

VLR Listed: 3/8/2006
NRHP Listed: 5/11/2006

VLR 3/8/06
NRHP 5/11/06

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct 1990)

OMB No 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 The Cove

other names/site number VDHR #041-5086

2. Location

street & number 5059 Cove Road

not for publication N/A

city or town _____

vicinity N/A

state Virginia

code VA

county Halifax

code 083

zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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 certifying official/Title

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 the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
6	4	buildings
14	0	sites
1	0	structures
1	0	objects
22	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DomesticFuneraryAgriculture/Subsistence**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DomesticFuneraryLandscape: wildlife refuge

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

VernacularLate 19th and 20th Century RevivalsModern Movement

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: sandstonewalls Wood: weatherboardroof Metal: tinother

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**Areas of Significance**

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

(Enter categories from instructions)

- 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.

Agriculture

Architecture

Archeology – Prehistoric; Historic - Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1600-1920

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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.

Significant Dates

1773, 1843

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

William Sims

Cultural Affiliation

Native American

Architect/Builder**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository :

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1,123 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Aspen Quadrangle

1	<u>17</u>	<u>699387</u>	<u>4097252</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>700190</u>	<u>4098106</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>699484</u>	<u>4097857</u>				

X See continuation sheet.**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 Kimberly M. Chen

organization Johannas Design Group date 8 December 2005, March 2006

street & number 3313 West Cary Street telephone 804-358.4993

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

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 Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation

street & number P.O. Box 519 telephone 434.476.7038

city or town Halifax state VA zip code 24558

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 200137127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (10240018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1 The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA**Summary Description**

Situated in north-central Halifax County along its boundary with Charlotte County within a horseshoe bend of the Staunton (Roanoke) River, the Cove Plantation currently contains 1,123 acres. In 1740, King George II (reign 1727-1760) patented a 500-acre land grant to Richard Randolph, which remained unoccupied and uncultivated until shortly before the beginning of the American Revolution.¹ In 1764, David Sims purchased the 500-acre tract from John Randolph, Richard's son. In 1843, the Sims family sold the property, totaling 1,232 acres to John Coleman, who made it part of his vast estate of nearly 4,000 acres. The plantation house, the oldest standing building on the property, is a vernacular dwelling, built ca.1773 for William Sims and his bride Kezia East Sims.² Samuel Cobbs, a local carpenter and adjacent property owner, may have constructed the dwelling. The house sited on a high point overlooking the Staunton (Roanoke) River, fields, and woods -- an unspoiled rural setting that is protected by a conservation easement. There are twenty-six resources on the property -- four of which are noncontributing. In addition to the plantation house, there are five other historic buildings on the Cove property -- two secondary dwellings, a hay barn, and two log tobacco barns (one of which has been converted to a dwelling). There are fourteen historic sites on the property including the ruins of four log barns, three chimneys, an ice house, a frame barn, a frame shed, a log house, and what are believed to be at least two slave quarters and an archeological site. Henry and Edward Pleasants Valentine explored the archeological site referred to as Conner's Midden in 1883. R. P. Carroll and J. H. Reeves explored the site in 1953, giving it the name, Conner's Midden. H. A. MacCord investigated the site in 1968. In addition to buildings and sites, there is one historic structure, a well, and one historic object, a gravestone, on the property. There are four non-contributing buildings on the property -- one secondary dwelling and three sheds.

Detailed Description

In 1764, John Randolph, son of Richard Randolph, conveyed to David Sims a 500-acre tract "known by the name of the Cove".³ This appears to be the first use of the "The Cove" as a name for this section of Halifax County enclosed within a horseshoe bend of the Staunton (Roanoke) River. An 1809 plat of the property's 748 ½ acres shows that there were 196 acres of low ground along the northern and eastern edges and 552 ½ acres of high ground that fell away towards the river on the west. Today, the Cove

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

contains 1,123 acres composed of ninety-three acres of wetlands, over 900 acres of high grounds with mature white oak, hickory, beech and walnut trees, 120 acres planted as food sources for local wildlife, and two lakes. The Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation that provides educational opportunities in all aspects of land and wildlife conservation and management owns the pristine landscape, protected by a conservation easement held by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The easement was funded through a Forest Legacy Program grant – the largest in Virginia Department of Forestry’s history.

State Route 617 defines the western boundary of the lower portion of the Cove. A gate marks the point at which the public road ends and continues north along the ridgeline bisecting the property as a meandering, unpaved, private road. At the gate, the boundary turns northwest until it intersects the Staunton (Roanoke) River. The trace of the river defines the remainder of the western boundary as well as the northern and eastern limits. A few scattered unimproved roads and creeks wander through the property on an east-west axis. Scattered across the property are numerous buildings and sites that represent the many periods of occupation at the Cove. These buildings and sites include archeological evidence of a prehistoric village, a colonial settlement, an antebellum plantation and twentieth-century tenant housing and barns.

Conner’s Midden (44HA0011)

The archeological site identified as Conner’s Midden (44HA0011) is located on the east side of the Cove slightly south of the apex of the horseshoe bend of the river. The site has been explored and documented, on at least three occasions. John Reeves, who explored the site in 1953, speculated that the late prehistoric and early historic era village was associated with either the Saponi or the Occaneechi tribes. The site was first explored by Henry and Edward Pleasants Valentine in 1883. On two occasions following freshets, the Valentines visited the site and collected:

...specimens, consisting of pottery, polished and flaked stone axes and hatchets, spear and arrow heads, broken bones of game, small shells, burnt stones, a shell breast-plate one-half inch in diameter, having two perforations, a discoidal stone of yellow quartz, highly polished, three and one-half inches in diameter by one and one-third inches thick on the circumference, with concave sides and a hole through the center three-eighths of an inch in diameter.⁴

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Many of these objects are on display at the Valentine Richmond History Center. In 1953, Robert P. Carroll and John H. Reeves, Jr. explored the site and recovered a number of artifacts including human remains that are now held by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Among the objects collected were quartzite and chert projectile points, animal bones, and the shells of fresh water snails and mussels. A conch shell was found, indicating the people had contact with the sea. The pottery and vessel fragments collected were composed of fine-grade clay tempered with small stones and sand, with small particles of mica incorporated. Six pipes were found, the most significant of which has a grayish-black platform that is shaped like a canoe with the bowl coming from amidships. Four human burials were discovered near the center of the site. According to their body positions, it was assumed that they were placed in the floor of a house. The bodies were placed eleven feet apart, each at the corner of the building foundations. One of the burials was a twelve-year-old child buried with vessels and a fossilized-shell bead was found in the mouth cavity. The second burial included the body of a dog. Two feet to the north of the dog were human remains, of which only three teeth and skull-flakes remained. The dog was buried under eighteen inches of soil in the north part of the village. The bones were encased by stones. The dog's body was carefully laid so the head was pillowed on a round stone with the forelegs extended straight in front. The back was arched so that its back feet were extended to lay posterior to the forefeet. The third burial was deeper with the body of a late middle-aged female in a semi-flexed position and lying on its back. The fourth burial was a truly flexed burial as stones were placed at the angle of the knees and along the vertebral column to keep the flex tight. The body was placed on its left side, but its bones were severally crushed by the pressure of the soil. This may be the reason why the cranium was displaced near the ribcage or it may be a decapitated burial, which was typical among the tribes of this region. In a May 1968 Archeological Survey - Site Record, H. A. MacCord, Sr. defined the site as 150 feet wide and 300 feet long and up to five feet deep along the bank of the Staunton River with a swampy pond behind the site and wooded hills beyond. MacCord further recommended that the site should be carefully dug.

Based upon the previous investigations, it is clear that the deep and organically rich Connor Midden and village area contains a wealth of information that is potentially informative about prehistory. The high degree of preservation for both human and animal remains opens up many avenues of research. The presence of multiple burials suggests that a much larger population of individuals is present and under such circumstances a broad and detailed picture of Late Woodland health and nutrition can

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4 The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

be developed. This aspect would complement the reconstruction of the Late Woodland subsistence and diet made possible by the numerous faunal elements from different animal, fish and shell species that occur within the deposits. Presumably under these conditions, botanical remains would be preserved as well, thus rounding out the subsistence picture. The owner is currently negotiating with the William and Mary Center for Archeological Research to study this site in particular and to survey the entire property for other prehistoric and historic archeological sites.

Plantation House and Associated Sites

The plantation house and its associated resources are located on a high plateau, approximately 100 feet above the river on both sides of the winding private road. The house is sited on the east side of the road on an open lawn that is ringed with large mature trees on three sides and cultivated fields to the south. On the west side of the road leading to the plantation house are the ruins of two antebellum log barns. Across the road from the barns, in a field to the south of the house are the stone chimney and foundation ruins of at least two buildings that are believed to have been slave quarters. To the north of the house are an antebellum, hand-dug, stone-lined well, and the stone foundations of an antebellum icehouse. At the north end of the yard, nestled in the roots of a large hackberry tree is a gravestone, with no inscription.

Exterior Description

The plantation house is a 1½-story, three-bay, single pile, center hall plan, vernacular-style dwelling with an English basement. The dwelling is approximately twenty feet wide and forty-six feet long. The basement walls are roughly two feet thick and constructed of random-laid sandstone with mortared joints. The upper story-and-a-half is of mortise-and-tenon construction with beaded weatherboard siding. On the facade (west elevation), there are six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows set in the basement and first story openings. The shutter hooks or "dogs" are still in place. There is a single-leaf, four-panel wood door in the center bay of the facade. The rear or east elevation is similar to the facade except there is a transom over the door. There are currently no porches on the house; however, evidence indicates their historic existence. A photograph taken of the house in 1937 shows a one-story, one-bay, front gable-roof porch on the facade with square posts, a pier foundation, and wood steps. The house has a side-gable roof with modern preformed metal panels, a simple wood box cornice, and no dormers. There is a small wood casement window in each of the gable ends in

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 **Page** 5

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

the upper half-story. Each gable end also has a stone and brick exterior chimney. The chimney on the south side is brick with a stone base and the chimney on the north side is stone with a brick flue. The house represents three periods of construction occurring during the period from ca. 1770 to the early twentieth century.

Interior Description

The basement is entered through a large opening in the foundation on the rear or east elevation that may have been fitted with a door or window at one time. The basement is currently divided into two large rooms. The northern room has a stone fireplace and a small storage room. Short boards were installed on the underside of the wood flooring above between the joists, probably to stop dirt from filtering through or possibly for insulation or to provide a more finished appearance to the basement. The larger room on the southern end of the basement has a stone fireplace, the firebox of which has been in-filled. There are single windows on the east and west walls, the openings of which are angled into the wall. The basement floor is made of packed clay and the stone walls and ceilings are whitewashed.

