VLR Listed: 1/5/1971
NRHP Listed: 7/2/1971

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Virginia	
COUNTY:	
Prince William	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.7.51.0009	7/2/71

RECEIVED JAN 7 1971 NATIONAL REGISTER

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rippon Lodge

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Rippon Lodge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
.6 mi. SE of Rt. 1, .8 mi. N of intersection with Rt. 642.

CITY OR TOWN:
(Woodbridge vic.)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Prince William	153

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Richard Blackburn Black, Rear Admiral, USNR (Ret.)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rippon Lodge

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Woodbridge	Virginia 22191	51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Prince William County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Manassas	Virginia	51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	D. C.	11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Prince William
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.7.51.0009
DATE: 7/2/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rippon Lodge is a frame house of one and one half stories covered by a gable roof with jerkinheads and dormers. The stone foundations have been reinforced with concrete as well as brick and wooden piers and the two original brick corner chimneys still define the original portion of the building between them. Additions were made on the west end possibly in the late-eighteenth century complete with brick chimney, the gable roof being extended with the jerkinhead repeated at the end. In 1924, the two wings and the full-length porch between were added to the south front. In spite of the many additions, the framing, chimneys, part of the basement masonry as well as much of the beaded siding remain from the first half of the eighteenth century. Interior changes have been made but out of the five irregularly sized rooms in the original rectangle two retain their eighteenth century pine paneled walls. Although horizontal widths vary, the paneling consists of a single rectangle below and above a molded chair rail. The elliptical arch of the fireplace opening in the dining room has a marble surround with volutes above but the mantel in the small room on the south uses fully-developed consoles supporting a cornice shelf.

RECEIVED
JAN 7 1971
NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [x] 18th Century
- [ ] 19th Century
- [x] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [x] Other *(Specify)* History

RECEIVED JAN 8 1971 NATIONAL REGISTER

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Richard Blackburn Black, fifth-great-grandson and namesake of the builder and original owner, came into possession of Rippon Lodge in 1952. Admiral Black, a polar explorer old-style who first visited the Antarctic with Richard E. Byrd's second expedition, purchased the property from the widow of Wade Hampton Ellis. Rippon had passed out of the Blackburn family when George Atkinson (died 1844) purchased it from the estate of Thomas Blackburn. It was subsequently held by Atkinson's son, then by his daughter, and finally by one Thomas Marron. Judge Ellis, a collateral descendant of the original owners, restored the Lodge to the family and to something of its original appearance, in 1924.

Although the many additions to Rippon Lodge tend to detract the eye from the original portions, considerable material remains in the early-eighteenth-century block. The fine quality of the interior paneling is surprising in so small a structure. One of the most impressive features of the house is its site overlooking the alluvial plain of the Potomac with the river itself within view over the trees to the east. The charm and convenience of this situation attracted Englishmen from the first. Captain John Smith visited the site while it was still the seat of the Doeg Indians.

The earliest land patents in Northern Virginia were surveyed here, on the Occoquan estuary of the Potomac. When Richard Blackburn purchased his tract in 1737, it was part of a mature, densely settled, agricultural neighborhood. Blackburn came to Prince William County from Rippon, England early in the eighteenth century. He made his fortune as planter and builder: certainly building the first Falls Church, among the several significant structures attributed to him. He speculated in land, owned a grist mill, and co-founded several towns including Dumfries. Blackburn's social and economic activities were those typical of a member of the upper gentry.

Indeed the Blackburns are text-book models of Virginia's eighteenth-century leadership. Richard Blackburn was "Preferred by the Governor /to posts of/ command in the Colony as well as by the People who made him a Representative in the General Assembly. . . ." The interplay of democratic and aristocratic forces, implied in this contemporary epitaph, was --according to modern scholars-- a necessary element in the political culture which produced the Virginia Founding Fathers. Richard Blackburn's son and heir, Thomas, followed his father in service to the Commonwealth. Thomas Blackburn's generation of gentlemen planters lived to provide Virginia with leadership

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harrison, Fairfax. Landmarks of Old Prince William.
Hening, William W. The Statutes at Large .13 volumes. Richmond, 1809-1823.
Ranke, Mrs. Vinetta (Wells). The Blackburn Genealogy, 1939.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	38° 37' 05"	77° 17' 03"		° ' "	° ' "
NE	38° 37' 05"	77° 17' 03"			
SE	38° 36' 40"	77° 16' 24"			
SW	38° 36' 40"	77° 16' 24"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 140 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

RECEIVED JAN 7 1971 NATIONAL REGISTER

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
DATE: December 18, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Edw. P. Alexander by JWM

Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 1/5/71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JUL 2 1971

ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 13 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(A) 18/302000/4276620
(B) 18/301980/4275910
(C) 18/301120/4275930
(D) 18/301140/4276640
UTM REF 11-18-75WM

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Prince William	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.7.51.0009	7/2/71

(Number all entries)

8. during the Revolution and under the Republic.

