

VLR- 5/21/74
NRHP- 10/17/74

43-32

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Virginia
COUNTY:
Henrico
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	
Tree Hill	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Route 5			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Richmond vicinity		Third (David E. Satterfield, III)	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Henrico	087

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Burlee, Jr.			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Tree Hill, Route 5 43 OSBORNE TURNPIKE			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Richmond	Virginia	51	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Henrico County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Richmond	Virginia	51	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
221 Governor Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Richmond	Virginia	51	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Henrico
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Begun in the late-eighteenth century as a frame two-story, side-hall-plan farmhouse, Tree Hill grew with the Selden and Roane family fortunes until by the mid-nineteenth century the original house had evolved into a double-pile, center-hall plan Greek Revival plantation seat. As it stands today, the house is an impressive two-story plantation house with early one-story wings and a modern two-story tetrastyle portico. The house commands a magnificent view of the James River bottom lands and the Richmond skyline.

Characterized by its shallow gable roof and subdued Greek Revival ornament, the exterior of Tree Hill is sheathed with beaded weatherboard. While all the windows have sliding sash with six-over-six lights, the windows in the earliest or north side of the house retain Federal period architraves while those in the Greek Revival portion of the building have flat unmoulded trim typical of the mid-nineteenth century. The semi-exterior chimneys on the Greek Revival section are original; however, those on the house's earliest section have been rebuilt.

The foundations of Tree Hill reveal the structural sequence of the house from its original form to its present appearance. Begun as a side-hall plan farmhouse with English bond foundations, the house was altered and enlarged in the late-eighteenth century into a center-hall-plan structure with a one-story wing at either end. The basis for this conclusion is borne out by the shift in the masonry to a confused mixture of Flemish bond and two-and three-course American bond. Further evidence substantiating the growth of the house to this plan is found in Mutual Assurance Society policy No. 190 issued to Miles Selden in 1796 and insuring a house shown as being 42 feet by 20 feet "built of wood and covered with wood," two-stories in elevation with frame one-story wings approximately 16 feet by 20 feet. In the mid-nineteenth century the main house was expanded again, this time into a double-pile center-hall plan structure on brick foundations laid in well-executed five-course American bond. More modern additions have included the two-story portico, the expansion of the one-story wings as noted in the breaks in original foundation masonry and the extensive reworking of certain portions of the exterior brickwork on the north wall foundations.

The interiors of Tree Hill reflect a succession of nineteenth-century styles. The first floor interior trim ranges from Greek Revival mantels in the southwest and northeast rooms to a fine 1850's period marble mantel in the southeast room. The mantel in the northwest room reflects the still later mode of Georgian Revival ornament with its exaggerated mouldings and paired pilasters. The hallway possesses a fine mid-nineteenth-century stairway and a Greek Revival plaster ceiling medallion with a flower petal motif. The earliest extant woodwork in the house is a fine early-nineteenth-century cellar stair with simple rail and newel and two unturned balusters per tread. Also in the cellar are two raised-panel doors, one of which has been moved to its present location and hung upside down.

Of additional significance are the two early outbuildings in the yard at Tree Hill. The frame building to the northeast of the main house may be the quarter kitchen described on the Mutual Assurance Policy of 1796. This small one-story building with a loft originally had a one-story wing at either end although the south wing has been destroyed. The kitchen retains a number of important features including early-raised panel shutters,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Henrico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.
interior battened doors and a comparatively late jerkin head or clipped gable roof. In the northwest corner of the yard is a fine early smokehouse. Although the original piers for the smokehouse have been replaced with later brick footings and the exterior has been largely reweatherboarded, some of the original weatherboard remains just under the simple box cornice. Of particular note is the smokehouse's exceptionally well-executed diagonally battened door, heavily studded with clenched rose head nails and hung on a set of three wrought iron strap hinges. To the immediate south of the smokehouse are the remains of a large brick lined ice cistern.

B.H.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Henrico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Tree Hill

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of Tree Hill plantation were drawn to incorporate the scenic open lands of the plantation. These open lands are visible from downtown Richmond and form the urban area's only remaining rural backdrop. Also from these open lands one is afforded a magnificent view of the Richmond skyline. Tree Hill is the first of the historic plantations (from Richmond) that line the James River along Route 5 between Richmond and Williamsburg. Its open space is especially critical to the historical and scenic integrity of this significant area.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

history☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tree Hill served as the home of two prominent Henrico County families - the Seldons and the Roanes - and figured in the preliminary surrender of Richmond to the Union Army. Through a series of additions, the rambling dwelling house grew from a modest building to one of Henrico's most impressive plantation seats. Situated on a commanding bluff overlooking the fertile bottom lands of the James River and the Richmond skyline in the distance, Tree Hill affords the most panoramic view available of the capital city.

Tree Hill was purchased in 1778 by Miles Seldon, who served variously as Clerk for Henrico County, a member of the Council in 1785, County Magistrate, and Delegate to the Virginia Assembly. There was a race track at Tree Hill during Seldon's time, the scene of a well-publicized race in October 1824, attended by the Marquis de Lafayette.

The plantation passed to Patsy, daughter of Miles Seldon, and her husband William Roane in 1837. Roane, who would serve in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, was the son of the noted Jeffersonian jurist Spencer Roane and grandson of Patrick Henry. Franklin Stearns, a prominent Main Street merchant, bought Tree Hill from the Roanes in 1855.

The War of 1865 generally spared Tree Hill, although the plantation lands were used for grazing the livestock belonging to the vast Chimborazo Hospital, and were, in April, 1865, a camp ground for the Union troops soon to occupy Richmond. Chimborazo was the largest military hospital in the world, accomodating 76,000 patients during the war years.

Richmond was briefly an open city following the evacuation of the Petersburg line and the terrible fire that began with the destruction of the Virginia State Armory. At this juncture, the city's mayor wrote to the "General Commanding the Union Army in front of Richmond":

General

The Army of the Confederate Government having abandoned the City of Richmond I respectfully request that you will take possession of it with an organized force to preserve order and protect women and children and property.

Respectfully

Joseph Mayo, Mayor

The Burlee family purchased Tree Hill from the Stearns family in 1910. They maintain the place as a working farm.

B.H.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, James H., Henrico Home Front, 1861-1865, Richmond, 1965.

Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Homes Along the James, New York: Bonanza Books, 1957.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37°	30'	22"	77°	25'	22"			
NE	37°	30'	22"	77°	24'	12"			
SE	37°	29'	10"	77°	24'	12"			
SW	37°	29'	10"	77°	25'	22"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 320 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	April, 1974
STREET AND NUMBER:	
221 Governor Street	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Richmond	Virginia
	CODE
	51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title _____

MAY 21 1974

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Henrico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Tree Hill			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 5			
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond vicinity			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Henrico	CODE 087
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangles Drewrys Bluff & Richmond, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1952		1964	
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

★ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-148/1441 3-1

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
COMMON Tree Hill	AND/OR HISTORIC	
2. LOCATION		TOWN Richmond vicinity
STATE Virginia	COUNTY Henrico	
STREET AND NUMBER Route 5		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		NEGATIVE FILED AT Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Richmond, Va.
PHOTO CREDIT Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATE 1974	
4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View from south.

LEWIS BLUFF QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 BERMUDA HUNDRED 15' QUADRANGLE

(SEVEN PINE)

TO INTERCHANGES 9

25'

RICHMOND (JUNC. U.S. 50) 2.3 MI.

2 320 000 FEET

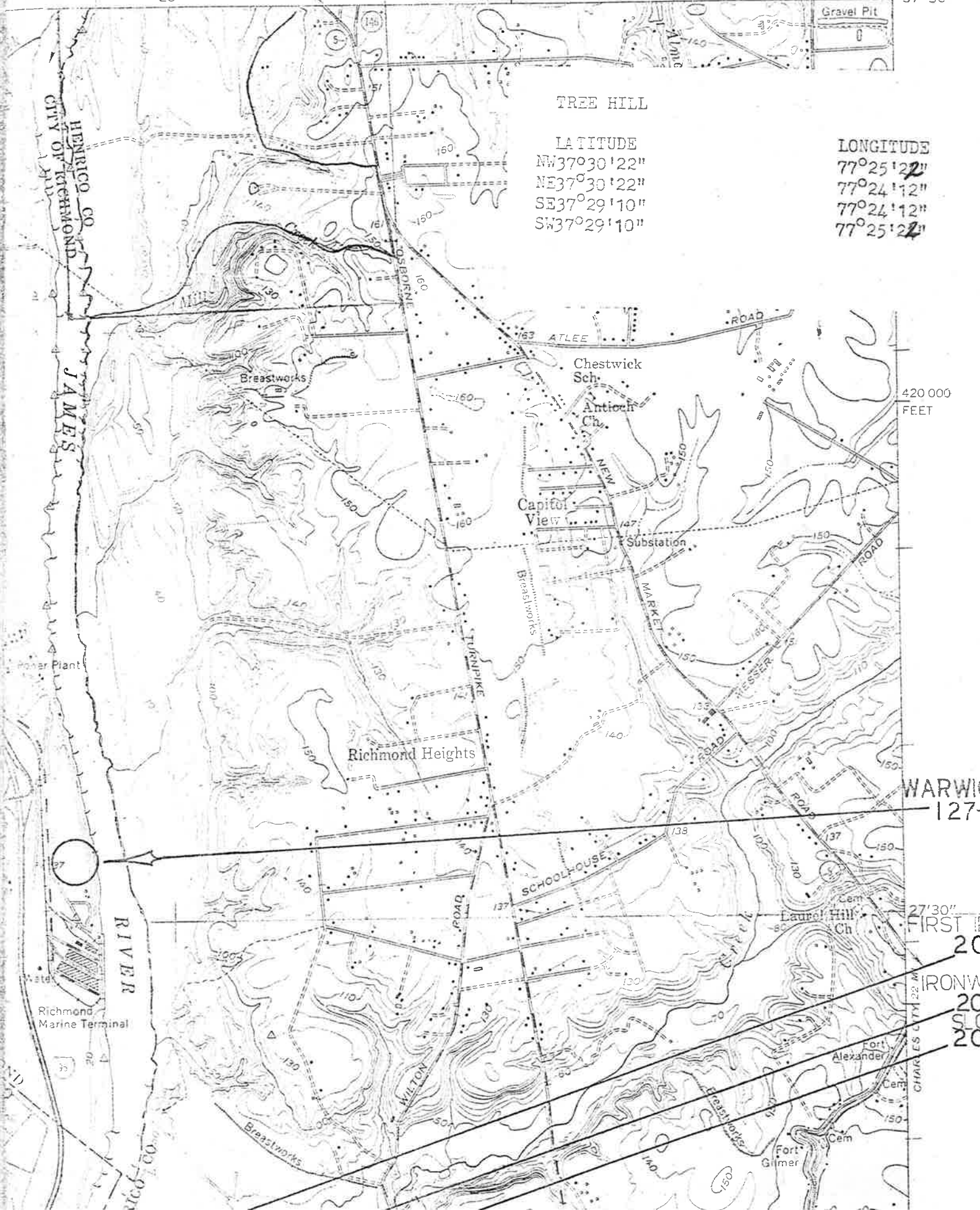
77°22'30"
37°30'



TREE HILL

LATITUDE
NW37°30'22"
NE37°30'22"
SE37°29'10"
SW37°29'10"

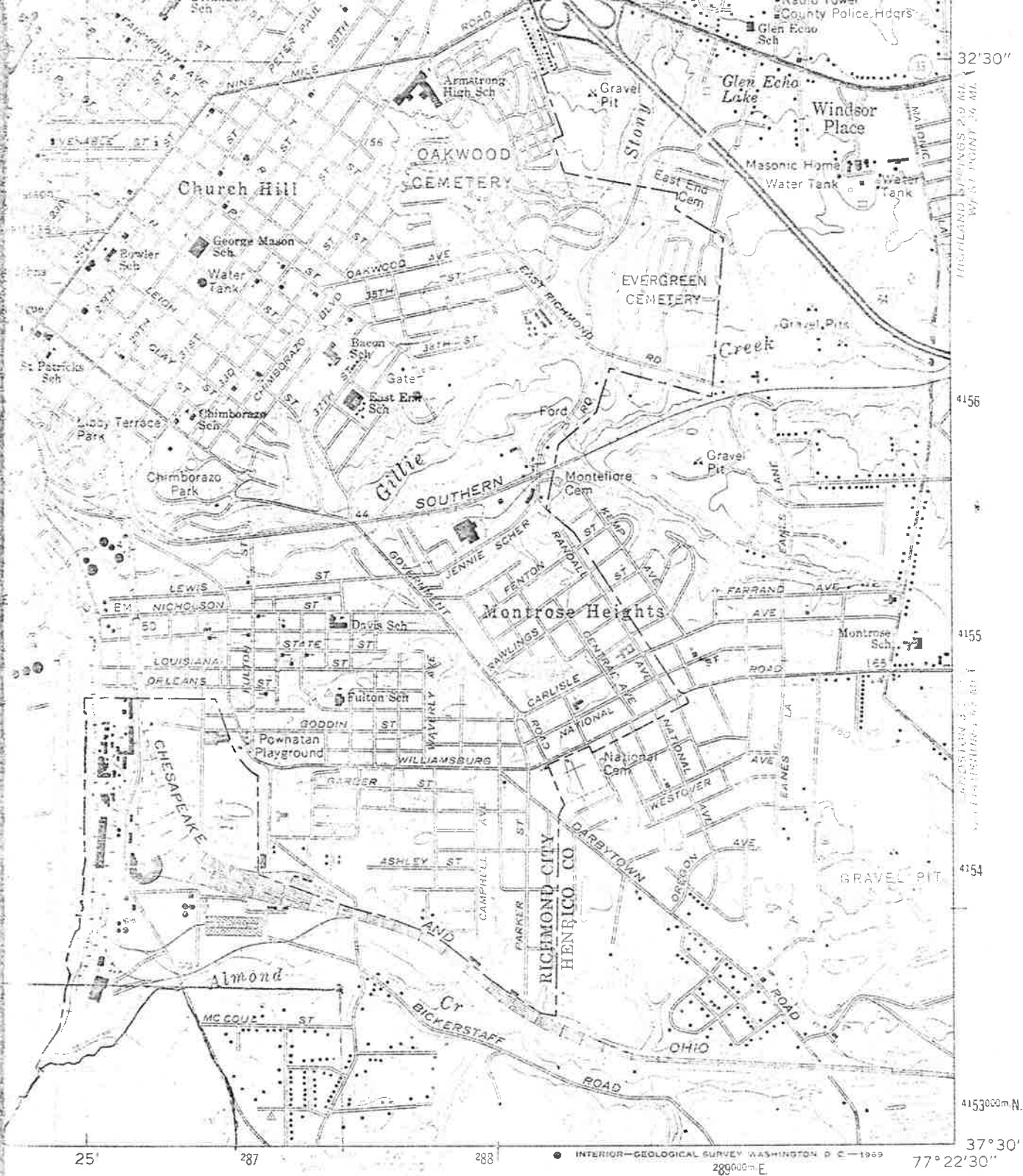
LONGITUDE
77°25'12"
77°24'12"
77°24'12"
77°25'24"



WARWICK
127-5

27'30"
FIRST IR
20-
IRONWO
20-
SLOA
20-

CHARLES CITY 22 M



● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D C—1969

2890000 E

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	=====
Interstate Route	⦿	U. S. Route	⦿
		State Route	⦿



RICHMOND, VA.
N3730—W7722.5/7.5
1964
NOT REVISITED 1968
AMS 5559 III SW—SERIES V834

Tree Hill Sheet TWO

DUTCH GAP
1958 N. NE