The first floor can be entered from the west or east side with both doors opening into a center hall with an enclosed winder-stair in the southeast corner. The stair is enclosed with circular sawn tongue and groove beaded boards that are hand planed on the stair face and there is a small closet under the stairs. The baseboards and doorframes in the center hall are Greek Revival in style. The flanking parlors are accessed by doors at opposite ends of the hall. The room on the north is the more formal with a Greek Revival-style chair rail and a tall baseboard. The mantel is missing in the northern room. The room to the south has a simpler Greek Revival-style chair rail, baseboard, and mantel. The second floor has a similar plan with a wide central hall and flanking chambers. The southern chamber has a fireplace with a plastered surround but the room on the north has no fireplace. There is evidence in the north chamber of the original staircase opening. The floorboards in the north chamber extend past the knee walls on the east and west sides that were added when the southern addition was constructed. The southern chamber was constructed with knee walls and the flooring stops at the edge of the walls. A board and batten door separates the south chamber from the center hall. There are heart-of-pine plank floors throughout, and the plaster has been removed in all of the rooms revealing the hand-hewn mortise-and-tenon construction.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Evolution of the Dwelling

In its current state, the house represents three periods of construction. Architectural evidence suggests that the north end of the house was constructed between 1770 and 1810 as a 1½-story, single-room (roughly twenty feet square) frame dwelling on a stone English basement. There was an exterior chimney on the south wall, a door was centered in the west wall, and a window centered in the east wall. It is probable that another window was centered in the north wall where the current chimney is located. A winder stair existed in the southeast corner, connecting the first and second floors. There is no evidence of interior wall finishes from the first period of construction. The ceiling appears to have been sheathed with wood boards as indicated by pairs of nail holes and hand wrought nails that remain in the ceiling about eight inches apart. The framing members are pit sawn and hand-wrought nails were used throughout.

During the second period of construction, about 1850, the hall and parlor to the south were added. Because of this addition, the south chimney was removed and a new chimney constructed on the north end. The original end wall of the house was removed and replaced with an interior partition located slightly to the north of the original end wall. The corner stair was also removed and replaced with the existing stair in the southeast corner of the hall and the west door was replaced with a window. The square corner posts and beams that support the first floor ceiling joists were reduced with an adz to remove the corners so they would not project past the lath and plaster that was installed during the second period of construction. The Greek Revival-style chair rail, baseboards, and mantels were also added at this time. Knee walls with lath and plaster finishes were added to the north chamber on the second story. The second period addition has circular sawn framing members and cut nails.

The third period of construction dates from the early twentieth century and consists of minor interior alterations. In the basement, a transverse partition dividing the space in half and a small storage room were added. The partition may have replaced an earlier wall. The wire nails and modern milled lumber used for this alteration appear to date from the 1920s. It is probable that the transom above the eastern exterior door was added during this period as well.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Other buildings and sites

North of the plantation house on the next plateau is a grouping of three buildings that date from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century. The oldest of these buildings is a one-room, v-notched log dwelling with stone piers and a random stone chimney. This vernacular dwelling is in a ruinous state. The other two buildings in this compact grouping appear to have been constructed ca. 1900. The largest is a two-story, two-room, frame dwelling with board-and-batten siding, a stone foundation, and a standing-seam metal gable roof. The facade is missing and a portion of the stair wall has collapsed. The last building is a frame shed with weatherboard siding, rough-hewn supports and a standing-seam metal gable roof that is collapsing. The last building to the north at the end of the road is a hay barn that appears to have been built in the first decade of the twentieth century. This one-story, one-bay, frame barn has a standing-seam metal gable roof and horizontal wood slat siding. There are two stalls in the barn and a shed-roofed lean-to addition on one side and an open shed on the front.

To the south of the plantation house at a fork in the road is a collection of mid-twentieth-century buildings. There is a one-story, concrete block dwelling; a one-story, frame shed with board-and-batten siding and open shed-roofed wings; a one-story, one-bay, frame wood shed with corrugated metal siding and an open facade; and a one-story, open equipment shed. To the east of this complex is a ca. 1910 pole barn that has collapsed. Indicative of the scattered long-term settlement of the property, a mid-nineteenth-century random-rubble, stone chimney with shoulders and a granite hearth stands slightly north across a cultivated field from the twentieth-century complex.

Further south at the end of a short east-west road is a ca. 1900, one-story, frame tenant house with a stone pier foundation, weatherboard siding and a standing-seam metal, side-gable roof. The building has a full-facade shed-roofed porch with round posts and a stone foundation. There are three log tobacco barns, all dating from the mid-nineteenth century, scattered in the woods to the south of the tenant house. Two of the barns are of diamond-notched construction and one is of square-notched construction. One of the barns has collapsed and another one of the barns was converted to a dwelling in the mid-twentieth century. Near this grouping of barns are the remains of a mid-nineteenth century random-stone chimney and a stone pier foundation.

At the southern end of the property, are the chimney and foundation ruins of a late-nineteenth-century house. The foundation has river-stone piers and the brick chimney

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 8

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

has a stone and concrete base. To the east of this chimney is a collapsed mid-nineteenth-century diamond-notched log barn.

Inventory

Hay Barn, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Poor, ca. 1910

This one-story, one-bay, frame hay barn has a standing-seam metal front-gable roof and horizontal wood slat siding. There are two stalls in the barn and a one-bay, shed-roof lean-to addition on the right with an open shed in front and an animal stall in the rear. (041-5086-0001)

Building - Contributing

Archaeological Site, Condition: N/A

Henry and Edward Pleasants Valentine explored an archeological site on the south bank of the Staunton River at the Cove in 1883. Some of the artifacts that were found are on display at the Valentine Richmond History Center, Richmond, Virginia. In 1953, R. P. Carroll and J. H. Reeves revisited the site giving it the name, Conner's Midden. The artifacts collected by them are held at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. In 1968, H. A. MacCord revisited the property and defined the dimensions of the site. (44HA0011)

Site - Contributing

Grouping 1

House, Stories: 2, Style: Late 19th and 20th Century Revival, Condition: Poor, ca. 1900

This two-story, two-room, frame dwelling has a board-and-batten siding, a stone foundation, and a standing-seam metal gable roof. The facade is missing and part of the wall on the right side of the building has collapsed.

(041-5086-0002)

Building - Contributing

House, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1830

This v-notched log, one-room, square house has collapsed. It has granite piers at the corners and a random-rubble granite chimney that is partially in ruins.

(041-5086-0003)

Site - Contributing

Shed, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1900

This is a collapsed frame shed with weatherboard siding; rough hewn supports and a standing-seam metal gable roof. (041-5086-0004)

Site - Contributing

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 9

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Grouping 2

Plantation House, Stories: 1 ½, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Good, ca. 1773,

This 1 ½-story, three-bay, single-pile, center-hall plan dwelling is of heavy timber construction set on a raised English basement of random-laid sandstone. The building exhibits three phases of construction.

(041-5086-0005)

Building – Contributing

Barn, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1840

This log barn is in ruins. (041-5086-0006)

Site - Contributing

Barn, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1840

This log barn is in ruins. (041-5086-0007)

Site – Contributing

Slave Quarters, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1840

There are stone chimney and foundation ruins of a slave quarter near the plantation house. (041-5086-0008)

Site - Contributing

Slave Quarters, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1840

There are stone chimney and foundation ruins of a slave quarter near the plantation house. (041-5086-0009)

Site - Contributing

Ice House, Stories: 0, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1860

There are stone foundation ruins of an icehouse near the well.

(041-5086-0010)

Site - Contributing

Well, Stories: 0, Condition: Fair, ca. 1860

This hand-dug, rock-lined 50-foot well is near the plantation house.

(041-5086-0011)

Structure - Contributing

Gravestone, Stories: 0, Condition: Poor, ca. 1900

There is a gravestone near the icehouse ruins and plantation house.

(041-5086-0012)

Object – Contributing

Grouping 3

House, Stories: 1, Style: Modern Movement, Condition: Good, ca. 1950

This one-story, eight-bay, concrete block dwelling has an asphalt-shingle side-gable roof, an overhanging wood cornice, a concrete block exterior chimney, and four-light steel casement windows. There is a wood tripartite window to the right of the entrance and the porch is missing on the façade.

(041-5086-0013)

Building – Non-Contributing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Shed, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Good, ca. 1950

This one-story, five-bay, frame shed has board-and-batten siding, a standing-seam metal gable roof with open shed-roof wings, and it sits on a brick pier foundation.

(041-5086-0014)

Building – Non-Contributing

Chimney, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Poor, ca. 1840

This is a random-rubble, stone chimney with shoulders and a granite hearth -- all that remains of a dwelling. (041-5086-0015)

Site - Contributing

Wood Shed, Stories: 1, Condition: Good-Fair, ca. 1960

This one-story, one-bay, frame wood shed has a standing-seam metal front-gable roof, corrugated metal siding, and the façade is open.

(041-5086-0016)

Building - Non-Contributing

Equipment Shed, Stories: 1, Condition: Good, ca. 1980

This one-story, two-bay, wood frame, open equipment shed has a standing-seam metal front-gable roof over the left bay and a shed roof over the right.

(041-5086-0017)

Building - Non-Contributing

Barn, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1910

This collapsed barn was of pole construction, had weatherboard siding, and a metal gable roof which is now on the ground. (041-5086-0018)

Site - Contributing

Grouping 4

Tenant House, Stories: 1, Style: Late 19th and 20th Century Revival, Condition: Fair, ca. 1900

This one-story, four-bay, frame tenant house sits on a stone pier foundation and has weatherboard siding and a standing-seam metal, side-gable roof. The building is split into two units with the entrances in the two center bays. There is a one-story, three-bay, shed-roof porch with round posts and a stone foundation.

(041-5086-0019)

Building - Contributing

Tobacco Barn, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Good-Fair, ca. 1840

This one-story, one-bay, wood-burning, diamond-notched log tobacco barn has a standing-seam metal gable roof, clay joints, and stone pier foundation. There is a large pit on the interior. (041-5086-0020)

Building - Contributing

Tobacco Barn, Stories: 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Good, ca. 1840

This one-and-a-half-story, one-bay square-notched log tobacco barn has been converted into a house. The building has a standing-seam metal gable roof, clay joints, and random-rubble stone foundation. An exterior end, stone chimney was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

added in the 1960s. There is a loft in the interior and a large stone fireplace with a brick firebox. This barn has been converted to a dwelling.

(041-5086-0021)

Building - Contributing

Tobacco Barn, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1840

This diamond-notched log barn has collapsed. The metal gable roof and logs are on the ground. (041-5086-0022)

Site - Contributing

Chimney, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1830

A random-rubble, granite chimney and a stone pier foundation are all that remain of the structure. (041-5086-0023)

Site - Contributing

Grouping 5

Chimney Ruins, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Poor, ca. 1880

There are chimney and foundation ruins of a house. The foundation has coursed river-stone piers and the brick chimney has a stone and concrete base.

(041-5086-0024)

Site - Contributing

Barn, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1850

This diamond-notched log barn has collapsed. Its standing-seam metal front-gable roof with a gable opening, logs, and stone pier foundation are on the ground.

(041-5086-0025)

Site - Contributing

Total 26 resources, 22 contributing, 4 noncontributing

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 12

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Statement of Significance

The Cove refers to a narrow finger of land situated in a horseshoe bend of the Staunton (Roanoke) River, in the north central portion of Halifax County. Archeological evidence suggests that the property was occupied by Native Americans from the late prehistoric to the early historic period. In 1740, Richard Randolph for the sum of fifty shillings received a land grant from King George II for 500 acres of the Cove. The name, the Cove, first appears in the 1764 deed between John Randolph, Richard's son, and David Lewis Sims. Under the ownership of members of the Sims family, the Cove Plantation grew to 1,232 acres. In 1843, the Cove Plantation was sold to John Coleman, who owned three estates totaling nearly 4,000 acres. The Sims and Coleman families, intertwined by marriage, were associated with the Cove for almost two hundred years and were among the largest planters and slave owners in Halifax County. The history of the Cove is a reflection of the history of the region from Indian habitation through the rise and fall of the plantation economy. There are archaeological sites, ruins and buildings on the property that illustrate a history of occupation from prehistoric times to the mid-twentieth century. The 1,123 acres contains twenty-six resources including evidence of a prehistoric village, the ca. 1773 plantation house of William Sims, tobacco barns, the remnants of slave quarters, and tenant-houses.

Criteria Statement

The Cove is eligible for the national register under criteria A, B, C, and D. The Cove is eligible for listing under criterion A, because the intact archeological evidence and extant buildings clearly illustrate the evolution of Halifax County from prehistoric settlement to first contact through the rise and fall of the plantation economy. The Cove is eligible for listing under criterion B because of its association with William Sims who, with his brothers, acquired large landholdings in Halifax County and settled there before the Revolutionary War. Sims served as Halifax County surveyor, county vestryman, vestryman for Antrim Parish, and was the proprietor of a ferry located south of the Cove property. By 1773, William Sims had married, had constructed a house on the Cove property and had established a tobacco plantation, which was expanded by his heirs and subsequent owners. Sims lived there until his death in 1778. The property is eligible under criterion C because of the high architectural integrity of the vernacular plantation house and the evidence it presents for the understanding of the evolution of a modest colonial dwelling to a plantation dwelling. The intact tobacco barns and the ruins of slave quarters speak to the property's importance as an early tobacco plantation. The

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 13

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Cove is eligible under criterion D primarily because of the existence of the Conner Midden and village archeological site, a late-prehistoric and early-historic period Indian village. Sites from the Contact Period between Native Americans and Europeans are some of the scarcest archaeological resources that contain information on the rapidly changing Indian social organization and economy. In addition, many of the soil deposits at contributing structures and historic archaeological remains have the potential to provide new information on agricultural practices, plantation organization, and slave lifeways from the late 1700s and onward.

Historic Background

Contact Period (1607-1750)

The archaeological evidence found at the Cove during the 1953 excavation conducted by Robert P. Carroll and John H. Reeves, Jr. indicates that the Saponi Tribe was most likely associated with a village located on a knoll that lies between a small pond and the south banks of the river.⁵ Little is known about these people and the other tribes of the Piedmont region, but what is known about the Saponi is gleaned from the journal records of early traders and travelers. Some of the earliest written accounts of the Saponi come from a German traveler named John Lederer, whom the Governor of Virginia commissioned to explore the territory in 1670.⁶ Lederer visited a town of the Saponi people named Sapon, which was located in Charlotte County along the Roanoke River and situated on high land. He noted that the Saponi were “people of high stature, warlike and rich” who stored a great number of pearls in their small temples.⁷ Through other written accounts, it is also known that the Saponi believed in a supreme creator, subordinate deities, and reincarnation. The Saponi were friendly with most of the neighboring tribes including their closest neighbors, the Occaneechi, who lived to the north and east of the Roanoke River in the 1600s. The Occaneechi were known as great traders on the Roanoke River and lived on an island roughly thirty miles downstream from the Cove.⁸ A few years after Lederer’s visit in 1670, the Saponi and their allies the Toteris, under attack by the Iroquois, they left their villages and moved south to join the Occaneechi.⁹

In 1676, the Susquehannocks of Pennsylvania, to expand their trade with the Europeans, contacted the Occaneechi but hostilities soon erupted and the Susquehannocks were driven from the island. That same year, Nathaniel Bacon organized a group of Virginia colonists in a revolt against the government. They

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 14

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

charged Governor William Berkeley with doing nothing to prevent the continuous Indian raids and for granting political favors to his friends and allies. A raid by the Doeg Indians on a plantation near the Potomac River initiated the revolt, known as Bacon's Rebellion. In retaliation in late April 1676, Bacon and three hundred of his men set out to hunt down "the savages" and came upon the island on the Roanoke River that was seated by the friendly Occaneechi tribe.¹⁰ When Bacon and his men reached the island, they realized it would be useless for them to attack and withstand the force of both the Occaneechi and Susquehannocks on the island, especially since Bacon's men were half starved and worn down from their journey. Instead of attacking the island, Bacon made friends with the Occaneechi and set them against the Susquehannocks. A fierce battle resulted between the two tribes in which thirty Susquehannock warriors and all of their women and children were killed.¹¹ The next day there continued to be uneasiness between Bacon's men and the Occaneechi. Later that night a battle broke out between them, which lasted into the night of the following day. When Bacon's men finally withdrew after the loss of several men, the island fort was destroyed and an immense number of Indians slain.¹² Shortly after the battle, the remaining Occaneechi fled to North Carolina with their friends the Saponis and Toteris. All three tribes returned to Fort Christanna in Brunswick County, Virginia around 1716. They later (c 1740) settled in Pennsylvania with the permission of the Iroquois with whom they had signed a peace treaty in 1722.¹³

The removal of the threat of Indian attacks and the 1714 treaty with North Carolina that established a compromised boundary between the two colonies opened the Southside region up for settlement. The development of Virginia's Southside was largely due to an act passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 1738, encouraging settlement in the area. According to this act, anyone who settled in the Piedmont region within the next two years would receive a ten-year tax exemption and it allowed the governor to grant naturalization papers to any aliens that settled in the region.¹⁴ In addition to the act, the growth of the region was stimulated by tobacco cultivation. By the 1730s, most of the Tidewater region's fertile farmland had been sold; further, the land had become exhausted from years of intensive tobacco cultivation that depleted nutrients from the soil.¹⁵ Much of the Tidewater region replaced tobacco crops with wheat and planters who were not interested in wheat crops, migrated westward in search of rich soil for the cultivation of tobacco.

The Southside settlement pattern typically began with the arrival of a small group of pioneers who engaged in subsistence farming and had little wealth. In the second

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 15

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

stage, land speculators patented thousands of acres in the region. Many of the land speculators were absentee landowners, who either rented their property to tenants or seated the land with an overseer and slave labor.¹⁶ Land speculators later attracted buyers to purchase a small parcel of land near the populated areas. Following the early pioneers, several prosperous planters migrated to the region and more roads were constructed. Improved roads made access easier and additional farmers from the east were attracted to the area. The last stage involved the “out-migration of poor families and the immigration of more substantial planters.”¹⁷

The settlement of the Cove illustrates this regional pattern. More than half a century after the Saponi abandoned their village at the Cove, the land was patented by King George II (reign 1727-1760) to Richard Randolph, an absentee land speculator, on 20 August 1740.¹⁸ Colonel Richard Randolph was born in May of 1690 at Turkey Island Plantation in Henrico County, Virginia. He died 17 December 1748 at Curles Neck Plantation in Henrico County at the age of 58. Richard Randolph, like his father William Randolph and his brother Sir John Randolph, played a large role in the government of the Colony of Virginia. Richard served as the Treasurer of the Colony of Virginia from 1736-38 and was a member of the House of Burgesses from 1736-1748.¹⁹ His brother Sir John Randolph settled in Williamsburg, but Richard opted to settle in the country near his father’s Turkey Island Plantation in Henrico County. He built his plantation along the northern banks of the James River and named it Curles Neck. Richard owned over 40,000 acres in the counties of Goochland, Henrico, Chesterfield, Brunswick, Amelia, Lunenburg, and Cumberland.²⁰ Randolph’s vast holdings were the direct result of William Gooch’s, the Lieutenant Governor of the Colony, interest in westward expansion and open support of the establishment of land companies, one of the colony’s most aggressive instruments for the development of its trans-Appalachian territories.²¹

The archaeological and architectural resources on the Cove property belong to a period of rapid social change termed the Contact Period that lasted just over a century. Native Americans were displaced from their traditional homelands and were reformulated into composite bands that would settle in locations that were assessed to be politically and/or economically favorable (e. g., Fort Christianna in Brunswick County). The developing European agrarian economy was responsible for the disruption of Indian society, while at the same time, a few entrepreneurs sought to use Indian labor in the fur trade. Europeans emerged as the dominant culture and established their farms and plantations that would supply tobacco and other crops to

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 16

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Europe. The Cove property and its resources contain archaeological and architectural resources to look at each of these themes. How did the Indians attempt to maintain their community and what aspects of European material culture did they find advantageous? Conversely, how did farming in the New World compare with agriculture in Britain and what changes had to be made to accommodate a new environment in terms of technology and organization? Each of these research agendas can be addressed through further investigation.

Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

In 1752, Halifax County was established out of Lunenburg County because the population south and west of the Roanoke (Staunton) River had grown substantially. Lunenburg County had been carved out of Brunswick County in 1746. Charlotte County, across the Roanoke River from Halifax was created in 1765 out of Lunenburg. The newly formed Halifax County extended from the south banks of the Staunton River to the border of North Carolina and westward to the Blue Ridge. In 1766, Pittsylvania County was formed from the western two-thirds of Halifax County – Franklin, Henry and Patrick counties soon followed. During the early settlement of the county, the western half specialized in the cultivation of cereal grains, orchards, and dairies, while the eastern half was given over to the cultivation of tobacco.²² Most of the tobacco produced in the county was shipped eastward to Petersburg, which had become a major tobacco inspection town by 1748.²³ The settlers in Halifax County relied heavily on road travel, because the rivers to the west of the fall line were too shallow to navigate with large ships. Halifax County's population stagnated between 1752 and 1763²⁴, likely because of the outbreak of the French and Indian War in 1754. While the majority of the fighting took place north of Maryland, the French-allied Indians did attack British frontier settlements in all of the thirteen colonies. Even after the end of the war, colonists were still threatened by Indian raids. In response to the problem, King George III (reign 1760-1820) issued the Royal Proclamation of 1763, forbidding British settlement beyond the crest of the Appalachian Mountains.²⁵ However, this proclamation only stopped expansion for a short period. By 1768, Indian tribes were selling land west of the Alleghenies to land speculators who ignored the Royal Proclamation.²⁶

For the next decade, tensions escalated between the colonists and England, resulting in a declaration of their independence from the British crown in 1776. Between 1775 and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 17

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

1781, residents of Halifax County supported the Revolutionary cause by volunteering for service in the Continental Army and donating supplies.²⁷ In February of 1781, the Continental Army entered Halifax County with a native son at its head. Colonel Edward Carrington, the second in command of the army and a Halifax native, organized the collection of boats at the Dan River ferry crossing and prepared to make a stand in Halifax.²⁸ Eight hundred men from Halifax and the neighboring counties joined the 1,428 members of the Continental Army as they passed through the county.²⁹ That same year (1781), British General Cornwallis was forced to retreat with his troops through Halifax and although his passing through the county created a stir, the county's activities were undisturbed during the Revolution.³⁰

When Richard Randolph died in 1748, the part of his estate inherited by his youngest son, John R. Randolph (1742-1775), included the land Richard purchased in Brunswick County from King George II in 1740. The Brunswick County parcel was a 500-acre tract that lay on both sides of the Staunton (Roanoke) River, known as the Cove. On 4 June 1764, within a year of coming to age, John Randolph sold the Cove tract to David Lewis Sims for 900 pounds.³¹

In addition to selling the Cove tract to David Lewis Sims, John R. Randolph sold several other parcels of land in Halifax and Charlotte counties to David Sims and his brothers, William and Matthew. All three brothers settled in Halifax County before the Revolutionary War, established plantations, and were active members of the community. William and David Lewis both served as Vestrymen for the Antrim Parish. According to the 1767 July Court records, William Sims was sworn in as Vestryman for the County of Halifax. He served as the County Surveyor. In April 1771, William was one of the three gentlemen recommended to the Governor of Virginia to serve as Commissioners of the Peace for Halifax County.³² Matthew Sims was appointed Halifax County Sheriff by the Governor of Virginia in October 1787 and served until May 1790.³³ As early as 1771, the Sims brothers established a ferry along the Staunton River and by 1773; it was referred to as the ferry of William Sims.³⁴ The Sims Ferry was located south of the Cove on lands that were part of the Black Walnut tract owned by Matthew Sims.³⁵ When William Sims died in 1778, his estate inventory listed two ferryboats. When David Lewis Sims died in 1783, his estate included 29 slaves, 79 cattle, and 10 horses.³⁶

In 1768, William Sims purchased a 3,100-acre tract from John Randolph that is referred to as Black Walnut Plantation.³⁷ Black Walnut Plantation is individually listed on the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 18 The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

National Register of Historic Places. William Sims sold the 3,100-acre tract to his brother Matthew in 1773,³⁸ and in 1774, Matthew divided the tract into two parts (1,705 acres and 1,350 acres) selling the 1,750-acre tract to his brother David Lewis Sims.³⁹ David Lewis and Matthew Sims settled on the Black Walnut Plantation and William Sims established his home on the Halifax County side of the 500-acre Cove tract. While there is no recorded deed to show the transfer of the Cove property from David Lewis Sims to William Sims, it is speculated that it was part of an exchange of land that occurred in 1773 (the Cove for Black Walnut). Alternatively, perhaps it was a wedding gift from his brother, David Lewis, for in 1773 William married Kezia East, whose family owned large tracts of land in the northern part of the county – adjacent to the Cove. William's ownership of the Cove tract is evidenced by his name being listed as an adjoining owner, on deeds from this period for properties surrounding the Cove.⁴⁰ It was here that William and Kezia Sims built a one-room, 1½-story dwelling on a raised basement. When William Sims died in 1778, he willed all of his land in Halifax County to his infant son David (c. 1774-1801). His wife, Kezia, was given the use and enjoyment of the estate (including the house) until his son David turned twenty-one years of age, and to his unborn child, named William after his father's death, he willed all of his land in Charlotte County.⁴¹ Kezia married John Hundley in 1781. Halifax tax records for the estate of William Sims in 1782 listed eighteen slaves, four horses and thirty-six cattle. By 1791, the number of slaves listed had grown to thirty-eight, placing William's estate in the 1% of households in Halifax County that owned between twenty-six and fifty slaves. Slightly over 50% of the households in Halifax owned slaves with the majority of those 32% owning five slaves or less. The 1790 census for the county recorded a total population of 14,722 of which 5,565 were slaves.

The modest one-room, 1½-story dwelling constructed by William Sims, ca. 1773, at the Cove Plantation is representative of early domestic architecture in the Piedmont even at the upper end of the social order. Unlike the Tidewater Plantations that contained a manor house surrounded by a cluster of domestic and agricultural outbuildings, the Southside planter emphasized production over grand houses. The typical dwelling in Halifax County measured from 16-by-12 to 24-by-16 feet, was of frame construction and possessed little architectural elaboration. The earliest portion of the house at the Cove was roughly square, measuring 20' – 0" by 20' – 4". There was a single door centered in the east elevation and likely an opposing window in the west wall and an enclosed stair that connected the first and second floors. There was an exterior chimney at the south end. There is no evidence of interior wall finishes leaving the square corner posts and beams exposed. The ceiling appears to have been finished with sheathing boards.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 19

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Early National Period (1789-1830)

Referred to as “The Great Rebuilding,” the period between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 was a time of transition. The Tidewater plantation society was slowly being transformed by the growth of urban centers. With the division of Halifax into two counties in 1766, there was a need for a new courthouse site since the old courthouse now stood in Pittsylvania County. After meeting in several locations, Banister Village was chosen in 1803 as the site for the new courthouse. Banister Village represented the union of two communities – Banister and Mayton. Between 1890 and World War I, the town was called, Houston and after World War I it was known by its present name, Halifax Courthouse. In Southside Virginia, the future cities of Lynchburg and Danville were established in 1786 and 1793, respectively. Bateaux began to ply the Staunton (Roanoke) River carrying tobacco to market in Petersburg, via St. Tammany in Mecklenburg County. St. Tammany was established across the river from Petersburg in 1792. Wheat and tobacco inspection stations were established in Clarksville in 1818. The success of towns like Clarksville were directly linked to the formation of the Roanoke Navigation Company in 1812. The Roanoke Navigation Company envisioned the construction of a canal to assist the bateaux around the fall of the river. The canal was completed in 1834, but was soon washed away by a flood and never rebuilt. Thus, goods were offloaded and portaged around the falls and then shipped to Norfolk by way of the Dismal Swamp Canal, opened in 1814. In 1815, British trade restrictions were dismantled and the price of tobacco soared leading to the tremendous growth in tobacco production in Halifax County. Halifax County was part of the twenty-four county “tobacco belt” where the majority of Virginia and North Carolina’s tobacco was grown and Halifax County was among the largest producers in Virginia. The majority of Southside’s planters did not possess large estates or own a large number of slaves. Only 3% of Halifax County’s households operated plantations larger than 200 acres and held over 50 slaves. During this period, the population of Halifax County grew from 14,722 to 28,034. In 1820, census figures show that Halifax County’s population had reached 19,060 of which 9,880 were slaves. Slightly over 61% of Halifax County’s households owned slaves. Of the 1,649 households enumerated only twenty households owned fifty slaves or more and only one household held over 200 slaves.

On 14 March 1799, David Sims married his first cousin, Elizabeth “Betsey” (1774-1833) Sims. Elizabeth “Betsey” was the eldest daughter of David Lewis Sims and Lettice May who were married in Charlotte County, Virginia on 13 January 1774. David Lewis and Lettice had four children: Elizabeth “Betsey” (b. 11 Dec 1774), Priscilla (b. 14 Dec

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 20 The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

1776), Patty, and John. When David Lewis Sims died in 1783, the majority of his estate was willed to his son John. Further, David Lewis Sims willed no land to his daughters.⁴² Following the marriage of David and Elizabeth "Betsey" Sims in 1799, David acquired additional land in Halifax County. In June of that year, he purchased a 240-acre tract from William S. Britton Sr. (David and William's legal guardian) that abutted the south side of the 500-acre Cove tract.⁴³ This purchase increased the Cove property to roughly 740 acres. David Sims was Elizabeth "Betsey's" second husband. She was first married to David Clarke (d. 1797) in 1793 and later married Thomas Read, Jr. in 1806. Elizabeth "Betsey" and David Sims had one child, a daughter named Elizabeth "Betsey" Lewis Sims (1800-1856). When David died in 1801, his infant daughter inherited his estate that was held in-trust for her until she turned twenty-one. Her uncle, John Sims (1782-1857), Elizabeth "Betsey" Sims' brother, was named her guardian.

John Sims came of age in 1803, and inherited his father's, David Lewis Sims, portion of the Black Walnut tract. Black Walnut was one of the largest plantations in the county. Over the years, John acquired additional holdings and eventually reunited Black Walnut back to its original 3,100 acres when he purchased his uncle, Matthew Sims' land and mansion house from his cousins.⁴⁴ John eventually became the largest slaveholder in Halifax County by 1850 with 160 slaves. John Sims was associated with the Cove tract as the guardian of his niece, Elizabeth Lewis Sims. In 1809, John Sims, brought suit against his sister, Elizabeth "Betsey" Sims Clarke Sims Read and her third husband, Thomas Read, over the division of his brother-in-law's estate.⁴⁵ According to court papers, there was a disagreement over the division of David Sims' estate since he died unexpectedly in 1801 with no will. In February 1809, a survey was made of David Sims' estate by James Eastham, Surveyor of Halifax County, and the Cove tract was divided between Elizabeth "Betsey" Read, dower, and the orphan, Elizabeth "Betsey" Lewis Sims (1800-1856).⁴⁶ Elizabeth "Betsey" Read was given sixty-eight acres of first rate low ground and 105 acres of first rate high land. The orphan, Elizabeth "Betsey" Lewis Sims was given the remaining tract of land that included 128 acres of first rate low ground, 79 ½ acres of second rate low ground, and 368 acres of first rate high land. The plantation house was situated on the 105 acres of high ground received by the dower, Elizabeth "Betsey" Read. It is assumed that Elizabeth "Betsey" Read, her husband, Thomas Read, and her daughter, Elizabeth "Betsey" Lewis Sims, continued to reside at the Cove.

Almost a decade after the court case was settled; Elizabeth "Betsey" Lewis Sims (1800-1856) married Clement Haskins Read (1798-1845) on 5 May 1817 in Charlotte County.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 21

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

It is not clear if Mrs. Clement H. Read and her husband resided at the Cove after their marriage, but Mrs. Clement H. Read (Elizabeth "Betsey" Lewis Sims Read) was declared the sole heir of David Sims' estate in March of 1819.⁴⁷ In 1827, Mr. and Mrs. Clement H. Read purchased roughly 446 acres of land that bounded the southern border of the Cove tract from the heirs of Samuel Cobbs.⁴⁸ This addition increased the Cove property to an estimated 1,233 acres.

Antebellum (1830-1860)

Improvements in transportation, especially the coming of the railroad, meant continued prosperity in Southside Virginia and Halifax County. By 1850, Halifax County's population had grown to 25,962, and the number of African-Americans, both slave and free, outnumbered whites by a ratio of 3:2. Trains began running between Gaston, North Carolina and Petersburg, Virginia in 1833, virtually ending the use of the Dismal Swamp Canal by 1839. In that year, 3,958 hogsheads of tobacco were transported by train as compared to 137 transported through the canal. The Richmond and Danville Railway chartered in 1847 had a direct impact on Halifax County, traversing the county from northeast to southwest. The tracks reached Clover in September 1854 and South Boston in December. The connection between Richmond and Danville was completed in 1856 and trains began to cross Halifax County. Tobacco prices continued to fluctuate between 1830 and 1860, primarily the result of overproduction. The 1850s saw a moderate rise in prices. It was during this period, 1850 to 1860, that Halifax County led the state in tobacco production and prominent planters were consolidating smaller farms. In 1850, there were 1,482 operating farms in Halifax County. Eighty-four could be classified as plantations because they contained over 1,000 acres. Forty-four of these large-scale farms were located in the northern district of the county near the Cove. In 1850, William Logan was the largest property owner in the county with 4,000 acres and the ninth largest slave owner with sixty-six slaves. John Coleman was the sixth largest slave owner with seventy-eight, and the third largest property owner at 2,800 acres.

In 1843, Mr. and Mrs. Clement H. Read sold the entire 1,233 acres of the Cove property to John Coleman.⁴⁹ John Coleman was one of the largest slaveholders and landowners in Halifax and Charlotte Counties. John Coleman (1800-1869) was born in Halifax County to Col. Henry Embry Coleman (1768-1837) and Ann Gordon (1776-1824). John's father was an active politician who served in the Virginia General Assembly from

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 **Page** 22

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

1789 to 1790. Henry Coleman was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1791-92, 1797, 1801-03, and was the Captain of the County Militia by 1795. In 1806, the governor appointed him as Lieutenant Colonel commandant of the 84th Regiment of the Halifax County Militia, and in 1807, he was called to testify at the trial of Aaron Burr.⁵⁰ Unlike his father, John did not have a political career. He seemed to be happy managing his various tobacco plantations in Charlotte and Halifax Counties. John moved to Charlotte County after his marriage to Elizabeth Sims Clarke (1808-1826) in 1825⁵¹. (Elizabeth Sims Clarke Coleman and Elizabeth "Betsey" Sims Read are cousins.) John and Elizabeth had one daughter, Ann Gordon Coleman (1826- c.1850?). The 1830 Census reveals that John Coleman and a daughter under the age of five were residing in Charlotte County where he owned fifty slaves. The 1840 Census reported that he was residing in Charlotte County where he had seventy-seven slaves with twenty additional slaves in Halifax County. Local tradition has it that the Watts family lived on the Cove plantation and oversaw its operation. This arrangement may have started with the sale of the land to John Coleman, who at the time was living in Charlotte County and had slaves on land he owned in Halifax County.

The exact date Coleman returned to Halifax County is not known; but an 1856 map of the county, shows him living at Chester Plantation. It is also assumed that he married his second wife Mary J. Love (1808-c.1870-80) sometime between the 1840 and 1860 census. The 1860 census of Halifax County, lists his wife Mary J. Coleman and his granddaughter Bettie C. Alexander (1849-?) in his household, his real estate was valued at \$73,540, and his personal property was valued at \$114,240. The 1860 slave schedule for Halifax County reported him as having 124 slaves between the ages of 3 months to 83 years.

It is likely that the plantation house at the Cove was expanded before the Reads sold the property to John Coleman in 1843. The alterations included the addition of a room to the south end of the early dwelling. Thus creating a 1½-story, center-hall-plan dwelling, approximately forty-six feet by twenty feet in dimension. New exterior stone chimneys were constructed at the north and south gable ends. Wood lath and plaster wall and ceiling finishes were installed in the first and second story rooms. Tall base boards and chair rail in the earlier room at the south end would indicate that it was intended to be the formal entertainment space. While the Cove is more representative of manor houses in the county, it was during the mid-nineteenth century that Halifax saw the construction of several impressive residences. The Bruce family is responsible for the construction of three grand houses – Berry Hill (1835-1840), Staunton Hill (1848)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 **Page** 23

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

and Tarover (1855-1856). Berry Hill and Staunton Hall were both built by Josiah Dabbs, a highly regarded carpenter, and are considered quintessential examples of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival architecture. Among other projects in Halifax County, Dabbs also built the Tudor-style Seaton Plantation for William Mathew Howerton. It is difficult to determine if the collection of buildings around the plantation house and the surviving log tobacco barns were built by the Reads or Coleman. Regardless they are typical of the collection of secondary domestic and agricultural buildings that would have been found on a working plantation of the period.

Civil War (1860-1865)

Virginia seceded from the Union on 17 April 1861. In 1861, Halifax County raised twenty full companies, 1,740 men, to support the war effort. Between 1861 and June 1864, the majority of the eastern battles were fought north of the James River. Damaged farmland and a drought in 1862 exacerbated a food shortage in the state that was most acutely felt in Richmond. After June 1864, the focus shifted to Southside as the major objectives were to sever rail and road links between Richmond, Petersburg and the rest of the south. Only one battle was fought in Halifax County. On 25 June 1864, the Union cavalry was intent upon destroying the Richmond and Danville Railroad. The Union troops, approximately 2,000 strong, attacked the 53rd Virginia Infantry at the Staunton River crossing. The 53rd Virginia Infantry was reinforced with 579 additional men including old men and boys from Halifax. The Union troops were repelled four times and eventually retreated leaving the bridge intact. The Richmond and Danville Railroad was the sole rail link between Richmond and the rest of the south and would become the escape route for the Confederate government when they fled Richmond on 2 April 1865. On 9 April 1865, the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered at Appomattox Court House.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

The Confederate defeat resulted in dramatic economic and social changes. Farms in the valley had been destroyed; crops, seeds and machinery confiscated, and the cities of Richmond and Petersburg were in ruins. Of critical importance was the reestablishment of the transportation networks. Recognizing the potential profits, Northern businessmen invested heavily in Virginia' rail stock. Another major change

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 24 The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

was the loss of the former slave labor force. Plantation agriculture was no longer efficient and planters transitioned to a new labor system, which combined wage labor, sharecropping and tenant farming. Under a wage labor system, an annual contract was drawn up and workers received a monthly wage and weekly rations. Owners often additionally provided housing and clothes. Sharecropping was the most widely accepted labor system. The landowner supplied the land, buildings, tools, draft animals, supervision and paid the laborer with a fraction of the crop or a monetary equivalent. The laborer in turn worked a portion of the former plantation. Under the rental or tenant system, the owner leased a portion of the land to a tenant who worked the land unsupervised. In 1880, 54% of the farms in Halifax County were cultivated by an owner, 7% were farmed under a lease agreement and 39% were worked by sharecroppers. Many large landowners were forced to subdivide their holdings to accommodate the new labor system. Between 1860 and 1870, the number of farms containing 1,000 acres or more dropped from 41 to 8. Tobacco production in Halifax declined from 8.5 million pounds in 1860 to 3.8 million pounds in 1870. By 1900, tobacco production had risen to 13.1 million pounds and to 16.6 million pounds in 1910. Halifax was second only to Pittsylvania in production. This period also saw the rise of industrial activities in the county including lumber and flour milling, wheelwrights and coach makers. The manufacturing of marketable tobacco was the largest industrial employer in the county.

John Coleman died in 1869, leaving the bulk of his estate to his wife, granddaughter, and nephew. According to his will, John Coleman left 100 acres of land from his Hunting Creek tract to Allen Love to use during his natural life. Fifty acres near Old Sim Church were given to James Coleman, a freed slave to use during his natural life. His wife, Mary J., was given the house at Chester Plantation and the remaining residue of the estate. His plantation called Britton was to be sold and the revenue from the sale was to be applied towards the support of the family of his brother Henry E. Coleman.⁵² His will also stipulated that at the death of his wife, the residue of the estate was to be divided equally into two parts, between his nephew John C. Coleman (1829-c.1880-90) and his granddaughter Bettie C. Alexander Herbert (1849-?). However, if Bettie had no heir, then the whole residue of the estate was to go to John C. Coleman. It appears that John C. Coleman inherited most of the estate because no records can be found of Bettie Herbert after 1869 and Mary J. Coleman died between the 1870 and 1880 census. In addition, John C. Coleman's real estate value grew from zero to \$9,600 between the 1860 and 1870 census.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 25

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Although John Coleman's will was legal, there was a family dispute over who had legal ownership of specific properties Coleman had owned, including the Cove. According to court records, John's niece, Henrietta Carolyn Coleman Snowden (1849-?) sued N. T. Green, the administrator of John Coleman's estate, for illegally selling three of John Coleman's tracts, which John Coleman had sold to her shortly before his death.⁵³ Due to the timing of his death and the sale of the Cove, Chester, and Little Woodlawn tracts to Mrs. Snowden, the deeds had not been recorded. The lawsuit was not settled until 1886, and the court ruled in Mrs. Snowden's favor. Mrs. Snowden gradually sold off all of the properties she owned in Halifax County by 1914.⁵⁴ The other legal battles between family members were resolved more quickly.

According to local tradition, the Watts family was still overseeing the Cove property after John Coleman died and they continued to live in the old plantation house well into the earlier part of the twentieth century. Allegedly, Rev. Charles Howard Watts (1900-2000) was born in the old plantation house at the Cove on 2 March 1900. Rev. Watts came from a long line of overseers who lived in Halifax County. According to the census records of 1850, there were three Watts' families in the Northern District listed as overseers, Samuel R, Richard, and William T. Ten years later there was one more overseer listed, James Watts (great-grandfather of Rev Charles Watts). By the 1870-census, only Samuel R., a farmer, remained in the county.⁵⁵ All of their grandchildren are listed as general farmers in the 1910 census.

It appears that sometime before 1914 Mrs. Snowden split the 1,233-acre Cove property into several parts and sold portions to different people. A 750-acre portion of the Cove lands, the same tract that Elizabeth "Betsey" Lewis Sims (1800-1856) inherited from her father David Sims (c1774-1801), was purchased by the Shuford brothers sometime before 1913. Although there is no recorded deed between Mrs. Snowden and the Shuford brothers, it is known that the Shufords were sold the 750-acre Cove tract before 1913 when a mortgage was recorded between Luther Mosteller and the Shufords for the old plantation house and 48 ½ acres around it.⁵⁶

Two tenant houses on the Cove property appear to have been constructed during this period. One is a two-story, two room dwelling with board and batten siding that is in a state of partial collapse. The other is a one-story, four-bay dwelling with weatherboard siding. Both buildings have stone pier foundations and standing-seam metal, end-gable roofs. A set of ruins, consisting of a stone foundation and brick chimney, appear to be the remains of a tenant house from this period. Other buildings on the property, from

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 26

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

this period, include a frame shed and a pole barn that are collapsing, and a hay barn. These buildings are consistent with the continued agricultural use of the property and the subdivision and sale of the land.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Halifax County reliance on agriculture continued through the twentieth century and the number of operating farms remained relatively constant. In 1935, there were 5,847 operating farms, which declined slightly to 5,619 farms in 1950. Halifax County continued to rank a close second to Pittsylvania County in tobacco production. In contrast to other Southside counties, the number of tenant farmers increased considerably in Halifax County during this period which is likely related to the county's continued reliance on tobacco production. The Great Depression had a severe impact on tobacco prices and government intervention in 1933 had a minimal impact. The number of distress transfers was high and many of those forced to sell were former tenants who had purchased farms during more prosperous-times.

In 1921, the Shuford brothers sold their 750 ½-acre share of John Coleman's land to A. S. Abernethy, which was listed in two parts -- 48 ½ acres and 702 acres.⁵⁷ A year latter Abernethy sold the 702-acre portion to E. L. Abernethy, Elizabeth Abernethy, and J. Kent Early.⁵⁸ The Shuford brothers had mortgaged the 48-½ acres to the Mostellers, thus they were not able to sell that portion to Abernethy. However, possibly due to the impact of the declining tobacco market and the depression, Peoples National Bank of Lynchburg repossessed the house and the 48-½ acres from the Mostellers by 1929. On 5 April 1929, J. Kent Early purchased the 48-½ acres from the bank, reestablishing 750-acre tract.⁵⁹ Two months later, J. Kent Early sold the 750 ½-acre tract to Frederick Bedford, Jr., who retained possession of the tract and operated a farm on the land until his death in 1952.⁶⁰

World War II to Present (1945-present)

During World War II, a great many farms reduced their tobacco acreage to grow essential food crops but because of improved farming methods, farmers could produce more tobacco per acre. The average per acre yield increased from 764 pounds in 1935 to slightly over 1,000 pounds per acre in 1946. Primarily due to speculation, the value

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 27

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

of farmland increased while the number of operating farms and the total acreage under cultivation declined. In the 1970s, tobacco still accounted for over 80% of the value of farm sales with grain, dairy products and cattle accounting for a small percentage. According to 2000 census data, the population in Halifax County is 36,797 of which 60% are white and 38% are African-American. Manufacturing is the largest employer in the county representing 30% of all workers with only 2% of workers being engaged in agriculture.

When Frederick Bedford died in 1952, the property remained in possession of his wife Margaret S. Bedford until she sold the tract to R. E. Daniel, Jr. in 1954.⁶¹ It is assumed that Daniel continued to farm the property and paid the Watts family to manage it. It is known that the Watts family still lived on the property, for Daniels sold a portion of the Cove tract after 1954, possibly the 48-½ acre tract, to Samuel D. Watts (1909-2000) and his wife, Mary Frances Seamster (1921-?). Samuel D. Watts was the brother of Rev. Watts.⁶² There is a grouping of mid to late-twentieth century buildings at the Cove, which includes a one-story concrete block dwelling, and an assortment of sheds. In 1965, Samuel Watts sold his portion of the Cove tract to Charles R. Saunders, who had purchased the remaining part of the 750-½ acre Cove tract from Daniels in 1964.⁶³ Charles R. Saunders established a farm corporation, named Horseshoe Bend, on the site that was dissolved in 1974.⁶⁴ Saunders purchased additional land around the 750-½ acre Cove tract, reuniting much of the same land that was associated with the Cove when Elizabeth Lewis Sims Read and her husband, Clement H. Read, sold the Cove to John Coleman in 1843. Today, the Cove contains 1,123 acres and is owned by the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation. The property has recently been placed in a conservation easement held by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The goal of the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation is to conserve the Cove in its natural state for future generations to enjoy while educating children in the importance of conservation and stewardship. Plans for the property are to build an education center, restore the plantation house, and further explore and document the archeological site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 28

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Bibliography

Ailsworth, Timothy S., Ann P. Keller, Lura B. Nichols & Barbara R. Walker. Charlotte County, Rich Indeed: A History from Prehistoric Times Through the Civil War. Richmond, Virginia: Whittet & Sheppardson, 1979.

Cook, Kenneth. "Woodlawn: the Easternmost of the Great Plantation Houses Built Along the Staunton River in Halifax County from the Late 18th to the Mid-19th Centuries." Unpublished work for News & Record Staff, 1979.
www.oldhalifax.com/county/Woodlawn.htm

The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. Historic Architectural Assessment for the Clover Site (Black Walnut Plantation), Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Halifax County, Virginia. Unpublished report submitted to Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1990.

Egloff, Keith & Deborah Woodward. First People: The Early Indians of Virginia. Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2000. First printed by The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1992.

O'Dell, Jeff Marshall. Inventory of Early Architecture and Historic and Archeological Sites: County of Henrico, Virginia. Richmond, Virginia: System Printing, 1976.

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. Historical Monograph, Black Walnut Plantation Rural Historic District, Halifax County Virginia. April 1996.

Reardon, John J. Peyton Randolph, 1721-1775: One Who Presided. Durham, North Carolina: Carolina Academic Press, 1982.

Reeves, John H. Jr. "Conner's Midden- A Halifax County, Virginia Indian Site." An unpublished report about the 1953 dig from a professor at the Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia, 1954.

Standard, Mary Newton. The Story of Bacon's Rebellion. N. L.: Neale Publishing Company, 1907. E-version by Jeffery C. Weaver, 2000 at <http://www.ls.net/~newriver/va/bacon.htm>

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 29

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Tuck, Faye Royster. Yesterday-Gone Forever: A Collection of Articles. Halifax County, Virginia: Halifax Historical Society, 2003.

Valentine, Edward Pleasant. The Edward Pleasant Valentine Papers. Richmond, Virginia: Valentine Museum, 1927, Vol. 3.

Halifax County Will books

Brunswick County Land Office Patents No. 19, 1739-1741, p 701-702.

Brunswick, Halifax, Lunenburg deed books

Census 1800-1910

Global Security.org, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/bacon.htm>

The History of Halifax County, Virginia, 1750-1940.
<http://www.oldhalifax.com/county/historicalMonograph.htm>

<http://www.livelyroots.com/gerald/15967.htm>

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 30

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

Geographical Data

UTM References, continued

Charlotte Court House Quadrangle

4	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 700444 </u>	<u> 4098004 </u>	5	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 701008 </u>	<u> 4097323 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Conner Lake Quadrangle

6	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 699393 </u>	<u> 4097226 </u>	7	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 700236 </u>	<u> 4096576 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
8	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 700281 </u>	<u> 4094703 </u>	9	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 699934 </u>	<u> 4093799 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
10	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 700325 </u>	<u> 4093215 </u>				

Saxe Quadrangle

11	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 700298 </u>	<u> 4094747 </u>	12	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 700618 </u>	<u> 4095230 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
13	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 700277 </u>	<u> 4095596 </u>	14	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 700255 </u>	<u> 4096558 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
15	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 701077 </u>	<u> 4097269 </u>	16	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 701206 </u>	<u> 4095653 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
17	<u> 17 </u>	<u> 701388 </u>	<u> 4093757 </u>				
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary description for the Cove is contained in deed number 050002543 as recorded in Halifax County Deed Book number 925, page 709 and dated 3 June 2005. The description is as follows:

All that certain tract or parcel of land, with improvements thereon, situated in Roanoke Magisterial District, Halifax County, Virginia, on the Staunton River, known as "The Cove", containing 1123 acres, more or less, but sold by the whole and not by the acre, and being more particularly shown on a plat of survey entitled "Map of Horseshoe Bend" prepared by J. Walter Jones, Jr., Certified Land Surveyor, dated January 1965, and duly of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Halifax County, Virginia, in Plat Book 7, Page 120; and being the identical real estate acquired by Charles R. Sanders, Jr. in deed from Horseshoe Band Farm Corporation,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 **Page** 31

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

a former Nevada corporation, which deed is dated September 12, 2002,
and duly of record in the Clerk's office aforesaid in Deed Book 824, Page
522.

Boundary Justification

The justification for the proposed boundary is that the property is held by a single owner and is protected by a conservation easement. Further, the current boundaries are similar to those for the 1,233-acre plantation which Elizabeth "Betsey" Lewis Sims Read and her husband, Clement H. Read sold to John Coleman in 1843.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 33

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

End Notes

-
- ¹ Brunswick County Land Office Patents No. 19, 1739-1741, p 701-702.
 - ² Wirt Johnson Carrington, A History of Halifax County, Virginia (Richmond, Virginia: Appeals Press, 1924), p. 408. William Sims and "Cuzzy" East married on 16 July 1773. "Cuzzy" or Keziah East Sims was married a second time to John Hundley on 13 September 1781 (p. 389).
 - ³ Halifax County Deed Book 5, p. 258.
 - ⁴ 1898 Catalogue of the Valentine Collection, p. 51.
 - ⁵ John H. Reeves, Jr. "Conner's Midden- A Halifax County, Virginia Indian Site," A report about the dig, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia, 1954, 2.
 - ⁶ Keith Egloff & Deborah Woodward, First People: The Early Indians of Virginia (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2000), 48.
 - ⁷ Egloff & Woodward, 48.
 - ⁸ Reeves, 9.
 - ⁹ Egloff & Woodward, 49.
 - ¹⁰ Mary Newton Standard, The Story of Bacon's Rebellion (Neale Publishing Company, 1907), chapter 5. e-version by Jeffery C. Weaver, 2000 at <http://www.ls.net/~newriver/va/bacon.htm>
 - ¹¹ Standard, chapter 5.
 - ¹² Standard, chapter 5.
 - ¹³ Egloff & Woodward, 50.
 - ¹⁴ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Historical Monograph: Black Walnut Plantation Rural Historic District (1996), 13.
 - ¹⁵ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 13.
 - ¹⁶ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 13.
 - ¹⁷ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 13.
 - ¹⁸ Brunswick County Land Office Patents No. 19, 1739-1741, p 701-702.
 - ¹⁹ Jeff Marshall O'Dell, Inventory of Early Architecture and Historic and Archeological Sites: County of Henrico, Virginia (Richmond, Virginia: System Printing, 1976) ,64.
 - ²⁰ See Edward Pleasant Valentine, The Edward Pleasant Valentine Papers (Richmond, Virginia: Valentine Museum, 1927), Vol 3, 1317-1478 and O'Dell, 64.
 - ²¹ John J. Reardon, Peyton Randolph, 1721-1775: One Who Presided (Durham, North Carolina: Carolina Academic Press, 1982), 4.
 - ²² R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 14.
 - ²³ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 14.
 - ²⁴ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 17.
 - ²⁵ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 17.
 - ²⁶ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 17.
 - ²⁷ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 17.
 - ²⁸ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 17.
 - ²⁹ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 18.
 - ³⁰ R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 18.
 - ³¹ Halifax County Deed Book 5, 258-260.
 - ³² Halifax County Court Orders, April Court 1771.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

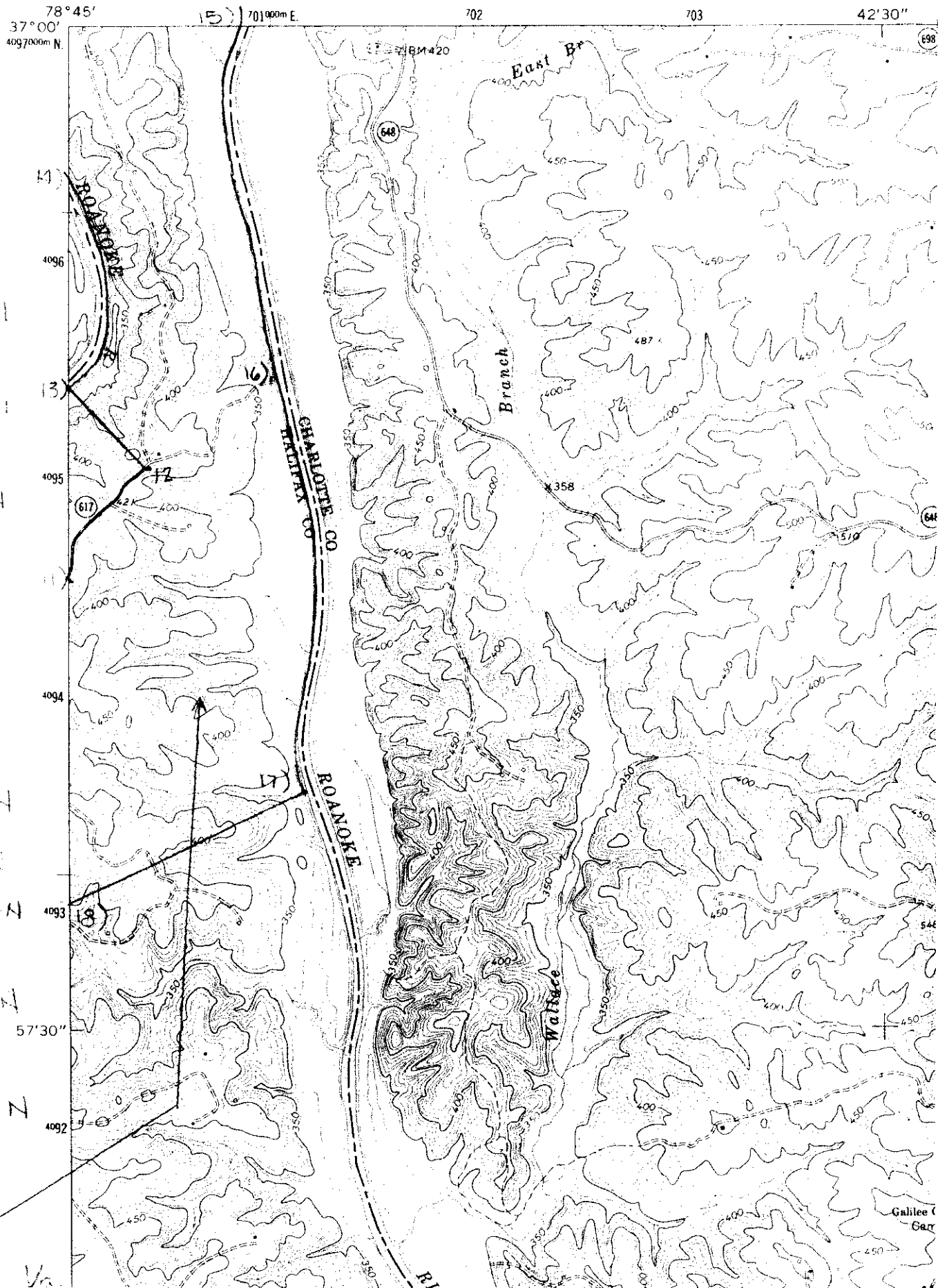
Section number 11 Page 34

The Cove (041-5086)
Halifax County, VA

- ³³ Halifax County Deed Book 14, 188, 613.
- ³⁴ Timothy S. Ailsworth, Ann P. Keller, Lura B. Nichols & Barbara R. Walker, Charlotte County, Rich
Indeed: A History from Prehistoric Times Through the Civil War (Richmond, Virginia: Whittet &
Sheppardson, 1979), 539.
- ³⁵ Halifax County Deed Book 22, 98-99.
- ³⁶ Halifax County Will Book 2, 109-111.
- ³⁷ Halifax County Deed Book 7, 170.
- ³⁸ Halifax County Deed Book 9, 157.
- ³⁹ Halifax County Deed Book 9, 212.
- ⁴⁰ Halifax County Deed Book 15, 175.
- ⁴¹ Halifax Will Book 1, 220.
- ⁴² Halifax County Will Book 2, 57.
- ⁴³ Halifax County Deed Book 18, 155.
- ⁴⁴ Halifax County Deed Book 22, 69-70.
- ⁴⁵ Halifax County Chancery Causes (1812-015).
- ⁴⁶ Halifax County Chancery Causes (1812-015).
- ⁴⁷ Halifax County Deed Book 27, 466.
- ⁴⁸ Halifax County Deed Book 34, 590-593.
- ⁴⁹ Halifax County Deed Book 49, 232-233.
- ⁵⁰ Kenneth Cook, "Woodlawn: the Easternmost of the Great Plantation Houses Built Along the Staunton
River in Halifax County from the Late 18th to the Mid-19th Centuries" (News & Record Staff, 1979).
www.oldhalifax.com/county/Woodlawn.htm
- ⁵¹ Elizabeth Sims Clarke was the daughter of Priscilla Sims and John Clarke. Priscilla Sims was the
daughter of Matthew Sims (brother of David and William) of Black Walnut Plantation and Oney May.
- ⁵² Halifax County Will Book 30, 64-66.
- ⁵³ Halifax County Chancery Order Book 10, 364-366.
- ⁵⁴ Cook, 1.
- ⁵⁵ According to the 1870 census, Charles H. Watts (1852-1940), son of James R. Watts (1827?) is living
with Samuel R. Watts (1827-?) as a farm laborer. Charles later marries and has a son Samuel Lee Watts
(1878-1944). Samuel Lee Watts married Maggie (1877-?) and had Charles Howard Watts (1900-2000).
- ⁵⁶ Halifax County Deed Book 112, 473.
- ⁵⁷ Halifax County Deed Book 128, 7.
- ⁵⁸ Halifax County Deed Book 130, 12.
- ⁵⁹ Halifax County Deed Book 143, 70.
- ⁶⁰ Halifax County Deed Book 143, 210.
- ⁶¹ Halifax County Deed Book 246, 156.
- ⁶² 1910 Census, Halifax County, 12.
- ⁶³ Halifax County Deed Book 313, 741. Halifax County Deed Book 319, 451.
- ⁶⁴ Halifax County Deed Book 824, 522.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5258 (11 SE
(ASPEN)



14) 700081 E
4091650 N

15) 700081 E
4091250 N

17) 700061 E
4090250 N

11) 700071 E
4091147 N

15) 701071 E
4097263 N

16) 701206 E
4095653 N

17) 701391 E
4093751 N

18) 700001 E
4093207 N

The Cove
(04150.86)
Halifax Co Va

78° 45' 37' 00" 4097000m N
701900m E 702 703 42' 30" 698

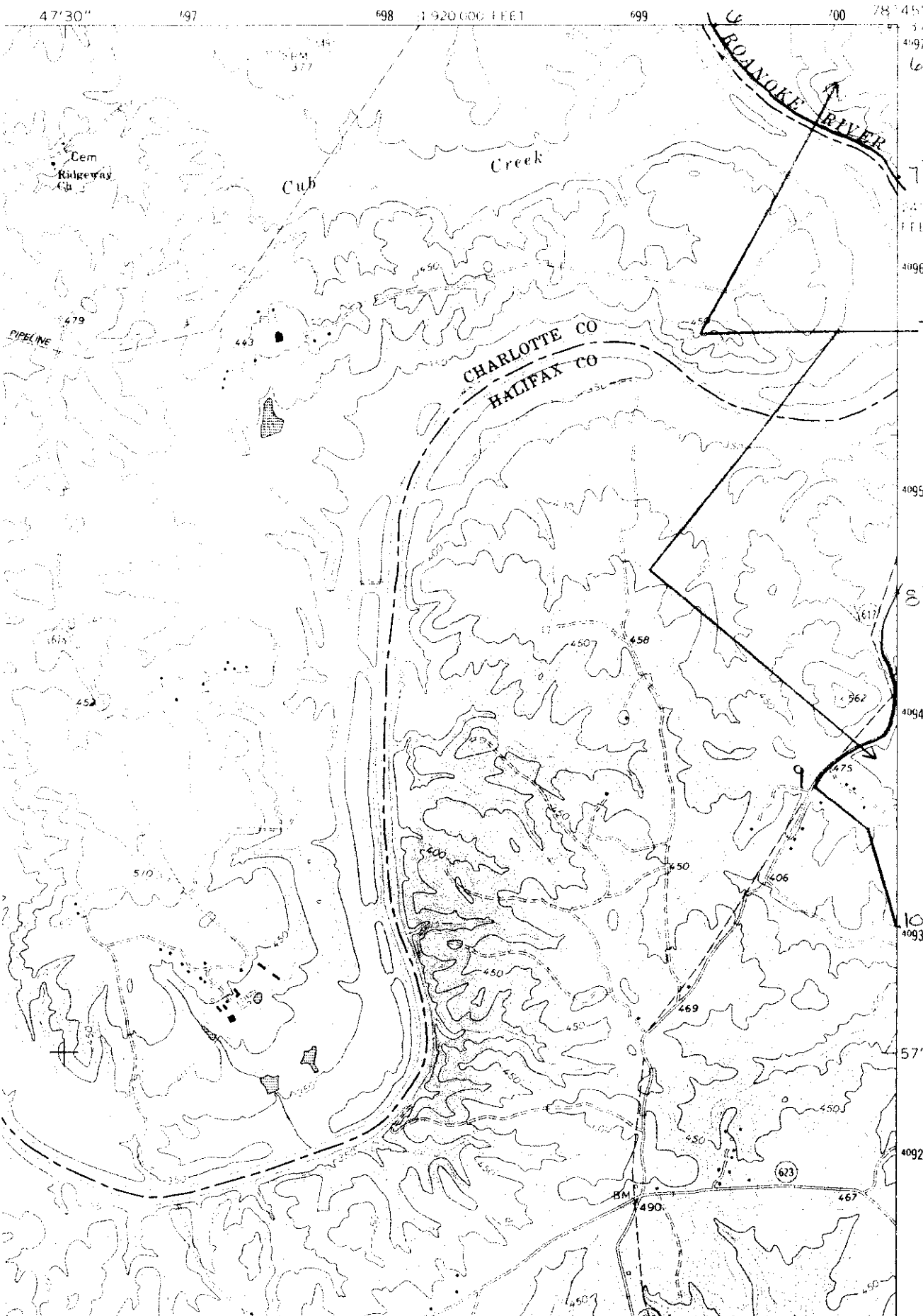
4096
14
13
4095
4094
4093
57' 30"
4092

CHARLOTTE CO
HALLIFAX CO
ROANOKE

Galilee (Gar)

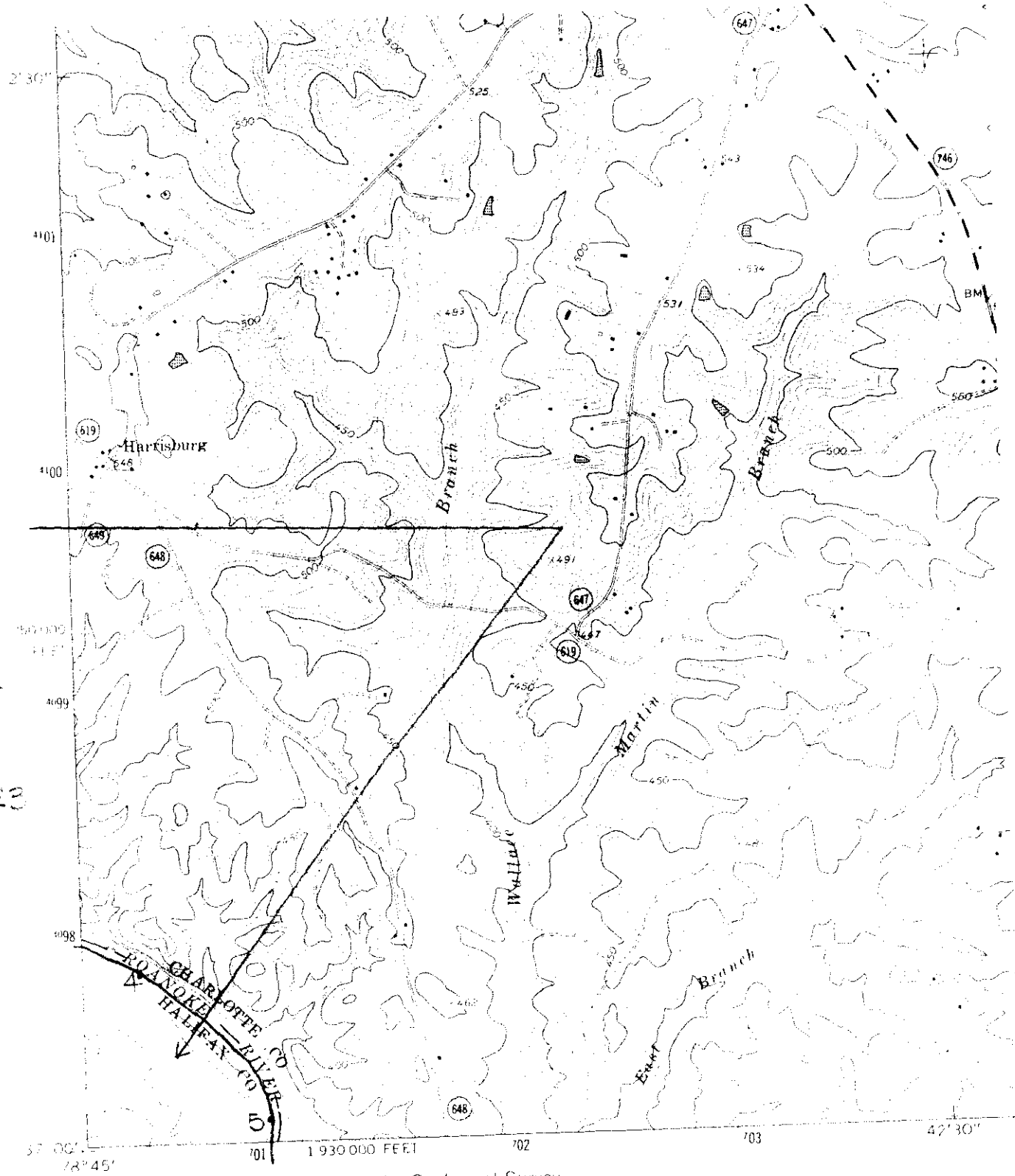
CONNER LAKE QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 NE 1/4 HALIFAX 15 QUADRANGLE

SHOWN BY
 (CHARLOTTE
 COURT HOUSE)



- 6) E 699395
N 4091226
- 7) E 700236
N 4091657
- The Cove
241.5086
Zone 17
- 8) E 700281
N 4094703
- 9) E 699934
N 4093799
- 10) E 700325
N 4093215

The Cove
 041-508L
 Zone 17
 E 700444
 N 4098004
 E 701008
 N 4097323



CONNER LAKE
 1/4 SECTION 14, T. 33 N., R. 10 W.

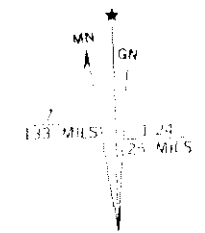
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USCGS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968

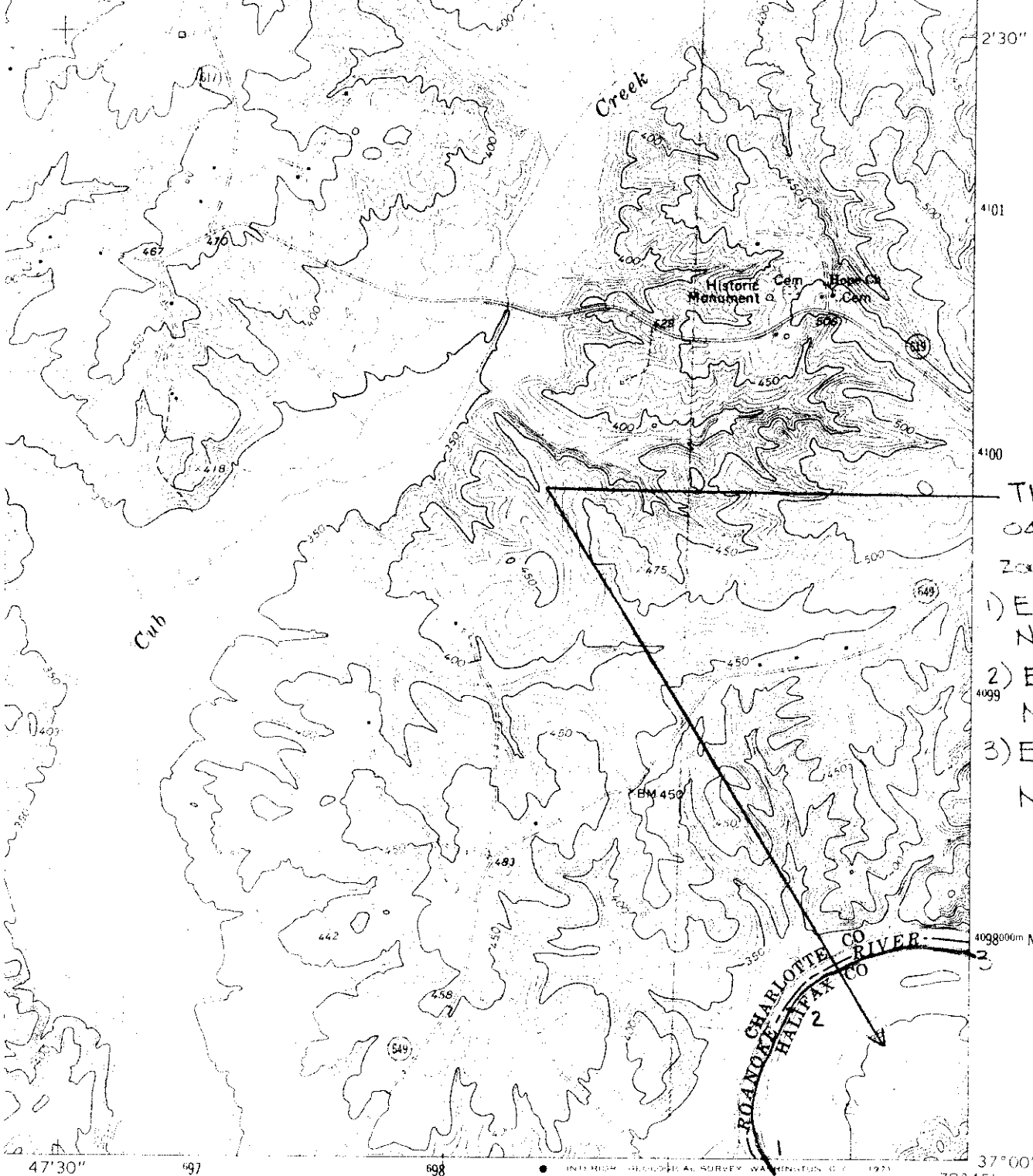
Projection: 1927 North American datum
 10,000 foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
 1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
 move the projection lines 12 meters south and
 24 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1987 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



The Cove
 041.5086
 Zone 17
 1) E 694387
 N 4091252
 2) E 694484
 N 40917857
 3) E 700190
 N 4098106

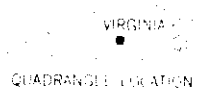
47'30" 697 698 699 700'000m E 78°45' 37'00"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	—————	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	- - - - -	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

State Route

SCALE



ASPEN, VA.

SE/4 BROOKNEAL 15 QUADRANGLE
 N3700—W7845/7.5

1968

AMS 5258 III SE—SERIES V834

(SAXE)
 11/21/11