

02-92

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR- 4/28/95  
NRHP- 8/1/95

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Oaklands  
other names/site number VDHR File No. 02-92; Malvern (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number W side SR 708, 1250' N of jct SR 637 not for publication N/A  
city or town Charlottesville vicinity x  
state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 zip code 22903

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide x locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

[Signature] 6/20/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- x- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- x- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows include buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
WOOD
roof WOOD: shake
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance ca. 1801-1820

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

- Primary Location of Additional Data
X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Rows contain UTM coordinates for five different points.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry
organization date April 1995
street & number 4604 Chestnut Street telephone 301-654-6468
city or town Chevy Chase state VA zip code 20814

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Mrs. F. Palmer Weber
street & number Route 3, Box 162 telephone
city or town Charlottesville state VA zip code 22901

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Malvern-Albemarle County

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### SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Malvern is a 128-acre farm, of which approximately nine acres are included in the nomination, located at the northwest corner of County Routes 708 and 637 near Ivy in western Albemarle County. The main house was built by George M. Woods between 1801 and 1820. It is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed, brick house built in the Federal style with Flemish bond brickwork on the west and south elevations, American-bond brickwork on the other two elevations and a gable-end chimney on the north. The carved wooden cornice on the west and east facades features dentil molding and a row of pendants. The interior features a side-passage plan on both floors. The open staircase at the southwest corner of the stair hall is the most notable architectural feature of the interior and is marked by delicately carved step ends, reeded pilasters, and a beautiful ceiling cornice in the upper passage. The mantels are exact copies of the originals removed by a previous owner. Two entrances on the east lead to the one-story frame wing added by the present owner in 1970. There are two noncontributing tenant houses located immediately to the east of the main house.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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The 128-acre Malvern Farm (of which approximately nine acres are included in the nomination) is located on the west side of County Route 708, 0.3 miles north of its intersection with County Route 637, near Ivy in western Albemarle County. The surrounding topography is gently rolling to mountainous and land use is primarily agricultural and residential.

The entrance to Malvern is on the east, from Route 708, and the drive is flanked by stone pillars. The main driveway runs 0.2 miles before terminating in a circle to the west of the main house. Within the boundaries of the nominated property are the main house and two heavily altered (and thus noncontributing) tenant houses dating from the early twentieth century.

The main house consists of two clearly identifiable sections. The two-and-one-half-story, three-bay, gable-roofed brick section was built between 1801 and 1820 for George M. Woods. It features a raised basement, three asymmetrical bays on the west and east elevations, a chimney on the north elevation, and a symmetrical three-bay south elevation. Flemish bond brickwork is used on the west and east elevations, with four-and-five-course American bond used on the other two elevations. Evidence of pencilled mortar joints is apparent on the south elevation. A row of flush header bricks marks the expressed water table.

The west facade (main elevation) features three irregularly-spaced, three-pane cellar windows with horizontal wooden slats in front of them. The windows on the second and third stories, although irregularly spaced, are lined up above one another, although they have no relationship to the cellar windows. Windows on the first story have nine-over-nine sash with molded surrounds and splayed brick jack arches. The main entrance, set at the southwest corner of the west facade, features a three-light rectangular transom, splayed brick jack arches, and a six-panel door. The door and the entrance porch with broken-arch pediment and paired Doric columns date from 1970. There is an original hand-carved wooden pendant cornice along the east and west elevations; below this is dentil molding and a narrow molding strip.

The south facade features nine-over-nine sash on the first story with molded surrounds and splayed jack arches, and six-over-six windows on the second story with molded surrounds, splayed jack arches and a row of header bricks above. There is a four-pane (originally two-pane) lunette window on the attic story ringed by a row of header bricks. The center window on the first story is slightly wider than the other windows and was probably originally a door. On the attic story there is the "ghost line" of a cornice, perhaps part of a pedimented gable front.

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Malvern, Albemarle County

The irregularities on the south elevation indicate that Woods' house underwent some modifications shortly after its construction. Apparently, the house originally was built with its principal facade and entrance on the south gable end. An intensive investigation of the house conducted in 1982 revealed several pieces of architectural evidence to support this theory. These include the appearance of a "ghost line" of a former cornice on the south gable end, suggesting the existence of a pedimented gable, and a visible seam in the wainscot along the south wall of the interior where a center door once had been. The fact that the center opening on this floor (now a window) is wider than any of the other windows, and that the brickwork above this opening has been repaired suggest that it was indeed once a door. Finally, the use of Flemish bond brickwork on the south and west elevations (and not on the other two) is explained by the fact that the approach to the house was originally from the southwest and thus these two elevations were the public facades.

