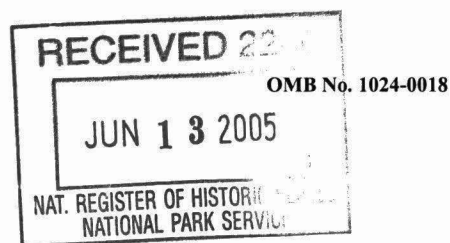


VLR Listed: 6/1/2005  
NRHP Listed: 7/27/2005

768

(Rev. 10-90)  
NPS Form 10-900

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 Oak Hill

other names/site number VDHR #024-0087

### 2. Location

street & number 181 Oak Hill Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Cumberland vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Cumberland code 049 Zip 23040

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 6/13/05  
Signature of certifying official  
**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:

- X 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] Signature of Keeper

Date of Action 7/27/05

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceOAK HILL  
Cumberland County, VA

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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>4</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1Name 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: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Institutional Housing</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Forest</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)EARLY REPUBLIC:Federal  

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)foundation BRICKroof METAL:Steelwalls WOOD  

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other 

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**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 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 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.

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Conservation

**Period of Significance** ca. 1810-1955

**Significant Dates** ca. 1810

1936

1954

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_

**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****Bibliography**

(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**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 14 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet.



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**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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Debra A. McClane, Architectural HistorianOrganization: \_\_\_\_\_ date May 2, 2005street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road telephone 804/233-3890city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23225

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Forestrystreet & number 900 Natural Resources Drive telephone 434.977.6555city or town Charlottesville state VA zip code 22903

=====

**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.

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**7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Oak Hill, located within the boundaries of the Cumberland State Forest, is a two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling that was constructed in Cumberland County, Virginia around 1810 by plantation owner William Mynn Thornton (1781-1856). The house is a good example of Federal-style architecture and illustrates the tastes of the planter class during the early to mid-nineteenth century. Oak Hill exhibits Federal-style influence in its center-passage, single-pile floor plan, and in such details as a seven-pane fanlight above the entrance door, moulded door and window mouldings, ornamental scroll stair brackets, and carved mantles. The interior of the dwelling remains remarkably intact with only minor changes for modern usage (e.g., bathrooms, heating). The one-story, gable-roofed ell at the rear of the dwelling was added during the early twentieth century (ca. 1940) and replaced an earlier ell that is believed to have burned.<sup>1</sup> Outbuildings on the property include a tobacco/hay barn and a tenant dwelling that has been converted for use as a granary/crib that both appear to date to the late nineteenth century. Also on the property are a frame barn, probably dating to the early twentieth century, and a frame shed that dates to the late twentieth century. A small family cemetery is located northeast of the dwelling and contains the tombstone of infant Charles Irving Thornton, son of Anthony and Mary Thornton, who died in 1842. The tombstone, the inscription of which is attributed to English author Charles Dickens, has been listed on the National Register. Oak Hill retains a high level of integrity with regard to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

In 1936, the land on which Oak Hill stands was acquired by the United States of America through the Resettlement Administration under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Farm Act--an act that was supervised by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and that was intended to develop a program of land conservation and utilization in order to correct maladjustments in land use and thus assist in such things as control of soil erosion, reforestation, preservation of natural resources and protection of fish and wildlife.<sup>2</sup> The 15,396.59 acres acquired for the "Cumberland Project, LA-VA-4," including Tract 1 on which Oak Hill stood, was leased to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Conservation Commission in 1939 and then conveyed by deed to the Department of Conservation and Economic Development in 1954. Since that time, Oak Hill has been rented to employees who are either working at the state forest or for other state agencies.<sup>3</sup>

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The property retains its rural setting and is surrounded by open fields and forest. The property contains four contributing buildings, one contributing site, and one non-contributing building. The National Register property boundaries encompass the historic dwelling and the area immediately surrounding the dwelling, the old roadbed toward the cemetery site and the cemetery site, and the area containing the tobacco/hay barn and granary building.

Inventory

Contributing resources:

Single dwelling, ca. 1810	Contributing building
Bank barn, ca. 1930	Contributing building
Tobacco barn/hay barn, ca. 1890	Contributing building
Tenant dwelling/granary, ca. 1890	Contributing building
Cemetery, ca. 1842	Contributing site

(The Charles Irving Thornton tombstone located in the cemetery previously was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register.)

Non-contributing resources:

Shed, ca. 1960	Non-contributing building
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Site Description

Oak Hill, located on Oak Hill Road off of Route 629, which traverses the Cumberland State Forest, is accessed by a long, unpaved drive that encircles the house. The dwelling sits on a rise that overlooks the Willis River to the west. The setting is rural and open fields are located to the northwest and northeast. The house faces east back towards Oak Hill Road. A fence encircles the immediate yard and the outbuildings located behind the house. The tobacco barn, granary, and cemetery are located east of the house and are accessed by a farm road (to Oak Hill Lake) that diverges from the main drive prior to entering the house area. The cemetery, located at the edge of a woods located west of the lane, is heavily overgrown, but is accessible by a well-worn pathway. An earthen berm encircles the burial area and remnants of a post and wire fence are apparent.

