage.

The 1815-1820 portion of the building connects with the 1940s wing on each floor by a single door that leads to the stair hall of the addition. The floor levels between the first and second floors of the two sections is slightly different necessitating a couple of steps leading down from the original house. Each floor of the wing is devoted to a bedroom and bath.

A single outbuilding is located within several feet of the northwest rear corner of the house. Built in the 1930s, it is a frame storage building with a pump below that is accessed from a gable-roofed entrance on the west side. The building is clad in flush beaded siding and was intended

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to resemble a smokehouse. The roof is pyramidal and clad in wood shingles.

A dirt road leads from the Meadows to the rear of Farnley, passing first through a concentrated complex of farm buildings, as well as by scattered farm structures and fenced pastures. Farnley occupies the most elevated site on the farm and is located within a wooded area with a variety of outbuildings to its rear. A stone retaining wall responds to the sloped site and separates the house from the front drive.

Farnley was built for James Hay about 1836. While it is not known who designed and built the house, it is clear from its sophistication to have been influenced by someone familiar with the residences of Tidewater planters at a minimum, and more than likely, by someone acquainted with Georgian and Federal designs in handbooks of the period. In its plan, massing and symmetry, Farnley is atypical of the houses built during this period in Clarke County. Its central two-story block with flanking one-story wings is more formal and Georgian in derivation than typically found in this area and its plan is unexpected for a house of this period and region where central-passage and side-passage plans were commonly employed. The unusual plan of Farnley is dominated by an L-shaped hall formed by a front entrance area separated by a door from the rear stair hall.

It is possible that Farnley was influenced by Long Branch, a house only two miles distant designed in 1811 by Benjamin H. Latrobe for Robert Carter Burwell, the uncle of James Hay's wife, Eliza. Though very different in plan, the two dwellings are similar in their exterior design, each having central symmetrical mass with a hipped roof and belvedere. Farnley has two flanking wings and a rear service wing whereas Long Branch has a single flanking wing to which is connected a side service wing.

Farnley is also notable for its unusually fine and varied assortment of outbuildings, some of which are no longer extant, and for the relationship of the domestic dependencies to the house. No longer remaining are several outstanding outbuildings that are worthy of mention, as they further reveal that Farnley, as conceived by its owner, was an unusually sophisticated and well-constructed complex. A large Sweitzer barn large enough to accommodate twenty horses and a brick cow shelter 280 feet long with a colonaded front were, without question, larger and more expensively constructed than the more typical frame farm buildings of the period. Linked to the rear of Farnley remains a service extension built to accommodate spaces devoted to such specialized uses as pastry and

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lumber rooms. The stone slave quarters is also unusual, not only for its fine, high-quality construction, but also because of its desirable and prominent location on top of a knoll to the south of the Meadows.

Farnley is an imposing five-bay, hip-roofed, stuccoed building with one-story, one-bay, hip-roofed flanking wings. The shallow-pitched roofs are sheathed with standing-seam metal. The main block has two interior chimneys at the north and south ends and two lateral rear chimneys. A belvedere with a decorative wood railing is located at the center of the roof. Windows throughout have six-over-six sash and louvered shutters.

The exterior is simply but finely detailed with a wood cornice and classical three-bay entrance porch that protects the entrance. Originally this porch was a single bay; the date of its extension on either side is unknown. Two very old stone steps lead to the porch, which is floored with paving stones laid in a decorative pattern. The pedimented porch is supported by four slender Ionic columns; their placement is repeated by four pilasters. The wood-paneled entrance has double five-paneled doors flanked by Ionic colonettes. A band of dentilled cornice separates the fanlight from the door and flanking sidelights below. These are positioned above wood panels, and like the fanlight, have simple tracery.

The rear of Farnley is dominated by an eighty-foot colonade that wraps around the southwest corner, joining the south wing. This one-story shed-roofed porch ties into the service wing to the north that extends to the rear. A door leads from the porch to this wing and a jib window located in the south end wall accesses what was originally the dining room and is now used as a living room. The pattern of fenestration of the rear elevation is irregular on the the first floor, with four windows. There are five regularly spaced windows on the second floor.

The north and south end elevations each have a single second floor window. A small enclosure is located between the wing and porch on the south side to accommodate a bathroom. Each of the two wings has a single window on each of its three elevations.

Though the exterior of Farnley is symmetrical and suggests a standard center-passage plan, the interior room arrangement is irregular. A center entrance hall extends approximately half the depth of the structure and ends abruptly at a wall with two doors. The door to the left accesses a gun closet, while the door to the right leads to the perpendicular stair hall. This plan, with an L-shaped hall separated by a wall, is unusual for the region. A door to the left of the entrance leads to the south front parlor and a door to the right leads to what originally was a

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bedroom and now functions as the dining room. The rear hall has doors leading to the dining room, its adjacent butlery, a small office, and the pantry that was originally used as a dressing room. The pantry separates the hall from the present kitchen that originally was used as a bond room and is located in the north wing. The stair rises very gradually to a windowed landing before turning and proceeding to the second floor. The stair has a walnut railing with simple round and tapered balusters and curvilinear stair brackets.

The cherry doors found throughout the first floor are unusual in their configuration of three horizontal beaded panels above two vertical panels. These retain their original hardware and have glass knobs. Throughout the house are heart pine floors, plaster walls, and simple beaded baseboards. The ceilings are approximately twelve feet in height.

The woodwork found in the principal first floor spaces at Farnley is exceptionally fine. The door surrounds in the entrance hall, dining room, and front bedroom have architrave molding with rosette corner blocks. Parlor doors have greek key surrounds and plain corner blocks are found in the front parlor. Mantels are Federal in design with deeply molded shelves typical of the Shenandoah Valley. Marble surrounds replace the original plaster and each fireplace has a slate hearth. Woodwork found in the stair hall and on the second floor is simpler.

The two front rooms, originally the parlor and a bedroom, are similarly arranged and detailed. Each has a fireplace flanked on either side by a pair of doors leading into the adjacent wing. These doors in the bedroom now lead to the kitchen and the doors in the parlor lead to the study. The mantels in the study and in the bedroom have a paneled frieze supported by a pair of Doric columns. The mantel in the parlor is similar in configuration but has a frieze detailed with horizontal grooves.

The dining room is the most elaborately detailed room. The focal point of the room is the arched recessed alcove in the north wall. It is detailed with a pair of fluted ionic columns that support freestanding blocks of entablature. The arch above is delineated with an egg-and-dart molding. A carved wood panel of stylized feather plumes is inset in the architrave molding above the paneled doorway between the south front parlor and the dining room. The fireplace is the same as those in the bedroom and study with the exception that it has Ionic columns rather than Doric. The cornice, wall paneling, and chair rail were added by the current owner.

The two small rooms located off of the stair hall each have corner fireplaces similar in design to those found in the other first floor

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rooms. The butlery, located next to the dining room, has a section of curved wall that continues into the hall.

The second floor has a large stair hall, a small portion of which has been enclosed to provide for two closets and baths. An open turned stair leads to the attic and a narrower stair to the roof. Each of the four bedrooms has a fireplace with a Federal mantel; those in the two front rooms are flanked by shallow closets. The two front rooms and the rear southwest room are approximately equal in size, while the northwest room is narrow as a result of the stair.

An enclosed hall leads from the northwest corner of Farnley to the dependencies to the rear. This wing projects from the junction of the main block and the side wing. The hall is lined with shelves and has a single door in the north wall. This wing leads to areas originally intended for such specialized uses as pastry room, lumber room, and servants' rooms. It connects first to a one-and-a-half story section that was originally the kitchen. This is a rectangular structure with a large center chimney and a cross gable flanked by dormers on the west side that has been adapted for use as a residence. The roof of the kitchen was raised approximately two feet by the current owner. An addition of modern construction extends from the northwest corner and attaches to the smokehouse that is now used as an office. This rectangular building has a wood shingle roof and is connects by a wall at its southeast corner to the southwest corner of the kitchen, an arrangement that results in an enclosed garden.

In addition to the dependencies connected to Farnley as part of the service wing are several stuccoed service buildings between rear of the house and the road. Immediately to the west of the end wall of the service wing is the icehouse that many years ago was adapted to accommodate a cistern. It consists of a wood-shingled gabled roof resting directly on the foundation of the ice pit, which is twenty feet deep and twenty feet square. A two-stall garage and a kennel office date from the 1940s and are presently considered noncontributing since they are less than fifty years of age.

Directly in front of and below Farnley is a log spring house built sometime prior to 1845. It is a rectangular structure with a gable roof covered with wood shingles. The entrance door is positioned in the west gabled end and is constructed of four vertical planks battened together. Two wrought iron straps extend across three of the planks. Beaded boards infill the two gable ends. The foundation of the building was reworked

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earlier in this century and the structure now rests upon a concrete-lined pool that collects spring water.

The construction date of the stone slave quarters is uncertain, but it is known to have existed by 1845 when it was mentioned in an advertisement offering Farnley for sale. It is built of rough field stone and is one room deep, three bays wide, and has a center-passage plan. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. The structure has end chimneys and the chimney to the east has an exterior firebox. This unusual feature is possibly the result of unrealized expectations to enlarge the building. There are no windows in either of the end elevations and those in the front and rear are unusually small and oddly shaped. With the exception of the smallest window located on the second floor above the front entrance, the openings are wider than they are tall and the windows are paired two-light casements. Each window is fitted with simple wood shutters.

A twentieth-century, frame, gable-roofed storage shed is attached to the west end wall of the slave quarters. The front is open and supported by wood posts. A modern one-bay enclosed addition to the front entrance is of frame construction with wood siding and one-over-one double-hung windows. An open frame shelter partially clad with lattice is of recent construction and sits within approximately one foot of the east end wall.

The interior consists of a narrow central hall with a very narrow and steep stair to the second floor. Each of the four rooms has a fireplace; the first floor room on the right has a late-nineteenth-century English mantel that replaces the original, while the other three consist of very simple wood shelves. A bath has been added in the second floor hall.

While there are several farm buildings scattered throughout the Farnley tract, the majority are concentrated in an area located between the Meadows and Farnley. All are of frame construction and all but one barn and a bathhouse date from the early twentieth century. A small one-story frame tack building was built around 1932 and two barns on either side of the road date from around 1930. The barn that dates from the time of Farnley's construction was originally located below and in front of the house. It was relocated early in this century and now rests on a foundation of concrete block. It has a center drive, a gabled metal-clad roof topped with a cupola, and five louvered vents in each gable end. Five other frame barns, all with metal-clad gable roofs and several with shed lean-to additions, are located in this area and date from the early twentieth century, as well as two modern silos and a metal storage building.

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Other contributing outbuildings outside the main farm complex include two twentieth-century farm structures located in the north and south front pastures on either side of the front entrance drive. A bathhouse, previously located at the rear of Farnley, now functions as a small pony barn in a pasture on the west side of the road between the Meadows and the main complex of farm buildings.

There are several noncontributing outbuildings. A one-and-a-half story stuccoed garage is located south of Farnley. It is noncontributing because it is less than fifty years old, as are several corrugated metal structures such as silos and an equipment building.

Buildings previously located at Farnley but no longer standing include the Sweitzer barn, the brick cow shelter, a corn house, a carpenter shop, and a frame eighteenth-century house torn down by the present owner in the 1940s.

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The two dwellings that still stand on adjacent hills at Farnley illustrate the desire of planters from Tidewater Virginia who settled Clarke County to replicate the material culture from which they sprang. The three-bay, two-story brick dwelling erected for William Hay between 1815 and 1820 is more typical of houses built by the descendants of Englishmen in eastern Virginia than the dwellings of the German settlers just over the mountains to the west. Similarly, the late Federal mansion now called Farnley, which was built in 1835-1836 by William Hay's son James Hay, not only faces east but takes its design cues from the Tidewater, not the Valley.

The dwellings at Farnley also represent the desire of sons to do better than their fathers and fathers-in-law. The house built for William Hay is a plain, single-pile, center-passage-plan dwelling that merely occupies its site. The hill just to the south, however, is dominated by James Hay's Farnley, much as another hill just a few miles away is dominated by the home of James Hay's father-in-law: Nathaniel Burwell's Carter Hall. With two such figures before him (one to surpass and the other to emulate), it is little wonder that James Hay's efforts to overtake them ended in personal failure and tragedy.

Before 1836 Clarke County was a part of Frederick County, which today includes only a portion of the lower Shenandoah Valley and the mountains to the west, and which reflects in its material culture largely the heritage left by those of its early settlers who were German or Scotch-Irish--and occasionally English--dissenters. That part of eastern Frederick County that became Clark County, however, was settled mostly by planters and farmers of Tidewater English stock, and the surviving dwellings and Episcopal churches of the county well illustrate that contrasting heritage.

Benjamin Borden was the first owner of the Farnley tract (he did not live there); he moved from New Jersey to Virginia in the early eighteenth century. On 3 October 1734¹ he obtained a patent for 3,143 acres in what was then Orange County. In his will, which he wrote on 3 April 1742, Borden gave his daughter Mercy and her husband William Farnley five hundred acres² of this land. He also deeded the tract to them on 26 November 1742,² before he died. The Bordens and the Farnleys were dissenters from the Church of England; the Farnleys were Quakers and Benjamin Borden may have been a Baptist.³

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William Farnley and his family lived on the property for about five years until he died sometime before 2 March 1747,⁴ and it is likely that he built a frame or stone dwelling on the tract during that time. Mercy Farnley married Tobias Buck and in 1762 they deeded 334 acres of the tract to her son Thomas Farnley.⁵ In 1769 she deeded him all five hundred acres as well as her personal property, including a slave, horses, cattle, hogs, and household furniture; in return he probably agreed to support her in her old age, although this was not stated in the deed.⁶

Thomas Farnley married Martha Melson on 12 December 1770 in Quaker meeting. They continued to reside on their property until 1808, when they sold it to William Hay, Sr., of Richmond, who secured his purchase with a deed of mortgage to the Farnleys.⁸ For the next four decades it seemed that whoever owned the tract would be cursed with a load of debt.

William Hay, Sr., was born on 10 November 1748 in Scotland and came to Virginia about 1768. He studied law in the office of John Tazewell, in Williamsburg, and received a license to practice law in 1770. In 1774 he married Elizabeth Cary, daughter of Miles Cary; two years after her death in 1778 he married Elizabeth Tompkins. With his first wife Hay produced a son, John (1776-1851), and he and his second wife had two sons--William (b. 1784) and James (1794-1847)--and a daughter.⁹ John Hay moved to Frederick County by 1807 and became the first clerk of Clarke County when it was organized in 1836; he served as clerk until his death. William Hay, Jr., followed his father into the practice of law and remained in Richmond. James Hay became a physician and moved to Frederick County about 1815.¹⁰

William Hay, Sr., served the state in several capacities during and after the revolutionary war. He was an assistant to David Ross, the state's commercial agent in charge of procuring supplies for the army, until he was commissioned commercial agent himself in April 1782.¹¹ After the war he was a commissioner for settling claims against the state for debts owed private citizens. He also served as one of the directors for the construction of the State Capitol in Richmond, where he had lived since the state government moved there from Williamsburg in 1780. Between 1785 and 1787 he and James Buchanan, another director, corresponded with Thomas Jefferson, who then was minister to France, to secure Jefferson's ideas for the building. Jefferson communicated suggestions, drawings, and a plaster model.¹²

Hay remained a resident of Richmond for several years after his purchase

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of the Farnley tract in 1808; he did not move to Farnley until 1814 or 1815.¹³ John Hay operated the farm for his father but evidently did not prosper. William Hay had financed his purchase with a mortgage to Thomas Farnley; the modest income provided by his son's farming operations did not enable Hay to pay off his debt. In September 1813 Hay deeded almost 160 acres of the land to John Hay and in 1817 he gave the rest of his property to James Hay. That property included not only the remaining acreage of Farnley but all the crops, "Horses mares cattle hogs and sheep with all the plantation and farming utensils and implements of husbandry household and kitchen furniture including the library" and eight slaves. This gift was made both for James Hay's "advancement in life" and because, as William Hay wrote in his will, he "has very generously come forward and has undertaken to pay what of my debts remain unpaid."¹⁴

John Hay purchased another farm nearby and in October 1817 sold his portion of the Farnley tract to James Hay and once again the farm was intact.¹⁵ It was far from secure, however, as the new owner became immersed in debt in order to finance its operation. Sometime between 1815 and 1820, most likely, the three-bay, two-story brick dwelling presently known as the William Hay House or The Meadows was built for William Hay. The site it occupies may either be on or adjacent to the location of the dwelling (now destroyed) constructed for William Farnley in the 1740s.¹⁶ This small brick dwelling served first as William Hay's home and then as James Hay's farmhouse, until he constructed the mansion presently called Farnley in 1835-1836.¹⁷

Between the construction of William Hay's house and the building of Farnley the differences between the western and eastern parts of Frederick County created a political struggle that split the county. Western Frederick was German and Scotch-Irish, a place of small farms, few slaves, and numerous villages and towns. In contrast, eastern Frederick was English, Episcopalian, and slave-holding, with large farms and estates and few villages. In 1833, when the county justices who sat in Winchester--in western Frederick--proposed the construction of an expensive new courthouse, most of the residents of eastern Frederick countered with petitions to the General Assembly requesting the division of the county.¹⁸ John and James Hay were among the signers of these petitions.¹⁹ Because John Hay's name appears more frequently on the prodivision petitions, he more than his half-brother may have been a leader of the movement.

At first the attempt failed. Frederick County's representatives in the House of Delegates were against division, and they managed to defeat each bill as it was proposed. In 1834 the prodivision forces fielded a slate

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of candidates of their own, including James Hay, to run against the incumbents. Although the slate was defeated in the election, the incumbents had lost enough support in the General Assembly that the session of 1835-1836 passed the bill to create Clarke County over their objections.²⁰ Clarke County, the bastion of Tidewater traditions, was formed in the same year that James Hay moved into his new house that epitomized those traditions.

On the surface, at least, the life of James Hay appeared to be one of ease and prosperity. He was trained as a physician, although he may not have practiced medicine.²¹ He married well: his wife was Elizabeth G. Burwell, daughter of Nathaniel Burwell, the builder of Carter Hall; Hay married her on 17 June 1817.²² He was considered respectable enough to be a candidate, albeit an unsuccessful one, for the House of Delegates in 1834. And he inherited or was given considerable property, including the Farnley estate. Indebtedness, however, dominated his life. First there was a debt owed to Cyrus W. Murray, which Hay secured with a deed of trust in 1818 for the 150 acres he had purchased from John Hay. This debt was paid off in 1823.²³ In that year Hay mortgaged his slaves privately to his brother-in-law George H. Burwell for the next twenty years, to pay off a debt owed to Dr. Oliver R. Funston, a debt originally incurred by William Hay, Sr.²⁴ In 1825, following William Hay's death in the early spring of that year,²⁵ James Hay executed a deed of trust to Philip Nelson, which he secured with the Farnley tract,²⁶ and became indebted for the balance of his father's mortgage on the land.²⁶ In 1828 the Hays sold the land that Elizabeth Hay inherited from her father and paid off the mortgage on Farnley.²⁷ The next year Hay obligated himself to assist in the support of his wife's mother for the rest of her life.²⁸

The 1830s were a relatively prosperous decade for James Hay. In 1836, the year Clarke County was established, he owned a herd of sixteen horses and paid taxes on eighteen slaves. About half the taxpayers in Clarke County were slaveholders; among slaveholders the average number of taxable slaves owned was just over six. Nathaniel Burwell owned the largest number of slaves, fifty-one.²⁹ Although James Hay probably could not be regarded as wealthy, he clearly was well off. In 1835-1836 he felt financially secure enough to supervise the construction of a new house, Farnley, on a hill just to the south of the older brick dwelling. Farnley was, and is, an architectural complex of connected structures. It consists of the main dwelling with an eighty-foot colonnade (now enclosed) at the rear, which links the dwelling to a structure formerly used for a pastry room, kitchen, lumber room, and housing for servants. Other new buildings consisted of "a large Swisher [Sweitzer] Barn with stalls in the basement for 20 Horses, a Cow shelter of brick, 280 feet long, supported in front by brick columns, and a Hay mow above . . . a

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Corn House, Carpenter Shop and Negro quarters, the last of stone."³⁰ Of these large buildings only the stone slave quarters remains, located on the slope of a hill a few hundred yards northeast of Farnley. Also standing is a small log springhouse at the base of the hill on which the mansion is located.

Perhaps it was this extravagant building campaign that led James Hay to financial disaster and suicide in the 1840s. The year after Farnley was completed the Panic of 1837 sent the country into a depression that lasted for several years. The panic was prompted by inflation, high interest rates, and the suspension of specie payments by banks on their paper money. Although the panic subsided quickly and there was even a brief recovery, another monetary crisis occurred in 1839. The panic and the crisis made it virtually impossible for farmers and planters to obtain loans from banks at reasonable rates.³¹ Many went bankrupt; others were forced deep into debt. By 1840 James Hay once more had mortgaged his property--again it was the Farnley tract itself.³² In 1843 litigation over the estate of Thomas A. Burwell compelled him to post bond for the repayment of his share of the estate should the final settlement reveal that Burwell's debts required it; in 1846 he was ordered to pay the executor \$1,193.20.³³ In 1845, obviously already desperate for cash, Hay had advertised Farnley for sale, but either no one came forward to buy the estate or else Hay withdrew it from the market. Whether or not this was the final straw is unclear, but on 3 October 1847 Hay wrote a terse will:

Know all whom it may concern, that I James Hay of Farnley Clarke County State of Virginia make this my Last Will and Testament: Giving to my Wife all the Property I die possessed of both Real and Personal, except my Library which I give to my beloved Son [William Hay], trusting he may derive more Advantage from it than his unfortunate Father has done.³⁴

James Hay probably spent the next two months putting his affairs in order. On 3 December 1847 he killed himself. A newspaper reported the event: "Dr. James Hay, of Clarke County, Virginia, a highly respectable citizen, shot himself with his rifle, in his chamber . . . and expired immediately. Pecuniary embarrassment is said to have been the cause."³⁵

Remarkably, the death of James Hay appears to have put an end to the history of financial crises connected with Farnley. Elizabeth Hay continued to reside on the estate with their son, William Hay, and daughter, Natilia. In 1850, as the agricultural census of that year

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reveals, the farm consisted of four hundred acres of improved land out of five hundred and was valued overall at \$20,000. There were fifteen horses, twelve cattle, sixty-three sheep, and forty swine. The primary crop was corn (1,500 bushels), followed by wheat (978 bushels) and oats (540 bushels). Hay (2 tons), Irish potatoes (10³⁶ bushels), wool (60 pounds), and honey (50 pounds) also were produced. Until Elizabeth Hay died on 14 April 1855,³⁷ she and her family appear to have lived peacefully, without deeds of trust or security bonds to plague them.

After her death, Elizabeth Hay's estate sold Farnley to John W. Sowers on 24 December 1855.³⁸ By 1860 Sowers had increased wheat production on the property to 1,950 bushels. The corn crop was down to 750 bushels and oat production had dropped to 50 bushels; the crop of hay, in contrast, had increased³⁹ to 20 tons. The number of sheep had been decreased to twenty.

Farnley remained in the hands of the Sowers family until the present owner acquired it in the early 1930s. At that time the farm's focus was shifted from the growing of crops to the raising of ponies.

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1. Land Office, Patent Book 15, 1732-1735, Reel 13, pp. 326-327, Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va. (VSL&A).
2. Frederick County, Will Book 1, 1743-1751, Reel 50, pp. 4-5, will proved 9 October 1743; Orange County, Deed Book 7, 1742-1743, Reel 3, p. 226, deed written 26 November 1742 and recorded 27 May 1743, VSL&A.
3. Richard E. Griffith, "Early Estates of Clarke County," Proceedings of the Clarke County Historical Association 11-12(1951-1953): 118.
4. Frederick County, Will Book 1, 1743-1751, Reel 50, p. 166, administrator's bond recorded 2 March 1747, VSL&A.
5. Frederick County, Deed Book 7, 1762, Reel 4, pp. 536-537, deed written 7 August 1762 and recorded 8 September 1862, VSL&A.
6. Frederick County, Deed Book 13, 1769-1770, Reel 7, pp. 43-45, deeds written 31 July and 1 August 1769 and recorded 1 August 1769; p. 99, bill of sale written and recorded 2 August 1769, VSL&A.
7. Griffith, "Estates," 121.
8. Frederick County, Deed Book 31, 1808-1809, Reel 17, pp. 197-200, 200-202, deeds written 5 September 1808 and recorded 3 October 1808, VSL&A.
9. Stuart E. Brown, Jr., Annals of Clarke County, Virginia (Berryville, Va.: Virginia Book Co., 1983), 1:180-182.
10. Late in that year he signed a petition supporting the division of Frederick County (Records of the General Assembly, Legislative Petitions, Frederick County, 9 December 1815, VSL&A).
11. Henry Banks Papers (Mss1/B2264), report to Superior Court of Chancery in case of Henry Banks vs. Attorney General, Auditor of Public Accounts, and Treasurer, 23 June 1800, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va. (VHS).
12. Thomas Jefferson, Papers of Thomas Jefferson, ed. Julian P. Boyd et al. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1950-), 8:366-368. See also vols. 9-11.

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13. Auditor of Public Accounts, Personal Property Tax Books, Frederick County, 1814-1815; Richmond City, 1814-1815, VSL&A.
14. Frederick County, Deed Book 35, 1813-1814, Reel 19, pp. 296-297, deed recorded 6 September 1813; Deed Book 40, 1817-1818, Reel 21, pp. 42-43, deed recorded 4 August 1817; Will Book 12, 1824-1825, Reel 56, pp. 433-435, will written 1 October 1817 and proved 6 June 1825, VSL&A.
15. Frederick County, Deed Book 40, 1817-1818, Reel 21, pp. 280-282, deed written 24 October 1817 and recorded 5 January 1818, VSL&A.
16. Auditor of Public Accounts, Personal Property Tax Book, Frederick County, 1815 (indicates there was no house on the tract valued at more than \$500); 1820 (buildings on the tract were valued at \$1,000, indicating new construction), VSL&A. Several pottery sherds were found on 27 October 1988 just to the south of this structure, closer to the highest point of the hill on which it stands; the sherd has been identified as salt-glazed stoneware of pre-1760 manufacture and may indicate the site of the first dwelling on the tract. A single sherd is far from conclusive evidence, however; another likely building site is located on the leeward slope of a hill just to the west of the Hay house. Depressions indicating the site of a cellar are still visible, although the structure, which was said to have been a two-story frame "tenant house," disappeared in the 1940s. There are no known photographs of this dwelling, which was located near several springs that flow from a prominent limestone outcropping on the western side of the hill. This could have been the first dwelling at Farnley, or it could have been a late-nineteenth-century tenant house.
17. Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Book, Clarke County, 1836, VSL&A. The value added on account of buildings rose to \$4,000. The construction date of 1832 has been claimed for the house, but this date is based upon a misunderstanding. Samuel Kercheval first published his History of the Valley of Virginia in 1833; in the second edition, which was published in 1850, Kercheval added an appendix in which he mentioned Farnley (p. 313). The first edition makes no mention of Farnley (because it had not yet been constructed), but someone looking at the second edition might not be aware of that fact.

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18. Warren R. Hofstra, A Separate Place: The Formation of Clarke County, Virginia (White Post, Va.: Clarke County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986), 80-81.
19. Records of the General Assembly, Legislative Petitions, Frederick County, 4 December 1834 and 9 December 1835, VSL&A, for example.
20. Hofstra, A Separate Place, 85-90.
21. Auditor of Public Accounts, Personal Property Tax Book, Clarke County, 1843, VSL&A. Although he was a physician, Hay paid no license tax that year because he "does not practice."
22. Everard Kidder Meade, "The Journal of Alexander Balmain, D.D.," Proceedings of the Clarke County Historical Association 9 (1949): 22.
23. Frederick County, Deed Book 41, 1818-1819, Reel 22, pp. 57-58; Deed Book 47, 1823, Reel 25, pp. 190-192, VSL&A.
24. Burwell Family Papers (Mss1/B9585a), letters, 19 December 1822 and 26 June 1843, James Hay, Farnley, to George H. Burwell, Carter Hall, VHS.
25. Frederick County, Will Book 12, 1824-1825, Reel 56, p. 435, VSL&A. The order to record William Hay's will contains a note written on 10 June 1825 stating that he had been dead "for more than three months."
26. Frederick County, Deed Book 51, 1825-1826, Reel 27, pp. 51-54, VSL&A.
27. Frederick County, Deed Book 54, 1828-1829, Reel 28, pp. 321-323, VSL&A.
28. Burwell Family Papers (Mss1/B9585a), bond, James Hay and others, 16 April 1829, VHS.
29. Clarke County, Personal Property Tax Book, 1836, VSL&A.
30. Newspaper advertisement clipping in possession of Mrs. Dunning at Farnley. Title and date of newspaper unknown, but advertisement dated 25 June 1845.

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31. Peter Temin, The Jacksonian Economy (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1969), 113-120, 148-156.
32. Clarke County, Deed Book B, 1841-1843, Reel 1, pp. 38-40, written 2 September 1840 and recorded 16 April 1841, VSL&A.
33. Clarke County, Deed Book C, 1843-1847, Reel 2, pp. 13-14, deed written 25 July and recorded 25 December 1843; Chancery Order Book A, 1836-1857, Reel 12, pp. 119-120, recorded 26 March 1846, VSL&A.
34. Clarke County, Will Book B, 1845-1852, Reel 7, p. 230, will proved 28 February 1848, VSL&A.
35. Richmond Whig and Public Advertiser, 7 December 1847.
36. U.S. Census, Agriculture, 1850, Clarke County, Reel 230, VSL&A.
37. Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, Death Records, Clarke County, 1855, VSL&A.
38. Clarke County, Deed Book F, 1854-1859, Reel 3, pp. 258-260, VSL&A.
39. U.S. Census, Agriculture, 1860, Clarke County, Reel 234, VSL&A.

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- Auditor of Public Accounts. Personal Property Tax Books. Clarke County. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Auditor of Public Accounts. Personal Property Tax Books. Frederick County. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Auditor of Public Accounts. Personal Property Tax Books. Richmond City. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Henry Banks Papers (Mss1/B2264). Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.
- Burwell Family Papers (Mss1/B9585a). Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.
- Clarke County. Chancery Order Book A. 1836-1857. Reel 12. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Clarke County. Deed Book B. 1841-1843. Reel 1. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Clarke County. Deed Book C. 1843-1847. Reel 2. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Clarke County. Deed Book F. 1854-1859. Reel 3. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Clarke County. Will Book B. 1845-1852. Reel 7. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Department of Health. Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics. Death Records. Clarke County. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Frederick County. Deed Book 7. 1762. Reel 4. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Frederick County. Deed Book 13. 1769-1770. Reel 7. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Frederick County. Deed Book 31. 1808-1809. Reel 17. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.

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- Frederick County. Deed Book 35. 1813-1814. Reel 19. Archives Branch,
Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Frederick County. Deed Book 40. 1817-1818. Reel 21. Archives Branch,
Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Frederick County. Deed Book 41. 1818-1819. Reel 22. Archives Branch,
Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Frederick County. Deed Book 51. 1825-1826. Reel 27. Archives Branch,
Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Frederick County. Deed Book 54. 1828-1829. Reel 28. Archives Branch,
Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Frederick County. Will Book 1. 1743-1751. Reel 50. Archives Branch,
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Press, 1950-.
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Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.
- Orange County. Deed Book 7. 1742-1743. Reel 3. Archives Branch,
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- Richmond Whig and Public Advertiser. 7 December 1847.
- U.S. Census. Agriculture. 1850, 1860. Clarke County. Reels 230, 234.
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Berryville, Va.: Virginia Book Co., 1983.
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Meade, Everard Kidder, "The Journal of Alexander Balmain, D.D.," Proceedings of the Clarke County Historical Association 9 (1949): 4-24.

Newspaper clipping in possession of Mrs. Dunning at Farnley. Title and date of newspaper unknown, but advertisement dated 25 June 1845.

Temin, Peter. The Jacksonian Economy. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1969.

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UTM's , continued

- E 17/749610/4324000
- F 17/750140/4324960
- G 17/750650/4323330
- H 17/750090/4322640

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the Warren County/Clarke County line delineated by UTM reference point (A) 17/748880/4323280 proceed 600 feet north to a point delineated by UTM reference point (B) 17/748880/4323380. Then proceed northeast along southern edge of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Co. right-of-way to its intersection with county road 658. Then proceed southeast along county road 658 580 feet to its intersection with an unimproved dirt road. Then proceed southwest along the unimproved dirt road to a point delineated by UTM reference point (E) 17/749610/4324000. Then proceed southeast 1700 feet to another unimproved dirt road. Then proceed northeast along the unimproved dirt road to its intersection with county road 658. Then proceed southeast along county road 658 to its intersection with county road 622 in the village of Stone Bridge. Then proceed southwest along county road 658 to the Clarke County/Warren County line. Then proceed northwest along the Clarke County/Warren County line to the point of beginning.

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PHOTOGRAPH DOCUMENTATION

1. Farnley
Clarke Co., Virginia
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
View of facade facing west
2. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Front Entrance
3. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Rear colonade facing north
4. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Rear elevation facing northeast
5. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Entrance hall facing west
6. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Front bedroom facing north

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7. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Front parlor facing south
8. Farnely
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Dining Room alcove
9. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Stair hall facing north
10. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Rear dependencies facing northwest
11. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Rear dependencies facing northeast
12. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photograher
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Kennel facing west
13. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Ice house facing north

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14. Farnley/ The Meadows
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Facade facing northeast
15. Farnley/The Meadows
Clarke Co., VA
Julie Vosmik, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Rear and side elevations viewed from southeast
16. Farnley/ The Meadows
Clarke Co., VA
Julie Vosmik, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Interior woodwork
17. Farnley/The Meadows
Clarke Co., VA
Julie Vosmik, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Entrance hall facing east
18. Farnley/ The Meadows
Clarke Co, VA
Julie Vosmik, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
North parlor facing north
19. Farnley
Clarke Co., VA
Calder Loth, photographer
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
1845 ad
20. Farnley/ Slave Quarters
Clarke Co., VA
1988
VA State Library, Richmond
Front elevation facing northwest

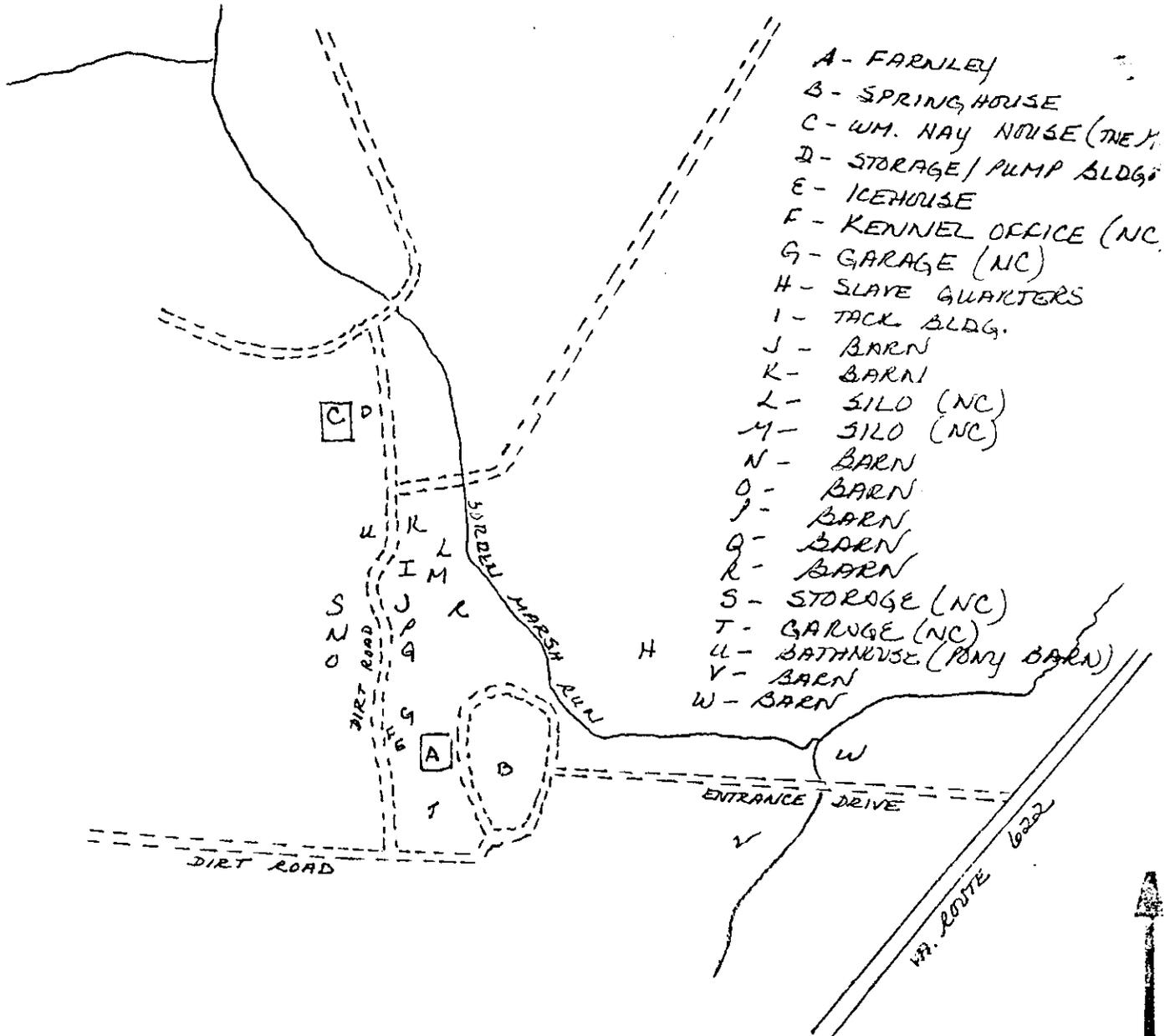
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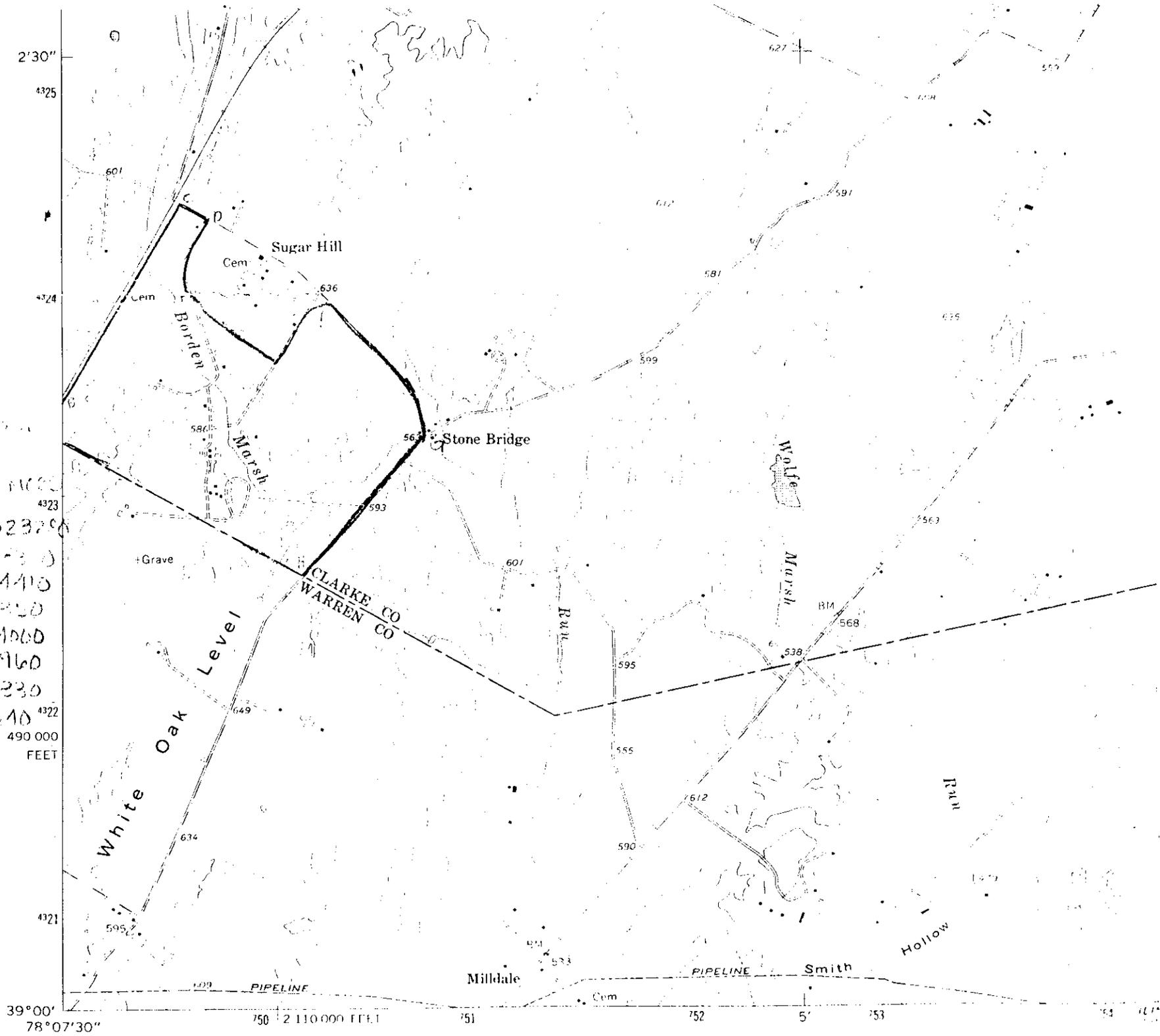
Section number _____ Page _____

FARNLEY, CLARKE CO.

SKETCH MAP (not to scale)



- A - FARNLEY
- B - SPRINGHOUSE
- C - WM. HAY HOUSE (THEY)
- D - STORAGE/PUMP BLDG.
- E - ICEHOUSE
- F - KENNEL OFFICE (NC)
- G - GARAGE (NC)
- H - SLAVE QUARTERS
- I - TACK BLDG.
- J - BARN
- K - BARN
- L - SILO (NC)
- M - SILO (NC)
- N - BARN
- O - BARN
- P - BARN
- Q - BARN
- R - BARN
- S - STORAGE (NC)
- T - GARAGE (NC)
- U - BATHHOUSE (PONY BARN)
- V - BARN
- W - BARN



PLANNED
CLARKE CO

UTM RECEIVED
 4923
 17/719880/432320
 17/718880/432330
 17/717180/432410
 17/719510/432420
 17/719610/432400
 17/750110/432490
 17/750650/432320
 17/750070/432260
 490 000
 FEET

39°00' 78°07'30" 750 2 110 000 FEET 751 752 5' 753 754