Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) NRHP Listed: 2/14/1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

[redacted]

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 2 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 14 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Red Hill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

SE of Brookneal on SR 677

STREET & NUMBER
South end of Route 677, 1 mile South of intersection with Route 619.

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Brookneal

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE
Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
Charlotte

CODE
037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation c/o Ted Graves, President

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Brookneal

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia 24528

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Charlotte County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Charlotte Court House

STATE
Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE
1958

X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Red Hill is a scenic farm overlooking the bottom lands of the Staunton River in the heart of Virginia's Southside Piedmont. The property has extensive woodlands, but the stretch between the house site and the bottomlands consists of cleared fields. The plantation is approached via a wooded lane leading south from the county road. The most important landmark on the place is the original law office, one of the first buildings to come into view from the entrance. The office is a quaint, one-story, frame structure with a shingled gable roof, three-bay facade, and center chimney. Because of its two-room plan, the openings are asymmetrically placed. The building survives in a good state of preservation. A stone walk leads from the office to the reconstructed dwelling house, a modest, one-story frame structure built according to drawings made of the original house prior to its destruction by fire in 1919. The house is a typical example of a domestic establishment of its time and location. Surrounding the house are several outbuildings re-erected on original locations. These include a kitchen, privy, smokehouse, slave quarters, and slave privy. To the southeast is a walled enclosure containing the graves of Patrick Henry and his wife. The graves are covered with inscribed stone slabs. The whole complex is maintained as a memorial to the famous revolutionary and is open to the public. The reconstructions are based on scholarly research and accurately convey the simplicity of Patrick Henry's last home. The law office stands as a significant surviving relic.

CL

The 117.29 acres comprising the Red Hill property constitute the acreage now owned by the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation. This tract is a portion of the 960 acres originally purchased by the foundation from the estate of Lucy Gray Harrison.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Red Hill is the last home, burial place, and permanent memorial to Patrick Henry, the Orator of the Revolution. Although the main house was destroyed by fire and later reconstructed, the original law office, Henry's last, survives. With its panoramic views of the surrounding woodlands and rolling fields, the plantation is little changed in appearance from the time Henry knew it. The law office, along with the reconstructed house and outbuildings, provides a credible image of an early Southside Virginia farmstead.

The property was assembled by Patrick Henry through successive purchases of alluvial bottom land and rolling countryside tracts, the whole combining unusual fertility with marked beauty. Two of Henry's eleven children by Dorothea Dandridge Henry were born at Red Hill--John who inherited the estate and Jean Robertson--and two daughters were married there during the lawyer-planter's lifetime. Dorothea Henry lived at Red Hill for three decades following her husband's death and is buried next to him in the graveyard on the periphery of the house complex.

During the antebellum era, while under the proprietorship of John Henry, the original frame house was incorporated into a larger structure. At about the same time the remarkable box hedge was begun. The boxwood is second only to the ancient osage orange--already a century old during Patrick Henry's tenure--as a floral attraction. Following Appomattox the property declined under the absentee ownership of William Wirt Henry who had moved, for professional reasons, to Richmond. Soon after his death in 1900, the property was divided between his two daughters--Patrick and Dorothea Henry's great granddaughters: Lucy Gray Harrison, who received Red Hill proper, now reduced to approximately 1000 acres; and her sister, Mrs. James Lyons, whose portion, called the "Quarter Place," lay in Campbell County.

The second decade of the twentieth century was a watershed for Red Hill. Mrs. Harrison, now a widow of means, took up residence at the property which she was determined to revive. She retained the well-known Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen, Lynchburg contractor J. T. McLaughlin, and landscape architect Charles Welan to undertake a general renovation of the property and to design and build a new residence incorporating the original two-part structure. Mr. Keen employed, as resident architect, a young man from Lynchburg, Stanhope Johnson, who in the course of the work made detailed measurements and sketches of the house complex and grounds, including drawings of several outbuildings that were to be removed and of the Patrick and John Henry residence.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Account of Destruction by Fire of Red Hill," Richmond News-Leader, February 22, 1919.

Lucy Gray (Henry) Harrison to Edward Virgininius Valentine, April 22, 1917, Mss. at Virginia Historical Society.

Henry Howe, Historical Collections of Virginia, 1945.

Elizabeth Watkins (Henry) Lyons, "Scrapbook," at Virginia Historical Society.

Robert Douthat Meade, Patrick Henry, 2vv, 1957, 1969. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 117.29 acres

E 17 686680 4099980
F 17 686900 4100610

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	687020	4100690	B	17	687540	4100310
C	17	687460	4099960	D	17	686890	4099~~980~~ 800

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Red Hill property is bounded by a line beginning at a point (A) on the E side of State Route 677, .9 mile SSW of intersection of State Routes 619 and 677; thence extending approximately 1300' SE, into wooded area; thence extending approximately 900' E to W side of feeder creek (point B); thence extending approximately 1200' S along W side of said creek to Norfolk and Western Railroad track; thence following said track westward for approximately 2800'; thence extending approximately 300' N to Campbell County/Charlotte County line; thence following said line northeastward for approximately 1900' to a point (F); thence extending approximately 500' NE 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
August 1977

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 X 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE Tucker Hill

Resubmitted:

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE SEP 1 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 2/14/78

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~ KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Charles A. Blanchard

DATE 2.9.78

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Structural work was completed prior to October of 1912, when Country Life in America featured the renovated house and grounds. Less than seven years later, in February 1919, the mansion was destroyed by fire. Mrs. Harrison moved into the guest house, incorporating the Patrick Henry law office, which she continued to use as a regular or summer residence until the time of her death in April 1944. Some Patrick Henry artifacts and early furniture had been salvaged from the first floor of the main residence prior to its collapse, and these were preserved in the guest house.

Following Mrs. Harrison's death, the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation was formed to purchase Red Hill, containing 960 acres, from the estate. Over the next decade all available resources were committed to meeting the obligations incurred in the purchase and providing minimum maintenance for the property. In 1954 a benefactor was found, Mr. Eugene B. Casey, who was prepared to underwrite extensive reconstruction and renovation of the property. While the continuing efforts of the board members and friends of the Memorial Association should not be overlooked, the contribution made by Mr. Casey and by the now well-known Lynchburg architect Stanhope Johnson were essential to developing the Patrick Henry shrine at Red Hill.

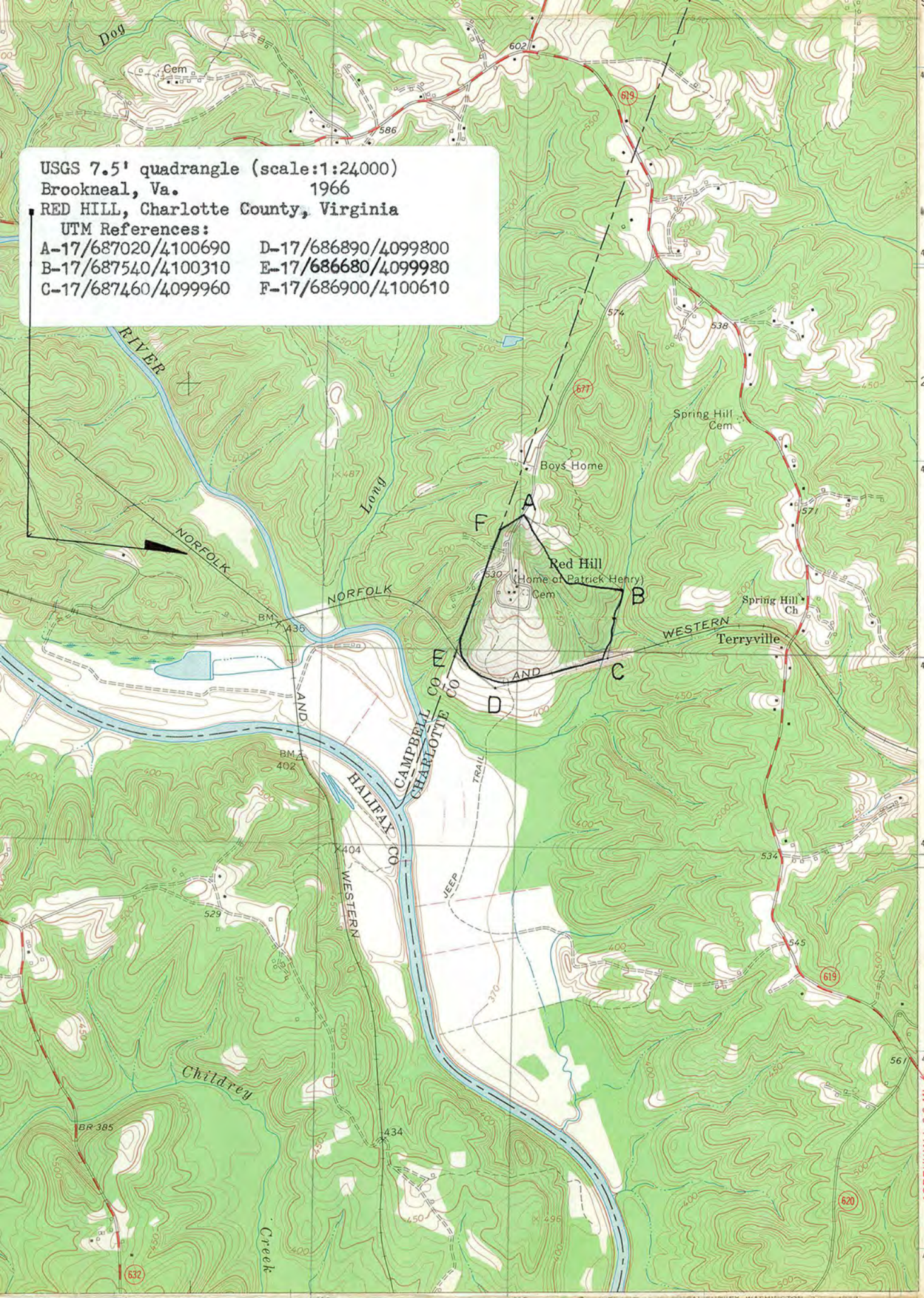
Mr. Johnson supervised the reconstruction of the Patrick Henry house and dependencies as well as restoration of the original law office. The sketches, drawings, and site plans made during the 1910-1912 renovation of the property were supplemented by the more routine materials of restoration architecture, including historic photographs and descriptions of the property as well as archaeological field work. Patrick Henry's last home and burial place is open daily to the public.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "A Report on Red Hill,. . .," 1962, mimeographed, copy at Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Brookneal, Va. 1966
RED HILL, Charlotte County, Virginia
UTM References:

A-17/687020/4100690	D-17/686890/4099800
B-17/687540/4100310	E-17/686680/4099980
C-17/687460/4099960	F-17/686900/4100610



1 MILE
7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty
Medium-duty
Light-duty
Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route
State Route

RECEIVED
SEP 2 1977

VIRGINIA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BROOKNEAL, VA.
SW/4 BROOKNEAL 15' QUADRANGLE