Some large boxwoods that were located at the front of the dwelling and several large trees have been removed from the yard around the dwelling. Several large trees, however, are still standing and together with the outbuildings, fields, and forest, help to retain the historical feeling of Oak Hill as a working farm.

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Detailed Description

Exterior

Oak Hill is a two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling that is set on a brick foundation, clad with weatherboard and aluminum siding, and covered by a side-facing gable roof of standing-seam metal.

The roof features a boxed cornice with pedimented ends, perhaps a later modification, that are broken by the stack of the exterior brick chimneys located at either end of the dwelling. Both chimneys are laid in a Flemish bond pattern with stepped bases, stepped shoulders, and corbelled caps. Concrete footings have been added to the bases of the chimneys. The three-bay front (east) façade features a centrally located, one-story, three-bay entrance porch that is covered by a metal-clad, front-facing gable roof that is supported by square chamfered posts. Wooden brackets between the posts are punched with a star motif. The porch, which is set on a brick foundation (running bond) with a concrete slab floor, appears to be a late-nineteenth- or early-twentieth-century addition. The brick foundation of the house is laid in Flemish bond with Queen's closures.

The front entrance leading from the porch consists of a wide eight-panel, single-leaf door with a seven-pane fanlight above within a rectangular transom. The door is notable due to its width and may have been a double-leaf door that was joined for use as a single door. The exterior aluminum storm doors are double-leaf. Flush board siding is located to either side of the doorway within the frame of the porch. The window openings on the front façade hold six-over-six, wooden sashes with thin muntins, simple wooden surrounds, and wooden sills.

The end elevations of the single-pile house feature elongated four-over-four wood sash windows that flank the exterior chimneys at the first-floor level. No windows are present on the second-floor level. The rear (west) elevation features symmetrically arranged openings on both levels that hold six-over-six wooden sash windows. An entrance into the partial basement is located in an entrance well at the northwest corner of the dwelling.

A one-story, frame, gable-roofed ell is centrally located at the rear (west) of the dwelling. The ell is set on a brick foundation (running bond), is clad with aluminum siding (over original beaded weatherboard), and is covered by a standing seam metal-clad roof. A brick stove flue is located on the northeast end of the roof ridge. Openings hold wooden six-over-six windows on the north, west, and south sides of the ell. A small four-over-four window is located on the north side of the ell. An entrance into the ell, flanked by two-pane sidelights, is located on the south side. An entrance, also below grade in an entrance well, into the basement (furnace room) beneath the ell is located at the northwest corner of the wing.

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As mentioned, alterations to the exterior of the dwelling include the installation of aluminum siding, gutters and downspouts, and the addition of concrete footers at the base of the exterior end chimneys. Aluminum storm windows and doors have been installed on the exterior, as well. The rear ell and the front porch do not date from the original period of construction for the house, but do appear to be of historic age (i.e., over 50 years old). The one-story rear gable-roofed ell was added to the dwelling around 1940 and replaced an earlier ell. A 1936 survey of Oak Hill, produced as part of the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Virginia Historical Inventory, stated that the earlier ell was built prior to the three-bay section of the house. However, ell additions are typical of I-form farmhouses and the present addition is sympathetic to the original dwelling in materials, character, and proportions. The front porch is most likely a late nineteenth century construction and reflects vernacular detailing in the use of chamfered posts and a punched star motif used in the brackets.

Interior

The interior of Oak Hill is a center-passage, single-pile plan with a rear, gable-roofed ell addition, which is accessed on the interior via a door at the west end of the center passage. Federal-style decorations in the broad passageway include the wide baseboard moulding, the moulded chair rail, and the moulded door trim. Another moulding has been added along the north wall, similar to a picture rail, but does not appear to be original. Walls are of plaster and flooring appears to be original pine. Doors into the parlor (northwest) and the chamber (southeast) are eight-panel, single leaf types. All doors appear to have their original hardware. Stairs to the second floor are located on the south side of the passage and are accessed from the east side.

The parlor, the room located north (right) of the center passage, features a fireplace, centrally located on the exterior end wall, that is flanked by tall four-over-four window openings, the sills of which rest on the room's chair rail. Six-over-six windows are located on the west and east walls. The fireplace features a highly decorative mantle consisting of a moulded shelf and fluted pilasters that support a tripartite frieze topped by a band of reeding. The fireplace opening has been reworked and contains modern bricks. The hearth also has been replaced with a polished concrete hearth, as have the hearths in all rooms. The plaster walls of the parlor are decorated with a wide baseboard and a moulded chair rail.

The chamber, located on the south side (left) of the center passage, can be accessed from two doors in the passage (one at the east end and one at the west end, behind the staircase). This room, much like the parlor, features a centrally located fireplace on the exterior end wall that is flanked by tall four-over-four windows. Six-over-six windows are located on the east and west walls. The mantle

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in this room, which is less ornate than the parlor mantle, consists of a simple shelf above a plain frieze supported by pilasters that feature a bowed shaft. The plaster walls are decorated with wide baseboards and a chair rail. A closet has been added to the southeastern corner of the room.