Because of these alterations, it is unclear whether Malvern was always planned as a three-bay, gable-front house (much like the nearby Woodstock Hall, built by Woods' father) or whether it was intended as the center section of a more ambitious three-part house. A similar three-part plan--a center two-story block with gable-front facade flanked by one-story, gable-roofed wings--is shown in Robert Morris's Select Architecture (1755). Several examples of three-part houses from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries exist in central Virginia, indicating that it was a popular house plan, well-known to builders from this period. These include Carrsbrook, near Charlottesville; Edgewood, in the town of Amherst; Oak Lawn, in Charlottesville; and Mountain Grove, built between 1803 and 1804 near Keene, in southern Albemarle County. Mountain Grove most closely resembles how Malvern may have been intended to appear. In fact, the exterior dimensions of the central section of Mountain Grove and the interior plan nearly match those of Malvern; only the placement of the staircase at the northwest corner of the hall at Mountain Grove differs from that at Malvern.

The north elevation features nine-over-nine sash windows on the first story with splayed brick arches and molded surrounds, and small six-over-six sash windows on the attic story (there are no windows on the second story).

The east elevation has been altered considerably over the years, first by the addition of a two-story frame porch in the late nineteenth century, and then in 1970, by the one-story kitchen wing. Only the northern windows and the central door on the first story are original. The door features a three-light transom and molded surround. There is also an outside cellar entrance on the northeast corner. The pendant cornice with dentil molding and molding strip is identical to that on the west facade and is in good condition.

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The interior features a side passage plan with a rectangular (12'-1" by 20'-7") passage running east-west and a nearly square (19'-7" by 20'-7") parlor on the north side of the house. Floors, molded baseboard trim, and molded window and door architraves are original or have been replaced to replicate the original.

The parlor features a paneled wainscot with a molded chair rail, splayed and paneled window reveals, fluted door and window surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks (probably dating from the 1830-1840 period), and two six-panel doors with early nineteenth-century box locks. The mantel is not original, but is instead an exact copy of the mantel removed by a previous owner in 1969. It is executed in the Federal style with paired colonettes, a molded mantel shelf and decorative center panel in the frieze (a very similar mantelpiece can be seen in the rear parlor of Ash Lawn-Highland, the home of James Monroe near Charlottesville).

The passage features original floors, door and window trim with bull's eye corner blocks from the 1830s a paneled wainscot (with a break visible below the center window where a door once was), and a molded chair rail. The most prominent feature of the passage is the elaborate staircase which rises in two stages from the southwest corner. It features two balusters per tread, a molded handrail, and a turned newel topped by a small urn. Among the several refinements of the staircase are the step-ends, carved in a trumpet and lily design, the fluted pilasters and railing that follow the curve of the stairs along the wall, the ramped handrail, and the delicately carved acorn pendants below the stair landing. The design of the step ends is repeated in the cornice of the stair passage on the second floor.

The second floor contains, in addition to the stair passage, a bedroom and bathroom. The bedroom features splayed and paneled window reveals, fluted window surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks, and doors with plainer architrave trim. There is a chair rail but no wainscot. The mantel, also a copy of the original, features paired colonettes, a molded mantel shelf, and a decorative center panel in the frieze.

The attic floor, originally unfinished, contains a bedroom, bathroom and closet. The cellar floor, accessible only from the outside, consists of two rooms. The larger room, now a study, features an original fireplace mantel with fluted pilasters and molded mantel shelf. Molded door and window surrounds are also original.

The one-story, two-bay, gable-roofed frame kitchen wing on the east was added in 1970 by architect Clay Lancaster of Kentucky. It features an enclosed porch on the east, and a large kitchen hearth with simple mantel

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Malvern, Albemarle County

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shelf on the east gable end. The interior features a kitchen and small hall that connects it to the main part of the house.

To the east are two one-story frame tenant houses. Although built in the early twentieth century, they have been altered considerably, both on the exterior and interior, and are therefore noncontributing resources.

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Malvern, Albemarle County

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Malvern is an exquisitely detailed example of small-scale, Federal-period domestic architecture in Albemarle County. The high-quality woodwork on the exterior and interior, the fine sense of proportion and scale, and the extensive use of Flemish bond brickwork are hallmarks of this house. Much of the woodwork, including the pendant cornice, the graceful stair with reeded pilasters and ceiling cornice, and mantels were derived from the popular builders' manuals from this period. The house was built sometime between 1801 and 1820 by George M. Woods on land inherited from his father Richard, an early settler in western Albemarle County and builder of nearby Woodstock Hall. Although a frame wing and porch were added to the house in the late 1800s (removed sometime in the 1930s), the brick section of the house has remained remarkably intact. The farm passed through numerous owners after 1891, with the last resident being Benjamin Wheeler, mayor of Charlottesville, who lived there until 1910. The farm had an additional seven different owners before the house was rescued from obscurity by the present owners in 1969 and named Malvern.

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Malvern, Albemarle County

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land of which Malvern is now a part was acquired in the 1750s by Richard Woods, and later by his son George Matthew Woods, members of a family long prominent in the political, religious, and agricultural history of western Albemarle County. Three brothers, James, Samuel, and Richard Woods, arrived in Albemarle County in the late 1740s.<sup>1</sup> Richard Woods settled just north of the Ragged Mountains and Taylors Gap on land probably purchased from the estate of Matthew Mills around 1755. Woods is said to have surveyed and laid out several roads in this area, including one still known as "Dick Woods' Road" that roughly corresponds to present-day County Routes 637, 692, and 677 between the Rockfish Gap Road and the D.S. Tavern on the Three Notch'd Road near Ivy.<sup>2</sup> Woods located his residence, a two-and-one-half-story frame house with gable-end facade, known as Woodstock Hall, on the south side of this road, at its intersection with the Taylor's Gap Road, sometime in the early 1780s. Woods and his son William operated the house as a tavern between 1784 and 1806.

After his death in 1801 Woods's "home tract" was divided in half, with the land south of the Dick Woods Road, including Woodstock Hall and its outbuildings willed to his son William, and the land north of the road willed to his son George Matthew Woods.<sup>3</sup> (The third son, Richard, received land bought from Matthew Mills's son Charles in 1782.)

Architectural and archival evidence suggest that the two-and-one-half-story brick house built on this land of George Woods (the present Malvern Farm) probably dates from the 1801-1820 period. Although the house has sometimes been attributed to Menan Mills, there is no evidence that Mills owned this particular property or had any connection to the house. Land tax records indicate the existence of a house on the property by 1820 and the 1815 personal property tax rolls record a house and considerable household furniture.<sup>4</sup> Exterior window and door moldings, the use of hand-stamped nails, the four and five-course bond brickwork, and the small brick jack arches suggest a post-1800 date of construction.<sup>5</sup>

Malvern possesses some of the finest exterior and interior woodwork from this period in Albemarle County. The handsome pendant cornice (possibly the only one of its kind in the county) on the east and west (now front) facades may have been derived from plates contained in Asher Benjamin's Country Builder's Assistant (1805).<sup>6</sup> The staircase, with its handsome carved step ends, ramped handrail, fluted pilasters, and acorn finials, as well as the ceiling cornice in the stairhall on the second floor are excellent examples of early nineteenth-century Federal style craftsmanship.

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All three Woods brothers held office in the county government: William as county surveyor, Richard as his deputy, and George as commissioner of revenue and evaluator of St. Anne's Parish between 1820 and 1847.<sup>7</sup> George Woods was appointed ensign of the local militia in 1808 and served as an agent of the Rockfish and Rivanna Turnpike Company between 1817 and 1822.<sup>8</sup> In 1822 he purchased the Olds Mill near Red Hill and operated it, along with another mill, until his death in 1847.

Both George and William Woods were active horse breeders, bringing to Albemarle County a number of sires from the stud of John Randolph of Roanoke. Both brothers were active members of the Albemarle Agricultural Society, formed in the early nineteenth century to promote agricultural reform and more scientific animal husbandry. In fact, they were two of very few members from western Albemarle County; most of its members (including James Monroe and James Madison) were drawn from eastern Albemarle and Orange Counties. George Woods served on a committee that corresponded with U.S. Ambassador James Barbour in England about introducing new breeds.

One of the Agricultural Society's principal activities was its annual agricultural fairs, at which improvements in agriculture, animal husbandry, and domestic manufacture were recognized. George Woods's horses were frequent entrants, and at the fourth annual fair, held in 1828, his stallion Selim was awarded first prize and judged "best calculated to improve the breed of horses."<sup>9</sup>

Four years after Woods' death in 1847 his 841-acre farm was sold to John White, the son of Garrett White who had come to this area from Madison County in the late 1700s.<sup>10</sup> The White family land holdings in western Albemarle County were extensive and included Cross Keys, Longbranch, and Cherry Hill farms, most of which bordered the Woods's lands. In 1853 John White gave the land of George Woods, by this time named Oaklands,<sup>11</sup> to his daughter Sarah Cole White and her husband Samuel Garrett White. It descended to a brother, Charles White, who divided the farm and sold the house and 300 acres out of the White family in 1891.<sup>12</sup> The farm passed through numerous owners after 1891, with the last resident being Benjamin Wheeler, mayor of Charlottesville, who lived at the house until 1910. Although a frame wing and porch were added in the late 1800s (and removed sometime in the 1930s), the brick section of the house remained remarkably intact. The farm had an additional seven owners before the house was rescued from near-obscurity by the present owners in 1969 who named it Malvern. Under the guidance of architect Clay Lancaster, of Kentucky, the house was updated by the addition of a frame kitchen wing on the east facade. A one-story porch was also added on the west facade. Today, it is one of the best-preserved buildings from its period in Albemarle County.

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Malvern, Albemarle County

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**REFERENCES:**

1. Edgar Woods, History of Albemarle County (Bridgewater, Va.), 1900, pages 355-356.
2. "Concerning Dick Woods' Road, Two Taverns, and a Few Mysteries." Albemarle Magazine (Vol. 1, No. 1), May-June 1987. Pages 226-228.
3. Will Book 4, pages 89-90.
4. Albemarle County Land Tax Records 1800-1837. Albemarle County Personal Property Tax Records 1815.
5. Rebecca Price-Wilkins, "Mills House (Oaklands, Malvern)," H.A.B.S. study prepared under the direction of K. Edward Lay, University of Virginia School of Architecture, 1982. Although the house is referred to as the "Mills House" by Ms. Price-Wilkins, there is no evidence that Menan Mills ever owned this particular property or built the present house at Malvern
6. Sally Lanford, "Malvern: An Architectural Description." Research paper prepared under the direction of Prof. Frederick D. Nichols, University of Virginia School of Architecture, (Fall Semester 1978), page 4.
7. Edgar Woods. History of Albemarle County, page 356.
8. Newton Bond Jones, History of Albemarle County 1819-1860. (M.A. Thesis: University of Virginia), 1950. Pages 66-67.
9. Ibid., page 46.
10. Edgar Woods, History of Albemarle County, pages 343-344.
11. The name Oaklands may have been confused with the name Oak Lawn, by which the farm has been known by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. There is no evidence that either the house or the farm were ever known as Oak Lawn.
12. Deed Book 94, page 441.

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Malvern, Albemarle County

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## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albemarle County Land Records

Albemarle County Will Records

Albemarle County Land Tax Records

Albemarle County Personal Property Tax Records

Lanford, Sally. "Malvern-Architectural Description." Student paper prepared for "Colonial Architecture," University of Virginia School of Architecture (1978).

Price-Wilkins, Rebecca. "Mills House." HABS study prepared under the direction of K. Edward Lay, University of Virginia School of Architecture, 1982. Housed at the Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Jones, Newton Bond. History of Albemarle County, Virginia (1819-1860). M.A. Thesis, University of Virginia, 1950.

Woods, Edgar. History of Albemarle County, Virginia (Bridgewater, Virginia), 1900.

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Malvern, Albemarle County, VA

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points:

1	17	707020	4211540
2	17	707200	4211500
3	17	707480	4211640
4	17	707560	4211480
5	17	707040	4211440

**Boundary Justification**

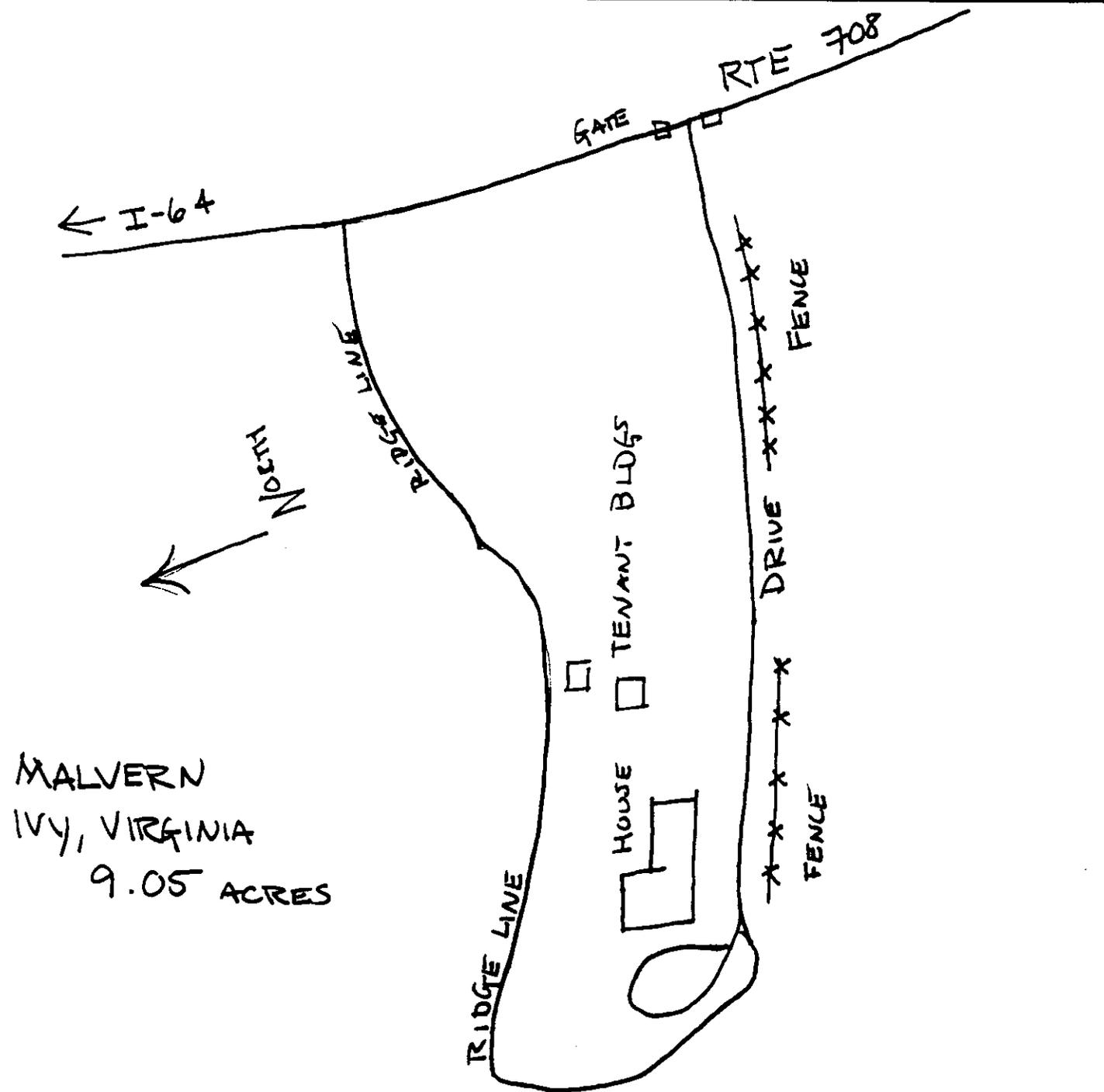
The boundaries include the main farmhouse that has historically been associated with the property and the portion of the 128-acre farm that maintains historic integrity. The boundaries exclude noncontributing agricultural outbuildings.

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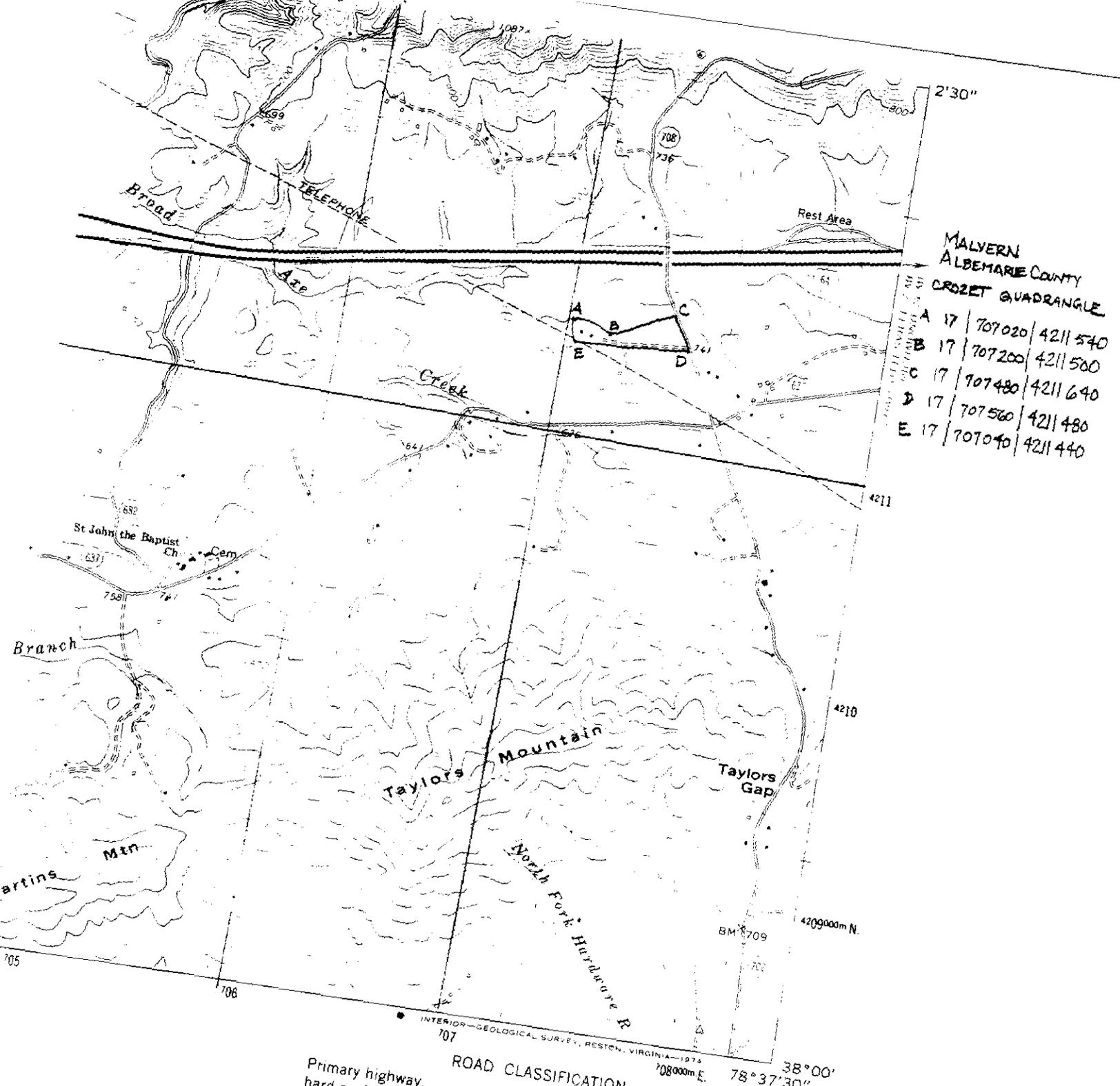
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Albemarle County



MALVERN  
IVY, VIRGINIA  
9.05 ACRES

(NOT TO SCALE)

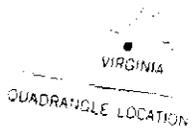


MALVERN  
ALBEMARLE COUNTY  
CROZET QUADRANGLE

A	17	707020	4211540
B	17	707200	4211500
C	17	707480	4211640
D	17	707560	4211480
E	17	707040	4211440

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



CROZET, VA.  
N3800—W7837.5/7.5  
1973  
AMS 5280 II SW—SERIES V834

(ALBERNE)  
5259 / NE