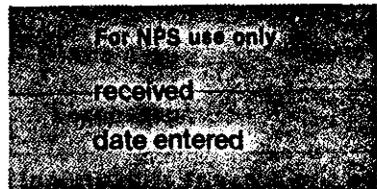


9/16/82 7/07/83  
VLR NRHR

OMB NO. 1024-0018  
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

# 168-01

## 1. Name

historic Old Clarke County Courthouse (preferred)

~~108912-211~~  
VHLC

and/or common General District Courts Building

## 2. Location

street & number 104 North Church Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Berryville

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

state Virginia

code

51

county

Clarke County

code 043

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Clarke County (c/o Chairman, Board of Supervisors)

street & number P.O. Box 169

city, town Berryville

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 22611

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clarke County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Berryville

state Virginia 22611

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #2)

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
title Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Old Clarke County Courthouse is set in a tree-shaded square off North Church Street in the center of Berryville. The building is an excellent example of Virginia's Roman Revival Style being built in a temple form and fronted by a properly proportioned Tuscan portico. Its facade is laid in the very precise Flemish-bond brick characteristic of the Roman Revival buildings. A large, two-story addition was added to the north wall in the early 20th century and the interior of the courthouse was remodeled about the same time, however, the courthouse's basic architectural integrity remains intact. Included in the nomination is a quaint, one-story brick building of ca. 1880 on the square to the north of the courthouse. It originally served as the clerk's office but is now a lawyer's office. Also included in the nomination is a two-story building of ca. 1900 containing the Sheriff's office and county jail.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The original portion of the Old Clarke County Courthouse is a temple form building with three bays on the facade and four bays on the sides and fronted by a tetrastyle Tuscan portico. In an examination of the roof framing undertaken as part of a 1975 restoration report, J. Everett Fauber, F.A.I.A., suggested that the portico might be a later addition as the portico framing did not appear to match that of the main roof. Although the dimensions of the main body of the buildings are 54' x 42', as stipulated in the original specifications in the county Order Book, the specifications would not necessarily have included the portico. That the portico is an original feature would seem likely, however, as it is completely consistent with the rest of the building, and there is no break in the Tuscan entablature where the portico joins the main part of the building. Old photographs show that the stuccoed portico columns originally had proper bases, but these have been lost in later renovations. The portico's tympanum has a lunette window with fanlight mullions. Extra sophistication is given to the portico by the use of an interior entablature.

The courthouse facade is laid in very precise Flemish-bond brickwork with tooled mortar joints and is in a good state of repair. Because of its sheltered position the facade preserves much of the original pencilling on the mortar joints. The main entrance in the center bay consists of paneled doors and a four-light transom framed by a Classical architrave and topped by a jack arch. The facade windows are not topped by jack arches but rather by square wooden lintels.

As suggested above, the courthouse is surrounded by a full Tuscan entablature except where interrupted by a two-story early 20th-century brick addition attached to the north wall. This addition also blocked original fenestration on the north wall. The remaining original windows have 12/12 hung-sash windows flanked by dark green louvred shutters. On the upper level of the south wall the westernmost window has been converted to a door with an iron fire escape leading down from it. The other three bays are false windows with permanently shut louvred shutters. As with a number of Virginia courthouses of this period and style, the windows are false at this point since they would be interrupted by the ceiling of the courtroom. The upper false windows on the rear wall were never treated with architraves or louvred shutters but are simply inset

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1837-38

**Builder/Architect** David Meade

**Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Clarke County Courthouse belongs to Virginia's important and unique collection of Roman Revival courthouses, the prototypes for which were the public building designs of Thomas Jefferson. It was Jefferson's State Capitol in Richmond that initially popularized the temple form with Roman orders for government structures, and Jefferson later designed as many as three porticoed temple-form courthouses for Virginia counties. A number of Jefferson's workmen carried on the tradition after his death. With its simple tetrastyle Tuscan portico set against red brick walls, the Clarke County Courthouse follows the Jeffersonian example of properly proportioned Roman form rendered in native materials. The building was designed and built by David Meade, younger brother of Bishop William Meade, soon after Clarke County was formed from Frederick County in 1836. Although a local tradition holds that the courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1850 and completely rebuilt, both archival and architectural evidence indicates that fire damage, if any, was minimal. The building served as the county's courthouse until 1977 when a new courthouse was erected. It now is designated the General District Courts Building.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