The elegant staircase, located in the passage, features a turned newel post and rectangular balusters. The switchback stair features a landing that crosses along the rear (western) wall. Notable details of the stair include the paneled sidewall facing the center passage, the carved scroll decorations on the stair stringers, and pendants that hang from the landing newels. A wide baseboard and chair rail are located on the wall going up the stairs, as well as on the landing wall.

The second floor consists of two bed chambers, one on either side of the central transverse hallway. A bathroom has been added on the east side of the hallway. The chambers mirror each other in layout and are identical with regard to decoration. Doors into the chambers are six-panel, single leaf types. A fireplace is located on the exterior end wall of the rooms and six-over-six wood sash windows are located on the west and east walls. Mantles in the rooms are identical and feature a moulded shelf above a plain frieze that is supported by fluted pilasters. The fireplace openings have been boarded over. The plaster walls are decorated with a wide baseboard and chair rail and window and door openings feature moulded surrounds. In the north room, a closet has been built into the southwestern corner of the room and in the south room, a closet has been built into the northwestern corner of the room.

The rear ell is accessed on the interior from a centrally located door on the rear (west) wall of the center passage. The opening leads into an enclosed entry space that appears to have been an open porch originally. Here the original weatherboard of the house has been left uncovered, as has the beaded weatherboard of the east wall of the ell addition. A small bathroom, possibly once a storage room or "cooling room," is located on the north side of the former porch area. On the other side of the entry space is the kitchen—a single space featuring windows on the north, south, and west walls.

The plaster walls are decorated with a moulded chair rail and baseboard. The floor is covered with vinyl sheeting and the ceiling has been replastered. A stove flue is located on the east wall, but is no longer in use.

Alterations to the interior of Oak Hill are minimal. The original floor plan appears largely intact with the minor exception of built-in closets in the three chambers. Central heating and air conditioning have been added to the house and most of the vents are sensitively sited within the rooms with no loss of any significant spaces. Wall paper has been installed in the north chamber on

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the second floor. As mentioned above, finishes and materials of the rear ell indicate that it dates

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from the early twentieth century.

Secondary Resources

Two outbuildings, a bank barn and a shed/garage, are located west of and behind the house. The three-bay, one-and-a-half-story bank barn, of post and beam construction, is clad with horizontal weatherboards and is set on a high brick basement that is laid in five-course American bond. The side-facing gable roof is clad with slate shingles. On the front (east) side of the upper level, there are two plank doors and a six-over-six sash window. A small hayloft opening is centrally located on this side of the barn, but a larger hay loft opening is located on the north end. A six-over-six sash window is located on this end of the barn, as well as on the south end.

A threshing floor is located on the north end of the main level of the barn. A corn crib, enclosed with wooden slats covered with wire, is located in the southwest corner of the first floor. A flight of stairs, centrally located in the barn, leads to the lower floor which was remodeled in the 1970s for use as a stable.<sup>4</sup> Prior to this, the lower level was used to shelter cattle. The hayloft is accessed by a built-in ladder located above the stairs. The barn appears to date from the early twentieth century and is a contributing resource to the Oak Hill property.

A frame shed, built during the late twentieth century, is located in front of (east) the bank barn. This one-story, three-bay building, covered by a shed roof covered with asphalt paper, is clad with vertical wooden boards, and holds three sets of barn-type doors on the front. The interior is a single space with an earthen floor. At present, the building is used for equipment storage and as a garage. Two additional bays, located on the north end of the building, have been removed although the concrete foundation is still extant. The shed is a non-contributing resource on the property.

Agricultural outbuildings are located east/northeast of the dwelling along an unpaved farm road leading to Oak Hill Lake. The tobacco barn, built during the late nineteenth century, has been modified for use as a hay barn and for tractor storage. The tall, original gable-roofed section of the barn has been surrounded on three sides by a lower gable roof. On the interior, some of the logs used for hanging tobacco to dry are still visible, although a loft floor has been added for hay storage.

This part of the barn was built on a fieldstone foundation. The barn with its agricultural association is a contributing resource to the Oak Hill property.

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A one-and-a-half-story, frame building is located north of the barn along the farm road leading to the lake. The building has been modified for use as a granary, but architectural evidence suggests that it may have been a tenant dwelling at one time. Ghost lines of a chimney are apparent on the south end of the building and a brick scatter was noted at the site. The exterior is clad with horizontal siding, the building is set on a fieldstone foundation, and is covered by a side-facing gable roof of crimped metal sheeting. The west side of the building has an entrance door with a loft opening above. The interior, though much altered, retains wooden flooring. A rear door has been added to the east side of the building. This building, probably built in the late nineteenth century, is a contributing resource to the Oak Hill property.

