

VLR-9/15/81 NRHP-9/9/82

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS 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 THE ELMS (PREFERRED)

and/or common P. D. CAMP HOUSE

**2. Location**

street & number Clay Street N/A not for publication

city, town Franklin N/A vicinity of 4th congressional district (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

state Virginia code 51 county (In City) code 620

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Charles Younts

street & number 3018 Habersham Road, NW

city, town Atlanta N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30305

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin City Hall

street & number N/A

city, town Franklin state Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Survey  
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 7. 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	N/A
<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

The rambling mansion of the P. D. Camp estate, the Elms, is conspicuously sited on a spacious, tree-dotted lawn in the city of Franklin. The house is an eclectic example of late 19th-century Victorian architecture displaying features of the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles. The 2½-story, stuccoed brick building is set on a low foundation. Tall brick chimneys with corbeled caps pierce the central block's hipped roof. The roof is covered with slate and outlined by a heavy modillion block cornice. Crowning the roof is the original decorative iron cresting.

The north (main) facade consists of the central block of the house balanced by a pedimented gable end and a three-story turret with a conical roof. The central bay contains the house's main entrance. It is composed of double doors flanked by sidelights and sheltered by a one-story porch which extends around the east corner. Chamfered-and-turned posts connect a frieze and balustrade which are missing their ornamental sawn woodwork. A decorative cast-iron railing encloses the portion of the porch roof in front of a second-story doorway. Fenestration throughout the house consists of segmental-headed openings with double-hung sash windows.

The east and west elevations are plainer than the entrance facade. A center peak gable decorates the attic story of the west elevation, while a pedimented pavilion ornaments the east elevation.

A two-story, exposed-brick ell has been added to the rear of the building. Originally built with single-story porches on each side, the porch on the east elevation has been enclosed to create a sitting room. Secondary entrances to the house are located through the screened porches on its south and west elevations. A center peak gable on the south side repeats the treatment of the building's central block.

The interior of the Elms reflects the period's fondness for ornamentation. The family's status as lumber barons is displayed in the selection of finely figured oaks and pines used for the stair and door and window trim.

Dominating the hall is a single-run, open-well stair with paneled spandrels, stylized-tread brackets, and finely turned balusters supporting a molded handrail. The heavy square newel, fluted and turned on each face, displays a cupid holding lights.

The entries onto the first-floor hall are framed by molded architrave trim with carved corner blocks also used as stops. All doorways have blind transoms.

The two parlors have fireplaces decorated with their original Colonial Revival-style mantels. The north parlor mantel is outlined by an egg-and-dart molding strip with applied relief in the frieze and consoles supporting a narrow shelf. The mantel in the rear (south) parlor consists of slender Ionic columns supporting a molded shelf. Both rooms are outlined with molded baseboards and deep box cornices. The fireplaces throughout the remainder of the house are finished with similar Colonial Revival catalogue stock mantels.

Several small contemporary outbuildings are located in the yard at the rear of the building. The house is situated on a broad, flat lawn scattered with mature shade trees and landscaped with ornamental shrubbery. An undeveloped pasture which is also part of the property borders the lawn to the west.

# 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 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 checked="" 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** 1898-99 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by Paul D. Camp, founder of the Camp Manufacturing Company, today's Union Camp Corporation, the Elms stands as a tangible symbol of the success of a large industrial enterprise and the philanthropic contributions of a family whose generosity has enriched the Franklin community. P. D. Camp, along with his brothers, bought sawmills in the Franklin area after the Civil War; this activity developed into one of the largest lumber manufacturing companies on the East Coast. Not only did the lumber industry return prosperity to southeastern Tidewater Virginia, but the family's philanthropy created cultural resources in the form of schools and libraries. The rambling, late Victorian house is characteristic of the type of residence built by prominent businessmen and community leaders in the late 19th century. These residences constructed in the latest styles were often large and assertive, expressing not only the tastes of the occupants but also their wealth and position in the community. Not only is the Elms typical of this late 19th-century building trend, but even more important, it is a reminder of the prosperity the Camp family brought to the Franklin area.

Historical Background

The property on which the Elms stands was bought in 1889 by Paul D. Camp from the estate of Jordan Edwards. The Camps moved the house then standing on the property (built ca. 1869) to the east side of the lot and lived in it until the present house was completed in 1898-99. The earlier house was then torn down. As a result of annexation, the property became part of the town of Franklin in 1908-09. When Paul D. Camp died in 1924, his widow retained a life right in the property until her death in 1948. Settlement of the estate resulted in Mrs. Ruth Camp Campbell and Mrs. Hillie Camp Younts possessing the property. With Mrs. Campbell's death, Mrs. Younts became the sole owner.

The town of Franklin began its commercial life as the "Franklin Depot" on the Old Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad line. The depot was moved to the Southampton County side of the Blackwater River in 1857. The Blackwater River was navigable to Franklin, and thus the community thrived as a junction for both water and rail transportation. Also in the 1850s, Franklin was the site of an early sawmill operated by a John Frisbee. Edward Hedley, who came to Southampton County from Pennsylvania, established a steam sawmill there. These operations were precursors of the extensive milling and lumbering activities carried on by the Camp family in the post-bellum period. Paul D. Camp and his brother, William, bought up these early mills which formed the basis for their own company.

Following the Civil War, Franklin was practically abandoned; its rejuvenation in the 1870s resulted in its incorporation as a town in 1876. There was growing demand statewide for the rich lumber of the area. Paul D. Camp formed the P. D. Camp and Company in 1877, and in 1887 with his two brothers founded the Camp Manufacturing Company. This company carried on lumber manufacture of all kinds. They were one of the earliest lumber concerns who chose to purchase the land as well as timber rights which allowed them to conduct extensive reforestation efforts resulting in a sustained yield of timber.

(See Continuation Sheet #1).

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

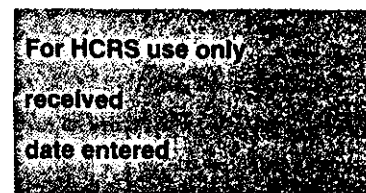
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

THE ELMS, Franklin, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number #8, 9, 10

Page 1



8. SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Background

The Camp Manufacturing Company, now known as Union Camp Corporation, has grown over the last century into one of the largest lumber and paper companies in the East. Activities there include producing paper containers, paper products, chemicals, and plastics. They are the leading employer in the town of Franklin and clearly have been "a sustaining influence in the growth of Franklin."<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Paul D. Camp and his descendants have made numerous philanthropic contributions to both the town of Franklin and neighboring Southampton County. It was the wish of Mrs. Ruth Camp Campbell that the Elms ultimately be used as a library. The house, crafted undoubtedly with fine wood from the Camp lumber mills, stands as a monument to and reminder of the founder of this large industrial enterprise and his generous family as well as a symbol of the prosperity and sophistication that they brought to the Franklin community.

MPM/MTP

<sup>1</sup>"Camp Manufacturing Company." Tidewater News, Franklin Va. Golden Anniversary Edition, 1955.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Paramore, Thomas C. Southampton County, Virginia. Charlottesville, Va.; University Press of Virginia, 1978.

Sixty Years of Progress. Franklin, Va.: Camp Manufacturing Company, 1948.  
Southampton County Deed Book 40, p. 589; Land Tax Books, 1898-1900.

10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Boundary description

then about 50' NE along said side to SW side of Clay St.; thence about 850' SE along said side to point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundary has been drawn to encompass the main house with its contemporary outbuilding; to the rear, the landscaped lawn, and a portion of the pasture to the west fronting onto Clay Street.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Camp Manufacturing Company," Tidewater News, Franklin, Va. Golden Anniversary Edition, 1955.

City of Franklin, Virginia Centennial 1876-1976, Official Program.

Cole, William W. Southampton County, Va. Interview and notes, 1981.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 11 acres

Quadrangle name Franklin, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	8
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3	2	7	3	6	0
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4	0	6	0	8	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	8
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3	2	7	3	6	0
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4	0	6	0	7	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	8
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3	2	7	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	6	0	6	5	0
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D 

1	8
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3	2	7	1	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	6	0	7	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E 

1	8
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3	2	7	0	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	6	0	9	1	0
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F 

1	8
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3	2	7	1	3	0
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4	0	6	1	0	0	0
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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on SW side of Clay St. (US 58), about 150' NW of intersection with Gay St.; thence extending about 400' SW, then about 250' SE, then about 275' SW, all following E line of the Elms yard; thence about 700' NW to NW side of drive; thence about 350' NE along said side; thence about 500' NW, then about 275' NNE to S side of diagonal road

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** (See Continuation Sheet

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code	# 1 )
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code	
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1981

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

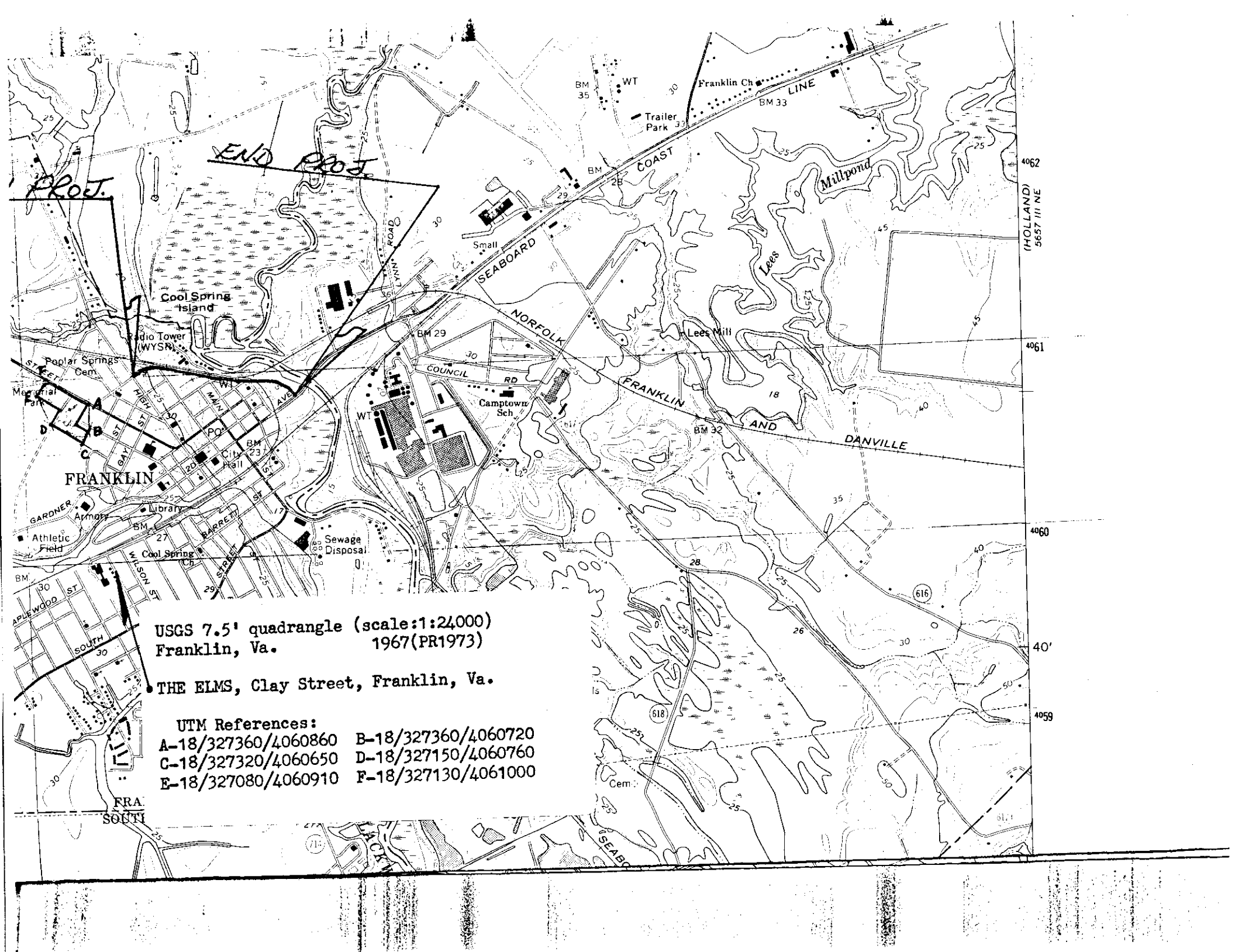
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*H. Bryan Mitchell*  
H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date MAY 10 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
	date
Attest	
Chief of Registration	



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Franklin, Va. 1967(PR1973)

● THE ELMS, Clay Street, Franklin, Va.

UTM References:  
 A-18/327360/4060860 B-18/327360/4060720  
 C-18/327320/4060650 D-18/327150/4060760  
 E-18/327080/4060910 F-18/327130/4061000

4062  
 (HOLLAND)  
 5657 III NE

4061

4060

4059

4058

616

618

FRA  
 SOUTH