

VLR-10/15/85 NRHP-12/12/85

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For MPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Buena Vista Farm

and/or common Brampton - Preferred

(DHL File #56-01)

2. Location

street & number Va. State Route 571

N/A not for publication

city, town Orange X vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Madison

code 113

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Virginus R. Shackelford, Jr.

street & number P.O. Box 7

city, town Woodberry Forest

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 22989

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Madison County Courthouse - Clerk's Office

street & number Main Street

city, town Madison

state Virginia 22727

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Division of Historic Landmarks

title 6 (CL) has this property been determined eligible? y e s no

date May 1983

federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor Street,

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located on Route 671 in Madison County, Brampton is comprised of a main residence and three adjacent outbuildings on eleven acres of land. As built in 1846, the original form of the house was a two-bay, side passage plan with a flat roof, two-story portico, and a small wing. About 1900, an addition was attached to the rear, and a new roof was built which resulted in changing the flat-roof portico into a pedimented version. The building and three structures all contribute to the historical character of the property.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Located in rural Madison County, Brampton consists of a main residence and supporting outbuildings on approximately eleven acres of land. The house is set on a small rise at the junction of the Robinson and Rapidan Rivers off State Route 671. Built in 1846, the Greek Revival-style wood-frame dwelling is two stories high with a brick basement. The facade (south elevation) is dominated by Ionic capitals with exaggerated volutes. Originally, the portico was surmounted by a flat tin roof fronted by a parapet. In c. 1900, when a two-story one bay deep addition over a brick basement was added, a cross gable slate roof was constructed embracing the original house plus the addition, resulting in the present pedimented configuration. Sheltered by the portico, the main (south) entrance has a single door topped by a narrow transom and flanked by sidelights. On the first story on either side of the entrance are triple-hung sash windows. The second story-fenestration consists of smaller, 6/6 hung sash windows. All windows are flanked by louvered shutters. The rear (north) elevation is a two-story addition over a brick basement built c. 1900. There is a covered side entrance leading to the basement, and a small projecting single room with gable roof at the first-story level. This addition maintains 6/6 hung sash windows with the openings smaller in size than those of the main section. The west elevation contains a one-story porch with square posts that presently support a sloping roof, which replaced a small balcony with balustrade. The entrance to the original basement dining room and three other rooms is under this side porch. The east elevation is three bays wide; the two bays of the original section are pierced by triple-hung sash windows, the single bay of the addition being 6/6 hung sash window. On the second story all windows are 6/6 hung sash, the one in the addition being smaller. A small pedimented gable breaks the east roof line.

Brampton has no interior main hallway. Inside steps lead up from the basement dining room to the front west room, and a stairway leads from a small side hall to the second story. The most distinguishing features of the interior are the mantels. Also surviving throughout the house are the original door and window architraves.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. 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 type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates C. 1846 Builder/Architect John Hancock & Frances Madison Willis Lee

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1846 for John Hancock Lee, Brampton, Madison County, represents a rare example in the Virginia Piedmont of a two-tier portico, temple-form Greek Revival-style residence. While such house types enjoyed widespread popularity in the north and in the deep south, few such dwellings were erected in the Virginia countryside. Inspired by both pattern-books and architect-designed examples, such as Arlington House in Arlington and Berry Hill in Halifax County, Brampton is the work of an unknown local builder who brought to the residence a much more free interpretation of the Greek Revival than academically correct high-style residences. This is especially evident in the treatment of the capitals of the main portico, the volutes of which are highly exaggerated. The elevated site served as an observation point for General J.E.B. Stuart between Civil War engagements.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Brampton stands on land acquired by the Madison family, in several tracts, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Colonel James Madison of Orange County (father of the President) first purchased land in the area in the 1770's. At that time, and until the founding of Madison County in 1792-3, the area was part of Culpeper County. After Colonel Madison's death, Montpelier and the original Orange County lands went to the President, James Madison, Jr. and the Madison County properties remained with his sons, General William Madison and Francis Madison. Francis lived at Greenway near the present Madison Mills, and William at The Residence on the Woodberry Forest farm. William Madison expanded his holdings, by inheritance and by purchase, to include several tracts adjoining the original Woodberry Forest lands, and lying along the Rapidan river and within the forks of the Rapidan and Robinson Rivers.¹

In 1844, John Hancock Lee (of the Ditchley Lees), husband of William Madison's granddaughter, Frances Madison Willis, purchased 391 acres from the executor of the estate of his father-in-law, General William Madison (MCWB 7, p. 360), MCDB 18, p. 419).² Frances Madison Willis had been born at the present Retreat farm near Rapidan, the daughter of Frances Madison and Lewis Willis. She was orphaned and came to The Residence at Woodberry Forest to live with her grandfather. She is buried in the Madison graveyard at Montpelier.