The Oak Hill Cemetery, located northeast of the house, lies at the edge of a stand of woods. A raised earthen berm with the remnants of a post and wire fence encircles the burial area, which is overgrown with ivy, periwinkle, cedars, and boxwood trees, and contains four graves with engraved markers and one grave with fieldstone markers. Most likely, there are unmarked graves in the cemetery. The most elaborate of these stones is the one for infant Charles Irving Thornton, grandson of William Thornton, builder of Oak Hill, and son of Anthony and Mary I. Thornton. The inscription on this tombstone, written in 1842, has been attributed to Charles Dickens. The tombstone has been listed in the National Register. Other graves include a flat sarcophagus tablet for Lucy Allen, 1822-1847; Eliza Allen, born and died 1847; and an obelisk for "Little Kate," the dates of which are not legible. The cemetery is a contributing resource to the Oak Hill property.<sup>5</sup>

Non-extant outbuildings include a small frame shed formerly located southeast of the garage behind the dwelling. This shed, recorded on the property as late as 1994, was a one-story, single space building that was clad with vertical board siding and was covered by a metal-clad gable roof. The building may have dated to ca. 1960.<sup>6</sup> Another frame building is believed to have stood northwest of the dwelling along an old roadbed within an open field. The building is not recorded on the 1936 WPA report for Oak Hill, but a former resident reports finding a brick scatter in the area. The function of the building is not known. Given its location, it may have been a barn or a grain building.<sup>7</sup>

ENDNOTES

1. Stanley "Stan" Warner, former Assistant Superintendent of State Forests and former resident of Oak Hill (1967-1978), April 4, 2005. Personal Communication.
2. "Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 USC 1000, 1006, 1010-1012; 50 Stat. 522) as amended -- Section 31 of the Act of July 22, 1937," Digest of Federal Resource Laws of Interest to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Page. Online. Internet. March 31, 2005. Available <http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/bankjon.html>.

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3. Warner, personal communication.
  4. Warner, personal communication.
  5. Marie Keller Frazee, Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, "Report 112, Oak Hill Cemetery." (Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, 1936): 2-3.  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Charles Irving Thornton Tombstone, #024-0054." On file in archives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1980.
  6. Scott Siebert, current resident Oak Hill. March 15, 2005. Personal communication.  
Traceries, Historic Architectural Survey of Cumberland County, Virginia (Prepared for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1994) 32-33.
  7. Marie Keller Frazee, Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, "Report 87, Oak Hill." (Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, 1936): 2-3.  
Warner, personal communication.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oak Hill, the Cumberland County home built by William Mynn Thornton (1781-1856), is a two-story, single-pile, frame dwelling that was constructed around 1810 and exhibits characteristics of the Federal style of architecture. Since 1936, the land on which Oak Hill is located has been part of the Cumberland State Forest and has been under the ownership of the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1954. William Thornton was a native of Hanover County and a farmer most of his life. He built this dwelling for his family and after his death, the house passed to his wife and then to two of their sons. The property was held by the family until 1876 when it was sold by decree of a chancery suit involving Thornton's estate. From the turn of the twentieth century until 1936, the property passed through many owners, several of which did not reside at the house. In 1936, the Resettlement Administration of the federal government acquired the property under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Farm Act, which was an act supervised by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture that was intended to develop a program of land conservation. The land in this area of Cumberland, which had been farmed since the eighteenth century, had been heavily depleted and was severely eroded due to poor agricultural practices including the continual cultivation of tobacco. The land acquired for the "Cumberland Project, LA-VA-4," including Tract 1 on which Oak Hill stood, was conveyed to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1954. Since that time, Oak Hill has been used as housing for state forest employees and other employees of the state.

Criteria

Oak Hill is significant under National Register Criterion C as a building that embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Federal style of architecture. Though no builder or architect has been associated with the design for Oak Hill, the house modestly emulates the hallmarks of the style that was current throughout the United States during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The assumed date of construction for Oak Hill coincides closely with William Thornton's marriage to Elizabeth Anderson (1788-1828) in 1804. In 1805, John Thornton, William's father who lived in Hanover County, conveyed to his son 600 acres on the Willis River. A construction date of around 1810 appears appropriate based on architectural evidence as well as written documentation (e.g., land tax records, insurance records). The National Register property includes a small family cemetery that contains the grave of one of Thornton's grandchildren and other graves.

Oak Hill is also significant under National Register Criterion A for its contribution to the broad patterns of Cumberland County history and Virginia history in the areas of agriculture and conservation for its role in the establishment and continued management of the Cumberland State Forest. During the first half of the nineteenth century, Thornton's Oak Hill plantation, along with his Section 8 Page 10

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adjacent Southall plantation, was a major producer of tobacco, corn, and other marketable products. As a productive plantation of the early and mid-nineteenth century, Oak Hill played an important role in Cumberland County's significant agricultural history, which continues to be a dominant economic pursuit in the county. In the twentieth century, the property became important as one of several tracts included in the federal government's purchases that in 1954 became the Cumberland State Forest. Today, the forest is part of the Commonwealth's reforestation and conservation program operated by the Department of Forestry. Oak Hill has served as housing for state employees working at the state forest in various capacities. The house has also been rented to state employees working for other agencies, but has remained in the ownership of the Department of Forestry. Oak Hill is one of only a few dwellings in the Cumberland State Forest that have been used in this capacity. Trenton, located northeast of Oak Hill, is another early-nineteenth century dwelling that was used by the state forest agency for housing and offices.

