

VLR: 3-10-94
NRHP: 5-19-94

OMB No. 1024-0018
127-850

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 WEISIGER-CARROLL HOUSE

other names/site number VDHR File No. 127-850

2. Location

street & number 2408 Bainbridge Street not for publication
city or town Richmond vicinity n/a
state Virginia code VA county Richmond (independent city) code 760 zip code 23225

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.)

High C. Miller Signature of certifying official Date March 7, 1994

Director, 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 commenting or other official 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 Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **DOMESTIC** Sub: **Single dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **DOMESTIC** Sub: **Single dwelling**

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **BRICK**

walls **WOOD: weatherboard**

roof **METAL**

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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 value, 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.

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

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance c. 1800-1900

Significant Dates c.1800

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	282980	4154780	2		
3				4		

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 Calder Loth, Senior Architectural Historian

organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date January 10, 1994

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone 804-786-3143

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

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Additional Documentation
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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 Henry L. Nelson and Robert Nelson

street & number 3600 New Market Road telephone 804-328-4035

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23231

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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 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Weisiger-Carroll House
City of Richmond, Virginia**

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Weisiger-Carroll house is a wood-frame, early nineteenth-century vernacular cottage located in what was formerly the outlying areas of the city of Manchester, a community directly across the James River from downtown Richmond that is now annexed to the capital city. Located on Bainbridge Street, originally known as "the River Road," the house is set on a large lot dotted with old trees. A modern picket fence defines the front of the lot. The one-story, gable-roof structure is covered with beaded weatherboards and is set on a high brick basement. It originally was a three-bay dwelling, but was extended one bay to the north sometime in the mid-nineteenth century. Exterior chimneys are at either end and a one-story shed-roof porch extends across the rear elevation. The interior has a two-room plan; the main room or parlor retains a Federal mantel, original chairboards, window and door frames, and early flooring. Although the house has had many occupants and even served as a hospital during the Civil War, it retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

As late as 1876, the Weisiger-Carroll house stood relatively isolated on a city block just south of the Manchester town line, as shown on the *Beers Atlas Map of Manchester* of that year. Even though it is now surrounded by turn-of-the-century housing, the house retains a relatively large lot, given a venerable look by the presence of numerous old trees. Dating from the early nineteenth century, the house is a one-story vernacular structure standing on a high brick basement and covered by a gable roof. The roof, probably of wood shingles originally, is now sheathed in standing-seam sheet metal.

The house began as a three-bay dwelling with a center front door but was extended one bay to the north in the mid-nineteenth century. This enlargement is readily apparent in the roof framing and in the foundation brickwork. The foundation is laid in Flemish bond on the facade or west elevation, but the bond changes to irregular American bond on the other elevations. Also, the facade brickwork changes from Flemish to American where the north end was extended. Much of the brickwork on the south end has been relaid. The south chimney stack as well has been rebuilt, somewhat unskillfully, with the original bricks. The north chimney stack dates from the mid-nineteenth-century alteration but may also reuse original bricks. It is straight-sided almost to the top and is in American bond. Irregularities in the brickwork throughout are concealed by a coat of red paint.

The walls of the frame portion are clad in beaded weatherboarding, most of which appears to date from the early nineteenth century. The areas of beaded weatherboarding on the later section may have been reused from the original north end. The east elevation weatherboarding, in particular, shows various patches and joints, indicating the mixing of early siding with later. The house also has beaded cornerboards and plain box cornices on the east and west elevations. The east cornice is hidden by a shed-roofed porch largely rebuilt in a 1980s restoration. Although most of the porch fabric is modern, a porch of this configuration may have existed here in the nineteenth century. The fact that it is awkwardly butted against the box cornice suggests that the porch was an afterthought in any case.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Weisiger-Carroll House
City of Richmond, Virginia**

A small shed-roofed porch shelters the front entrance. It is largely of new material but may be an early feature. It is reached by a straight flight of wooden steps. The rear porch currently has no stair. An early photograph shows a low one-story wing attached to the south end of the house. This wing was removed in the 1980s restoration.

The windows throughout are set in plain wooden frames. All of the sash has been replaced with modern aluminum sash. Many of the early windows are in storage in the attic. The main windows are relatively tall and give dignity to the otherwise plain facade. The basement facade has a door near each corner and one small window between them.

The interior preserves a surprising amount of early fabric for an urban vernacular house. The large south room in the basement has exposed original floor joists but stains on the underside of the joists show that they were once enclosed by a plaster ceiling. The largely rebuilt south wall has exposed brick, while the remaining walls are plaster and have a simple chairboard and baseboard. An early batten door is on the east wall. The room on the opposite end retains little early fabric and now contains a modern kitchen. A center passage has a stair leading to the first floor.

The principal room on the first floor is in the south end. The front door opens directly into the room and the front door itself is an original six-panel door. The door opposite is a modern replacement but the original door is preserved on site. The room retains original pine floorboards and simple baseboards. The original chairboards, beaded on top and bottom, are intact. Each of the two original window frames has a simple molded backband and a thin but distinctive molded sill. The focal point of the room, the mantel, although small, is unusually sophisticated for a vernacular house. Its mantelshelf has a full cornice with punch-and-dentil molding in the bed moldings. A simple backband frames the opening and beyond it are beaded wings.

In the northeast corner of the room is an enclosed stair leading to the upper level. The stair is closed off from the room by a batten door. Markings in the floorboards show that a partition, creating a narrow center passage, once extended from the east wall to the west wall. Because the partition would have butted against the original chairboards and baseboards, it is assumed that it was a later addition.

The room on the north end of the first floor was originally very small but was doubled in size in the mid-nineteenth century when the north end was extended. The space has been altered by the insertion of a bathroom in its southeast corner. The only feature of much interest is a small, plain Greek Revival mantel. The rest of the trim is very simple. In the northeast corner is a door leading to the rear porch.

The stair to the attic has winders at the bottom and its walls retain early, if not original, plaster. At the top of the stair is a small alcove. The south attic room is plastered and has a small Greek Revival mantel similar to the one in the north room below. The north attic room also has a nearly identical Greek Revival mantel. Marks on the framing indicate that the north room was fully plastered but most of the plaster has been removed, exposing the roof framing. The original rafters, marked with Roman numerals, are pit sawn and have mortised and pegged

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

**Weisiger-Carroll House
City of Richmond, Virginia**

joints. The rafters above the extended area are circular sawn and are merely butted at the apex. The sheathing board differs in the two sections as well. Both of the attic rooms retain early batten doors.

The sites of several outbuildings are said to survive in the yard but the area has not been tested by professional archaeologists. Although the Confederate cemetery is on an adjacent lot, the current owner states that bones are frequently found in the yard. The bones have not been tested to determine if they are human or animal. The yard is informally dotted with numerous trees, some quite large and old. The surrounding neighborhood is consists mostly of low-income, early twentieth-century urban housing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

**Weisiger-Carroll House
City of Richmond, Virginia**

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Weisiger-Carroll house at 2408 Bainbridge Street is among the few remaining dwellings of early Manchester, a town established by the House of Burgesses of colonial Virginia in 1769 and annexed by the city of Richmond in 1910. The simple weatherboarded structure with its high brick basement follows a pattern that apparently was common for the Manchester community's Federal-period vernacular dwellings, nearly all of which have disappeared. The exact construction date is unknown but the house was built on land originally owned by John Mayo, Manchester's leading landowner and entrepreneur. It may have been built by Mayo around 1800 but more likely it was built soon after 1816 when the property was purchased by Richard Kendall Weisiger. The house served as a hospital during the Civil War and more than one hundred Confederate soldiers who died there lie buried in a cemetery behind the house. During the late nineteenth century the property was owned by members of the Carroll family who were instrumental in founding the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manchester.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The town of Manchester was founded by act of Virginia's colonial House of Burgesses in 1769 on Chesterfield County land originally owned by William Byrd III known as Rocky Ridge. Like Richmond immediately across the river, Manchester grew from trading posts established at the falls of the James. The town was originally laid off into 312 lots surveyed by Benjamin Watkins. Manchester remained a separate community until it was annexed by Richmond in 1910.

Most of the development of Manchester was concentrated at its northern end, near the river and north of Cowardin Avenue. Until the present century, development south of Cowardin was scattered. The 1876 Beers Atlas Map of Manchester shows the Weisiger-Carroll house with only three or four other dwellings nearby, although the area had by then been laid off in lots continuing the grid of the original town.

Despite the fact that it was on the fringes of Manchester proper, the Weisiger-Carroll house follows the vernacular form characteristic of many of the simple frame houses erected in Manchester during the early nineteenth century, nearly all of which have disappeared. Typical of such houses, the Weisiger-Carroll house is a plain single-pile frame structure with a gable roof and a hall/parlor floorplan. It is given distinction by being set on a high brick basement. A largely rebuilt shed-roofed porch stretches across the rear. Several outbuildings once stood on the property but none remains.

The exact construction date of the Weisiger-Carroll house is unknown.¹ Manchester historian Benjamin B. Weisiger stated that the house was built around 1790-1800 by John Mayo, although it is reasonable to believe that it was built soon after 1816, the year the property was purchased from Mayo by Richard Kendall Weisiger.² The use of American bond in the rear wall and Flemish bond on the front of a high brick basement was a common practice in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Tradition has it that the house originally served as a tavern but this use has not been documented.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

**Weisiger-Carroll House
City of Richmond, Virginia**

The house was sold by the Weisiger family to William Henry Jones in 1852. In 1853 it was acquired by Patrick Baird. It passed into the Carroll family upon the marriage of Baird's widow to John A. Carroll and became known as the Homestead. Carroll was an Irish Catholic who was instrumental in founding the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manchester and permitted the first Catholic Sunday school in Manchester to be held in the Bainbridge Street house in 1876. The property remained in Carroll family ownership until the 1950s.

During the Civil War the property served as a field hospital for Confederate wounded, using the house as well as the several outbuildings that originally stood on the lot. Adjacent to the property is a parcel of land, maintained by the city of Richmond, where soldiers who died at the hospital are buried. On the parcel is a marker with the following inscription:

HERE REST MORE THAT ONE HUNDRED
SOUTH CAROLINA SOLDIERS WHO DIED
IN THE HOSPITAL IN MANCHESTER VA.
1861-1865
ELLIOTT GRAYS CHAPTER
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
ERECTED OCTOBER 6, 1939

A former owner stated that immediately after the fall of Richmond to Union forces, the property served as quarters for Union soldiers who are said to have camped on the lawn and were fed from the kitchen.³ Union uniform buttons have been found on the grounds.⁴

By the 1970s the Weisiger-Carroll house had fallen into a neglected state. It was purchased by David Townsend, a police officer, who restored the house himself in 1983. The restoration involved rebuilding the south chimney and the removal of a later addition on the southeast corner. The house stands today in good condition, maintaining a high degree of architectural integrity for a vernacular structure.

CCL

ENDNOTES

1. The noted restoration architect Milton Grigg (deceased) inspected the house in 1976 and stated his opinion that the house was constructed as early as 1765.
2. Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Old Manchester & Its Environs. 1769-1910.* p. 84.
3. VDHL "Preliminary Information Request," submitted by Henry L. and Robert Nelson, 1993. VDHL Archives file 127-850.
4. " 'Appalling' situation of 18th century house being rectified." *Richmond Times-Dispatch.* May 23, 1982.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 6

Weisiger-Carroll House
City of Richmond, Virginia

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"'Appalling' situation of 18th century house being rectified." *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. May 23, 1983.

"Claimant to Oldest City House Title Discovered." *The Richmond News-Leader*. August 31, 1976.

Weisiger, Benjamin B., III. *Old Manchester & Its Environs. 1769-1910*. Richmond: William Byrd Press. 1993. P. 84.

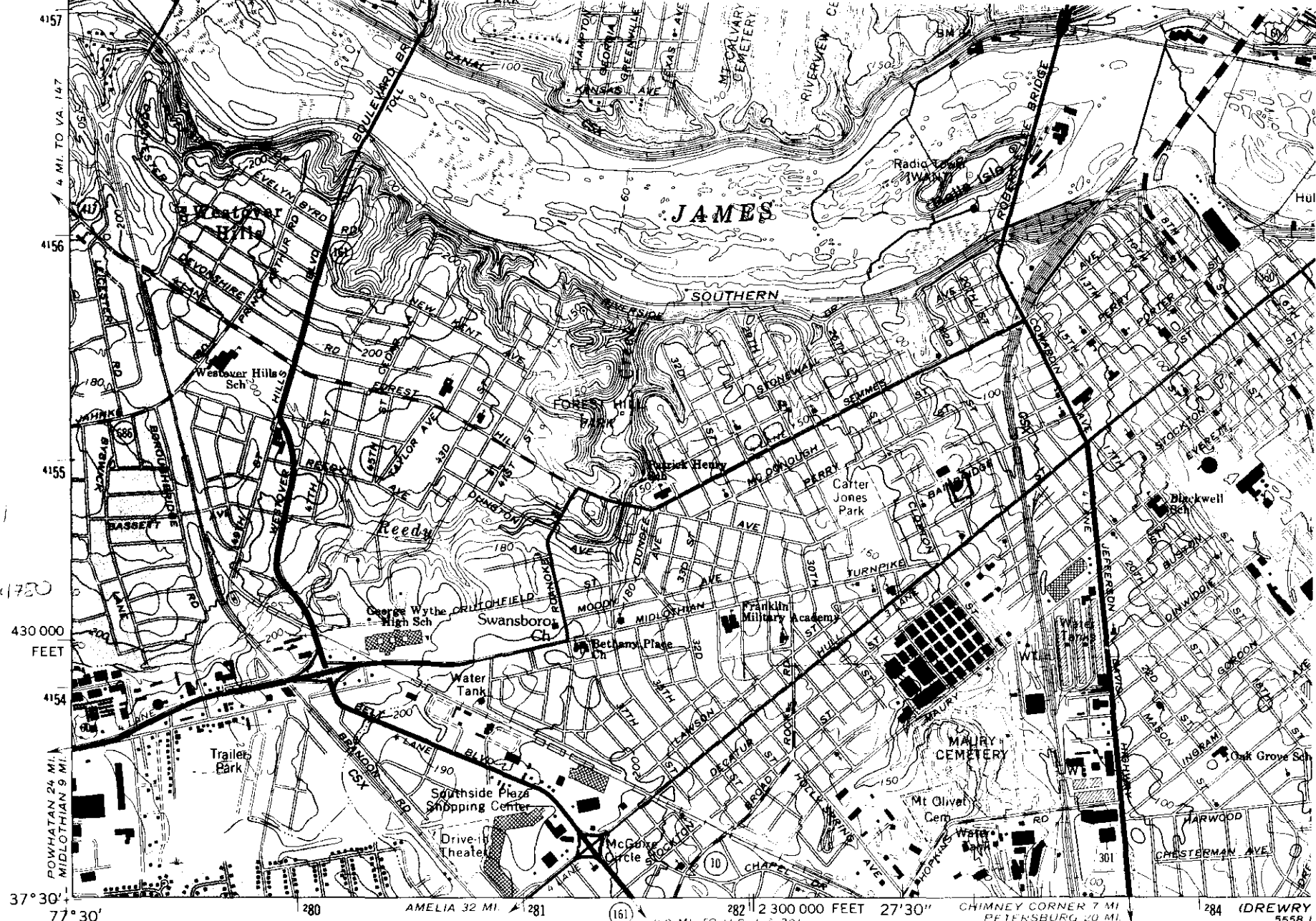
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Verbal Boundary Description

The property known as 2408 Bainbridge Street, City of Richmond, Virginia.

Boundary Justification

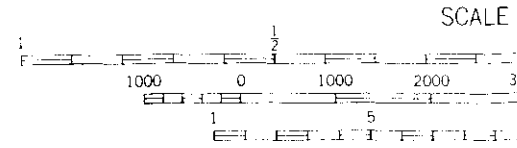
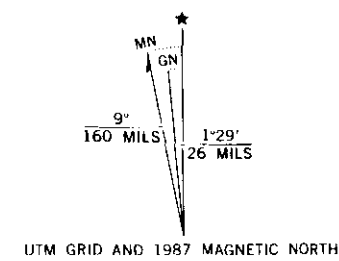
The boundaries of the Weisiger-Carroll family conform to the city lot of less than one acre that presently comprises the property at 2408 Bainbridge Street. The lot includes the house and the probable sites of vanished outbuildings.



1000 ft. contour
 3/2/02 150/4154780

(CHESTERFIELD)
 5458 1 NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and City of Richmond
 Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1931. Topography by planetable surveys 1933-34. Revised 1964
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 531 (1959)
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system,
 south zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move
 the projection lines 11 meters south and 26 meters west as



SCALE
 1000 0 1000 2000 3000
 1 5
 CONTOUR INT
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VI
 SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DA
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE A
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