

VLK-12/16/75 NRHP-5/28/76

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for FILE

Form 10-200 (Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN **WOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS**  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1** NAME

HISTORIC  
Mansfield  
AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

.1 mile south of Upper Appomattox Canal; .2 mile north of Route 601;  
STREET & NUMBER .8 mile northwest of intersection of Routes 600 and 601.

CITY, TOWN	STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Petersburg	Virginia	51	Dinwiddie	053
VICINITY OF		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT		
XX		Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)		

**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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY (3) (see Continuation Sheet #1)

NAME  
(1) Donald W. Henshaw.

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 1, Box 9G

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Church Road	Virginia 23833
VICINITY OF	

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dinwiddie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Dinwiddie	Virginia

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

TITLE  
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE  
1959

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL	<input type="checkbox"/> STATE	<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL
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DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Washington	D. C.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

(2) → Dinwiddie Builders  
→ Raymond A. Henshaw, President  
Route 1, Box 9R  
Church Road, Virginia 23833

(3) Mr. M. Linwood Henshaw  
Route 1  
Dinwiddie, Virginia 23841

# 77 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Mansfield is located south of the Appomattox River west of Petersburg in an area which includes several other fine eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plantation houses. The house is approached by a long lane lined with ancient cedar trees. It is a large frame building constructed in at least two stages during the early and mid-eighteenth century. No early outbuildings survive, but the brick footings of a schoolhouse, illustrated on an 1816 insurance policy, are visible to the east of the house, and beyond them is an overgrown early-twentieth-century garden.

The earliest portion of the house, probably built in the first half of the eighteenth century, is a long, narrow, five-bay, story-and-a-half structure with an octastyle Colonial Revival porch stretching the length of the front. Set on a low brick underpinning, it is covered with old (perhaps original) beaded weatherboards, although some of those on the east and south sides were renewed early in the present century. The windows have nine-over-nine sash and louvred blinds (apparently not original). A steeply pitched hipped roof covers this portion of the building and is broken by five pedimented dormers on the front slope, one on each end, and two on the rear. Tall interior chimneys of brick with glazed-header patterns project from the roof.

Behind the early section is a large mid-eighteenth-century ell, connected to the earlier block by a 14 x 16-foot hyphen. Both the ell and the hyphen are two-story structures with nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-six sash on the second. They are clad with (mostly original) molded-edge weatherboards and have hipped roofs. There is a brick interior-end chimney on the north end of the ell. Both of the hyphen entrances, as well as the two entrances of the early section retain mid-eighteenth-century sandstone steps with scrolled bottom treads.

In plan, the early section is four rooms long and one room deep. The front entrance leads into the parlor, the eastern of the two large center rooms, and the most elaborate of this section of the house. When the ell was added the chimney wall of the parlor was paneled. Four tall fluted Roman Doric pilasters with full entablature blocks frame the fireplace and the two doors into the room beyond. The overmantel consists of four raised panels, with the outer ones narrower than the inner ones. Two vertical raised panels are over each door. A deeply projecting molded cornice is carried around the entire room, and broken over the pilasters. As with many houses in the area, Mansfield's decoration was altered in the early nineteenth century by the addition of Federal mantels and minor details. A pedestal-type Federal chair rail encircles the parlor, and a mantel with symmetrically molded pilasters, reeded tablet, and a boldly molded shelf replaces the earlier fireplace treatment.

The dining room, the western of the two central rooms, has a marble surround and an odd marble mantel consisting of plain pilasters supporting a cornice shelf with no intervening architrave or frieze. A Federal chair rail is employed here also.

The small eastern chamber has a plain Federal mantel with fluted entablature blocks resting on a molded architrave and supporting a mantel shelf. The western chamber was converted to a kitchen during an early-twentieth-century renovation and has no trim of any kind.

In the connecting hyphen is a handsome open-string stair. Approximately square in plan, it has three turned balusters to a tread, graceful sawn brackets, and a molded banister which is ramped and eased at the landings and scrolled at the newel. The spandrels are  
(see Continuation Sheet #3)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968; 1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia

# **B SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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

Situated near the Appomattox River in Dinwiddie County, Mansfield is one of a group of large houses associated with Roger Atkinson (1725-1784), an important local planter in the pre-Revolutionary period. Its fine interiors, its unusual form, and its location in a neighborhood distinguished by several other notable plantation houses, many of which bear the marks of highly accomplished craftsmen, all contribute to Mansfield's significance in the architectural and historical landscape of early Virginia.

The construction date of the original portion of Mansfield is not known, but it almost certainly predates the tenure of Roger Atkinson, who obtained 99 acres of land in the area in 1757 and added 1190 acres more in 1760. Atkinson, prominent in local affairs, was appointed a trustee of the new village of Petersburg in 1762. A large landholder along both sides of the Appomattox River, Atkinson presented the adjoining plantation, Sysonby, to his daughter Anne and bought Olive Hill, in Chesterfield County, directly across the river from Mansfield for his son Roger II. It seems probable that he expanded the house with the addition of the hyphen and ell shortly after he acquired the property.

The Atkinsons' tenure at Mansfield lasted until the 1830s. Thomas Atkinson (1807-1881), the third Episcopal bishop of North Carolina, was raised there. Mutual Assurance Society policies taken out by Robert Atkinson in 1802 and 1805 show the house in its present form, with a kitchen to the west and a large "washing house" (designated as a schoolhouse on an 1816 policy) to the east. The footings of the latter are still visible.

During the 1830s, Mansfield was the property of Hugh A. Garland, who kept a girls' school there, and was a biographer of John Randolph of Roanoke. William B. McIlwaine, an Atkinson descendant, bought Mansfield in 1905. He undertook repairs and remodeling which included the installation of almost all of the present doors, the present kitchen, the ground-story flooring, the chandeliers, and a bell system. In the twentieth century the property has been owned by Julian Y. Williams (from 1938), and Charles Wells. It has recently been purchased by the Henshaw brothers of Dinwiddie County, who intend to renovate it.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#3

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

paneled with raised paneling. The clumsy chair rail paralleling the stair is a nineteenth-century addition.

The large ell is given over to a single room on each floor. The first-floor "ballroom" is the largest and most pretentious of its sort in the county. Original raised-panel wainscoting with an asymmetrical chair rail and a tier of small panels above it, similar to that found in several other houses in Dinwiddie County, is carried around the room, as is a heavy cornice. There is a deeply projecting chimney breast which has a six-panel overmantel arrangement flanked by stumpy fluted Ionic pilasters on tall plinths. Once again, a Federal mantel replaces the original treatment of the fireplace opening, and in this case, it is worthy of note in its own right. Engaged coupled Tuscan colonettes support a tall frieze with fluted entablature blocks, horizontal reeding in the frieze, and a central tablet with an elliptical sunburst patera. A summer beam with heavy moldings runs the length of the room and intersects the overmantel in an awkward and incongruous manner.

The chamber over the ballroom is also paneled across the chimney wall and has a slightly projecting chimney breast. A clumsy Federal mantel with Tuscan colonettes, a tall reeded frieze and spindly fluted entablature blocks, a Federal chair rail, and an inconspicuous cornice complete the decoration of the room.

Mansfield was remodeled shortly after 1905 by a new owner. At that time, the first-story flooring and a bell system were installed. Most of the doors and hardware and the chandeliers also date from that renovation.

DTU

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Federal Writer's Project. Dinwiddie County. Dinwiddie, Va., 1942.  
 Wyatt, Edward A., IV. Plantation Houses in and Around Petersburg. Petersburg, Va., 1955.  
 Zehmer, John G., Jr. The Early Domestic Architecture of Dinwiddie County, Virginia.  
 unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Virginia, 1970.

# GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 75 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	27,944,0	4,12,23,2,0	B	1,8	27,94,2,0	4,12,16,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	27,88,8,0	4,12,17,0,0	D	1,8	27,89,0,0	4,12,23,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising the Mansfield property consists of the area bounded by a line beginning at a point on the north side of Route 601, .7 mile west of the intersection of Routes 600 and 601; thence extending north and slightly westward to the southern bank of the Upper Appomattox Canal; thence extending 1800' southwestward along said bank; thence extending southeasterly to northside of Route 601; thence extending eastward along north side of Route 601 to point of origin.

The 75 acres being nominated constitute the remaining portion of the original Mansfield

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 1975

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

# 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

Virginia Landmarks Register

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

DATE DEC 16 1975

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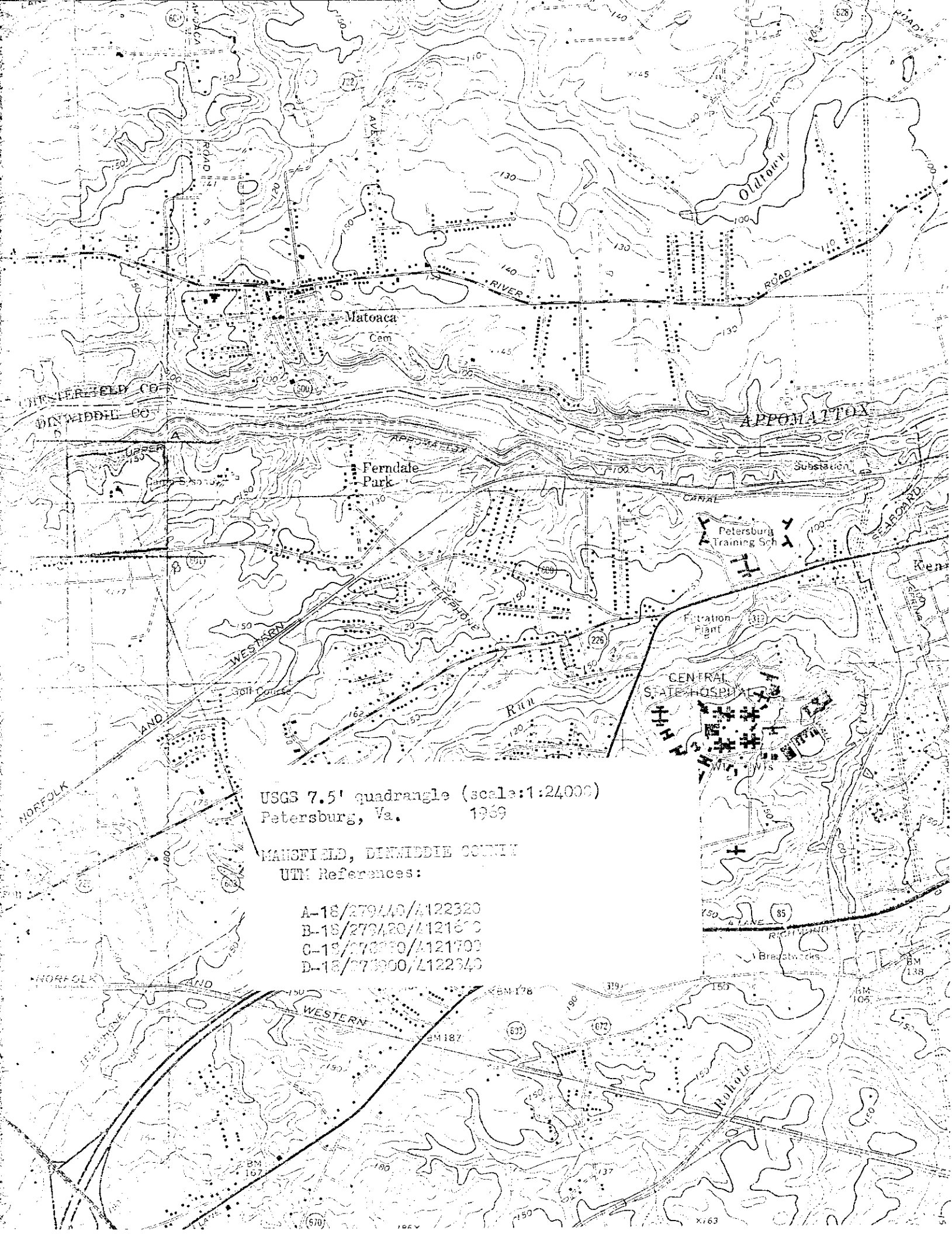
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Petersburg, Va. 1969

MANFIELD, DINWIDDIE COUNTY  
UTM References:

- A-18/279140/A122320
- B-18/279120/A121600
- C-18/279080/A121700
- D-18/279060/L122340