The Oak Hill property is significant on a local level in the area of architecture as an example of early nineteenth century Federal style architecture in Cumberland County that retains a high level of overall integrity. The building continues to serve its original function as a single family dwelling and it retains sufficient character to convey its historical appearance and use. Oak Hill is also significant on a local level in the area of conservation for its role in the establishment of the Cumberland State Forest. The identified period of significance for Oak Hill is ca. 1810 to 1955.

While a handful of known archaeological sites are located within the boundaries of the Cumberland State Forest, no systematic archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the forest or at Oak Hill. Given the rural nature of the area, the agricultural use of the land through the early twentieth century, and the program of conservation of the land begun in the early twentieth century, it seems likely that intact historical deposits may be found within the vicinity of the house and extant farm buildings. For this reason, should archaeological survey be undertaken within the National Register property boundaries or within the historical boundaries of the Oak Hill tract and archaeological sites are located that contain intact, dateable deposits that relate to the identified period of significance, then these sites should be considered potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion D as a contributing component to the property as they may contain information important to one of the associated historic contexts. With the size and high productivity of Thornton's farm, numerous outbuildings and agriculturally related buildings would have been necessary. The archaeological remains of these buildings, including slave quarters, detached kitchens, spring houses, smokehouses, dairies, corn cribs, tobacco barns, hay barns, and icehouses, may still exist on the property.

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Historical Background

Historic Property Ownership

William Mynn Thornton (1781-1856) was a native of Hanover County. In the late eighteenth century, his father, John Thornton, owned over 1500 acres in Hanover County.<sup>8</sup> In 1776, John Thornton purchased 600 acres in Cumberland County along “Willis Creek” from Archibald Cary that had previously been a part of a larger tract of land owned by Alexander Speirs.<sup>9</sup> Although he owned land in Cumberland, John Thornton retained his residence in Hanover. He and his wife, Sarah Doswell, are believed to be buried in an unmarked cemetery on Fork Church Road in Hanover.<sup>10</sup> William Thornton graduated from Hampden-Sydney College, where he later served as a trustee (1830-1844), and he served one term in the Virginia House of Delegates (1847).<sup>11</sup>

In 1808, John Thornton and his wife conveyed to William M. Thornton, their son, the same tract of land that Thornton had purchased of Cary in 1776. Landowners adjacent to the parcel at that time were named Deane, Boshier, Guthrey (also, Guthery), and Baskerville. The Willis River was listed as another boundary.<sup>12</sup> According to land records for Cumberland County, however, William Thornton had been paying taxes on this 600-acre parcel since 1805, which in previous years had been listed in the tax books under John Thornton’s name.<sup>13</sup> William Thornton married Elizabeth Anderson (1788-1828) of Cumberland County on October 25, 1804, and it may have been that the new couple took up residence in the bride’s home county on property owned by the groom’s father. According to the 1936 WPA report on Oak Hill, the original rear ell (replaced ca. 1940) was built prior to the three-bay front section of the house. Perhaps the couple lived in the smaller wing while the larger house was constructed. Land tax records are not conclusive in providing an accurate construction date, but Mutual Assurance policies show that in 1812 Thornton secured insurance for two frame buildings at Oak Hill, both of which were listed as dwellings. One building was measured 28 by 16 feet with a brick cellar, while the other was 16 by 18 feet.<sup>14</sup> Both were covered with wood shake roofs. Most likely, this represents the dwelling house and a detached kitchen perhaps with a loft. Property taxes for Thornton’s holdings also increased significantly in 1812. The 1810 federal census of Cumberland County recorded that Thornton owned 20 slaves at the time—a number that implies that Thornton was beginning to undertake serious farming on his land. Compared with other farmers in the area, as a then-middling planter, Thornton appears to have held an average number of slaves at that time.<sup>15</sup> Given written evidence, as well as architectural evidence at Oak Hill, it seems likely that the dwelling was completed between 1810 and 1812.

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Throughout the early part of the nineteenth century, William Thornton added to his landholdings, often purchasing parcels adjacent to land he already held. In 1835, Thornton purchased the George Southall estate, located on both sides of the Willis River and totaling 630 acres. By 1839, Thornton owned over 2,600 acres in the area.<sup>16</sup>

As indicated through census records and other documentation, William Thornton became a very successful farmer. The 1850 agricultural census gives an idea of the type and size of production of his plantations. At the time, Thornton held 1,500 acres of improved, or cultivated, land and 1,000 acres unimproved land, probably forest or unarable land. The cash value of his farm was \$40,000 with a \$400 value listed for farm implements. According to the census records, the value of Thornton's real estate and personal property placed him among the wealthiest of Cumberland County residents along with such county land owners as William A. Cocke, and Peyton and Randolph Harrison. The census also recorded that Thornton owned numerous head of livestock valued at \$5,010 including 16 horses, 16 mules, 20 milk cows, 18 oxen, 34 cows (other than milk), 100 sheep, and 150 swine. The major crops produced on Thornton's farm for the year 1850 were 2,700 bushels of wheat; 3,733 bushels of Indian corn; 100 bushels of oats; and 70,000 pounds of tobacco. Only Stephen W. Trent's plantation produced as much tobacco that year in Cumberland County.<sup>17</sup> Thornton's land also produced eight tons of hay that year. Potatoes and peas were also grown and butter and wool also were produced. This census record gives a very full picture of the productivity of Thornton's property just before his death in 1856. It also suggests the size and type of agricultural buildings that would have been needed on such an active farm including barns, storage buildings, and slave quarters.<sup>18</sup> The 1850 federal population census recorded the William Thornton household with Mary, his third wife, and three children, Richard, Maria, and William M. Listed as a farmer, Thornton's real estate is valued at \$45,000 and Richard, also listed as a farmer, is listed with his own real estate valued at \$10,000.<sup>19</sup>

Thornton died on May 16, 1856 and his death, the cause of which was recorded as "derangement of digestive organs," was reported to Cumberland County officials by his son, John T. Thornton. An obituary for Thornton printed in the *Richmond Whig and Public Adviser* on May 27, 1856, recalled that Thornton initially pursued the occupation of merchant prior to becoming "an extensive and successful planter." The paper noted that it was only through "strong solicitation" that he agreed to serve one term in the state legislature.<sup>20</sup>

Despite his large estate, no written will was found in the Cumberland County records for Thornton, but later transactions indicate that his real estate holdings were left in part to his wife as a dower.

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Thornton had married three times in his life. At the time of his death, he was married to Mary Woodson Scott, who was the widow of James Scott and daughter of Wade and Mary Harris Woodson.<sup>21</sup> An inventory of Thornton's personal estate was recorded in Cumberland County records and was divided between his holdings at his Southall farm and at Oak Hill. Commissioners inventoried Thornton's numerous slaves by name with special occupations or skills noted, and assigned a value to each. At Southall, Thornton held 19 slaves valued at \$14,050 and personal property, including household items, farm implements, and notable livestock (i.e., mules, horses, sheep, pigs, cattle), valued at \$1,732.50. At Oak Hill, Thornton owned 61 slaves valued at \$31,150 and personal property valued at \$4,132.90. Thornton's total personal estate on these two properties was valued at \$51,065.40.<sup>22</sup> This would have been in addition to the value of his real estate holdings, which just a few years earlier were valued in the federal census at \$40,000. At the sale of the estate, several farm and household items were purchased by Mary, Thornton's widow, as well as his two sons, Richard and John.<sup>23</sup> No real estate or slaves were sold at this sale.

The sale of Thornton's personal property was conducted in November 1856, however, in June 1856, about a month after the death of her husband, Mary Thornton conveyed to her sons—Richard, who was living in Buckingham County, and John, who was living in Farmville—her interest in Thornton's real estate (estimated at 3,400 acres) including Oak Hill "on which William M. Thornton resided," a tract called Brown's [from Spencer Brown], the Southall tract, one called Newington, and one small tract "on which Fleming Cayce now resides," and a house lot in the City of Richmond on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, as well as all her interest in the slaves that Thornton owned in the counties of Cumberland and Prince Edward and the cities of Richmond and Manchester. According to this deed, the total number of slaves owned by Thornton was 96 "or thereabouts." The two sons were to provide payments to their mother twice a year for a total of \$1,200.<sup>24</sup> Anthony Thornton, who with his wife Mary had moved to New York City, also conveyed his interests in the property to his brothers.<sup>25</sup> The 1860 census recorded Richard Thornton as a 33 year old farmer with real estate valued at \$43,200 and a personal estate valued at \$111,417. Also listed in the household are Richard's 30 year old wife, Maria, and their three children (William, Nannie, and John), as well as Mary Woodson Thornton. This may indicate that the family was living at Oak Hill at the time.<sup>26</sup>

By 1875, both Mary and Richard Thornton had died and Oak Hill became embroiled in a chancery case brought against the Thornton estate by creditors. The November 1875 term of the Circuit Court of Cumberland assigned special commissioners John R. Wilson and W.J. Dance, to sell Oak Hill at public auction. In September 1876, John A. Booker was the high bidder on the property and for

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\$2,760 was awarded the property (estimated at 1,280 acres). Out of his purchase, Booker conveyed 280 acres to William N. Ayers.<sup>27</sup>

Booker placed the remainder of the property in a deed of trust, which was defaulted upon and resulted in the property once again being sold at public auction. At the sale held in July 1884, Emma Booker became the purchaser with a high bid of \$3,365. Booker, however, could not complete the terms of the sale and in 1891, the property was sold to M.M. Blacker, who lived in Amelia County. In 1897, Blacker sold the property to Jefferson Davis of Buckingham County. In subsequent years, a 400-acre parcel known as Lower Oak Hill was portioned off from Thornton's larger Oak Hill property.<sup>28</sup>

Through a private sale with Jefferson Davis (not recorded in Cumberland County records) Eugene Davis and his wife, Alice, became owners of the Oak Hill parcel and in 1906 conveyed "upper" Oak Hill, with the frame mansion, to J.B. Garvin, who placed the property in a deed of trust, which was subsequently defaulted upon. The property was conveyed through deed to W.N. Armidon. Armidon held the land until 1915, when the 1000-acre parcel of Oak Hill was conveyed to J.B. Flippen who quickly sold the land to E.A. Germaine, formerly of Kinston, Ontario. Germaine retained ownership of the property until 1929 when he sold it to O.G. Flippen, who in 1936 sold the property to the United States government as Tract 1 of the Cumberland Project, LA-VA-4. The Oak Hill tract contained 464.3 acres.<sup>29</sup>

During the 1930s, the federal government began purchasing tracts of land in Cumberland County and acquiring others by condemnation decrees. These acquisitions were completed under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Farm Act, which sought to develop a program of land conservation in rural parts of the country and to correct such things as soil erosion through reforestation, and preservation of natural resources. After acquisition, the land of the "Cumberland Project" was improved and reforested by workers in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who operated from a camp located near Cumberland Courthouse.<sup>30</sup> The CCC was a federal program established in 1933 that provided jobs to thousands of unemployed men, ages 17 to 25, focused on reforestation and conservation projects on a national scale. These men worked in forests and parks on land and water projects aimed at the preservation and recreational use of the country's natural resources. In the Cumberland State Forest area, these workers helped to install culverts and build dams to create lakes including Winston Lake now in the state forest.<sup>31</sup>

In 1939, the land was leased by the federal government to the Virginia Conservation Commission and in 1954, all the land acquired as "Cumberland Project, LA-VA-4" was deeded to the Commonwealth

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of Virginia, Department of Conservation and Economic Development. This land became the nucleus of the Cumberland State Forest. Beginning in the 1950s, the property known as Trenton was used as the state forestry headquarters and as a residence for the Superintendent of the forests. Oak Hill was used as housing for state employees including forestry employees and Department of Game and Inland Fisheries employees working in the forest. Later, the house was rented to employees of other state agencies.<sup>32</sup> At present, the house is occupied by a state forest employee.

Acquisition of interior or adjacent tracts has added to the total acreage in the forest, which is presently over 16,000 acres. All state forests are managed by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) for multiple-use purposes, including watershed protection, recreation, timber production, hunting, fishing, and applied forest research. The state forests are self-supporting (no taxes are used to operate the system). In addition, one-fourth of all income is returned to Cumberland County. Income is received from the sale of forest products and hunting stamp sales.<sup>33</sup>

In 1993, the land in the Cumberland State Forest, originally held by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the Department of Conservation and Economic Development and the Department of Conservation and Historic Resources), was transferred to the Department of Forestry excluding a tract located northeast of Trenton, which in 1962 became Bear Creek Lake State Park.<sup>34</sup> Today, Cumberland State Forest contains 16,222 acres within the piedmont of Virginia and lies in both Cumberland and Buckingham counties. Cumberland State Forest is one of eighteen state forests operated by the Department of Forestry. Since their inception, the state forests have been charged with managing the forest land to ensure a sustained yield of timber for the operation and maintenance of the resources and stability of the local economy while at the same time fulfilling multiple benefits, such as timber management, recreation, aesthetics, wildlife, natural reserves and water quality. Special management areas provide demonstration and research areas for the promotion of good forestry practices and observation of applied research.<sup>35</sup> Cooperative agreements with other state agencies have been a trait of state forest operations since the late 1930s. Prior to the designation of wildlife areas, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries assisted in the game management activities of the forest. Game propagation also was part of an early agreement and involved approximately 20 acres of the Cumberland State Forest for wild turkey propagation and a subsequent quail program. This area, located at the northern end of the forest, operated into the 1970s.<sup>36</sup>

Architectural Context

Oak Hill is a good example of Federal style architecture constructed in rural Cumberland County during the first part of the nineteenth century. Earlier surveys have noted that Oak Hill is a good

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example of the “once prevalent Federal-period I-house and retains much of its original material.”<sup>37</sup> The house is also significant for representing the tastes of the planter class in Cumberland during this period since William M. Thornton, the builder of Oak Hill, was a wealthy farmer who owned thousands of acres of land and nearly 100 slaves at his death. Oak Hill is significant as a good example of a specific plan type, for its early date of construction, and for its intact interior Federal detailing including mantles and door and windows surrounds. Given that the land around Oak Hill remained in agricultural use into the twentieth century and remained in the Thornton family through the nineteenth century, very few alterations have been made to the building. The most notable alteration to the property, the installation of aluminum siding, occurred in the very late twentieth century.

William Thornton was widely known as a successful farmer who moved to Cumberland County from Hanover County. Agriculture was the predominant economic pursuit of Cumberland County residents during the nineteenth century with tobacco as the main cash crop. Corn and wheat were raised for local consumption and this production gave rise to numerous local mills. After the Civil War, the production of tobacco began to decrease, while corn and wheat continued to increase.<sup>38</sup> While no longer extant, it is assumed that Oak Hill would have included numerous agricultural-related outbuildings including tobacco barns, hay barns, and corn cribs, as well as quarters for slaves who would have worked the farm and fields for Thornton. Two late nineteenth-century outbuildings are extant and indicate that the land was still in cultivation at that time and reflect the types of crops being raised (corn and tobacco).

No archaeological investigation has been undertaken at the property; however, it seems likely that intact historical deposits may be found within the vicinity of the house. In 1993, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources completed a report on known cultural resources within the Cumberland State Forest. One Archaic period site and two sites related to canal locks constructed along the Willis River were listed among the recorded resources. The report stated that the potential for prehistoric sites was highest along the major drainages and that larger Native American camps or villages might be found along the Willis River, while smaller drainages, such as Bear Creek might hold deposits from smaller, seasonal camps.<sup>39</sup> At present, no systematic investigation of archaeological resources has been completed for Cumberland State Forest. Should archaeological survey be undertaken within the National Register property boundaries or within the historical boundaries of the Oak Hill tract and archaeological sites are located that contain intact, dateable deposits, these sites should be considered potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion D as contributing

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components to the property as they may contain information important to one of the associated historic contexts.

ENDNOTES

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8. Ruth and Sam Sparacio, compilers, Hanover County, Virginia, Land Tax Books, 1793-1796. (McLean, Virginia: The Ancient Press, 1977).
9. Cumberland County Deed Book 5:424. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.
10. Helen Kay Yates, compiler, "Family Graveyards in Hanover County, Virginia." (Mechanicsville, Virginia: By Author, 1995). Entry states that according to Judge Bazile, Captain John Thornton and his wife, Sarah Doswell and others are buried at Moreland. There are no tombstones, but the cemetery is believed to be located at the end of a field on Fork Church Road. The cemetery is marked by a large walnut tree. Another reference indicates that Thornton was a captain in the Third Regiment of the Virginia Line of the Continental Army during 1776. J.G. Russell Family Tree, accessed via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.jgrussell.com/famtree/p34.htm>. 8 April 2005.
11. Shawna Hunter, Reference Librarian, Hampden-Sydney College. April 14, 2005. Personal Communication. Records show that Thornton was an active member of the Hampden-Sydney Board of Trustees and often participated in such projects as securing funds for capital improvements and construction at the school. After Thornton's tenure as trustee, his son, John Thruston Thornton, served as a trustee (1851-1859). John's son, William Mynn Thornton, also was a graduate of Hampden-Sydney (1915) and went on to become chairman of the faculty (1888-1896) and dean of the School of Engineering at the University (1904-1925) of Virginia.  
Herbert Clarence Bradshaw, History of Hampden-Sydney College, Volume 1: From the Beginnings to the Year 1856 (Durham, North Carolina: Privately printed, 1976) passim.  
John Luster Brinkley, On This Hill: A Narrative History of Hampden-Sydney college, 1774-1994 (Hampden-Sydney, Virginia: Hampden-Sydney College, 1994) 263.
12. Cumberland County Deed Book 11:165. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.
13. Cumberland County, Land Tax Book, 1789-1839. Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.
14. Mutual Assurance Society, against Fire on Buildings, of the State of Virginia, Policy for William Thornton, "Buildings on Oak Hill," Reel 6, Volume 48, No. 452. Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.
15. [Mrs. Owen Crickard], compiler, 1810 Census of Cumberland County (N.p., 1971). Recorded owners with the highest number of slaves in Cumberland County were Judith Randolph with 103 slaves and Colly Carrington with 75 slaves. A large number of the county households had between 15 and 35 slaves. Personal property taxes for 1810 show Thornton with 14 slaves over 16.
16. Cumberland County, Will Book 9:229. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.  
Cumberland County, Deed Book 22:293. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.  
Cumberland County, Land Tax Book, 1839. Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

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- Cumberland County, Personal Property Records, 1839. Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.
17. U.S. Government, Seventh Census of the United States, Agricultural Products (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1850). Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.
18. U.S. Government, Seventh Census of the United States, Agricultural Products.
19. Carolyn Zogg Wolf, compiler, The 1850 Federal Census of Cumberland County, Virginia (Woodsfield, Ohio: Published by author, 1987).
20. Richmond *Whig and Public Adviser* May 27, 1856 (page 2, column 5). Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.
21. Cumberland County, Register of Births and Deaths. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.  
Cumberland County and Its People, 205.  
The death of Elizabeth Thornton, William's first wife, was noted in the Richmond *Enquirer*, September 26, 1828 (page 3, column 5). Thornton's second wife, Maria A. Burton, was the widow of Aaron Burton and the daughter of Bartholomew Truehart. Thornton married her on December 5, 1831; the date of her death is not known. Thornton married his third wife, Mary Scott Woodson, on April 17, 1837. An announcement of the marriage appeared in the Richmond *Whig and Public Adviser*, April 21, 1837 (page 1, column 7). None of Thornton's marriages are recorded in the registry at Cumberland County, however, his son Anthony's marriage to Mary Irving is recorded.
22. Cumberland County, Will Book 12:411-415. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.
23. