

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR-6/14/00 NRHP-8/14/00

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Melrose

other names/site number DHR File # 032-0019

2. Location

street & number Rt. 640, on s.w. side of junction of Rts. 640 & 650. not for publication N/A
city or town Fork Union vicinity x
state Virginia code VA county Fluvanna code 065 Zip 22963

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Catherine Shuster 6/29/2000
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper
Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____	Sub: _____
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____	Sub: _____
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>Agricultural outbuilding</u>	<u>Barn</u>
<u>Agricultural outbuilding</u>	<u>Shed</u>
<u>Secondary structure</u>	<u>Garage/studio</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Slate
walls Brick

other Wood (porches & trim)
Copper (porch roof)

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

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Period of Significance 1813-1900

Significant Dates 1813, construction
1836, fire in interior of house and subsequent restoration

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- 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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: County Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 100 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1 _____	_____	2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____	4 _____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ellen Miyagawa

Organization: N/A date 4 April, 2000

street & number: Rt. 2, Box 1035 telephone 804-842-3378

city or town Palmyra state VA zip code 22963

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Ellen Miyagawa

street & number Rt. 2, Box 1035 telephone 804-842-3378

city or town Palmyra state VA zip code 22963

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

Melrose, built in 1813 in Fluvanna County, Virginia, is a five-bay, rectangular brick house in the Federal style. It has two stories over an English basement. The gable roof is of slate, with pedimented ends. The house is a 2-over-2-over-2 building, with inside end chimneys and five fireplaces. Floors and woodwork are of pine. In 1815 Melrose was valued at \$2,500, which was the highest evaluation of any dwelling in Fluvanna, and \$1,000 more than the next highest evaluation. In 1836 when fire burned much of the interior, the house's value of \$4,000 was reduced to \$2,500. The following year the interior was restored and rebuilt. Probably much of the flooring and woodwork date from this time. The house was restored in the 1980s, using original materials where possible. The slate roof was repaired, brick repointed, lintels reset, chimneys rebuilt, a French drain system installed, and plumbing and wiring replaced. There have been few structural changes to the original building. Most alterations were done to accommodate a 1-1/2 story, frame addition to the rear, designed by Floyd Johnson of Johnson, Craven, and Gibson. This wing, built in 1978, with its beaded weatherboarding and slate roof complements the main house. Melrose stands on a large oak-shaded lawn. The land falls away on three sides, with deep man-made terraces to the front. It faces south, in the direction of the James River, which can be heard but not seen. There are no original outbuildings on the property. There is a new garage/studio, a recent barn, and a small old shed building used as a smithy, all of which are noncontributing.

EXTERIOR

Melrose appears tall and stately, due in part to the fact that the English basement is not set deeply into the ground; the main floor is nearly seven feet above grade. The brick above the molded water table on all four elevations is laid in Flemish bond with rubbed corner bricks and Queen's closers. Below the water table, brick is laid in a three-course American bond. Walls below the water table are nearly two feet thick. Chimneys were rebuilt in the 1980s using the old brick. At that time a brick with the date 1813 inscribed on it was found under the corbeling of the west chimney.

Basement windows have architrave trim and are exact reproductions of the original windows, which were too badly weathered to be salvaged. Windows on the two upper stories are nine-over-nine, double-hung sash, have architrave trim, and are capped with jack arches of rubbed brick. Four lintels were reset in the 1970s. Original shutters have been lost, although a few original shutter dogs are still in place. There are no windows in the gable ends.

The two outer bays on the front elevation are symmetrical, but the middle bay is slightly off-center to accommodate the stairwell on the inside. When the present owners purchased Melrose, the first-story front window on the far left had been altered to a doorway. The basement window below it had been bricked up. The porch, stoop, or steps had disappeared so that the doorway hung in space. The present owners restored both openings to their original configurations as windows.

The front and rear double doors are not original. They were replaced in this century. There are no lights surrounding the doors, although there is a faux light above the front doorway. An explanation for this will be given when describing the interior.

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The front porch is a recent addition. There are no photos of the original structure, which was taken off prior to the 1890s when a Victorian-style porch was built. That porch covered the windows on each side of the entrance. The porch was replaced in the 1980s with the present one, which does not cover the windows and is the same width as the original. The absence of water table bricks and iron spikes protruding from the walls indicated where the original porch had been attached, and gave clues to its width. The owners chose to use a pedimented roof to match the pediments on the end walls. Steps rise from either side to a landing and then rise to the porch. The porch is finished with square columns and Chippendale railings.

The east and west facades have triangular pediment gables with simple trim of cyma recta. Cornices are boxed with plain soffits and no friezes. The tympanums are flush boards, painted white. There are no openings in the east facade, but to the west there is a door on the right side and two steps descend to the basement. This small door is a recent replacement (using old materials) of one of similar size, which was also probably not original, although there was always a doorway in this location.

The north (or rear) facade would be identical to the south except for the addition of a wing built in the 1970s and designed by Floyd Johnson of Johnson, Craven, and Gibson. The wing is one story over a full basement. It has beaded weatherboards above a brick foundation, and a slate roof. It was joined to the old house between the rear center doors and the far western window, so that only the window immediately west of the doorway was covered. This window was changed to a doorway leading into the wing and the window was moved to the front facade to replace the door that hung in space. The basement window directly beneath was similarly altered to become a door leading into the wing basement.

INTERIOR

English basement: This level of the house has seen the most use and the most change. The room to the east, originally the dining room, contains the single-flight staircase, which ascends along the interior wall. The stairs are open with plain rectangular balusters and a simple newel post. The staircase wall is of wide, beaded, vertical pine boards, and originally extended as a single thickness wall to the north wall, dividing the basement space. The room to the west was the kitchen and contains the fireplace with its large arched opening. Iron loops in either side held a chain or bar from which pots were suspended over the cook fire. There was no mantel. There is an arched recess instead of a fireplace in the east room.

Originally the basement floor was dirt, and then in the 20th century had concrete poured over. It is now floored with pine. All walls were whitewashed, but now are finished with full stud walls. All windows and boxes are replacements reproduced from the originals, which had deteriorated beyond repair. The replaced windows were barn type, which swung up on leather hinges and hooked to the ceiling. Replacements are hung as casement windows. The doorway into the basement of the new wing replaces a window. That door is pine board-and-batten with H & L hinges and was the original door between the two basement rooms.

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Ceiling beams are exposed nearly 8", showing the marks from pit saw and adz. False ceilings between each beam, dropped about 2-1/4" from the original, provide space for wire runs and water pipes. A pantry, approximately 6' x 8', originally was partitioned off in the kitchen next to and under the staircase. Its door, also board-and-batten, now is the door to the closet under the stairs. The pantry was sheathed with wide horizontal pine boards. These walls were removed, and the entire basement space is now family room area.

First and second floors: On the first floor, there is one room on each side of a central hall (dining room and library). On the top floor, two bedrooms flank a small room (now used as a bathroom) at the top of the stairs. All rooms were plastered, and now are plastered or wallboarded. All (except west bedroom) have old chair rails, which are joined to the window stools. A simple crown molding was added to the first floor rooms by the present owners; there were no indications of original cornices. Most interior architrave woodwork appears to date from shortly after the 1836 fire; although some window boxes and trim may be later, it is all the same style. The window trim on the library windows is fluted, but without corner blocks. Doors are six-panel pine, with applied molding; three of six original Carpenter rim locks are in place. All mantels are similar, in a vernacular design, dating from the mid-19th century, but not original to the house. When they were removed for repair, the outline of smaller mantels could be seen on the old plaster. Dangling from the backs of the mantels are old spikes, indicating earlier usage in some other house.

Because all fireplaces are interior end fireplaces, there were alcoves on either side. The present dining room was used as a bedroom and the recessed areas were covered with curtains. On one side was a closet; the other side housed a lavatory and commode. These alterations were done in the 1940s. The present owners had china cupboards built into the alcoves. In the library, book shelves have been built into each alcove. Upstairs in the east bedroom, bookshelves are built into one side. In the west bedroom, there is a very early closet in the north alcove, closed by a four panel door, and includes a high, enclosed cupboard space.

The stairway is an open well with two flights. Handrail and balusters are plain; newel post and corner posts are turned. There are ornamental brackets on the open-string stair. After the 1836 fire, the orientation of the staircase was changed. Rather than ascending from the front of the hall, the run now originates at the rear of the first floor hall, rises toward a landing below the center front window, turns and rises four more steps to the top floor. The original front doors had a transom, which now is in the area hidden from view by the stair landing. Therefore, the transom on the outside now is false, with muntins in a fan pattern and simulated panes painted on wood. In the rear of the hall the exterior double doors, which originally had the landing above them, have no fanlight; nor is there any sign that one ever existed. The other indication of the change in orientation is in the ceiling beams in the basement; holes for the original stair carriage axle are visible.

Modern water pipes are accommodated in a concealed duct in the hall. They run from the bathroom above to basement below. Heat on the top floor is baseboard electric. The remainder of the house is heated by hot water baseboard units. Pipes are camouflaged in the basement with false beams.

The wing added to the rear in the 1970s contains a kitchen, breakfast room, bedroom and bath on the main floor, and in the basement, a laundry, workshop, half-bath, and furnace/utility room. Window, door, and baseboard woodwork in the wing was executed in three-quarter scale of that in the old house. Floors are of old pine.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Melrose, in Fluvanna County, Virginia was built by Charles Alexander Scott in 1813 near his mill on the James River. The Federal style, two-story brick house was sited in the midst of 515 acres of rolling land bordering the James River in an area of the county known as Seven Islands. Scott was a member of the locally prominent family that operated Scott's Landing and that founded Scottsville. In 1822 the house was sold and in 1836, Melrose sustained a fire that burned much of the interior. It was restored the following year and still retains much of the interior trim apparently installed in the house at that time. The house changed hands five more times until the present owners purchased it in 1973. They have carried out a sensitive restoration. Melrose is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture at the local level.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chronology:

Melrose was built in 1813 in a grove of oak trees in the midst of 515 acres of rolling land bordering the James River in an area of Fluvanna County, Virginia, known as Seven Islands. The original owner sold the house in 1822. In 1836 Melrose sustained a fire that burned much of the interior. It was restored the following year. The house changed hands five more times until the present owners purchased it in 1973.

Melrose was built by Charles Alexander Scott, I (1777-1843) just after he completed his five-story brick mill a few hundred yards away on the James River. The brick for both buildings was burned on the property. Scott was in his early thirties when he built these fine brick buildings. He was a member of the powerful Scott family who operated Scott's Landing, founded Scottsville, and built Albemarle's first courthouse in Scottsville, as well as distinguished houses such as Mt. Walla. In addition, his maternal grandfather was Joshua Fry, of the Jefferson-Fry survey team.

The house was oriented toward the river, mill, and subsequent satellite enterprises that grew up near the mill. Although not the earliest building in the vicinity, Melrose did predate most of the large James River houses in Fluvanna, including many of the Bremono buildings. It was built in the Federal style with Flemish bond on all four sides, in contrast to most Fluvanna houses of the period. The original front and rear doors were replaced, thereby removing one of the Federal house's most important trademarks; however, the replacements do not detract from the overall Federal appearance. Because of the interior fire in 1836 and subsequent renovation, we can only guess at the early interior, which must have been suitably ornate to render the 1815 tax evaluation of \$2,500 the highest in the county. Although Melrose's six rooms are spacious, it is interesting to speculate on where Scott's large family of ten children slept.

After only a dozen years Charles Scott sold his mill and Melrose, and after brief ownership by others they were both bought by Colonel Martin Tutwiler (1793-1864). Following the fire in 1836, he restored the house, using woodwork patterns typical of the 1830s. While not as ornate as it was before the fire, Melrose was re-built to a solid and handsome scale. Tutwiler sold Melrose in 1860, and during the Civil War era it fell on hard times. Union troops under General Sheridan damaged the canal and burned the mill in 1865, but spared the house. Nevertheless, it sustained some damage through neglect in the decade following the war, but never was altered structurally.

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It was not until 1883 when Andrew Jackson Seay (1836-1911) bought the property that Melrose was again cared for. Seay installed the present mantels (probably salvaged from an old house in the area), repaired windows, and replaced the porches. After A. J. Seay's death in 1911, Melrose was sold and went into a decline during the Depression. In the 1940s, with a new owner and the advent of electricity, the house took on life and warmth once again. Windows and porches were repaired, doors were changed, the old cobalt blue or black woodwork was painted white, and water pipes and electric wiring were installed with a minimum of structural change.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY SOURCES

Albemarle County deedbooks. Old series: 1:316; 7:13, 8:47.

Cocke Deposit. Boxes 1-15. University of Virginia Alderman Library.

Galt, James. Diary. 13 March 1865. Old Stone Jail Museum archives, Palmyra, VA
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19:139; 23:419; 24:53; 27:93.

New series: 13:467, 490; 21:113; 28:447; 73:389; 93:474.

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_____. Personal property tax records. 1815, 1860.

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_____. Day books. 1895-1911. Old Stone Jail Museum archives, also privately owned.

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SECONDARY SOURCES

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Miyagawa, Ellen. "The James River and Kanawha Canal in Fluvanna." The Bulletin of the Fluvanna County
Historical Society (April, 1982).

_____. "Journey to the Past: Seven Islands and Shores." The Bulletin of the Fluvanna County Historical Society
(October, 1983).

Moore, Virginia. Scottsville on the James. Richmond: Dietz Press, reprinted 1994.

Seay, Alfred. Letter to Ellen Miyagawa, 1981. Homeowner's files.

_____. Interview with Ellen Miyagawa, 22 July 1981. Homeowner's files.

Thompson, Scott B. Scott family genealogy charts. Homeowner's files.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

1. 17 732560 4180450
2. 17 732780 4180020
3. 17 732570 4179610
4. 17 732350 4179720
5. 17 732330 4179560
6. 17 731780 4179740

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Melrose is identified as parcel 16A of section 57 on the tax parcel maps for Fluvanna County, Virginia.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the dwelling (and non-contributing barn, shed and garage/studio), fields, woodland and water courses that have been associated with this property for nearly 190 years; these components have not lost their historic integrity.

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Section Photo Page 8
List

PHOTO LIST

All photos are of Melrose, Fluvanna County, VA
Negatives archived at Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
Ellen Miyagawa, photographer

Date: 1995
View of south elevation, view looking northeast
Negative #18108
Photo 1 of 15

Date: 1995
View of south elevation, view looking northwest
Negative #18108
Photo 2 of 15

Date: 1995
View of east elevation, view looking west
Negative #18108
Photo 3 of 15

Date: 1995
View of west elevation, view looking east
Negative #18108
Photo 4 of 15

Date: 1995
View of main house north elevation, barn and shed, view looking southwest
Negative #18108
Photo 5 of 15

Date: 2000
View of first floor hall, front door and staircase, view looking south
Negative #18109
Photo 6 of 15

Date: 2000
View of first floor, east room, view looking northeast
Negative #18109
Photo 7 of 15

Date: 1995
View of first floor hall door and woodwork, view looking west
Negative #18109
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Photo List, continued

Date: 2000
View of first floor, west room, view looking west
Negative #18109
Photo 9 of 15

Date: 2000
View of first floor, west room, view looking north into kitchen wing
Negative #18109
Photo 10 of 15

Date: 2000
View of second floor hall, view looking east into bedroom
Negative #18109
Photo 11 of 15

Date: 2000
View of 2nd floor, east room, view looking northeast
Negative #18109
Photo 12 of 15

Date: 1995
View of basement staircase, view looking southwest
Negative #18108
Photo 13 of 15

