

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR 12/13/88  
NHP 11/9/89

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16.) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable" For functions, styles, materials and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a) Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Effingham  
other names/site number: N/A, #76-6

2. Location

street & number: 14103 Aden Road N/A not for pub  
city, town: (Nokesville- mailing) X Aden vicinity  
state: Virginia code: VA county: Prince William code: 153 zip code: 22300

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	building(s)			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	X district	4	4	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	site			sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	structure	1	1	structures
	object			objects
		5	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. \_\_\_See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_meets \_\_\_does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. 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

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling  
DOMESTIC/ Secondary Structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions  
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling  
DOMESTIC/ Secondary Structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/  
agricultural outbuilding

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English, Southern Colonial

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X  See continuation sheet

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick  
walls: Wood  
roof: Asphalt Shingles  
other: Brown Sandstone

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties  
nationally                      statewide                      X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria    A     B      C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

Areas of Significance  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
1777-1814

Significant Dates  
1777

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
William Alexander

Architect/Builder  
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X  See continuation sheet

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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X  See continuation sheet

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

Primary location of additional data:  
X State historic preservation office  
Other State agency  
Federal agency  
X Local government  
University  
Other:

Specify repository:  
Prince William Planning Dept.  
Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property:

330 acres

## UTM References

A     /            /            /  
      Zone     Easting     NorthingB                    /            /            /  
                      Zone     Easting     NorthingC.                    X See continuation sheet

D.

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Verbal Boundary DescriptionX See continuation sheet

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Boundary JustificationX See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title            William T. Frazier  
organization        Frazier Associates  
street and number   213 N. Augusta Street  
city or town         Stauntondate                    August 1988  
telephone            (703) 886-6230  
state    VA            zip code 24401

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**Summary Description**

Effingham is a large, two-story, five-bay, eighteenth-century, Tidewater-style, frame residence set on a raised basement. It has a massive, exterior, brick, double chimney joined by a pent closet at each end of the structure. A two-story portico has been added to its west elevation and the gable roof has been covered with asphalt shingles. The interior floor plan is a double-pile with a central hall. It retains some of its original elaborate woodwork in the front hall, most notably the entablatures over the interior doors. Effingham, a 687-acre cattle farm, is located in southern Prince William County north of Cedar Run off of Aden Road (State Route 646). Its private drive of one-quarter mile leads south from Aden Road past a brown sandstone blacksmith shop. From there the cedar-lined lane turns east until it reaches the main house. There are several other outbuildings, including a smokehouse and former slaves' quarters, as well as a terraced garden that is reputed to be one of the earliest in Virginia.

**Architectural Analysis**

The west facade of the house is dominated by a two-story portico which was added by the present owners, the late Dr. O. Anderson Engh and his wife, Sara D. Engh, when they purchased the farm in 1955. The house and outbuildings were in deteriorating condition at that time and the Enghs embarked on a major refurbishing of the structures and grounds.

The five-bay portico that spans the width of the house is supported with six rectangular columns and is capped with a crown molding and a simple balustrade. The portico replaced a Victorian-era porch, although the stone steps to the main entrance were reused under the portico. These steps appear to have been original to the house and then moved to the front of the nineteenth-century porch when it was added. The floor of the portico is composed of large flagstones set in concrete.

The paneled double entrance doors are covered with louvered screen doors and are capped with a five-light transom. All the architrave door and window frames of the exterior appear to be

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original, but the nine-over-six first floor windows and six-over-six second floor windows are replacements as is the beaded siding. The louvered blinds match originals to the house and are installed on the west elevation.

The raised-basement brick foundation with its Flemish bond brick pattern has two segmental-arched windows presently covered with louvered wooden blinds in the west elevation. While the five-bay facade is symmetrical, the spacing between the end walls and the first window toward the central entrance is not equal. There are approximately three feet between the south end of the facade and its first window and five feet between the north end of the facade and its first window. This variation could indicate that the house was built in two stages. There is a brick wall in the basement supporting the north walls of the present kitchen and dining room and might be evidence that this section of the house was constructed first.

