

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

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

AND/OR COMMON

Mountain View

2

STREET & NUMBER On State Route 703 two miles south of Chatham and one-half mile west of U.S. Route 29.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

VICINITY OF

Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Pittsylvania

CODE

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. James Law

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 114

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24531

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pittsylvania County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

STATE

Virginia

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

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

, 1958

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Mountain View, a late Federal-style residence, is located on a well landscaped estate one-half mile west of the intersection of State routes 703 and 704 in Pittsylvania County. Erected ca. 1840-42, the brick dwelling is a 2½-story, double-pile, central-hall-plan house covered by a gable roof.

Set on a brick basement, the front (north) elevation is laid in Flemish bond. The three-bay facade is dominated by a one-story unstudied Roman Doric tetrastyle portico set on a brick podium. The portico shelters a semi-elliptical fanlight entry which retains both of its original paneled double doors. The door is flanked by paired Ionic columns and sidelights. The fenestration consists of the original 6/6 hung sash surmounted by lintel-type window heads with turned corner blocks. The openings are flanked by wooden louvred shutters. A row of three dormers, added ca. 1910, projects from the roof.

The garden (south) elevation, like the other secondary walls, is laid in five-course American bond. The first story consists of a centrally positioned, raised rear entrance, flanked by original 6/6 hung-sash windows. The second story consists of an asymmetrically positioned central bay window, flanked by original 6/6 hung-sash windows. All openings have lintel-type heads with turned corner blocks. A row of three dormers, similar to that found on the north elevation, projects from the roof. The rear steps are replacements.

The west elevation contains two semi-exterior end chimneys which flank paired central windows on 2½ stories. The east elevation, also containing two semi-exterior end chimneys, has been partially hidden by the addition of a one-story service wing. The second story contains a diamond-pane casement window. The attic story consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows, similar in treatment to those found on the west elevation.

The interior of the house contains a central hall plan. The hall is dominated by an open-well stair that ascends to the attic. The stair has paneled spandrels, sawn-scroll type brackets, a round handrail and rectangular balusters, three to a tread. Paralleling the stair is a handsomely finished wainscot with a finely molded chair rail. Openings in the hall have fluted symmetrical architrave trim with molded corner blocks. The hall contains paneled wainscoting capped by a chair rail.

The western parlors are connected by a semi-elliptical arched double doorway with a fanlight transom. The parlors contain engaged Ionic columned mantels, flanked by semicircular arched niches. The parlors boast ornamental stucco ceilings with finely executed medallioned centerpieces. The ceiling design is adapted from that first published in plate 27 of Asher Benjamin's, The American Builder's Companion of 1806. The eastern parlor and dining room are less elaborately detailed than the western rooms. A bathroom and kitchen wing was added on the first floor. The second-floor rooms feature simply executed mantels, variations on that found in Asher Benjamin's Practice of Architecture of 1833, plate 48. Door and window trim have fluted symmetrical trim with molded corner blocks. The upstairs bedrooms retain original grained doors on built-in cupboards and wardrobes.

Mountain View preserves a number of its original outbuildings. The kitchen is a 1½-story, five-course, American-bond brick structure covered by a gable roof. Two semi-exterior end chimneys are original to the structure.

(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 checked="" 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 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

1840-42

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

(attributed to James Dejarnett)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Virginia's southern Piedmont experienced great agricultural prosperity between 1800 and the Civil War. Evidence of this can be seen in a number of fine houses scattered through Pittsylvania and Halifax counties, houses that formed the cores of vast plantations. While a few were in the more stylish Greek and Gothic Revival modes, most were executed in a relatively conservative Federal style employing fine brickwork, symmetrical facades, and refined interior trim. Mountain View, erected between 1840 and 1842 for Thomas Smith Jones is a good example of these dignified, restrained dwellings, and may have been built by James Dejarnett, a noted builder in the region. In addition to its architectural interest, Mountain View has remnants of an elaborate 19th-century formal garden, a feature characteristic of the region's finer estates.

The Mountain View land originally belonged to the Carter family, who were among the first landholders in Pittsylvania County. Jeduthan Carter first appears in the county tax books in 1793. He owned 69 acres on the Banister River. During the next 20 years he regularly added adjoining tracts to this holding until he had assembled a farm of 674 acres which included the original house site. The building value amounted to \$200 in 1820, the first year that such tax is listed separately in the Land Tax Books. The precise location and appearance of the original house is not known.

Carter had married his cousin, Sarah Carter, daughter of Jesse Carter of the Oakland plantation located across the Banister River. Carter died childless in 1820 and bequeathed "...To my nephew Reuben Hopkins the entire tract of land on which I now live with a request that he will live on the same together with all the residue of my estate... with a particular request that my nephew Reuben Hopkins will give unto his brother, F. Hopkins, one little negro..." Bond for the executor was set at \$10,000, pledged by Reuben Hopkins, Nathaniel Wilson and Robert Wilson.

Hopkins, a lawyer, moved to Alabama in 1835 and sold the 674 acres to Thomas S. Jones of Pittsylvania for \$3,000. The date of the purchase coincides with the marriage date of Jones to his second wife. The property value increased from \$200 to \$500 in 1840, the first record of Jones improving the property. The Land Tax Book of 1843 records an increase in the building value to \$4,000. This dates the present house's completion.

Mountain View is a notable example of Federal-style architecture in Pittsylvania County and has many hallmarks that suggest the talents of the local master builder, James Dejarnett. Its fine brickwork, interior appointments, and careful proportions are paralleled in two of his known works, Oak Hill, the Samuel Hairston residence erected 1823-26, and Dan's Hill, the Wilson family residence of the 1830s. By the time Mountain View was built in the early 1840s, a new sense of Greco-Roman Classicism had become popular in American architecture. Thus, the light porticos and delicate fanlight entries of Oak Hill and Dan's Hill become the boldly executed porch and columned frontispiece found on Mountain View. This holds true for the interior trim whose molded Greco-Roman simplicity replaces an earlier stylized carving. Delightful exceptions are

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Garrington, Wirt Johnson. A History of Halifax County, Virginia. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1969.
- Clement, Maud Carter. History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Lynchburg, Va.: J. P. Bell Co., 1929.
- The Early Homes of Chatham. Chatham, Va., 1957.
- Pittsylvania County Deed Books 9, 10, 11-16, 38; Land Tax Books 1793-1850; Will Book II. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

QUADRANGLE NAME Chatham, Va.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 44 acres

UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

E 17 642290 4072320

A	1,7	6,4,2	4,0,0	4,0	7,2	3,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C	1,7	6,4,2	6,2,0	4,0	7,1	4,0,0

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

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the S side of State Route 703, 1250' W of intersection of said route and State Route 705, 800' E of railroad tracks; thence extending 400' E along said side of State Route 703; thence extending 1700' S approximately 150' E of private drive; thence extending E almost 500'; thence extending S 1500'; thence extending W 900' to other side of said drive; thence extending N about 3100' along W side of said drive to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

June 1979

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 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

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUN 19 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mountain View, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968, 1979 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

The schoolhouse is a 1½-story, gable-roof structure covered by weatherboarding. Its original, simply executed interior mantel survives, as does its chimney.

The office is a 1½-story, gable-roof frame structure, covered by weatherboarding. The carriage barn is a two-story wood-frame structure covered by weatherboarding. The building retains its original 6/6 hung sash. A wood-frame smokehouse and corncrib are also found on the property.

During the 19th-century Mountain View boasted gardens and landscaping that ranked among the finest in Pittsylvania County. A description of the property is found in the WPA Inventory of August 20, 1936:

Its spacious grounds are bordered across the front with a hedge of hemlock connected at the entrance by a small iron gate supported by pillars of flint rock, from which you enter a walk bordered on either side with boxwood leading to the front entrance. Huge oaks and some cedars adorn the lawn. A single row of boxwood symmetrically planted extends around the west end to the back, which leads to the flower garden, consisting of several acres, which was planted under the supervision of Mrs. Jones. You enter the walk between rows of boxwood on either side running the distance of about three hundred yards. Here you find a variety of roses, iris, lilac, spirea, Japanese apple, althea, wisteria, and crape myrtle and smoke trees tied together with ivy and ancient ramblers bloom gaily in their tops. You will find ivy of several different varieties on the house, in trees and on the walls of the family cemetery, which is at the extreme end of the garden and completely enclosed by a flint rock wall four feet high with rock steps on either side. ....Mrs. Wood the present owner, is having some parts of the garden restored, which unfortunately has been destroyed.<sup>1</sup>

The boxwood survive, as do a number of larger trees scattered about the grounds. The garden site is presently planted with grass and has archaeological potential.  
(see Continuation Sheet #2) RCC

<sup>1</sup> Mattie Meadows, "Mountain View," 20 August 1936, Works Progress Administration Historical Inventory, Chatham, Virginia.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7, 8 & 9 PAGE 2

7. DESCRIPTION -

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Mountain View is bounded on the north by State Route 703, on the west by a straight line drawn to follow the main drive that extends beyond the house, on the east by a line that follows the main drive and extends east then proceeds south to include the outbuildings, and on the south by a boundary that connects the east and west boundaries, drawn to include the outbuildings and cemetery. The nominated property consists of approximately 44 acres, a fraction of the original estate. The house sits on an elevated site above the Banister River.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

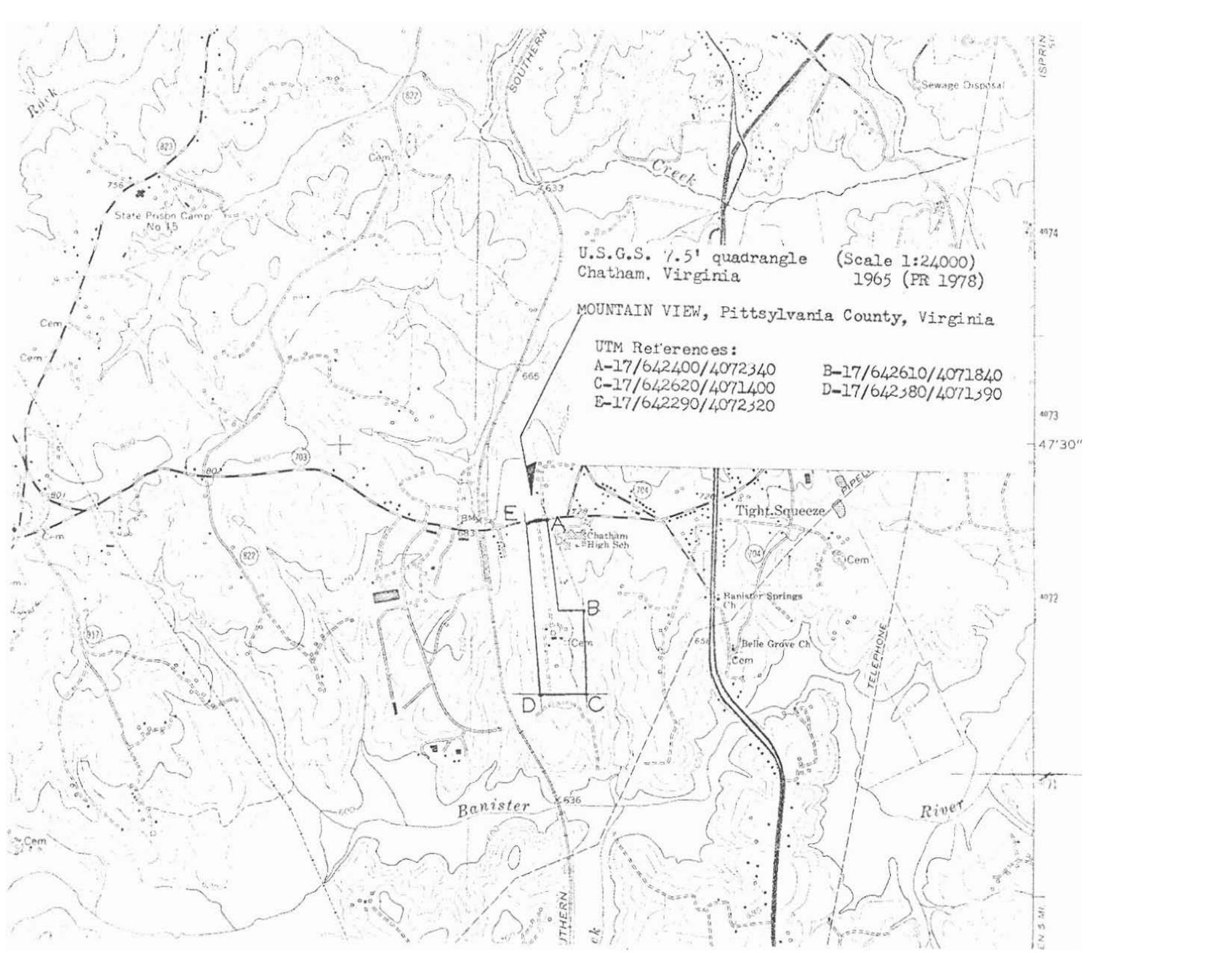
the ceiling medallions in the west parlors which are adopted from a relatively early example illustrated in Asher Benjamin's The American Builder's Companion of 1806, plate 27.

During the mid-19th century the house had a very fine garden, planned by the wife of the builder. The pattern is suggested today by the boxwood and appears to have followed the more traditional 18th-century garden plans. Such plans stressed order and symmetry as opposed to the picturesque parks and asymmetrical lawns promoted in the noted publications of the 19th-century landscape architect, A. J. Downing. The gardens of Oak Hill and Dan's Hill were similarly 18th-century in character.

VDS/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives, Richmond, Virginia  
Chatham, Virginia. Works Progress Administration Historical Inventory. Mattie  
Meadows, "Mountain View," 20 August 1936.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)  
Chatham, Virginia 1965 (PR 1978)

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

UTM References:  
A-17/642400/4072340      B-17/642610/4071840  
C-17/642620/4071400      D-17/642380/4071390  
E-17/642290/4072320