Fifty years, and an Empire, passed between the deaths of Richard Blackburn (in 1757) and his son, Thomas. But their wills, in many ways interesting and informative documents, give evidence of little change in either the customary forms of inheritance or the social position of the family. There is some hint of entail--slaves certainly were attached to specific plantations; but little of primogeniture in the late-late-colonial document. The division of personal and real property between older and younger sons, and daughters, was comparable in both wills: the one written when Virginia was part of the Empire, the other when she was a Republican State.

RECEIVED
JAN 7 1971
NATIONAL
REGISTER

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Prince William	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.7.51.0009	7/2/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Rippon Lodge

AND/OR HISTORIC: Rippon Lodge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

.6 mi. SE of Rt. 1, .8 mi. N of intersection with Rt. 642.

CITY OR TOWN:

(Woodbridge vic.)

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Prince William	153

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle Quantico, Va.-Md.

SCALE: 1:24000

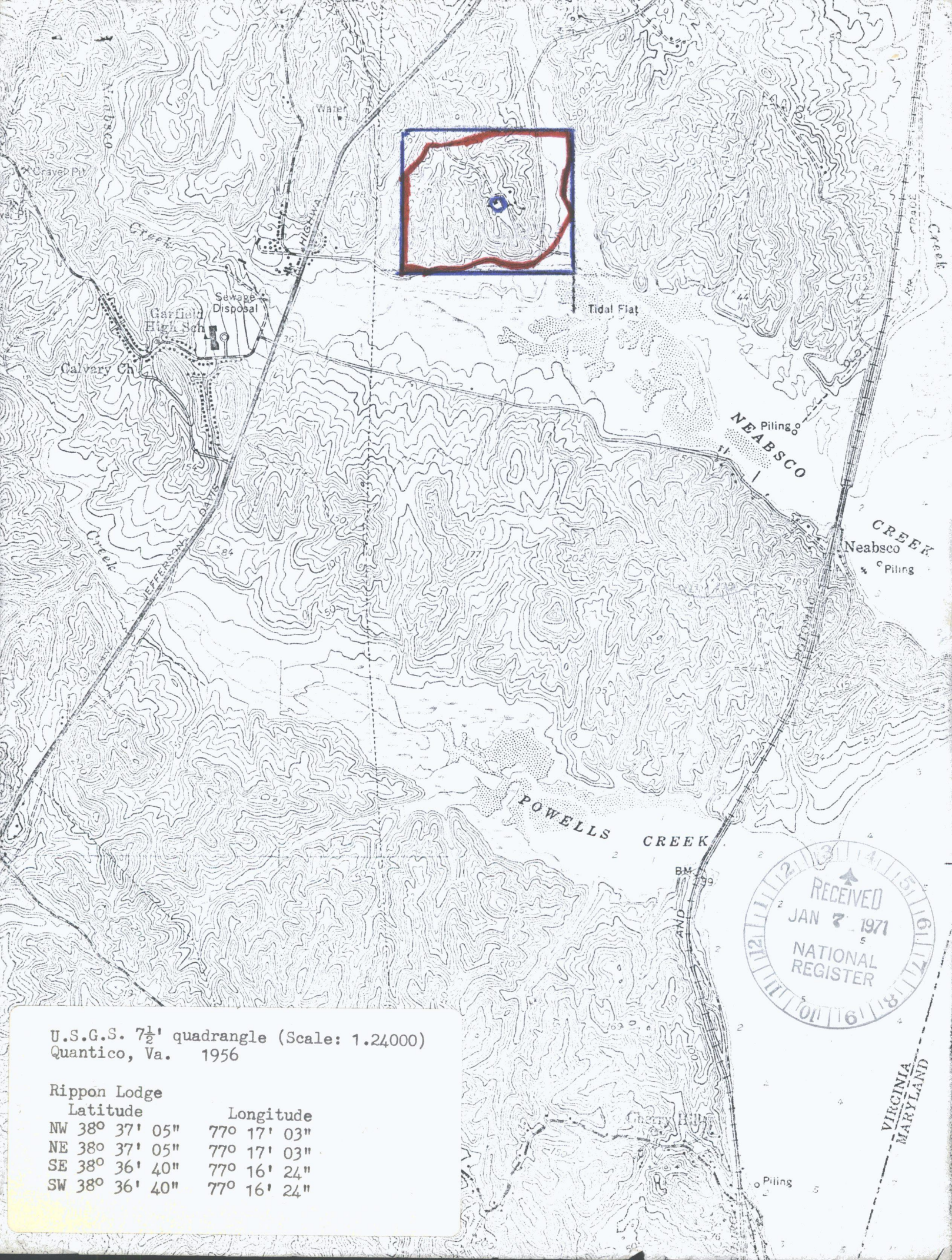
DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

RECEIVED
JAN 7 1971
NATIONAL REGISTER



RECEIVED
JAN 7 1971
NATIONAL REGISTER

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1.24000)
Quantico, Va. 1956

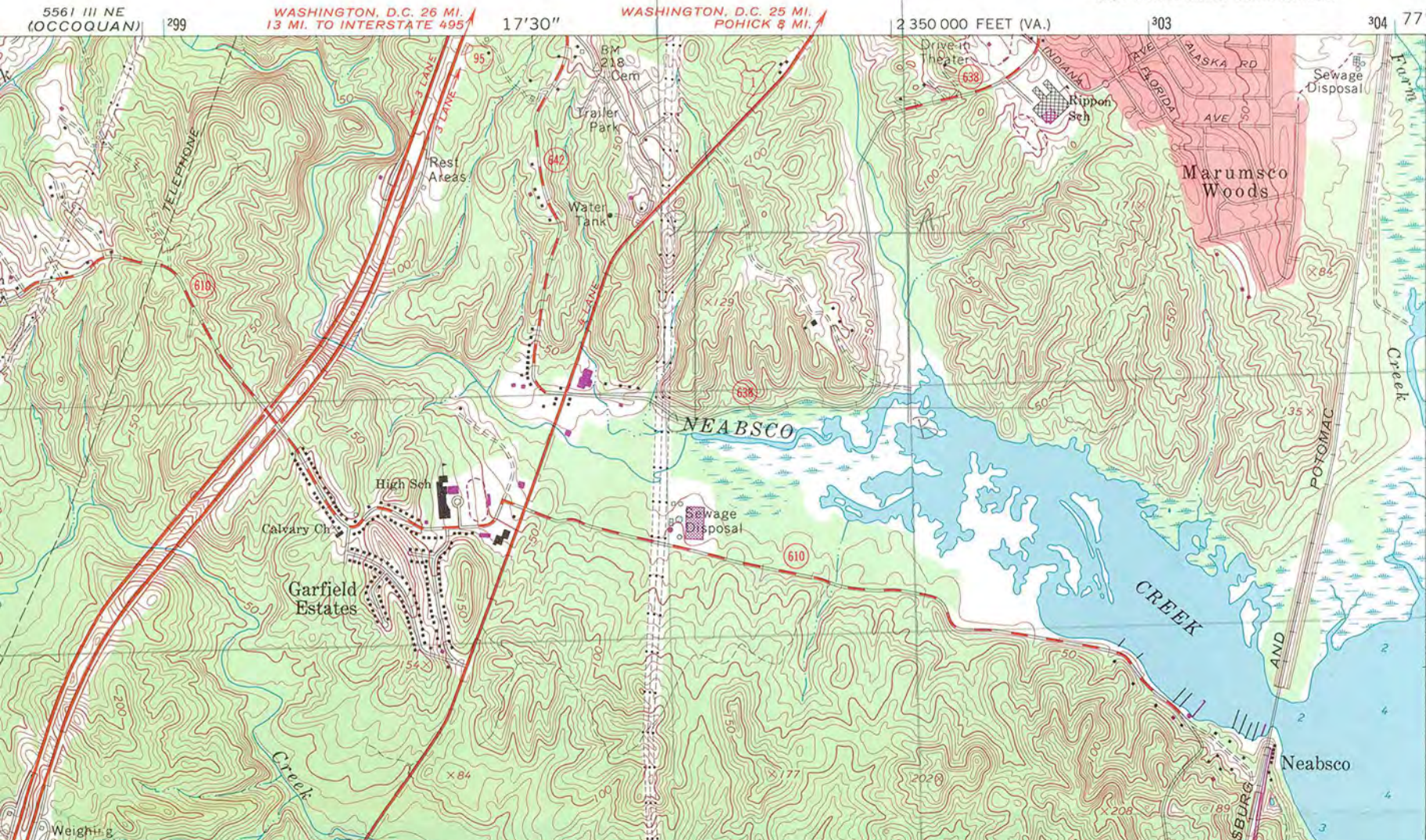
Rippon Lodge

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	38° 37' 05"	77° 17' 03"
NE	38° 37' 05"	77° 17' 03"
SE	38° 36' 40"	77° 16' 24"
SW	38° 36' 40"	77° 16' 24"

RIPPON LODGE

QUANTICO QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA – MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 QUANTICO 15' QUADRANGLE

5561 II NW (FORT BELVOIR)



UTM REF

NOV 18 1975 wm

(A) 18/302000 4276400

(B) 18/301980 4275910

(C) 18/301100 4276930

(D) 18/301140 4276650