The Engls discovered brick nogging set within the framing during the remodeling, a construction feature shared by the nearby plantation, Pilgrim's Rest. There are other similarities between the two buildings, including double pent chimneys and enclosed main staircases. They were both built in the Tidewater style in the second half of the eighteenth century and may have been designed and constructed by the same builders.

The north and south elevations contain double, pent, shouldered chimneys with corbeled caps. These chimneys have a Flemish bond brick pattern and have been extensively rebuilt and painted white. A water table at the base of these chimneys is at the same level as the raised basement brick foundation. A one-story enclosed entrance with a shallow gable roof and beaded siding has been added to the north and south elevations in the center of the chimneys. Historic photographs show large shed additions on both ends of the house that extended beyond the chimneys and ran the full width of the house.

On the garden side or east elevation of the house is a raised brick entrance with side staircases and iron railings. This raised entrance was installed by the current owners and replaced another Victorian-era porch. The dentil blocks in the cornice on the garden elevation were added by the present owners. There are two segmental-arched basement window openings covered with

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louvered wooden shutters on this elevation. On the south elevation in the end wall of the kitchen a four-paned double casement window has been added by the current owners.

There are two plaques on the southwest chimney, one from the Prince William County Historical Commission and the other from the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution that states the following: "Effingham built by William Alexander born March 3, 1744, died April 3, 1814. He was a member of the Prince William County Committee of Safety in 1774, Lieutenant Colonel of the Militia during the Revolutionary War and a Justice. In 1765 he married Sigismunda Mary Massey by whom he had sixteen children".

The interior of Effingham has a double-pile plan with a wide central hall, typical of the period. There are three-panel, double entrance doors with H/L hinges at each end of the hall. Entablatures crown each hall doorway and consist of a heavily molded cornice with dentils and an undecorated frieze that is curved similar to a torus molding. The heavy crown molding that appears to be original to the hall consists of two rows of cyma reversa molding, a rectangular molding, a torus molding, and a bead at the bottom. The wainscoting in the hall has raised panels surrounded by a beaded molding and capped by a chair rail, which consists of a cavetto molding capped by an ovolo molding, a partial torus molding, a rectangular molding, and a torus molding. The baseboard begins with a rectangular block that is crowned by a cyma reversa molding, a small ovolo molding, and a scotia molding at its top.

The door to the northeast parlor in the central hall has a very ornate entablature resting on Ionic capitals and fluted pilasters. The pilasters tie into the wainscoting that becomes base pilasters on either side of the door. The entablature includes an undecorated frieze that protrudes like a torus molding and is capped by a cyma reversa molding and a row of dentils. The rest of the cornice includes an ovolo molding surmounted by a rectangular block molding, a cyma reversa molding, a cyma recta molding, and another ovolo molding. All of this woodwork in the hall appears to be original to the house and earlier photographs of it are in the Historic American Buildings Survey files.

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The main staircase is enclosed and is entered through a doorway on the north wall of the hall next to the garden entrance. The staircase has winders and its walls are covered with raised panels that appear to be original to the house. There are turned balusters capped by a railing along the top of the staircase on the second floor. Another enclosed staircase with raised panels is located off of the central hall in the chamber that is now used as a kitchen. The presence of two staircases so close together is another indication that the house might have been built in two stages.

The two parlors on the north side of the house originally were two separate rooms with no door between them. The current owners have cut a large opening through the adjoining wall. Both of these rooms have lost their original paneling, and legend has it that the DuPont family purchased it for \$1,000 in the 1930s to reuse in one of their houses. The present owners have installed wide horizontal boards as wainscoting and raised panels on the fireplace walls in these two rooms. The raised panels came from a dividing wall between the two attic rooms and the horizontal boards came from remaining walls of the attic.

The dining room includes a built-in reproduction corner cupboard, the original of which was in the parlor across the hall. The present owners had the new cupboard constructed from a Historic American Buildings Survey photograph of the original. The dining room mantel is an unusual design and appears not to be original to the house. It has a plain frieze and two turned columns supported by four sphere-shaped carvings resting on a bulls-eye plinth. The columns are capped by two small colonnettes with a beaded base. The fireplace opening has a surround of beaded molding with bulls-eye corner blocks. These corner blocks are repeated in the molding around the doors and appear to have been added to the original door frames. This remodeling probably was an attempt to upgrade and modernize the woodwork in this room in the mid-nineteenth century.

