

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1976

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  
Farley  
AND/OR COMMON  
Farley

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1 mile south of Hazel River; .1 mile west of northern extension of  
Route 679; .3 mile west of southern tributary of Ruffans Run; 1.6  
miles ~~west~~ of intersection of Routes 663 and 679.

CITY, TOWN Brandy Station VICINITY OF Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)  
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Culpeper CODE 047  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**3** CLASSIFICATION

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

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Palmer N. Stearns, Jr.  
STREET & NUMBER 1538 Forest Lane  
CITY, TOWN McLean VICINITY OF STATE Virginia 22101

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Culpeper County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Culpeper, Virginia STATE Virginia 22701

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
DATE 1958 XX FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.

# DESCRIPTION

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Farley's dwelling house is a prodigious frame structure, 96 feet in length and 46 feet deep. The general impression conveyed by the building is one of formality, even pretension, but in spite of its general Palladian outline, the house is not devoid of certain provincialisms. Although it has not been occupied for some twenty years and now has a dilapidated appearance, the house preserves nearly all of its original fabric. It also seems to be lacking any serious structural deficiencies. No modernizations have taken place; there is no plumbing or electricity.

The north or main front is the most architecturally elaborate. Nine bays across, it has two-bay projecting pavilions at either end and a single-bay pavilion in the center, giving the house an E-shaped plan, albeit the pavilions are very shallow ( $\frac{1}{2}$  feet). All three pavilions are pedimented. On the first floor of the center pavilion is a shallow recessed porch, the back wall of which is pierced by a central door with lunette and flanking narrow windows forming a Palladian motif. An 1805 Mutual Assurance Society policy shows that a slightly projecting one-story porch supported on four posts sheltered the recess at that time. Above the porch is a single wide window topped by a less wide lunette. A round window is in the tympanum of the pediment. Modillion cornices surround the entire house as well as the pediment. Projecting from the roof are two square chimney stacks which are rebuildings of the earlier, more rectangular ones.

The south front of the house is a continuous unbroken facade topped by a hipped roof. Sheltering the center three bays is a crude Italianate porch supported on four cross-shaped posts. The porch appears to be a mid-nineteenth-century addition; Brady photographs taken during the Civil War show that it originally had a bracketed cornice, flat roof, and lattice railing. The present gable roof was added later in the century covering the door that led onto the porch roof. A porch of roughly the same dimensions as this porch is shown on the 1805 Mutual Assurance Policy; it may be that some of the framing members of this earlier porch survive in the existing structure.

The house is sheathed in beaded weatherboarding most of which appears to be original. The principal first-floor windows throughout have nine-over-nine sash and the second-floor windows have six-over-six sash. The sashes and much of their glass are original. All the windows were hung with louvred blinds; some in poor condition are still in place on the south front.

Farley's first-floor plan consists of a central hall with four principal rooms along the north side. These rooms are entered from the south through narrow lateral passages extending across the south front of the house. At each end of the passages are nearly identical dog-leg stairs. The second-floor plan is similar except that the space above the first-floor central hall is closed off and used as a storage room. The basement is excavated under the end rooms but not in the center. The foundations are stone.

The woodwork throughout the house is simple but dignified and follows basically Georgian patterns. The trim in most of the rooms includes a simple baseboard, pedestal-type chair rail, raised six-panel doors and a Federal-style wooden mantel. All the mantels are similar in character but none is exactly like another. The two stairs are similar but the scrolled brackets of each vary slightly. Both stairs have turned column-type balusters, molded handrails, and column-type newels. The most formal room  
(see Continuation Sheet #2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE

1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1967, 1971, 1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor, Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 code: 51

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

DESCRIPTION

in the house is in the northeast corner of the first floor. It has crosstetted architraves on the windows. The windows in the center hall and lateral first-floor passages are treated similarly. The principal architectural adornment of the hall consists of two somewhat curious fluted pilasters supporting sections of full entablature in a manner reminiscent of illustrations for orders in early architectural pattern books. The west lateral passage can be closed off from the hall by a set of double doors with a transom above.

The house is set in unusually scenic rolling farmlands with the Blue Ridge Mountains forming a backdrop. The immediate acreage around the house, however, is untended and has grown up in a thick tangle of woods. Ruins of numerous outbuildings including a barn, slave quarter, and smokehouse are scattered about the property, but only one outbuilding, a schoolhouse, located directly to the east of the main house stands intact. This frame structure is quite formal, having a pedimented facade with an elaborate entrance. The entrance features a lunette with intersecting tracery and intricate Adamesque detailing. The building is in poor structural condition.

Plans are being formulated to have the property sold to individuals willing to restore it.

CCL

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HISTORY
<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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The large frame house on the Culpeper County estate Farley is one of the least known yet most imposing of Virginia's important group of Federal mansions in the Piedmont section. During the post-Revolutionary period many members of Virginia's landed families left their Tidewater plantations and established new seats in the fertile rolling countryside of Piedmont and Northern Virginia. There they erected a series of handsome plantation dwellings, Belmont, Oatlands, Carter Hall, and Annefield among them. In 1801 William Champe Carter of the Albemarle County branch of the Carter family acquired a tract of some 3,000 acres named Sans Souci in Culpeper County from Robert Beverley of Blandfield, Essex County. He renamed the property Farley in honor of his wife, Maria Byrd Farley Carter, and almost immediately commenced construction of his impressive residence. Claims have been made that the house was erected by Robert Beverley some years earlier but no evidence has come to light to indicate that such a structure stood on the property prior to Carter's ownership.

The Carters lived well at Farley, perhaps beyond their means; several suits were filed against Carter's estate following his death in 1834. An inventory made in 1837 as the result of these suits indicated that the house was richly furnished. Among the items listed were some fifty-seven chairs, ten beds, a piano, and a thousand books. Also listed were twenty slaves. The suits resulted in the property having to be sold in 1843 by Carter's widow and daughter; the purchaser was William N. Wellford.

Little is known about Wellford other than the fact that he sold Farley in 1863 to Franklin P. Stearns. Stearns was a self-made businessman born in Bennington, Vermont. He moved to Virginia in 1837 where he worked as a quarryman in connection with the construction of the James River and Kanawha Canal. During the subsequent twenty-five years he gained such posts as a director of several railroad companies, the canal company, and several Richmond banks. He also held seats on the Richmond City Council and in the Virginia General Assembly. For a while he was the largest land proprietor in the state; his holdings included two properties currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Stearns Block in Richmond and Tree Hill Plantation in Henrico County.

The same year that Stearns bought Farley, the house was used as headquarters for Union General John Sedgewick at the time of the Battle of Brandy Station. A ford across the Hazel River on the Farley property was used as a crossing for Union horsemen in what was the largest cavalry battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere. Photographs of the house taken by Matthew Brady during this period show Union officers posing on the south porch and tents on the lawn. It is said that the house also served as a field hospital for both Union and Confederate wounded.

Farley has remained in the ownership of the Stearns family to the present day. Franklin Stearns, Jr. received the property as a gift from his father in 1871. The last person to live in the house was Miss Emily P. Stearns, a daughter of Franklin Stearns, Jr. Farley has stood unoccupied since the late 1950's.

CCL & MTP

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Culpeper County Deed Book W.
- Culpeper County Land Tax Books.
- Historic Culpeper. Culpeper, Va.: Culpeper Historical Society, Inc., 1972.
- Swofford, Don, "Farley, Culpeper County, Virginia," unpublished ms. written January, 1973, copy in archives of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 103 acres

### UTM REFERENCES

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

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising the property of Farley is contained within the area beginning at a point located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Route 679 and secondary road (1.4 miles northeast of intersection of Routes 679 and 663); thence extending 2600' northeast along the west side of Route 679; thence extending 800' westward, curving along tree line; thence extending due west to the east side of secondary road; thence extending 400' south along said road; thence extending 2200' southeastward along southern tributary of Ruffans Run; thence extending southwestward to secondary road; thence following said

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

road southeastward to point of origin.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 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

*Julius R. Fishburne, Jr.*

Virginia Landmarks Register

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

DATE OCT 21 1975

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE MAY 6 1976

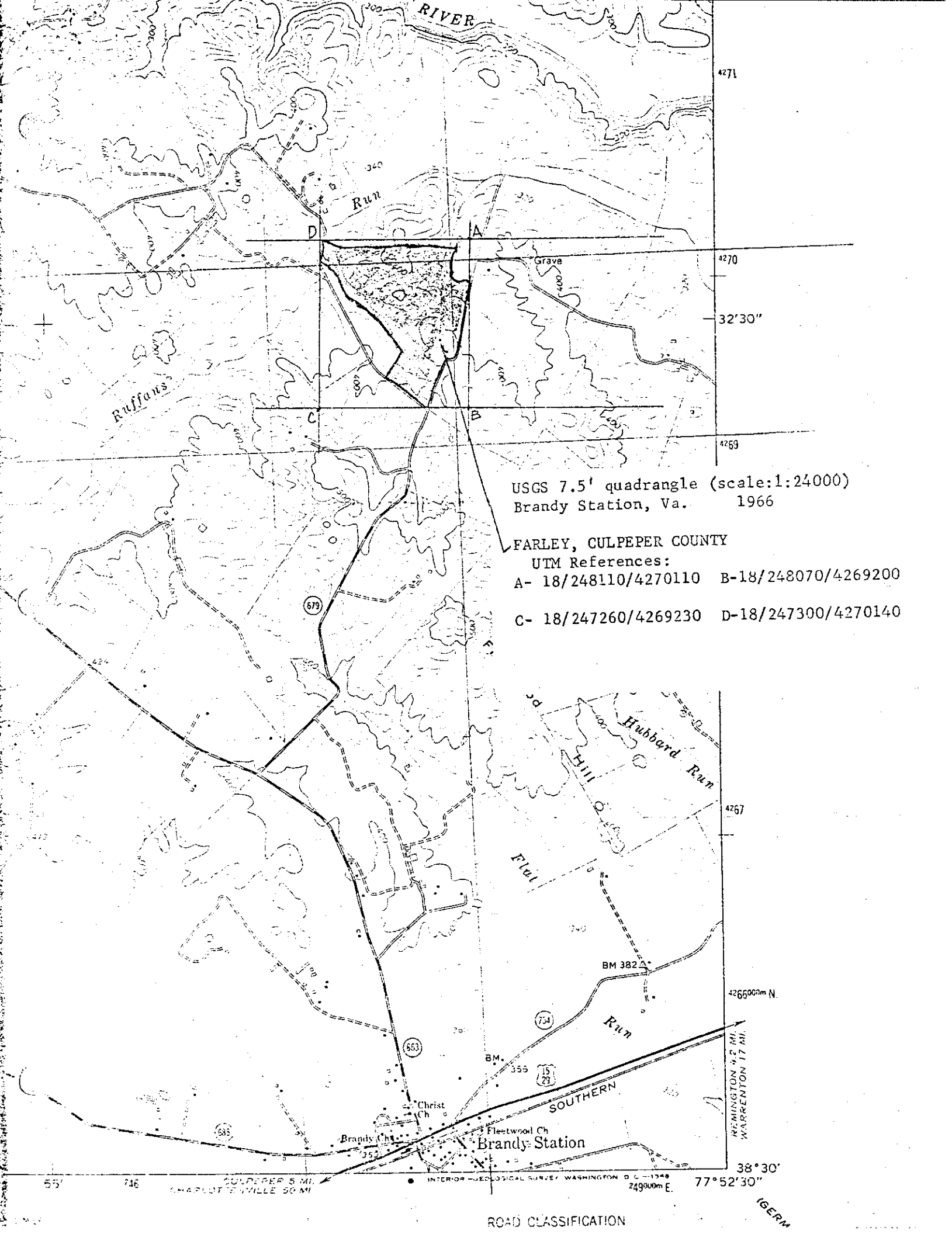
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE MAY 6 1976

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Brandy Station, Va. 1966

FARLEY, CULPEPER COUNTY

- UTM References:  
 A- 18/248110/4270110 B-18/248070/4269200  
 C- 18/247260/4269230 D-18/247300/4270140

4271  
 4270  
 32'30"  
 4269  
 4267  
 4265000m N.  
 REMINGTON 4.2 MI.  
 WARRENTON 17 MI.  
 38°30'

55' 746  
 CULPEPER 5 MI.  
 CHARLOTTEVILLE 50 MI.  
 INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D.C. 20508  
 249000m E.  
 77°52'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

IGERM