

VLR - 5/15/79 NRHP - 7/24/79

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

Brompton

AND/OR COMMON

Brompton

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Hanover Street & Sunken Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fredericksburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

(in city)

CODE

630

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC; state
- 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

Mary Washington College c/o President

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fredericksburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fredericksburg City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fredericksburg

STATE

Virginia

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

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1957

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 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brompton, the residence of the President of Mary Washington College, is dramatically set amid spacious grounds on Marye's Heights overlooking the City of Fredericksburg. The Roman Revival-style house assumed its basic plan in 1838. The pedimented gable roof was added when extensive Civil War damage was repaired.

The front (east) elevation is laid in very precise Flemish bond which retains its original red wash and painted joints. The facade is dominated by a massive 2½-story, tetrastyle pedimented portico. The portico has Ionic columns and a full entablature with dentils and Federal-style brackets. A large lunette is in the tympanum. The portico shelters the main entrance which consists of a semi-elliptical leaded fanlight with complementing sidelights. The raised-panel double door is flanked by Doric columns and pilasters. Gauged brickwork is used in the elliptical arch surrounding the fanlight. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows hung with louvred shutters. The central block of the house is flanked by one-story wings of two bays each.

The side and rear walls of both the main block and wings are laid in three-course American bond. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows. The entablature on the wings duplicates that found on the main house.

The rear (west) elevation consists of three bays. Fenestration is marked by 6/6 hung-sash windows hung with louvred shutters. A gable-roof weatherboarded kitchen, built in 1823, is connected to the house by a hyphen with unusual paneled walls. Fenestration in the wing consists of 6/6 hung sash. The kitchen was extensively damaged in the Civil War, as evidenced by shell marks throughout the weatherboarding. Extremely remodeled, the building now contains the dining room as well as a modern kitchen.

Brompton's asymmetrical plan results from a number of renovations. The house, as originally built before 1821, measured 33' x 33' and consisted of the present stair hall, library, and second-floor-bedrooms. John Marye's substantial changes included the addition of the wings and present entrance hall in 1838. The interior suffered damage during the Civil War and was renovated during Reconstruction. The pedimented gable was added at this time, first appearing in an 1875 photograph. The last interior renovation dates to 1946-7, when the house was acquired by Mary Washington College.

The first floor is dominated by a large entrance hall that opens into a stair hall, library, and flanking parlor wings. The entrance hall contains a paneled wainscot installed during the 1946 renovation. The wainscot is said to duplicate wood panels found under the windows. Semi-elliptical arched openings into the parlor wings also date from the 1946 renovation and replace doorways similar in execution to those found on the hall's west wall. The doorways have molded symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks embellished with rosettes. The doors into the stair hall and library formerly opened into the parlor wings and were moved to their present location in 1946.

The stair hall contains an open-well stair that ascends to the second floor. The stair has paneled spandrels, sawn-scroll brackets, a rounded handrail, and rectangular balusters, two to a tread. Paralleling the stair is a paneled wainscot with molded chair rail that leads to the second floor. It and a semi-elliptical arched opening date from 1946.

Further additions made in 1946 include the mantels and paneling in the north and south parlors. The doors and windows have original molded symmetrical architrave trim

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK ONE OR MORE 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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

ca. 1820; 1838

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brompton, so named by Fredericksburg businessman John Lawrence Marye, who purchased the property in 1824, figured prominently in the two Battles of Fredericksburg. The structure was much enlarged and remodeled into an imposing Roman Revival-style dwelling during Marye's long tenure. The steep hill known as Marye's Heights, which the house dominates, was the scene of fierce combat during the battles of 1862 and 1863. The house itself served as the headquarters of General James Longstreet. Now the official residence of the President of Mary Washington College, Brompton is distinguished by its graceful portico and fine brickwork.

Brompton stands on land that was originally part of an 1,110-acre tract belonging to Fielding Lewis, brother-in-law of George Washington. The first record of any improvements made on what has since become known as Marye's Heights is found in the Spotsylvania County land tax book of 1821, when William Barker is charged with ten acres of land and \$2,500 worth of improvements. In 1823 Barker continued to be charged with ten acres but with \$400 added for a new kitchen, the present frame wing. In 1824 the property was charged to John Lawrence Marye with \$1,000 noted for additions to the dwelling house. The property was then valued at \$3,900. Marye continued to add to both his house and his acreage.

In 1839 the tax books record additional improvements of \$1,524.50 on 15½ acres of land. The improvements shown on Marye's fourth Mutual Assurance Policy of 1838 include a "colonade", a covered walkway to the kitchen, and the north and south wings. Marye thus adapted a relatively simple side-hall-plan house into a rather large temple-form residence with flanking wings, following the precedent set by Thomas Jefferson with the first phase of Monticello. These improvements reflect Marye's success as a Fredericksburg lawyer and flour mill owner. Marye was the great-grandson of James Marye, early and long-term rector of St. George's Church in Fredericksburg. The Reverend Mr. Marye was a Huguenot who fled France in 1726, settling at Brompton in England before coming to Virginia.

Given its strategic location overlooking Fredericksburg, Brompton became the headquarters of General James Longstreet during the two Battles of Fredericksburg in 1862 and 1863. The headquarters was deemed to be the most vulnerable point in the Confederate line by the Union General A. E. Burnside who concentrated efforts there. Key to the defense of Marye's Heights was the location at the bottom of the hill of the so-called "sunken road" protected by a still extant stone wall. It was from behind this wall that the Confederate forces formed their first line of defense against the attacking Federal troops. The Confederate troops managed to hold off General Burnside, although there was much loss of life on both sides. Brompton sustained substantial damage as a result of the battle. During the second battle, the Union troops gained possession of the house. A Matthew Brady photograph shows Brompton's battle-scarred condition.

While Brompton's owner, John Lawrence Mayre, supported the Confederacy, he had invested in lands in Indiana and Illinois prior to the War. The sale of this land allowed him to

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brock, R. A., editor. Documents Relating to the Huguenot Immigration. Baltimore, 1962, pp. 181-191.
- Jett, T. Sutton and Happel, Ralph. "Report on Brompton." unpublished manuscript, 1937.
- Scribner, Robert L. "Fredericksburg:1862: The Assault," Virginia Cavalcade, Winter, 1956.
- Fredericksburg Corporation Court Deed Books, B,C,E,F,H,W,ZZ.
- Spotsylvania County Land Tax Books, 1815-1852.
- Spotsylvania County Will Book Y (1869-1879) p. 259, pp.310-344. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE NAME Fredericksburg, Va.
 QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

A

1	8
---	---

2	8	4	0	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	4	1	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

1	8
---	---

2	8	3	8	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	4	1	1	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

1	8
---	---

2	8	4	0	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	4	1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

1	8
---	---

2	8	3	8	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	4	1	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point at the SW corner of the eastern intersection of Sunken Road and Hanover Street; thence extending about 300' S along W side of Sunken Road; thence extending about 650' WSW; thence extending about 700' NNW to S side of Hanover Street; thence extending NE along said side of street for about 700' 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

May 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 **MAY 15 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

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

Brompton, Fredericksburg, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7, 6, 8 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

with rosette corner blocks. The library mantel with flanking bookcases dates from the 1946 renovation, as does the dining room paneling. The second floor was changed extensively in 1946; most of the openings, partitions, and bathrooms are new.

Brompton's landscaping consists of large shade and evergreen trees informally scattered about the lawn. The grounds are accented with boxwoods. The outbuildings include a modern shed, garage and summerhouse, and a much-remodeled 19th-century building now used as a guest house.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The proposed acreage for Brompton is 11 acres and includes the house and outbuildings. The acreage is a fraction of the John Lawrence Marye tract. It includes the front (east) lawn of the property and enough land to the north, south, and west to preserve a sense of the residence's former rural setting. The grounds overlook the City of Fredericksburg. The Brompton estate is bounded on the east by Sunken Road, on the north by Hanover Street, and on the west and south by lines drawn to include 11 acres, placing the house within its landscaped estate.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1979 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

repair Brompton immediately following the defeat of the Confederacy. Marye died in 1868, and a detailed account of his estate was made by the Spotsylvania County Commissioners. A portion of the extensive document notes:

At the death of the intestate the Brompton House was nearly completed in its repairs and refitting. The painting was incomplete and was furnished by the trustee; the farm was not fenced in, this also was done by the trustee...Despite widespread advertising and attempt to see the property... unable to do so...owing to the large and expensive buildings, there have been no offers obtained at price more than one half of what property was salable at in 1859/60.¹

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Brompton, Fredericksburg, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE

It is believed that the present pedimented roof was added at this time, replacing a shallow slate-covered roof shown in the Brady photograph.

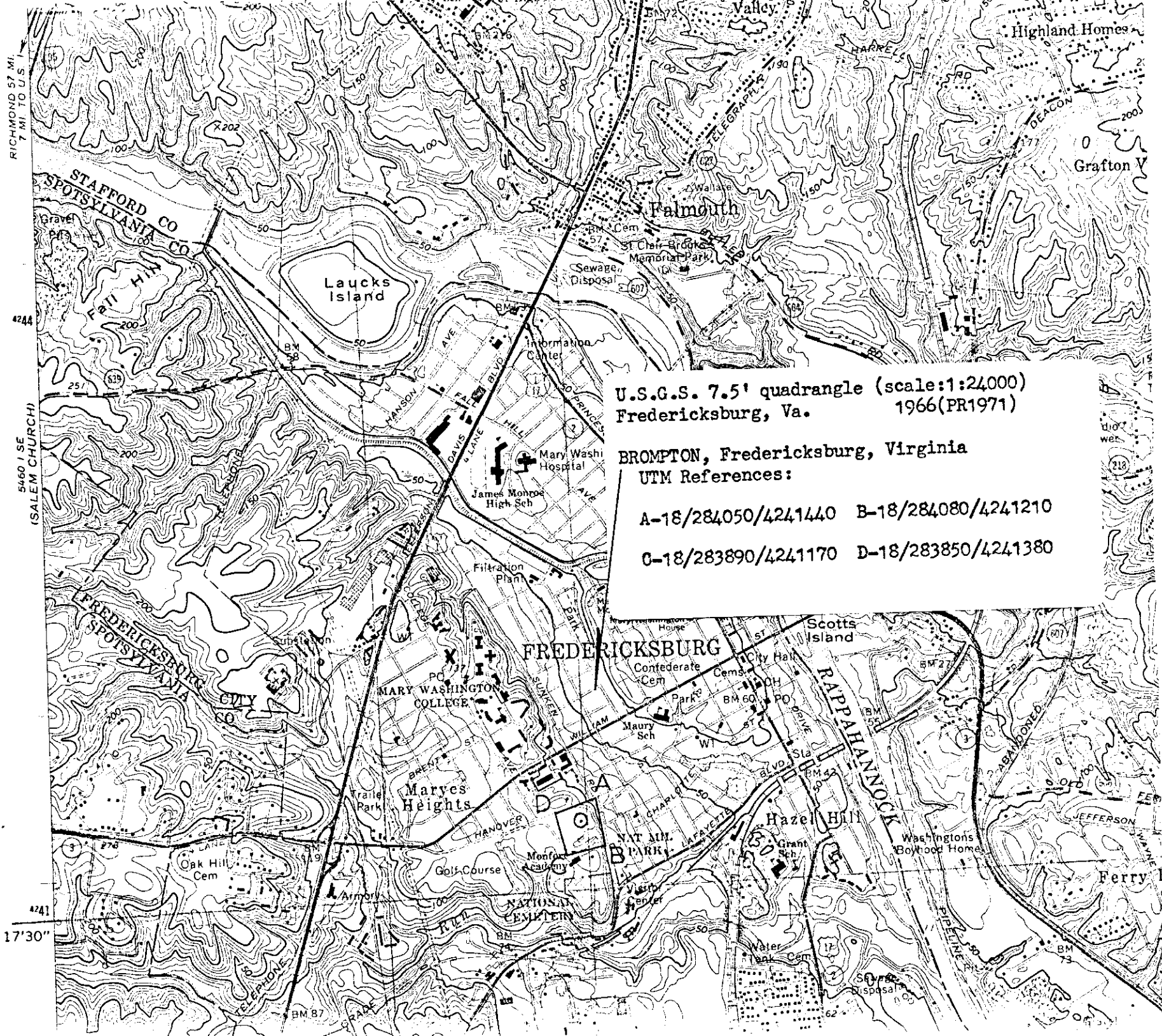
In 1873 Brompton was sold by the administrators of Marye's estate to John G. Lane. In 1887 the house was sold by Lane's widow to Maurice B. Rowe. The estate remained in the Rowe family until 1947, when it was acquired by Mary Washington College to serve as the official residence of the head of the college. The interior was extensively renovated under the direction of Richmond architects J. Binford Walford and O. Pendleton Wright who added much of the present Georgian-style woodwork.

MTP/RCC

¹Spotsylvania County Will Book Y (1869-1879), p. 342. Brompton is an unusually well-documented property.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mutual Assurance Society Policies #3511, 6172, 9355, 10753, 12380, 15468, 18987.



RICHMOND 57 MI.
7 MI. TO U.S. 1

4244

5460 1 SE
(SALEM CHURCH)

4241
17'30"

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Fredericksburg, Va. 1966(PR1971)

BROMPTON, Fredericksburg, Virginia
UTM References:

- A-18/284050/4241440 B-18/284080/4241210
- C-18/283890/4241170 D-18/283850/4241380