The present kitchen was installed by the present owners, who had to close the fireplace for a basement furnace flue. The mantel for this chamber matches the one in the present dining room and is stored in the basement.

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Most of the doors on the first floor are of a four-panel design and many have H/L hinges. The hardware is varied and includes reproduction as well as nineteenth century metal rim locks with brass or porcelain knobs. Much of the flooring on the main level had termite damage and unfortunately was replaced or covered with random-width pegged oak.

The second floor over the kitchen and dining room is organized into three small rooms. There is a small bedchamber in each corner of the house and they are separated by a storage room that retains its original railing with clothes pegs. Each of the bedchambers has a fireplace but the mantels have been replaced with simple wood surrounds.

The north side of the second floor contains a similar arrangement of bedchambers in each corner of the house separated by a storeroom that has been converted into a bathroom. There is also a small bedchamber in the middle of the second floor facing onto the portico. The rest of the upstairs includes a small connecting hall between the two sides of the house and a large open hall at the top of the north set of stairs. This open hall contains an enclosed staircase leading to the finished attic that is divided into two chambers. The framing that was visible behind the side walls included hand-hewn and pit-sawn timbers.

All of the doors on the second floor have four panels with simple beaded architrave trim. A Victorian-era mantel with floral carving and a storage shelf has been added to the northeast bedchamber by the present owners. The second floor does retain its original random-width heart pine flooring.

Several interesting outbuildings remain at Effingham and the location of those that have been demolished is well documented. A coursed-rubble, brown sandstone blacksmith shop is located at the intersection of the farm lane and the house lane. It has two entrances with an interior stone wall that divides the building into two nonconnecting rooms. The wood shingle gable roof was replaced by the present owners.

Southwest of the house is the old circular stone well that was covered with a frame gable-roofed structure. The well house was remodeled by the Enghs, who installed a wood shingle hipped

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roof and replaced the beaded siding. Next to it is the original hip-roofed smokehouse that rests on a brown sandstone and brick foundation. Its beaded siding and wood shingles have been replaced. The original interior framing of the smokehouse remains with its charred darkened timbers and, most interestingly, the original meat hooks. These hooks are unusual in that they are made of forks of tree branches instead of iron.

Additional outbuildings include one remaining slave quarters to the south of the main house. It has two exterior end brown sandstone chimneys and a gable roof. Originally it was divided into two slave quarters but it was remodeled into a guest house by the Enghs and a small kitchen and bath wing was added on the back. There were two other slave quarters buildings, one on each side of the guest house, but they were taken down because of their poor condition.

The old lye house was located on the site of the current pool house. The summer kitchen, which also was demolished, was located to the east of the well and south of the main house. There was a weaving house with a corner chimney to the north of the main house in the side yard. To the northwest of the house was a circular ice house whose stone foundation was all that remained until the current owners filled it in. At the intersection of the front walk with the lane that curved around the north side of the house were the former ruins of a small carriage house that the current owners removed when they purchased the property.

The old barn was located southwest of the house next to the cinderblock barn that was built in the 1940s. The tenant house was built by the Enghs in 1955 west of the barn. There is a machinery shed with a metal shed roof that is the same vintage as the new barn. It is located between the barn and the tenant house.

The three-level terrace behind the house is reputed to be one of the earliest in Virginia. It has been replanted with English boxwood by the current owners. Large elm, maple, and pecan trees dominate the front lawn of the main house. Behind the guest house and next to the lower terrace used to be an orchard. The original family cemetery is located to the northwest of the house and is now on adjoining property. It includes the graves of several of the Alexander

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family including Colonel William Alexander who built Effingham.

The four contributing buildings are the main house, the well house, the smokehouse, and the former slaves' quarters. The contributing structure is the blacksmith shop. The four noncontributing buildings include the tenant house, barn, machinery shed, and pool house because of their recent construction and modern materials. The noncontributing structure is the swimming pool.

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**Statement of Significance**

Effingham is one of several large plantations constructed in the last quarter of the eighteenth century in southern Prince William County near Cedar Run by prominent families who settled the area from the Tidewater section of Virginia. The house was built for William Alexander, of King George County, who was a great-grandson of John Alexander, for whom the city of Alexandria was named. William Alexander was a civic leader and served on the Prince William Committee of Safety, was a lieutenant colonel in the Prince William County militia, and later served as a county justice. He used the Tidewater style of architecture for Effingham, which is a two-story, five-bay, gable-roofed frame residence built on a raised brick foundation. It is distinguished by its double pent brick end chimneys, enclosed staircases, and fine interior woodwork. It shares several design features with the nearby plantation of Pilgrim's Rest, which was constructed during the same era. Several of Effingham's important outbuildings survive including a stone blacksmith shop, a former slaves' quarters, and a smokehouse. Its tripled-terrace lawn is reputed to be one of the earliest in Virginia. Effingham's transplanted Tidewater style of architecture and its important associations with William Alexander make it one of Prince William County's most significant surviving eighteenth century plantation complexes.

**Historical Information**

Effingham was built on a portion of the 30,000-acre Brent Town Tract. This grant was made in 1686-1687 by James II to three entrepreneurial Londoners, Richard Foote, Nicholas Hayward, and Robert Bristow, and a Catholic pioneer, George Brent. The venture began as an attempt to create a religious haven in the backwoods of an area that became Prince William County. The primary objective was to settle a large territory some miles away from the already-inhabited Tidewater regions of Northern Virginia.

Sometime after 1738, the descendants of the four original proprietors divided the Brent Town Tract. George Brent's descendants took the northeast quarter. The Bristows claimed a northern tract adjoining the Brents. The Haywards took the southeast quarter, and the Footes settled the southernmost parcel, now lying in Fauquier and Prince William counties. Effingham was built

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on the Hayward share of the Brent Town Grant by the Alexander family that came from the Tidewater section of Stafford County, along the Chotank Creek. They migrated, along with the Footes, Fitzhughs, Stuarts, and others, to the middle Piedmont lands in the vicinity of Cedar Run and established an aristocratic community of fine mansions, English gardens, and cultivated fields around Brent Town. Tobacco and slavery were the mainstays of the economy. Dumfries, a few miles to the southeast, was the market, port, and social center.

Effingham's builder, Colonel William Alexander, was a great-grandson of John Alexander, who in 1669 owned a 6,000-acre patent on Hunting Creek. This tract later became the site of an early tobacco warehouse and eventually of a settlement that would become the city of Alexandria. William Alexander was born on 3 March 1744 to Captain Philip and Sara Hooe Alexander, of King George County. Philip Alexander left a large estate of over 1,500 pounds when he died in 1753 and directed in his will that his executors keep his three sons in school until they were eighteen years of age and then bind them out to a doctor, county court clerk, or lawyer. It is not recorded to which of these professions young William was apprenticed.

On 18 April 1765, barely past his twenty-first birthday, William married Sigismunda Mary Massie, daughter of Sigismunde and Mary (Stuart) Massie of King George County. While family tradition holds that he built Effingham in 1765 when he married, deed records indicate that he did not purchase that tract until 1777. Ten of William and Sigismunda's sixteen children lived until adulthood and the youngest, Lawrence Gibbons Alexander, inherited Effingham after his father's death in 1814.

William Alexander was a gentleman farmer and a civic leader in Prince William County. He was chosen to serve as a member of the Prince William County Committee of Safety in 1774 along with the Blackburns, Hooes, Ewells, Graysons, Carrs, Harrisons, Brents, and other prominent fellow residents. These committees were appointed to insure that no one imported items from or exported goods to England after 1 December 1774 as relations continued to deteriorate between Great Britain and the colonies. As relations worsened and war was declared, William Alexander was made a captain in the Prince William County militia and by 5 November 1776 county legislative petitions showed him to have been promoted to a lieutenant colonel. His

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participation in local affairs continued when he was appointed a county justice, a position he held until 1790 when he notified the governor that he declined to serve any further.

William Alexander died on 3 April 1814 at the age of seventy years and left Effingham to his son Lawrence subject to a life estate for Sigismunda, his wife. He had extensive land holdings and left neighboring Congress Farm to his son Philip, and Massey Dale Farm to his son William with equal divisions of the woodlands among all three sons. His will also mentioned lands in Fairfax County that he had previously given to another son, John Stuart Alexander. His inventory reported thirty-seven slaves, which would account for the large number of slaves' quarters. He was well read and his books included *the Bible*, *Blair's Sermons*, *Smollets History*, *Goldsmith's Antimated Nature*, *Moore's Navigation*, two *Latin Dictionarys*, and *Homer's Odysee*.

Lawrence Alexander lost Effingham in 1828 because he defaulted on payments to John Macrae. A year later, in 1829, William Foote purchased the plantation. In 1833 William Foote's heirs conveyed the farm to Allen Howison who willed it to his daughter, Harriet, wife of John S. Love, in 1876. Effingham was next transferred to Mary C. Green, William J. Green, and Allen Green from Harriet Howison Love and then sold to David H. Horne in 1911. He transferred the plantation to his wife, Hannah, in 1921 and she conveyed the estate to George Allen Bell in 1941. Bell sold Effingham to C. Kenneth Francis in 1949 and Dr. O. Anderson Engh and his wife, Sara, purchased it on 1 January 1955.

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**Bibliographical References**

Farrar, E., and Hines, E. *Old Virginia House Along the Fall Line* Charlotte, N. C. The Delmar Co., 1971.

King, Martha E. "Notes Compiled for Dedication of Effingham Marker." Manassas, VA: Unpublished Research Paper for the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1968.

Prince William County Historical Commission: *A Past to Preserve*. Prince William County Historical Commission, 1982.

Ratcliffe, R. Jackson. *This Was Prince William*. Leesburg, VA: Potomac Press, 1978.

Templeman, Eleanor Lee, and Netherton, Nan. *Northern Virginia Heritage*. Privately published, 1966.

Works Progress Administration Writers' Program. *Prince William: The Story of Its People and Its Places*. Richmond: Whittet & Shepperson, 1941; 4th ed., (Bicentennial Edition) 1976.

**Unpublished Sources**

Historic American Buildings Survey, 1959.  
Historic American Buildings Survey, 1936.

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**Acreage of property**

330 acres

**UTM References**

A	18/	280300/	4280380	B	18/	280610/	4280120
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	18/	280910/	4279420	D	18/	281260/	4279160
E	18/	281150/	4278600	F	18/	279750/	4278770
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
G	18/	279900/	4279540				

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property occupies much of parcel 1 on Prince William County Public Works maps 38S, 38N, and 39S. Beginning at a point on the south side of Aden Road, where Aden Road intersects with a private drive of the property immediately to the west of Effingham proceed in a southeasterly direction for 1384 feet along the south side of Aden Road to the west side of the lane to Effingham. Then proceed along the west side of the lane to Effingham in a southwesterly direction for 1815 feet. From this point proceed in a southeasterly direction for 1846 feet. Then proceed in a southwesterly direction for 415 feet. Then proceed in a southeasterly direction for 1200 feet to Cedar Run. Then follow Cedar Run in a southerly direction for 1880 feet. At the point where the Quantico Marine Corps property intersects with Cedar Run, proceed in a westerly direction and follow the Quantico boundary for 4620 feet. Then proceed in a northeasterly direction continuing across the pond and along the east side of the neighbor's private road for 5490 feet to the point of origin.

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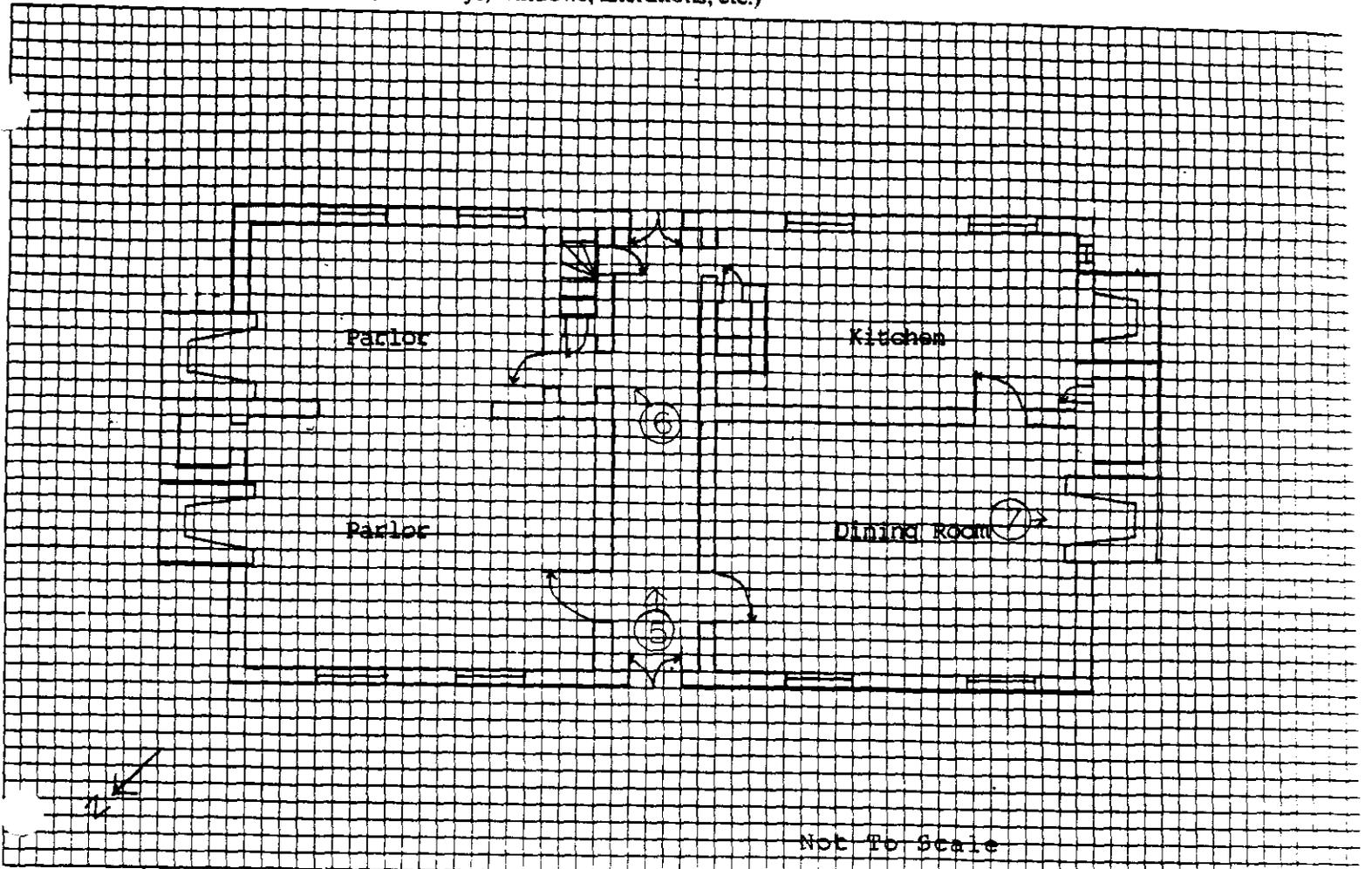
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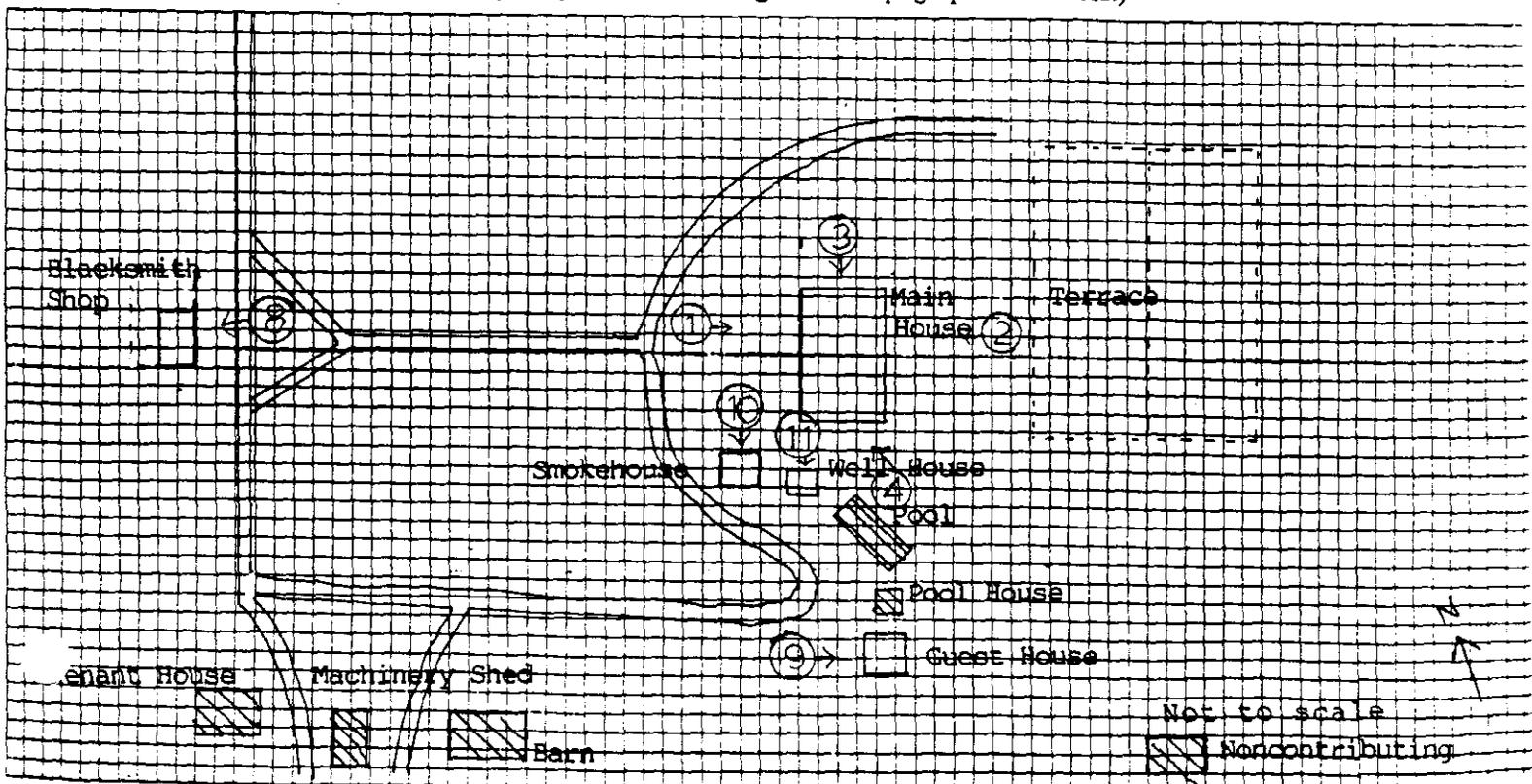
**Boundary Justification**

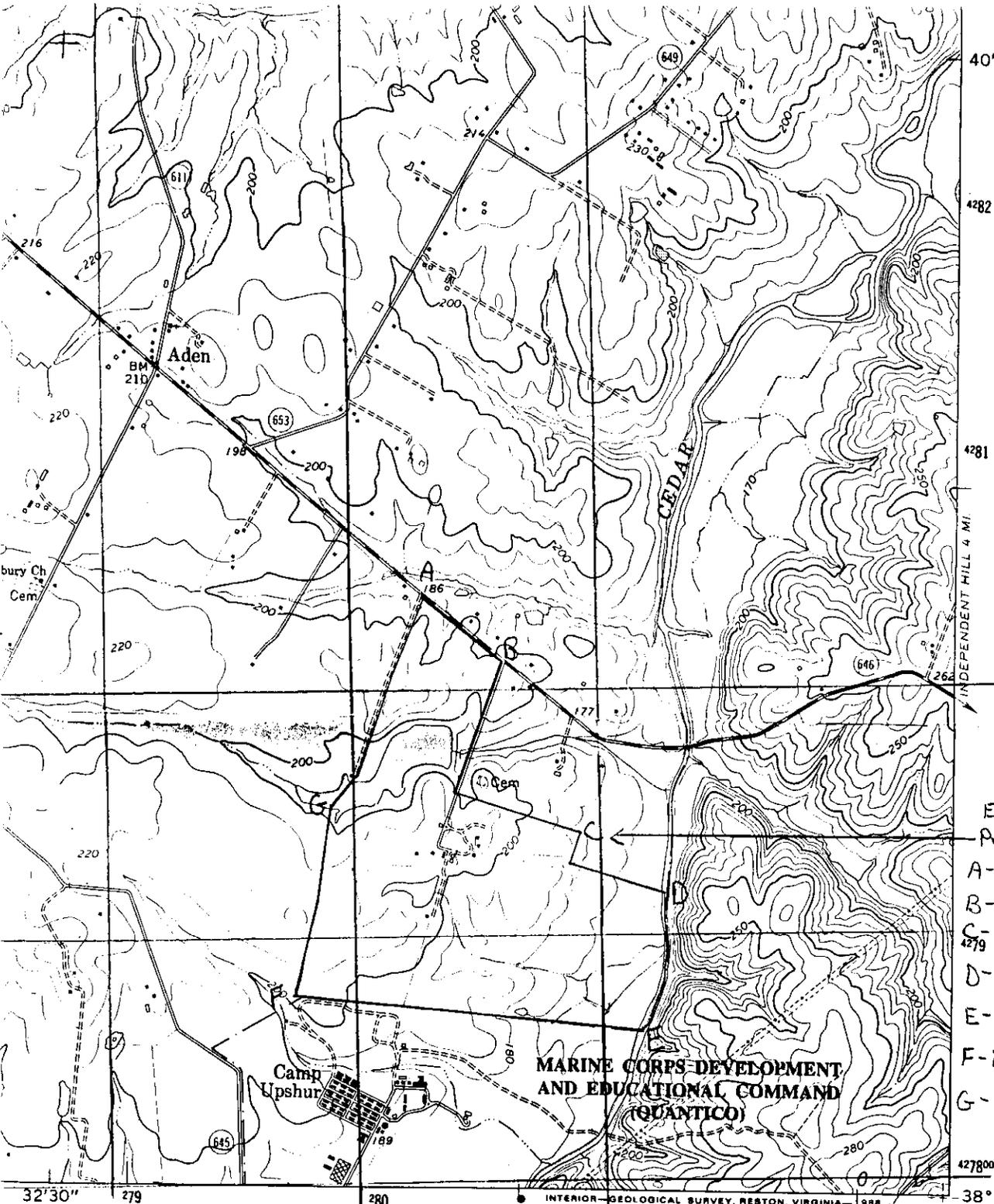
This nominated parcel is 330 acres of the present farm's 687 acres which encompasses many parcels to the west of the plantation complex all the way to Fleetwood Drive that the current owners have acquired. The nominated area corresponds to the legal descriptions for the northern, eastern, and much of the southern boundaries for Effingham. The nominated acreage includes the lane and many of the surrounding fields historically associated with the house.

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)





40'  
4282  
4281  
INDEPENDENT HILL 4 MI.

Effingham  
Prince William Co., VA  
A-18/280300/428038  
B-18/280610/4280120  
C-18/280910/427940  
D-18/281260/4279160  
E-18/281150/4278600  
F-18/279750/4278770  
G-18/279900/4279540

32°30" 279 280 4278000m N. 38°37'30" 77°30"

MARINE CORPS DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL COMMAND (QUANTICO)

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

MILE



NOKESVILLE, VA.  
38077-F5-TF-024

1966  
PHOTOREVISED 1983  
DMA 5481 II NE - SERIES V834

92  
visions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation  
Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs  
1981 and other sources. This information not field checked  
dated 1983