The Lees constructed most of the present house between 1845 and 1848 (Land Books, 1844-1850).³ In 1853, they deeded the property, named Buena Vista Farm after the Mexican War Battle of Buena Vista (according to local legend), to Julia R. and Ann C.S. Bradford (MCDB 21, p. 312).⁴ The property had previously been sold to the Bradford sisters' father,

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #3)

Madison County Land Books located at Madison County Clerk's Office, Madison, Virginia.
 Norfleet, Elizabeth. Woodberry Forest: The Extended View (1976), appendix I, "The Story of the Land".

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 11.26 acres

Quadrangle name Rapidan, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification (See Continuation Sheet #4)

Beginning at a point on the S side of a dirt road approximately 200' E from the end of VA Rt. 671; thence extending approximately 950' SSW; thence approximately 450' curving SE, S, and then SW; thence approximately 400' WNW; thence approximately 1400' NE to S.

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

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Don A. Swofford, Architect

organization Don A. Swofford, Architect

date 1985

street & number 1843 Seminole Trail

telephone 804/973-3155

city or town Charlottesville

state Virginia 22901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



H. Bryan Mitchell, Director
 title Division of Historic Landmarks

date October 21, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

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BRAMPTON, MADISON COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis (continued)

Of the outbuildings, the first is a small room brick kitchen, which has a parapet around three sides and a sloping roof to the open west side similar to the original roof configuration of the main house. The structure is of brick and is plastered inside with a modified barred roof. The large cooking fireplace is open, and the windows are four over four. Adjacent to the kitchen is the smokehouse, preserved and in use for storage. The original dairy, built of wood, is also in use, and was only slightly altered for use as a chicken house.

These buildings and other necessary domestic dependencies are shown on a plat drafted by Dr. Andrew G. Grinnan in his application for insurance to the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia. The sites of the outbuildings, which are no longer in existence, such as the overseer's house, carriage and saddle house, workshop, servants room, ice house, barn and cornhouse, fodder shed, machine shed and cattle shelter, lumber room, hen house, hog and cow house are easily located from the plat.

The present owners have preserved Brampton making only changes to accommodate modern living requirements. Bathrooms have had modern fixtures added as needed. In 1950 the kitchen was installed on the first floor in the north side of the 1890 rear addition. A spacious entry hall-living room was created by the removal of the wall dividing the original front two rooms. The bedrooms were accommodated by the addition of closets, which respect the architectural integrity of the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background (continued)

John Bradford, who had died before a deed was drawn. In 1855, Thomas T. and Julia Bradford Slaughter of nearby Forest View and Ann C.S. Bradford deeded the property, then 262 acres, to Charles L. Bankhead (MCDB 22, p. 13).⁵ Charles L. and Mary Bankhead deeded the tract to Andrew G. Grinnan in 1859 (MCDB 23, p. 131)⁶ at the time of Grinnan's marriage to Georgia Bryan, sister of Joseph Bryan, founder of the Richmond newspapers. It was Georgia Bryan who renamed the farm Brampton, after ancestral Bryan estates in Wales and Georgia. The Bankheads then moved to Walnut Hills, later the home of General (and Governor) James L. Kemper.

During the Civil War, Brampton served on several occasions as the headquarters of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart, whose wife, a family friend of the Bryans, was a frequent visitor to Brampton. The pile of stones in the side yard, where Stuart reportedly fixed his standard, still exists. John Stewart Bryan in his memoir of his father Joseph Bryan--His Times --His Family--His Friends quotes another brother of Georgia Bryan Grinnan, Corbin Braxton Bryan: "We were all well into the merits of the war at that time. We visited sister Georgia at Brampton where Stuart long had his headquarters, and which was surrounded by the army on all sides. Stuart's tent used to stand under a fine young tulip poplar, just to the

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

United States Department of the Interior
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BRAMPTON, MADISON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Continuation sheet #2

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background (continued)

right of the house as you approach it. He called it his tree and seemed singularly attached to it. He once said to Dr. Grinnan: 'I am never as much at home anywhere as when in my tent under this tree and many a hard ride I have had to take to get back to it. I shall be killed in this war, and you must remember this is my tree, "Stuart's tree."' It is now a superb tree, several times bigger than it was then, and you may be sure that it is sacredly protected."⁷ (The tree fell during Hurricane Hazel in 1954.)

In mid 1863, the Grinnan family went temporarily to Charlottesville as war refugees. However, they returned by late fall of 1863, and during that winter, when General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia were camped on the other side of Slaughter's Ridge across the Rapidan, Stuart established headquarters at Brampton. His wife lived there that winter. Brampton lay within the Federal lines (General Grant was in command of Federal troops at Culpeper), and, according to Grinnan family legend, Stuart escaped Federal troops intent on capturing him by climbing out of his second-story bedroom window to a balcony and then down a large nearby pine tree.⁸

In 1883, in accordance with a decree of the Madison Circuit Court, Joseph Bryan acquired Brampton as trustee for his sister, Georgia Bryan Grinnan, and her children (MCDB 28, p. 251).⁹ Brampton remained in the Grinnan family until 1940, when the Grinnan heirs sold the house and 262 acres to Woodberry Forest School (MCDB 57, p. 242).¹⁰ The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Virginius Shackelford, Jr., acquired the house and 11.26 acres from Woodberry Forest School in 1952 (MCDB 68, p. 155).¹¹

¹Norfleet, Elizabeth, Woodberry Forest: The Extended View (1976), Appendix I, "The Story of the Land".

²Madison County Will Book (MCWB hereafter) 6, page 360.
Madison County Deed Book (MCDB hereafter) 18, page 419.

³Madison County Land Book 1844-50.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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BRAMPTON, MADISON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Footnotes (continued)

⁴Norfleet, *ibid*, and MCDB 21, page 312.

⁵MCDB 22, page 13.

⁶MCDB 23, page 131.

⁷Bryan, John Stewart, Joseph Bryan--His Times--His Family--His Friends, (Richmond, 1935) page 137 ff.

⁸Cooke, Helen Grinnan, "Notes of Times at Brampton" a typed, unpublished manuscript in the Shackelford Family papers (1980).

⁹MCDB 28, page 251.

¹⁰MCDB 57, page 242.

¹¹MCDB 68, page 155.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carpenter, Delma R. "The Route Followed by Governor Spotswood in 1716 Across the Blue Ridge Mountains," The Virginia Magazine, Vol 73 (Richmond, Virginia Historical Society, 1965), pp. 405-412.

Bryan, John Stewart, Joseph Bryan--His Times--His Family--His Friends, (Richmond, 1935) page 137 ff.

Cooke, Helen Grinnan, "Notes of Times at Brampton", a typed, unpublished manuscript in Shackelford Family papers (1980).

Grinnan, Dr. R. Bryan, Jr., manuscript of presentation to Orange County Historical Society, with photographs and sketches attached (July, 1979), a typed unpublished manuscript in the Shackelford Family papers, copy in archives of Orange County Historical Society.

Bryan - Grinnan family papers in the possession of members of Grinnan family in Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia, and Lexington, Kentucky.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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BRAMPTON, MADISON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #4

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Shackelford Family papers in possession of Virginus R., Jr., and Carroll Kem Shackelford at Brampton.

Madison County Will Books located in the Madison County Clerk's Office, Madison, Virginia.

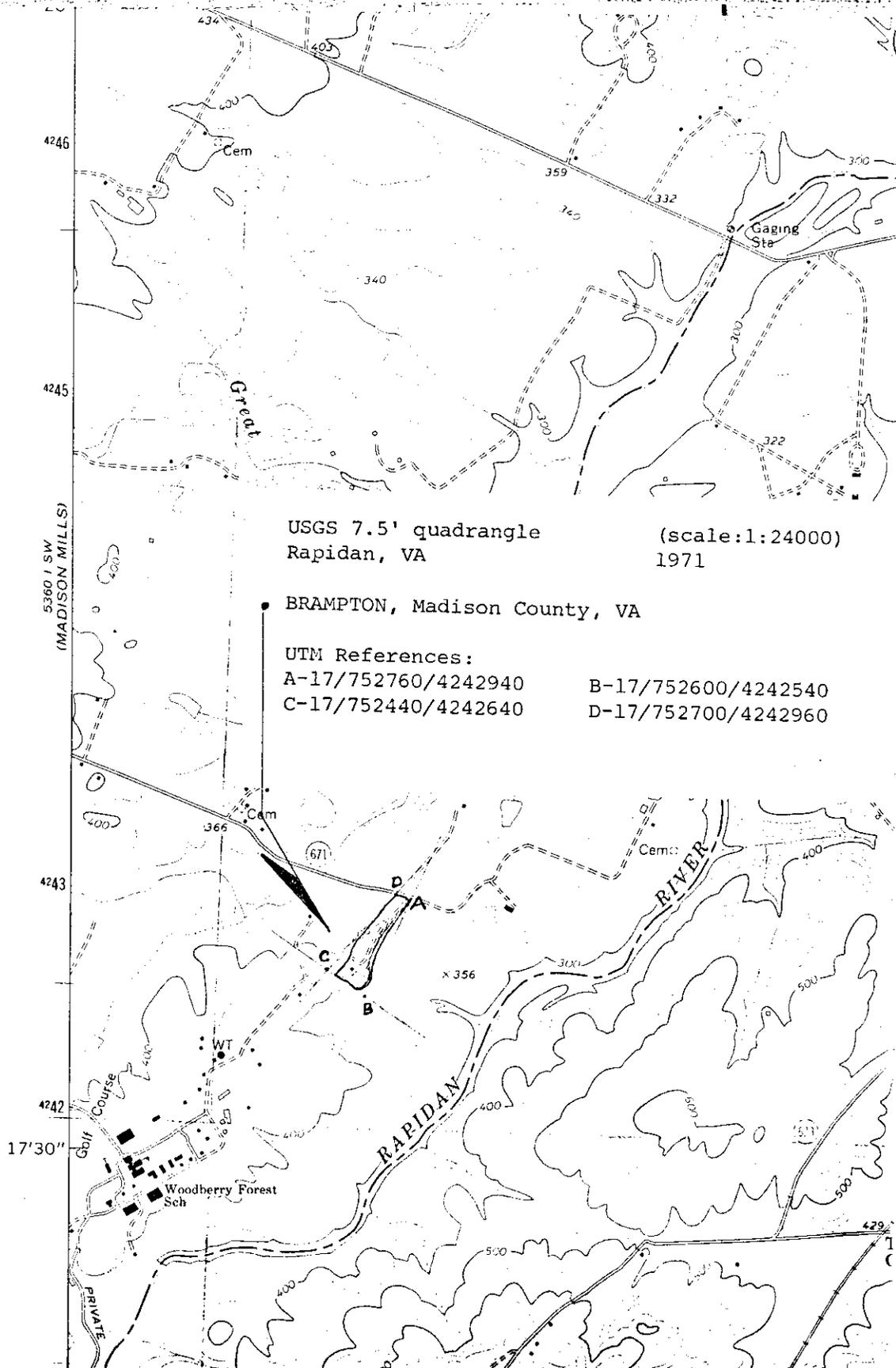
Madison County Deed Books located in the Madison County Clerk's Office, Madison, Virginia.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

side of dirt road at end of VA Rt. 671; thence approximately 200' E along S side of dirt road to point of origin.

JUSTIFICATION

The bounds have been drawn to include the house and three adjacent outbuildings on 11.26 acres of land.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
 Rapidan, VA

(scale:1:24000)
 1971

BRAMPTON, Madison County, VA

UTM References:

A-17/752760/4242940

B-17/752600/4242540

C-17/752440/4242640

D-17/752700/4242960

5360 (SW
 (MADISON MILLS)

4246

4245

4243

4242

17°30"

429

Great

RIVER

RAPIDAN

PRIVATE

Golf Course

Woodberry Forest Sch

WT

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Gaging Sta

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