While the present area of Clarke County was settled as early as 1725, the county itself was not incorporated until 1836, the year in which it was formed from Frederick County and named for General George Rogers Clark. One of the immediate requirements of the new county was a courthouse; and on March 28, 1836, the town of Berryville, formerly known as Battletown, was chosen as the county seat. The court order selecting Berryville as the courthouse town also provided for the use of an old academy building as a temporary court until an appropriate building could be constructed. In July 1837, two acres of land were purchased for \$300 and the survey plat entered into the court records.

Prior to the purchase of the courthouse site, two plans for the courthouse building were submitted by county magistrates D.H. Allen and David Meade. The plan of David Meade was accepted. Meade's original plan has not been found, but a valuable clue to the authenticity of the present structure is given in the court order accepting his plan. The commissioners supervising the erection of the building were authorized to enlarge the Meade plan, "so as not to exceed fifty-four feet in length and forty-two feet in breadth." According to local tradition, the original courthouse burned about 1850 and was rebuilt on the same foundations. No description in newspapers or court records has been uncovered, and no evidence of a major fire has been found to confirm the tradition. Although all the early county records were stored in the building at the time, only a few volumes of marriage registrations were lost. This, together with the remaining architectural evidence, suggests that fire damage, if any, was minimal.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Clarke County Deed Book A; Order Book A, B; Will Book A.

Fauber, J. Everette Jr. Restoration and Addition to Clarke County Courthouse. Lynchburg: February 1975.

Farland, Mary Gray, and Greenhalgh, Beverley Byrd. In the Shadow of the Blue Ridge. Richmond: William Byrd Press. 1978.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Berryville, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	8
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2	4	2	4	0	0
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4	3	3	7	6	4	0
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B 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Boundary Justification: The nominated property of the Old Clarke County Courthouse consists of one acre. The one acre encompasses the courthouse square and includes the original courthouse, former clerk's office and the county jail and Sheriff's office. A new courthouse, completed in 1977 is not included in the nomination.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** (See Continuation Sheet #2)

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date September 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street

telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*H. Bryan Mitchell*

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date SEP 16 1982

**For NPS use only**  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

OLD CLARKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CLARKE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

brick panels which, along with the rest of the rear wall, are still punctuated with putlog holes. The rear wall and the side walls are laid in four-course American bond. The easternmost bay of the north wall escaped being covered over by the addition, but its original openings were replaced by a large segmental-arch window inserted over the relocated judge's bench during the remodeling. The only other significant alteration to the exterior is a ca. 1960 low, brick wing of completely utilitarian style added to the northeast corner. The north addition, on the other hand, is not without a certain style. Its first floor is fronted by a four-bay brick arcade and a wooden stair behind the arches.

Other exterior features of note on the original portion are the limestone rubble foundations and the cupola set on the ridge immediately behind the portico. The octagonal cupola appears to be original; its openings are filled with louvres and are framed by Tuscan pilaster strips. Topping the cupola is a small ogival dome set on a stepped plinth. The building originally had an interior chimney rising immediately behind the second bay from the west on the south wall (thus accounting for the false windows in that bay), but the stack has been removed. The corresponding stack on the north wall survives. A small, later chimney stack projects from the southeast corner. The roof is covered in standing-seam sheet metal.

The early 20th-century alterations to the interior had a significant impact on the arrangement of the courtroom. In its original state, the judge's bench was centered on the east wall; it was moved around to the north wall with the large arched window mentioned above being placed over it. The courtroom floor was also ramped for better spectator viewing. About the only original feature in the courtroom is the rear gallery which is fronted by a Tuscan entablature. The gallery was originally reached by winding stairs at either end; however, the northern stair has been removed and the space filled in by a lavatory. The remaining stair has square balusters and rounded handrail similar to that on the gallery. The matchboarding on the courtroom walls and the iron spectator seats also date from the remodeling. The original second-floor jury rooms behind the gallery retain the original architrave trim around the opening and their simple but handsome Federal-style mantels.

The courthouse shares the square with three other buildings. The combination county jail and Sheriff's office is found on the southern edge of the square. The two-story, Flemish- and American-bond structure of ca. 1900 is covered by a hip roof. Segmental arch openings have 6/6 hung-sash windows. The double-door entrance is sheltered by a dwarf portico. At one time the clerk's office, a one-story lawyer's office sits on the northern edge of the square. Dating to the 1880s, the American-bond brick structure is covered by a gable roof with a simple gable ornament. The building has unusually large, 2/2 windows topped by flat brick arches. A Greek Revival-style courthouse constructed in 1977 is not included as part of the nominated buildings.

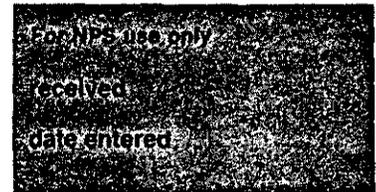
The square, set off from Church Street by an iron fence, is planted with trees and shrubs and features a monument to the county's Confederate dead.

EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

OLD CLARKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CLARKE COUNTY, VA



Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8, 10, 6

Page 1, 1, 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

With its portico the Clarke County Courthouse follows the pediment portico, temple-form building first used in Virginia on Jefferson's State Capitol and later on the courthouses of Buckingham, Charlotte, and Botetourt counties. These designs proved popular and were soon transmitted to other counties by the workmen of Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia. The Jeffersonian influence spread quickly, and as new counties were formed, they adopted the temple-form plan. Such was the case with Clarke County.

David Meade, whose plan for the new courthouse had been chosen by his fellow justices, is best remembered as the younger brother of Bishop William Meade. He was born in 1793 at "Lucky Hill," the residence of their father, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Kidder Meade, an aide-de-camp of General Washington during the Revolution. The younger Meade was educated at Princeton and graduated in the Class of 1812. Unfortunately, Meade did not live to see his plan brought to completion; he died in November 1837 at Ben Venue, his residence near White Post, where he had established a successful merchant trade. In addition to serving as a county justice, Meade was a member of the first school commission of the county and had also been nominated for high sheriff.

The Clarke County Courthouse served as the county's only courthouse until 1977 when a new courthouse building was erected to the rear of the 1837-38 building. Meade's building today serves as the General District Court Building and county office building.

VDS/RCC

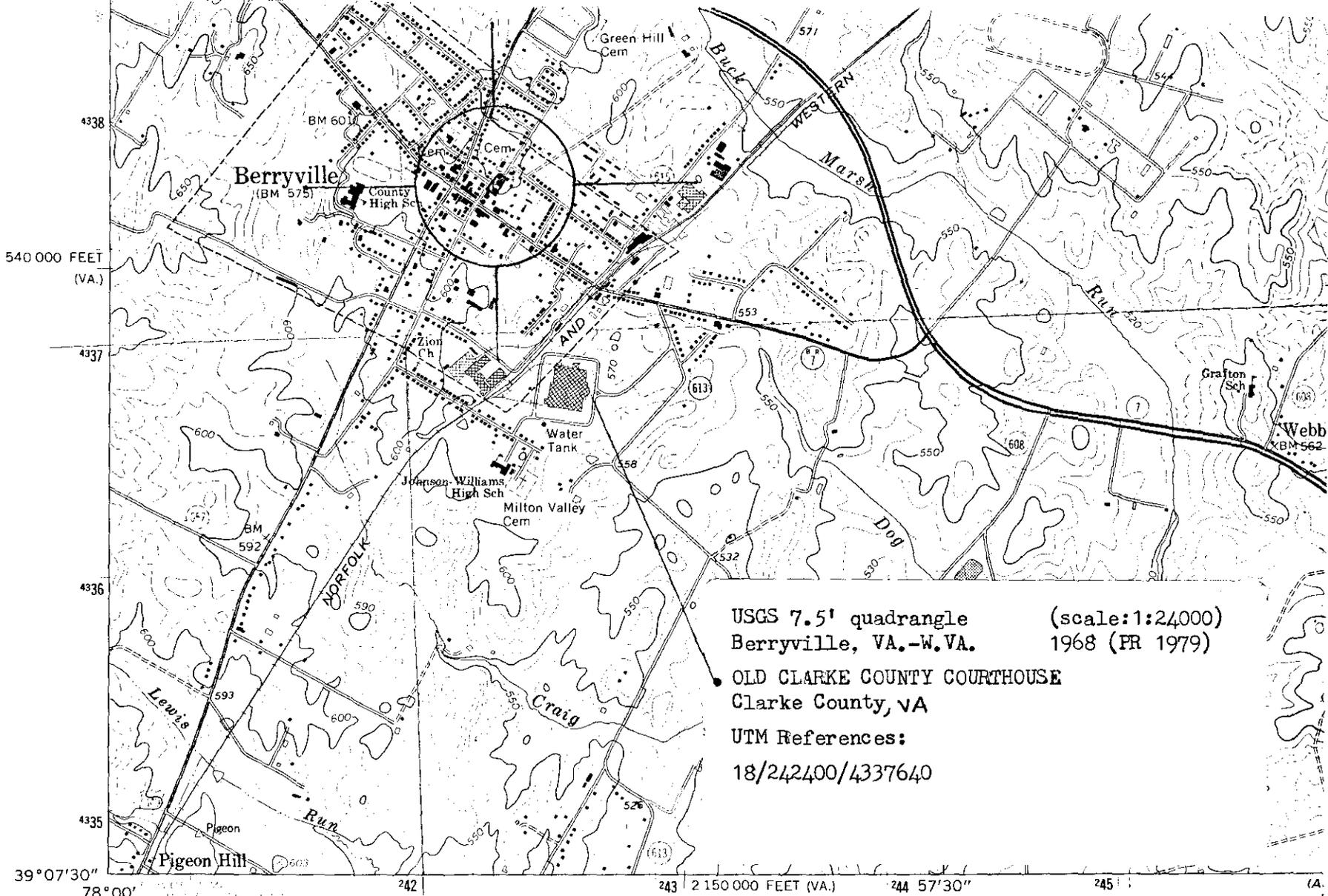
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Boundary Justification and Verbal Boundary Description

The square is defined on North Church Street by an iron fence.

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the E side of Church St., approximately 200' ENE of intersection of VA Business Route 7 and Church St.; thence extending approximately 300' ENE along said side of Church St.; thence extending approximately 150' ESE; thence extending approximately 300' SSW; thence extending approximately 150' WNW to E side of Church St., the point of origin.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) HABSI  
Federal 1953  
Library of Congress  
Washington, DC 20540



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
 Berryville, VA.-W.VA. 1968 (PR 1979)

● OLD CLARKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
 Clarke County, VA

UTM References:  
 18/242400/4337640

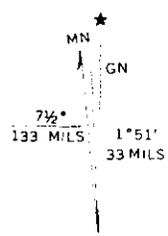
(BOYCE)  
 5362 II SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

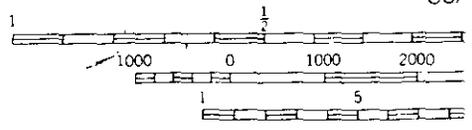
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
 photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1968  
 Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1955

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system, north zone,  
 and West Virginia coordinate system, north zone  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue

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



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH 1  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL  
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC