

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Oak Cliff

Other names/site number: DHR ID# 041-5295

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 10000 Huell Matthews Highway (US Highway 501)

City or town: Alton State: Virginia County: Halifax

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B XC ___D

	<u>9-29-2020</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ Date _____

Title : _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

FUNERARY: cemetery

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: storage

LANDSCAPE: park

FUNERARY: cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

MID-19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Oak Cliff, located on the Hyco River in south-central Halifax County, is a ca. 1792 north-facing two-story frame house with Georgian, Federal-Greek Revival, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival-influenced detail. The house has a symmetrical three-bay front elevation, a brick foundation, brick end chimneys, beaded weatherboard siding, and a side-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. One- and two-story wings were added in the late antebellum period and a story-and-a-half garage wing was added in 1984-1985. A reworked nineteenth-century front entry porch, a section of the original or early rear porch, and mutule-like cornice ornaments are other notable exterior features. Interior features include wood floors, modern plasterboard or plaster and lath wall and ceiling finishes, a center stair passage in the original front section, a transverse stair passage in the two-story ell, and decorative mantels and stair details. Near the house are a barn and a privy converted to a play house, both from the historic period but moved more recently. To the south, on axis with the house, is the Carrington Cemetery with a decorative iron fence and professionally-carved marble monuments. In the northwest corner of the nominated area are an 1880s stone railroad abutment and a late-nineteenth-century stone vehicular/pedestrian bridge abutment. The center part of the nominated area of approximately 220 acres rises to approximately 400 feet above sea level and is cleared and in agricultural use. The perimeter of the nominated area is wooded and slopes away from the higher center area,

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descending to about 320 or 330 feet above sea level along the Hyco River on the west boundary of the nominated area. The nominated area is bounded on the east by US Highway 501.

Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Oak Cliff. Ca. 1792 and later. Contributing building.
2. Carrington Cemetery. Mid-1800s and later. Contributing site.
3. Barn. Late 1800s and later. Non-contributing building.
4. Privy/playhouse. Early 1900s and later. Non-contributing building.
5. Atlantic & Danville Railway bridge abutment. Late 1880s. Contributing site.
6. Covered bridge abutment. Late 1800s. Contributing site.

Description: House Exterior

The original part of **Oak Cliff** (inventory no. 1), representing the north center section of the evolved house, has a symmetrical three-bay façade with nine-over-nine windows in the first story and six-over-six windows in the second story. The windows have louvered wood shutters with modern shutter dogs. The front entry is sheltered by a one-story hip-roofed entry porch supported by necked Doric columns (round) and pilasters (rectangular). The columns were present around the turn of the twentieth century and may date to that period or the antebellum period, but their lower portions have been replaced by square wood plinths. Low square balustrades connect the plinths and wood steps with similar balustrades rise up to the porch. The antebellum front entry has a transom and sidelights with diamond-pattern panes and a double-leaf door with a natural finish and two panels in each leaf for a four-panel effect. The door frame has a quarter-round molding. At the top of the front elevation is a cornice ornamented with mutule-like blocks with drilled holes instead of projecting guttae. The cornice also crosses the rear elevation and the side elevations of the two-story antebellum ell, suggesting it is a Greek Revival feature dating to the antebellum period.

The brick west gable end chimney rises through the house. The east gable end chimney rises through a one-story gabled wing, added in the antebellum period, and has a detached stretcher-bond stack with stepped and parged shoulders. The one-story back porch has heavy chamfered posts with ornate terminations at the ends of the chamfers, a square balustrade, and frieze boards with rippling cutout profile. The porch connects a five-panel door at the east end of the ell's transverse passage to a similar door on the back of the one-story side wing. The east end of the porch is enclosed as a room, and in front of it is a modern well camp on which is a cast iron well pump moved from another location on the property. The two-story ell has a gable-end brick chimney with a modern Flemish-bond veneer that projects slightly up to the second-story ceiling level where it steps in and continues inside the attic, where it is flanked by two small four-pane attic windows. The ell has twelve-over-twelve windows in the first story and eight-over-twelve windows in the second story. In the angle formed by the west side of the ell and the back of the

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original house is a 1984-1985 one-story kitchen addition with a low-pitched shed roof that engages a screen porch. Also from 1984-1985 is a story-and-a-half two-car garage wing with a gable roof and brick flue. The 1984-1985 additions have plain weatherboard siding, cinder block foundations with brick veneer, and six-over-six and nine-over-nine windows.

Description: House Interior

The front entry opens into a center passage containing a closed-stringer stair with square balusters and newels, handrails joined to the newels with pegs, and winders at the bottom. The paneling under the stair, which encloses the stair to the basement, is constructed with cut nails and was likely added in the antebellum period. The passage has an exceptionally wide six-panel back door. The first-story rooms to either side have transitional Federal-Greek Revival mantels of identical or nearly identical design, with tripartite friezes with large blank tablets, coved shelf moldings, and pilasters with concave faces with bullnose center moldings, a symmetrical treatment. The two mantels in the second story are Georgian with architrave fireplace surrounds and floating shelves. The moldings under the shelves are different; the one on the west mantel has a bullnose molding above a cove molding, whereas the one on the east mantel has a cyma recta molding. The upstairs rooms have wainscots with wide baseboards and chair rails as well as six-panel doors, including the doors of the two closets that flank the west mantel.

The chief ornamental feature of the two-story antebellum ell is the two-run stair in the transverse passage. This has a paneled spandrel, slender rectangular balusters, scroll brackets under the ends of the treads, slender vasiform newels, and ramped and rounded handrails. A paneled wainscot rises with the stair. A bathroom was created under the stair in the 1984-1985 remodeling. The Greek Revival mantels and door and window trim in the ell were probably inspired by designs in Asher Benjamin's later pattern books. The door and window surrounds are symmetrically molded with blank corner blocks. The molding has a convex center element. Carpenter locks are present on some doors. The first-story ell mantel has a simple pilaster and frieze form with filet moldings on the pilasters and a peaked back board above the shelf with acroteria-like end elements. The second-story ell mantel has a frieze and pilasters of the same width with fluting. It also has a peaked back board but without acroteria.

The structure of the original section of the house is revealed at the southwest corner, inside a 1980s laundry room, where the corner post, a diagonal corner brace, and several studs are revealed. Vertical score marks on the brace line up with the studs above and below. The studs are nailed to the brace whereas the brace is joined to the corner post with a pegged mortise and tenon joint. Current owner George Hayes notes that when the house was remodeled in the 1980s, slash-like builder's marks were observed on the sills of the original part of the house where the studs joined the sills. Roman numeral builder marks were observed on the antebellum ell, and a photo shows the numeral XII on a stud. The 1980s additions have standard finishes from the period and later. In the rec room over the garage is displayed an intricately detailed ca. 1900 wooden ice box that was historically used in the house. The ice box has compartments for the ice accessed by lift-up lids; a spigot on the side used to drain off melt water for drinking use; and a top part consisting of beveled mirrors and spindle-supported shelves.

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The basement has a number of interesting features. The walls are exposed Flemish-bond brick with traces of whitewash, more at the east end than the west end. A distinct line on the wall at the base of the stair to the first floor probably marks the location of a former partition that divided the basement in two. The ceiling structure is also exposed and consists of a mix of hewn and hewn and pit-sawn joists. Two heavier beams cross the space to support the center-passage walls above. The floor is concrete. At the west end of the space is the brick support for the chimney mass in the rooms above. The support consists of two thick brick piers or jambs that support a segmental-arched barrel vault above. The upper courses of the arch corbel out and the arch is slightly indented where it springs from the jambs. The back of the alcove is constructed of English-bond brickwork and was formerly spanned by two wood shelves, the slots for which are visible in the jambs (one retains the broken-off end of the shelf). Also on the back is a rectangular hole created by the omission of a brick.

Walter Ragland, who may have been related to the Oak Cliff Carrington family, related in his 1937 report that the basement contained a kitchen and dining room. A kitchen would have needed a cooking fireplace, and none is currently evident. It is possible a fireplace was originally located at the east end of the basement, since the wall at that end is common bond, suggesting later rebuilding. A doubled beam or joist somewhat out from the wall may be associated with a former chimney mass. The dining room, which may have occupied the west end of the basement, may have received heat from the kitchen, or if it was used in the summer it may not have needed heat. In the south basement wall are two exceptionally large horizontal openings. The one at the west end, which during the 1800s apparently opened directly to the outdoors, had butt-hinged shutters and appears to have had casement windows as well. The opening/window would have provided light for a dining room at that end. The opening's outer trim, now in the crawl space under the 1980s kitchen addition, was painted red and the foundation brickwork around it had a red oxide wash. The large opening at the east end opens under the back porch and may have had a vent rather than a window. There is also an opening of more standard vent dimension near the center of the wall, near the stair, which opens to the crawlspace under the ell.

The stair enclosure is painted with old green paint and—unusual for such a space—is finely finished with beaded boards under the winder steps above. These refinements seem to support the tradition that the basement served in part as a dining room. There is evidence the stair was created where one did not originally exist, suggesting it—and the possible basement dining room—were antebellum modifications. Other basement features include a door at the east end that may have provided access to/from a basement kitchen (it is covered on the outside by the nursery wing), multiple cut nails hammered into the undersides of the ceiling joists at the east end, and large spike-like wrought nails hammered into the sides of certain joists at the west end. If the east end served as a kitchen and the west end served as a dining room, the hole on the back wall of the chimney support may have accommodated a stove flue, though it is smaller than most stove flue thimbles.

The attic also preserves a number of interesting features. It is accessed by the stair in the second floor of the ell's transverse passage. The ell attic is finished, with modern plaster board walls and

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ceilings (the latter under collar beams). Where the ell attic joins the original attic the ell roof structure is revealed to have common rafters that abut a ridge board. An opening sawn through the roof boards provides access to the original attic, which has common rafters that are joined at the top by nailed mortise and tenon joints. The collar beams are lapped to the rafters and fastened to them with wrought nails. Builder's marks were not observed on the rafters or collar beams. The roof is reinforced with wind bracing consisting of four pairs of long irregular boards diagonally wrought-nailed to the undersides of the rafters, a pair of braces in each quadrant of the roof. Two of the wind braces overlap to create a cross shape. Wrought-nailed to the rafters on the north side of the attic, just under the collar beams, are battens that may have functioned as additional wind bracing or as hanging racks (or both). Numerous wrought and cut nails for former roof shingles project through the roof boards. (The owner reports having found wood roof shingles in the attic.) Through the west end of the attic rises the top of the west chimney. The chimney is stepped about three or four feet above the joists. Its lower part is laid in English bond and incorporates a number of header bricks with bright blue vitrification. The upper part is laid in stretcher bond. The lower part and part of the upper part have an orange mineral staining.

Description: Secondary Resources

To the south of the house, across a field at the edge of the woods, is the **Carrington Cemetery** (no. 2). The small rectangular cemetery is surrounded on all sides by large cedars, and it is enclosed by a decorative cast iron fence with spearpoint pickets and principal posts with foliated Gothic finials. There are several professionally-carved marble headstones. That of Mary Virginia Carrington Owen (1834-1858) has a cusped ogee top and a shallow circular recess on its face with the bas-relief carving of an angel holding an infant. The inscription reads in part: "Sacred to the memory of Virginia, wife of John M. Owen." The molded round-topped tombstone of Jane Watkins Carrington (1810-1892) has a double-arched recess carved with a cross and crown. The majority of other nineteenth-century tombstones are round-topped. Grave markers from the early twentieth century tend to be smaller and simpler, for example the low granite marker inscribed to William H. Carrington (1851-1917). Periwinkle carpets the wooded slope on the south side of the cemetery, and although lumpiness of the terrain is observed, it is not clear that the slope represents a continuation of the cemetery with unmarked graves, and the periwinkle may be the natural spread of a planting originally restricted to the fenced cemetery.

To the west side of the house stands a **barn** (no. 3) and a **privy/playhouse** (no. 4). These are counted as non-contributing buildings because, though they date to the historic period, they were moved to their current locations after 1970. The barn, the core of which dates to the early 1900s, is a two-level frame building with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, exposed rafter ends, modern board-and-batten siding, and a poured concrete foundation. The building has two modern one-story side shed wings, the enclosed east one with large z-braced board-and-batten barn doors and the west one open-sided. The main block has two board-and-batten front doors. The privy/playhouse, originally built in the early 1900s, is a small frame building with a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, T1-11-type siding, a reused stack-panel door, and a small four-pane window. The building began as a five-seater privy but was moved and converted to a playhouse after 1970.

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The **Atlantic & Danville Railway bridge abutment** (no. 5) was built in the 1880s, probably late in the decade, in anticipation of the opening of the line in 1890. The abutment is constructed of stone, probably granite, and is situated on the water on the east side of the Hyco River. It has angled stone wing walls and many of the roughly-shaped stone blocks bear traces of the drill holes used to quarry them. The abutment may have been raised approximately six feet in height at some point early in its usage. Near the abutment are a steel I beam and a bolted steel truss section. Just north of the railroad bridge abutment, and set back from the water, is a second, smaller stone **covered bridge abutment** (no. 6) that supported the east end of a covered pedestrian and vehicular bridge over the Hyco River. This abutment may also be granite, and its blocks bear traces of the drill holes used to quarry them. The similarity in construction suggests the covered bridge abutment may have been built at the same time as the railroad abutment, though it may be some years earlier or later. The setting of the abutments is kept clear and maintained as a sort of riverside park by the current owners. Because of this, and because the abutments no longer serve their original function, they are noted as LANDSCAPE: park in the current function classification. Another landscape feature of note on the property is the row of large boxwoods in front of the house. The row may have been planted in the early or mid-1900s. In a swale between the house and the highway is a modern pond.

Integrity Statement

The Oak Cliff property possesses good overall integrity. The house possesses integrity of design, workmanship, and materials in that it retains its character-defining historic form and features, including many small but notable details such as the construction features in the basement and attic. The side garage wing is a major modern addition but it is simple and complementary in character and is treated as a secondary element. The kitchen addition is also a modern change, though its smaller profile and rear placement lessen its effect. Oak Cliff's setting retains a high degree of integrity. Though many of the historic-period buildings that stood on the plantation are missing, important elements such as the family cemetery survive, and the sweeping farm fields that surround the house preserve the historic agricultural setting. These elements also add to the integrity of feeling and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

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 values, 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
Ca. 1792-ca. 1900

Significant Dates
Ca. 1792

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Oak Cliff in Halifax County, Virginia, is an evolved plantation house of considerable architectural interest. The ca. 1792 house was built for General Joseph Jones, a Petersburg, Virginia, merchant, planter, and civic leader, perhaps as his summer residence and base of operations for the management of his upcountry plantations. Georgian mantels, an arched fireplace support, sections of English-bond brickwork, hewn and pit-sawn framing members, and an abundance of wrought nails support documentary evidence that points to construction in the early 1790s. Transitional Federal-Greek Revival details relate to an 1830s remodeling during the ownership of William and Jane Carrington. An ell with Greek Revival detail was added about 1850. Notable features of the house include mutule-like cornice ornaments, a back porch with boldly chamfered posts and decorative frieze profiles, and center and transverse stair passages, the latter with a paneled spandrel, decorative tread brackets, and vasiform newels. On the grounds are a cemetery with a decorative iron fence and professionally-made marble tombstones with figural relief carving, as well as stone abutments for former railroad and pedestrian/vehicular bridges over the Hyco River, which borders the property. Oak Cliff is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance for the refinement and diversity of its architectural features. The period of significance extends from ca. 1792, the probable period of initial construction for the house, to ca. 1900, encompassing the later evolution of the house and significant associated resources such as the late 1880s railroad bridge abutment and the 1850s to 1890s decorative marble tombstones in the cemetery. Oak Cliff is eligible at the local level of significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context and Criterion C Architecture Statement of Significance

General Joseph Jones (1749-1824) purchased 500 acres on the Hyco River from Roger Atkinson Jr. and his wife, Agness Atkinson, as noted in an October 1790 deed. This purchase is considered to be the nucleus of the plantation that would become Oak Cliff. Walter Ragland, writing in a 1937 Virginia Historical Inventory report on the property, which includes a well-composed architectural description of the house, suggests ca. 1790 as the date of construction. Assuming Jones had the house built soon after purchasing the land, a ca. 1792 date is more likely. The preponderance of contextual, documentary, and architectural evidence supports an early 1790s date of construction. Jones's principal seat was at Cedar Grove in Dinwiddie County just outside Petersburg. Oak Cliff was therefore a secondary residence, and its location far inland, removed from the worst of the summer diseases that were more prevalent in Petersburg and other lower-lying Virginia towns during the period, suggests the possibility the house served in part as a summer residence. Letters to and from Jones during the period survive in the Jones Family Papers at the Library of Virginia. One, the first addressed to him in Halifax County, is dated

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September 12, 1795, a time of year when a Petersburg-area merchant/planter might still be using an upcountry summer residence. The area's popularity as a retreat is demonstrated by the development of the summer resort community of Cluster Springs a few miles north of Oak Cliff beginning in the 1830s. Oak Cliff may in fact be early evidence of this development.¹

Jones, born in Petersburg in 1749, fought for the Patriot cause during the American Revolution and continued his military career after the war, rising to the rank of brigadier general in 1784 and major general in 1803. He was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1787 and served as a postmaster and port collector in Petersburg. According to historian Faye Tuck, Jones's plantations in the area amounted to over 5,000 acres in Halifax County and adjacent Person County, North Carolina (Oak Cliff lies two miles north of the Person County line). Jones's first marriage to Ann Call (1761-1778) bore one child; his second marriage to Jane Atkinson in 1780 resulted in ten children, including Dr. Joseph Jones Jr. (1787-1847), whose first marriage was to Sarah Bland Atkinson. The marriages to Atkinson women, the purchase of property from Roger and Agness Atkinson in 1790, and other Jones-Atkinson property purchases suggests strong ties between the families.²

Evidence suggests Jones's sons resided at Oak Cliff when they were old enough to help manage the family's affairs. Tuck writes that in 1812 Dr. Joseph Jones Jr., then about twenty-five years of age, was living in Halifax County and "looking after lands and other interests" for the family. Joseph Jr. purchased millstones and was building a dam, evidence for the construction and outfitting of a mill on the family's holdings. He also planned to erect a still. Joseph Jr. was also in Halifax County in February 1822 when his father wrote to him there from Petersburg. Another son, Roger Atkinson Jones, resided on his father's Halifax lands, perhaps at Oak Cliff. Correspondence from 1817 notes the raising of cattle, sheep, hogs, and apples on the Jones lands and the production of flour. A Mr. Thaxton may have been the farm overseer.³

After Joseph Jones Sr.'s death in 1824 his lands were divided among his heirs. Joseph Jr. received Oak Cliff consisting of 1,330 acres and a mill. In 1828 Joseph and his wife, Sally B. Jones, both of Halifax County, sold the 1,330 acres to Clement Carrington of Charlotte County. The deed referenced topographical features such as Hycootee River (an old name for Hyco River), Sutton Shoal, Raccoon Branch, Sugartree Creek, Coleman or Coleman's Creek, and the "road leading from Scotts Inn to Jones' bridge." The purchase price was \$18,560. In 1830 the

¹ Ragland, "Oak Cliff;" Tuck, *Yesterday*, 267-268; Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee, *Architectural History of Halifax County*, 458. The 1795 letter may be evidence that Oak Cliff was then standing. Another letter, dated August 1800, was addressed to Jones in Petersburg, which might suggest that in that particular year Jones was not a summer resident of Halifax County, although other interpretations are possible. A number of individuals provided information and other assistance in support of the nomination. Foremost among these were the owners of Oak Cliff, Margaret Anne Hall Hayes and George Hayes. Assistance was also provided by Cary Perkins at the Halifax Public Library, genealogist Richard F. "Dick" Pickett, historian Fay Royster Tuck, and Michael Pulice and Lena Sweeten McDonald with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

² "Guide to the Jones Family Papers;" Tuck, *Yesterday*, 267.

³ Tuck, *Yesterday*, 267-268.

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value of buildings on Clement Carrington's 1,330-acre "Hyco" tract was assessed at \$7,400. The value is much higher than the value of a frame house, even one as fine as Oak Cliff, and suggests the presence of many other substantial buildings, including probably the mill noted in the 1820s as well as slave dwellings.⁴

Clement Carrington's daughter Jane Watkins Carrington (1810-1892) married her cousin Dr. William Washington Carrington (1808-1873) in 1834 and the newlyweds are said to have lived at Oak Cliff. Clement deeded the house to his daughter in 1847. According to Walter Ragland's 1937 report, Jane and William added the ell to the house and also the one-story east wing, which served as a nursery (the Carringtons had eight children). The basement was said to have once been used as a kitchen and dining room, although the space was described as having a dirt floor. The nursery, which survives, was later converted to a kitchen with a pantry. A latticed well room extension on the south side of the nursery/kitchen does not survive, although the well pump does.⁵

By the eve of the Civil War, Oak Cliff's historical sections had attained their essential current appearance, with Georgian, Federal-Greek Revival, and Greek Revival details dating to the various phases of construction (the diamond-pattern panes in the front entry sidelights and transom are a Gothic Revival influence). Evolved houses like Oak Cliff are relatively common in Halifax County, although ones that contain Georgian details are rare. For example, Cedar Grove, a story-with-garret frame house located a few miles west of Oak Cliff, appears to date to the late 1700s, possibly as early as the 1770s, but its earliest surviving stylistic detail is Federal. The 1787 McCarty House, a planked log house also located near Oak Cliff, is described as having a Federal interior, which if so would not be the original finish. The same is true of Carter's Tavern, thought to date to ca. 1770, which has Federal mantels. As a two-story building, Carter's Tavern is more comparable to Oak Cliff in size, though it has a side-passage plan as opposed to Oak Cliff's center-passage plan. Oak Cliff is therefore important as a rare example of Georgian architecture in Halifax County. The arched fireplace support in the basement, hewn and pit-sawn framing members, and the abundance of wrought nails most visible in the attic are other notable early features. The arched fireplace support has an analog at a late-1700s house known as Vineyard Hill in Rockbridge County, where the support is constructed of stone rather than brick. A cornice with mutules with drilled holes in place of guttae ornaments the ca. 1840 house Oak Ridge in Pittsylvania County, which borders Halifax County on the west. Architectural historian and historic brick specialist Michael Pulice notes that the blue vitrification of the west chimney brickwork visible in the attic is unusually bright and the English-bond construction of the chimney is unusually late and unusually far west in Virginia for a chimney. This last aspect of the house may reflect the Petersburg roots of Joseph Jones and/or his brickmason.⁶

⁴ Ibid., 268-269; Halifax County Deed Book 36, p. 601; Halifax County 1830 land book.

⁵ "Carrington;" Ragland, "Oak Cliff."

⁶ Michael Pulice, personal communication with the author, February 2020; Pezzoni, "Cedar Grove;" Pezzoni, "Oak Ridge;" Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee, *Architectural History of Halifax County*, 263.

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Dr. Carrington built a doctor's office in the front yard which was later moved off to serve as a tenant house. An icehouse and a pyramidal-roofed smokehouse also formerly stood near the house. Though ample historical documentation locates the Carringtons at Oak Cliff, in 1850 their residence was listed as Prince Edward County, and living on their plantation were a large number of free black males, among them boatmen, a painter, a shoemaker, and factory hands (probably workers in a tobacco factory). By 1860 the Carringtons were (back) in Halifax County. That year W. W. Carrington owned ninety-four slaves.⁷

In the latter part of the nineteenth century Oak Cliff passed to Jane and William's son William Henry Carrington (1851-1916 or 1917), who transferred it to his wife, Rose or Rosa H. Ragland Carrington (1862-1909). A daughter, Annie Josephine Carrington (1886-1920), married Joseph Bray Stempel (1886-1955). During this period, in the 1880s, the Atlantic & Danville Railway built its line from Danville to the deep-water port of Portsmouth. The line opened in 1890, and from 1899 to 1949 was leased by the Southern Railway. The line was discontinued ca. 1960. The property passed to Annie and Joseph Stempel's daughter Rose Marie Stempel Hall (1911-2008) and subsequently to Rose Marie's daughter Margaret Anne Hall Hayes, a current owner. In the late 1910s and/or early 1920s Rose Marie Stempel Hall used to drive a pony cart to school over the covered bridge across the Hyco River below the house.⁸

Oak Cliff continued to evolve in the twentieth century. A photo from around 1900 shows the north or front elevation of the house with square balusters and round Doric columns, the upper shafts of which appear to survive in the current porch, and a picket fence across the front of the front yard. Other photos show multiple farm and domestic outbuildings near the house, including what may be the current barn with a partially open lower level. Most of the outbuildings were relatively small one-story gabled frame buildings. Margaret and George Hayes moved to Oak Cliff in 1976 and remodeled the house in 1984-1985, adding a garage and overhead rec room wing to the west gable end and a modern kitchen to the rear.⁹

⁷ Ragland, "Oak Cliff;" US census.

⁸ George Hayes personal communication; Ragland, "Oak Cliff;" *Decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission*, 407-409.

⁹ George Hayes personal communication.

Oak Cliff
Name of Property

Halifax County, Virginia
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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2017.

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Ragland, Walter R. “Oak Cliff.” Virginia Historical Inventory report, March 1, 1937.
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Tuck, Faye Royster. *Yesterday—Gone Forever: A Collection of Articles*. Halifax County, Va.:
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Oak Cliff
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Halifax County, Virginia
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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 041-5295

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 220 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.581189 | Longitude: -78.904348 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.581103 | Longitude: -78.895465 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.572194 | Longitude: -78.894864 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.575072 | Longitude: -78.908125 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Sketch Map/ Photo Key. The boundary corresponds to the modern tax parcel (14726) and the section of abandoned railroad right of way which crosses the parcel from the Hycro Rover to US Highway 501 on which are located the historic resources associated with the property.

Oak Cliff
Name of Property

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the historic resources associated with the property as well as the historic setting of open fields and extensive woodlots.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston St.
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: April 29, 2020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Oak Cliff City or Vicinity: Alton County: Halifax State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (unless otherwise noted)
Date Photographed: October 2016 (unless otherwise noted)
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Front (north) side of house. View facing south. Photo 1 of 17.

Oak Cliff
Name of Property

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County and State

Rear (south) side of house. View facing north. Photo 2 of 17.

South and east sides of house with back porch. View facing north. Photo 3 of 17.

Detail of southeast corner of house and top of east chimney. View facing north.
Photo 4 of 17.

Center passage with stair with transverse stairway in ell beyond. Photo 5 of 17.

Railing of transverse stair on second floor. Photo 6 of 17.

First-floor west room (dining room) mantel. Photo 7 of 17.

Second-floor west room mantel. Photo 8 of 17.

Second-floor ell room mantel. Photo 9 of 17.

West chimney support in basement. Photo 10 of 17.

Rafters, collar beam, and wind bracing in attic. February 2020. Photo 11 of 17.

Fields to east of house. View facing east. Photo 12 of 17.

Carrington Cemetery with cedars. February 2020. View facing south. Photo 13 of 17.

Mary Virginia Carrington Owen tombstone in Carrington Cemetery. View facing northwest.
Photo 14 of 17.

Playhouse (left) and barn (right). February 2020. View facing northwest. Photo 15 of 17.

Atlantic & Danville Railway bridge abutment.

George Hayes, photographer. February 2020. View facing south. Photo 16 of 17.

Covered bridge abutment.

George Hayes, photographer. February 2020. View facing northeast. Photo 17 of 17.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Oak Cliff

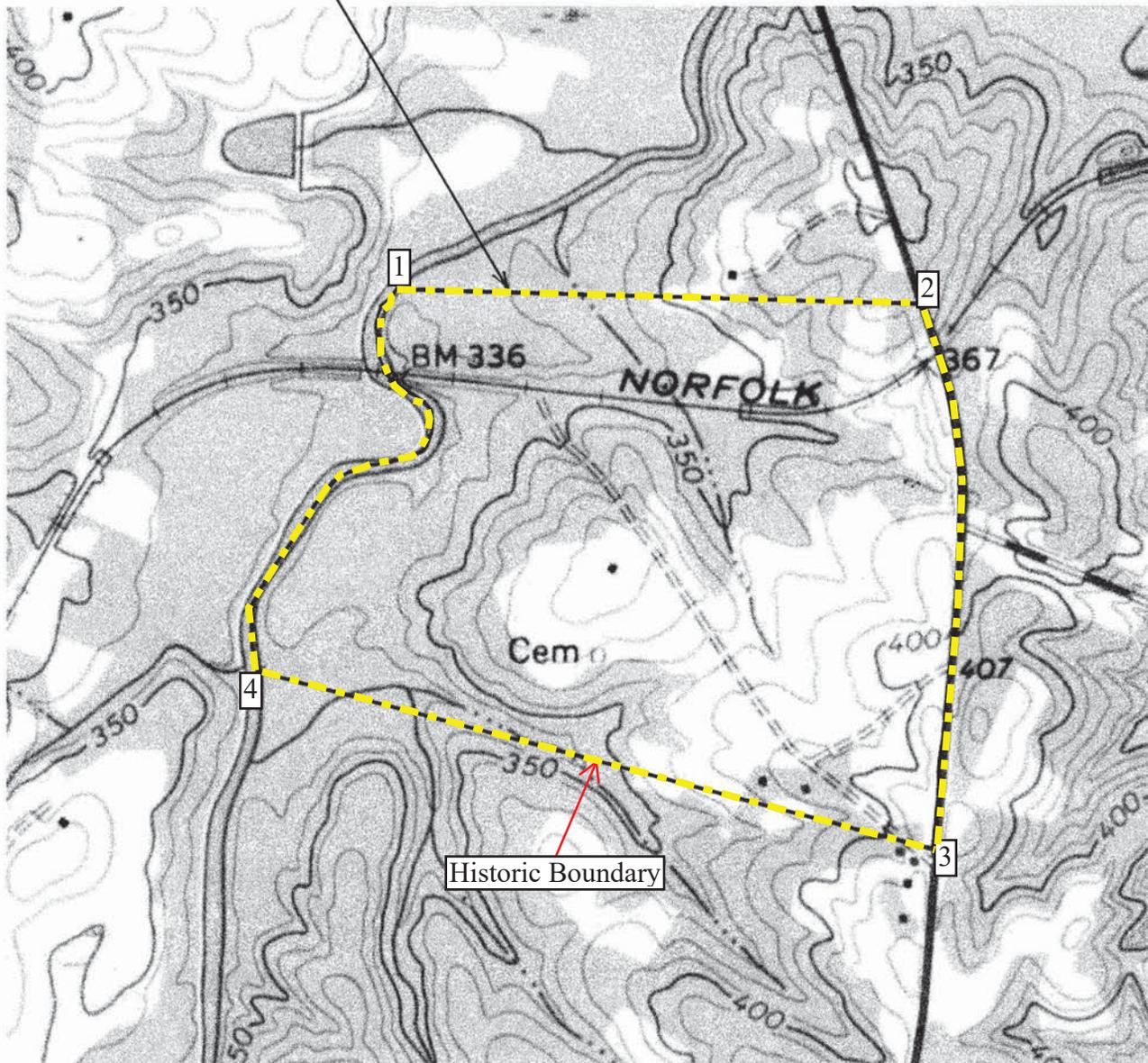
10000 Huell Matthews Highway
Halifax County, Virginia
DHR ID# 041-5295

National Register of Historic Places Location Map

Latitude/longitude coordinates of principal vertices:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.581189 | Longitude: -78.904348 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.581103 | Longitude: -78.895465 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.572194 | Longitude: -78.894864 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.575072 | Longitude: -78.908125 |

Location of NR property

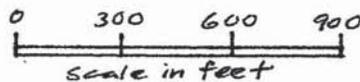
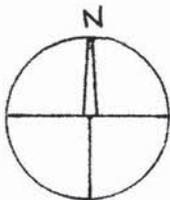
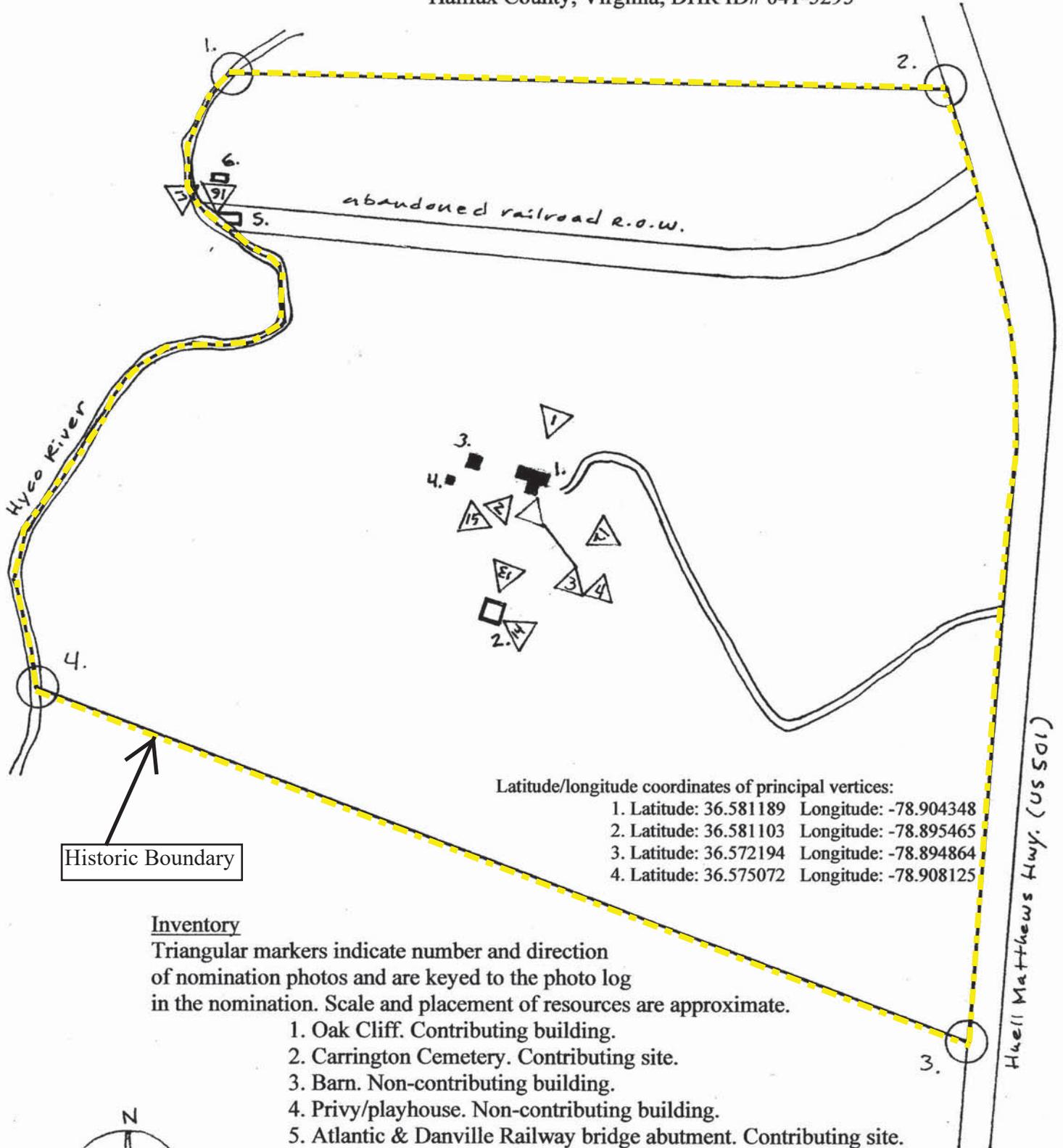


Oak Cliff

National Register of Historic Places Boundary Map, Site Plan & Photo Key

10000 Huell Matthews Highway

Halifax County, Virginia, DHR ID# 041-5295



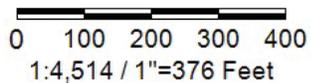


AERIAL VIEW

Oak Cliff
Halifax County, VA
DHR No. 041-5295



Feet



Title:

Date: 9/30/2020

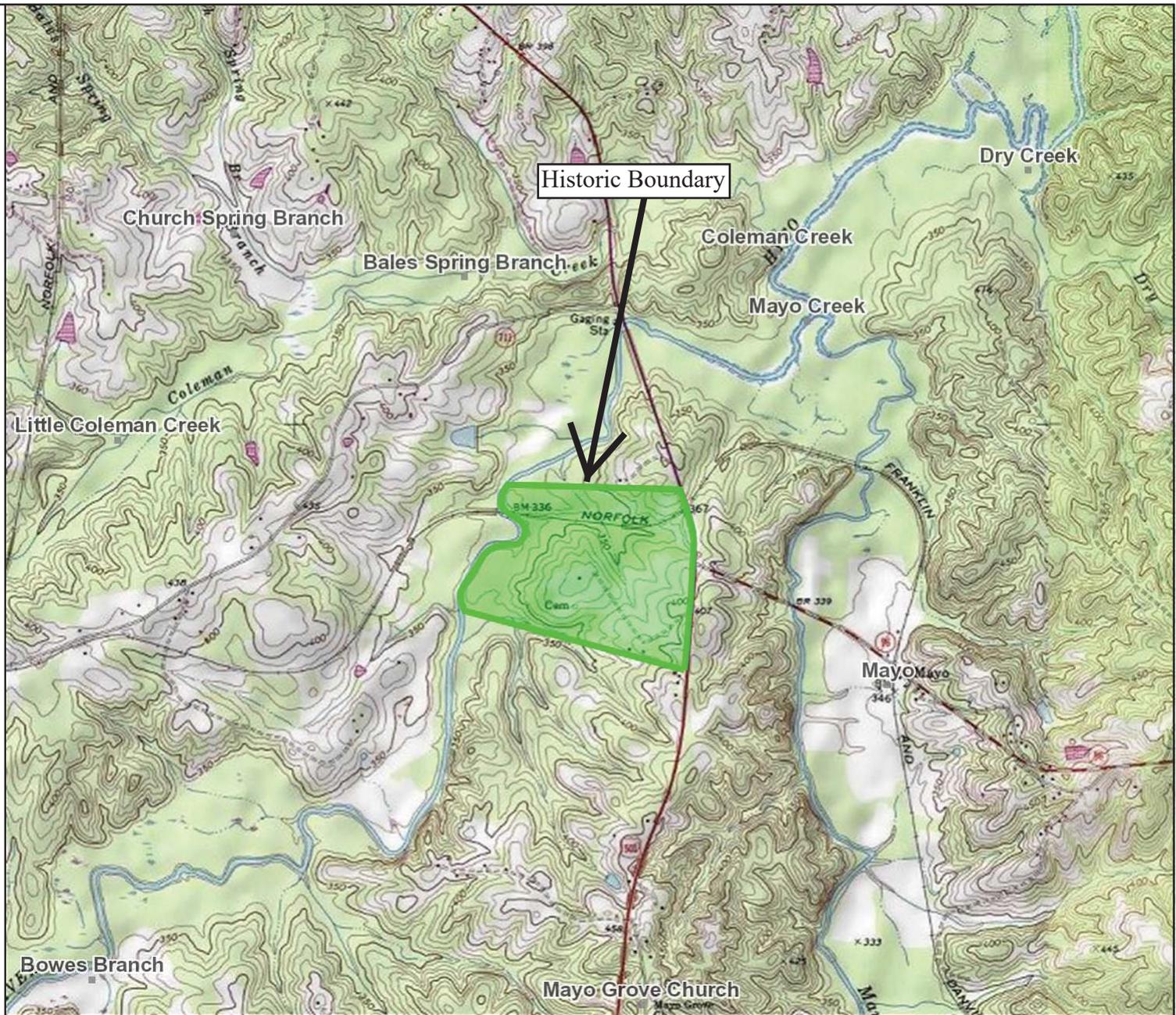
DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Oak Cliff
Halifax County, VA
DHR No. 041-5295



Feet



0 600 1200 1800 2400
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 9/30/2020

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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