

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 VLR-12/16/75 NRHP-5/17/76  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Blenheim

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER East side of Route 727; .6 mile southwest of intersection of Route 727 and Route 627; .2 mile northwest of northwestern extension of Buck Island Creek.

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Blenheim

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Albemarle

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. Stuart F. Burgh

STREET & NUMBER

Blenheim Farm, Route 6, Box 202

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

STATE

Virginia 22901

\_\_ VICINITY OF.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Albemarle County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

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.

# 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

Blenheim lies among the rolling hills of Albemarle County in an area distinguished by the presence of several large nineteenth-century estates. The present plantation complex, dating from 1846, sits atop a knoll near the site of the original eighteenth-century Carter House.

The main house is a long (92 feet), narrow, six-bay, story-and-a-half frame building with an ell at the rear of the west end. Decorated in a combination of the Gothic Revival and Benjaminesque Greek Revival styles, it is clad with beaded weatherboards butted against corner pilasters and is covered with asphalt shingles. Four gabled dormers break each slope of the gable roof, and one interior and two interior-end chimneys surmount the main block, with an additional interior chimney serving the ell. The western chimney of the main block is a dummy added for symmetry. The house is lit by pointed windows with louvred blinds and three-over-two sash, the upper sash having Y-tracery. Two windows in the center of the facade have been replaced by modern projecting bay windows. The two front doors, with their fretwork enrichments designed after the manner of Asher Benjamin, are protected by one-story tetrastyle porches with pairs of Greek Doric piers, plain entablatures, parapets, and small corner urns. A long gallery shades the rear of the house, and a third porch projects from the ell.

The plan of Blenheim, with its five major rooms and two passages, is in effect that of two central-passage houses placed end-to-end, with the addition of a pair of service rooms at the eastern end and a large parlor ell at the west. Inconspicuous winder stairs occupy a corner of each passage.

The interiors of the house are very plain. The front rooms all have simple Greek Revival mantels with unadorned Doric pilasters, plain friezes, and deep shelves, derived from Benjamin. The western room and the parlor behind it are further embellished with wainscoting, and the parlor has been graced with a recent pseudo-colonial chimneypiece consisting of an overmantel panel with crosettes under a detached, broken pediment.

Blenheim is flanked on the north and east by a number of early outbuildings of striking forms and varied architectural styles. North of the house is the square "Athenaeum", a one-story, one-room, frame Greek Revival building with a pyramidal hipped roof and peristyle portico supported on Doric piers. There are doorways with semi-circular fanlights on three sides of the room, and a fireplace with a modern mantel on the fourth.

East of the house are (north to south) a two-story, frame kitchen/laundry with a pyramidal hipped roof, a central chimney, and small cross-gables on the east and west slopes; a frame building (known as the "chapel" but probably built as a schoolhouse) which has a steeply pitched gable roof and a gable-end entrance and is embellished with handsome Gothic Revival label molds; and two smoke houses with pyramidal roofs. The nineteenth-century smokehouse has been converted to a garage and the smaller twentieth-century one now serves as a chicken house. Beyond this range of buildings is a very simple, story-and-a-half frame Greek Revival house which is supposed to have been built to accommodate Justice Roger B. Taney on his visits to Blenheim but which was probably an overseers house. Down the hill to the north of the main dwelling is a story-and-a-half frame house with a central chimney. Probably of eighteenth-century date, it is referred to as the "patent house." The building was moved from another part of the farm, where it had been used as a hay barn, and was heavily restored for use as a residence. Little of the original fabric or plan can be seen. Also on the property are a number of modern farm structures.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1846

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blenheim, located in the hilly rural area of Albemarle County south of Charlottesville, is noteworthy for its connection with the Carters, an important landholding family in colonial Virginia. The present plantation complex was built by Andrew Stevenson, a mid-nineteenth-century member of Congress and diplomat. The house is an unusual example of a residence in the combined Greek and Gothic Revival styles and has associated with it a group of architecturally distinguished outbuildings.

The original patentee of the Blenheim tract was John Carter, Secretary of the Colony and a son of Robert "King" Carter of Lancaster County. The younger man received 9350 acres of land in the present Albemarle County in 1730 and devised the holding to his son Edward Carter (1733-1792), a Burgess before the Revolution and a Delegate afterward. It is not certain whether the present estate is part of the inherited property or of land that Edward Carter is known to have added to the original patent. The archaeological remains of the original house at Blenheim, built by Edward Carter and recorded in a 1799 insurance policy as a 60' x 20' H-shaped frame building have been located, but not excavated, and lie a few feet from the present dwelling.

Blenheim became the property of James Ross of Fredericksburg in 1806. It remained in his possession (although he probably never lived there) until 1846, when he sold it to Andrew Stevenson. It is not known when the original house was destroyed, but it seems certain that no buildings which predate Stevenson's tenure presently survive.

Andrew Stevenson (1785-1856) was Henry Clay's successor as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Later he served as Ambassador to Britain and after coming to Blenheim was a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia and later its Rector. Chief Justice Roger B. Taney was a frequent visitor at Blenheim, and it is traditionally believed that the so-called "Taney Cottage" on the property was built by Stevenson to accommodate his friend.

Blenheim has passed through several owners since Stevenson's era and is presently the property of Stuart Burgh.

DTU

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albemarle County Land Books, 1811-1850.  
 Albemarle County Deed Book No. 16.  
 Mutual Assurance Society Files, 1799 (Policy # 353)  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 175 acres

### UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	7,2,1	2,1,0	4,2	0,1	5,0,0	B	1,7	7,2,1	2,5,0	4,2	0,0	06,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,7	7,1,9	6,7,0	4,2	0,0	0,2,0	D	1,7	7,1,9	6,2,0	4,2	0,1	4,7,0

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising the Blenheim property is bounded by a line beginning at a point located on east side of Route 727, .4 mile southwest of the intersection of Routes 727 and 627, thence extending 1 mile 800 feet southeast (initially following southwest edge of treeline); thence extending 1400 feet southwest; thence extending 1 mile northwest to east side of Route 727; thence following north along east side of said route to point of origin.

The boundaries encompass a vital portion of the gently rolling landscape that surrounds

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES the Blenheim complex.

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

December, 1975

### STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

### TELEPHONE

804-786-3143

### CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

### STATE

Virginia

## 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

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 16 1975

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE

1

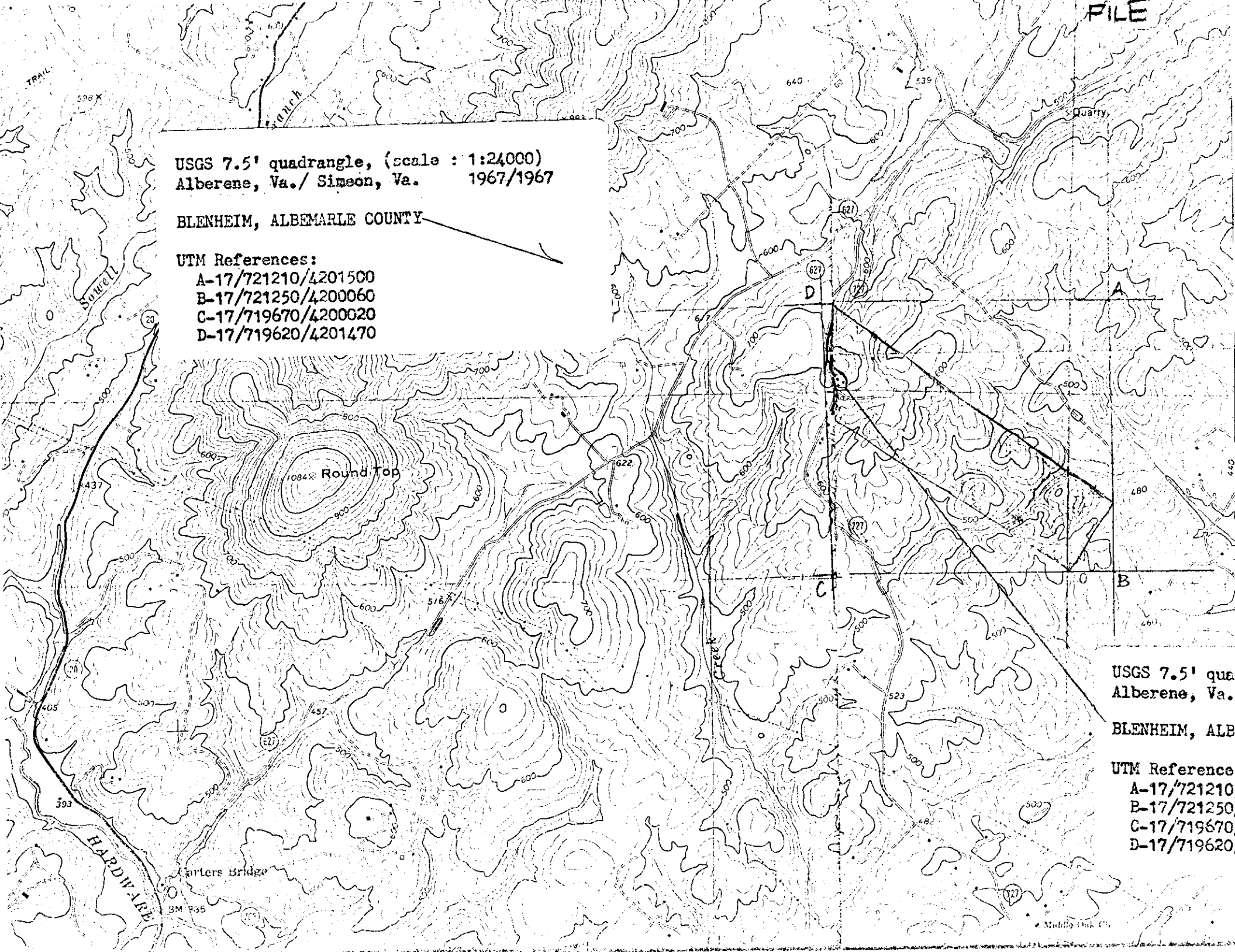
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1967, 1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia

USGS 7.5' quadrangle, (scale : 1:24000)  
Alberene, Va./ Simeon, Va. 1967/1967

BLLENHEIM, ALBEMARLE COUNTY

UTM References:  
A-17/721210/4201500  
B-17/721250/4200060  
C-17/719670/4200020  
D-17/719620/4201470



USGS 7.5' qua  
Alberene, Va.

BLLENHEIM, ALB

UTM Reference  
A-17/721210  
B-17/721250  
C-17/719670  
D-17/719620