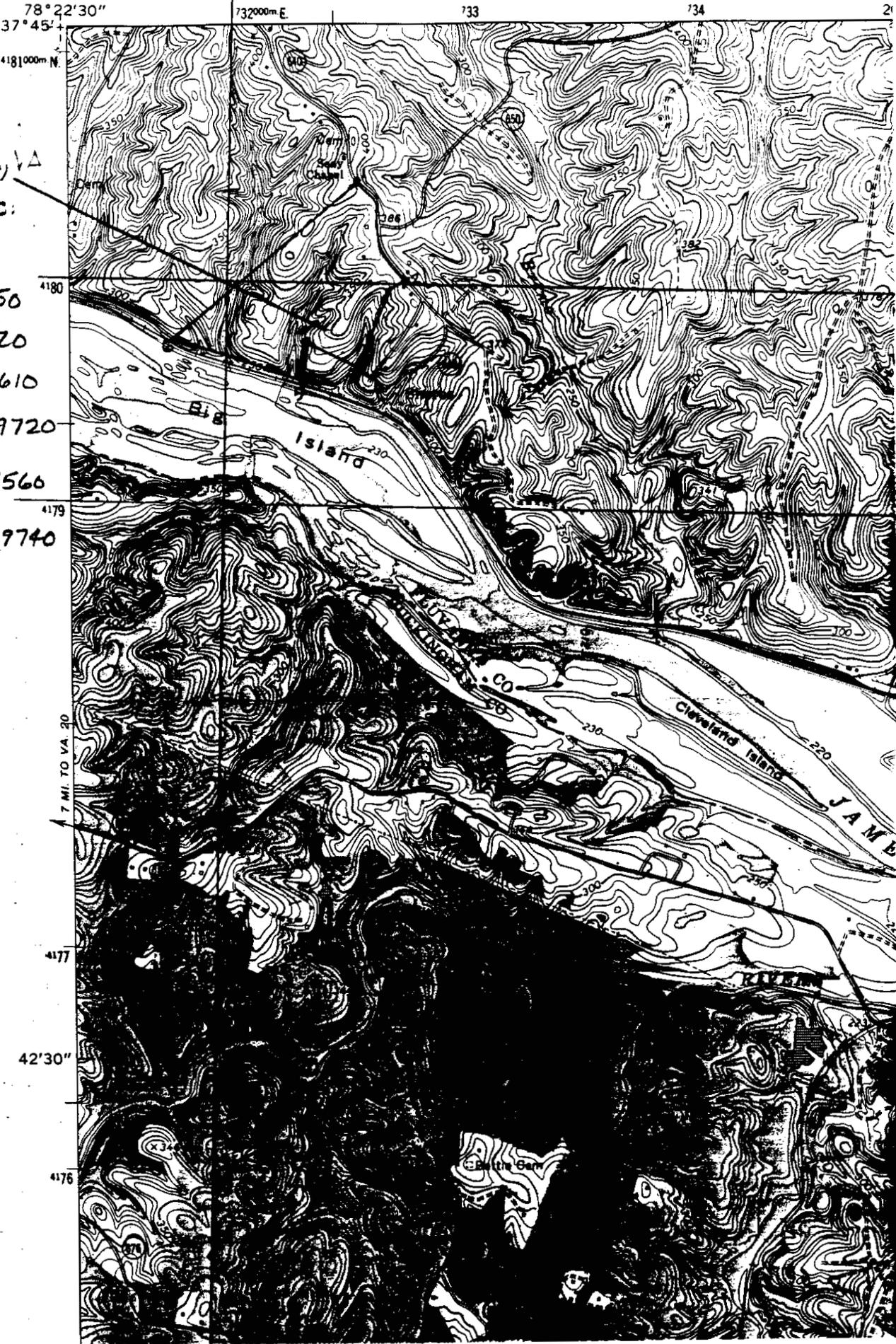
Date: 2000
View of basement west room, view looking southwest
Negative #18109
Photo 14 of 15

Date: 2000
View of basement east room, view looking east
Negative #18109
Photo 15 of 15

5339 IV SW
SCOTTSVILLE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Melrose
Fluvanna Co., VA



MELROSE
FLUVANNA CO., VA

100M Reference:

Zone 17

E N

- 1. 732560 4180450
- 2. 732780 4180020
- 3. 732570 4179610
- 4. 732350 4179720
- 5. 732330 4179560
- 6. 731780 4179740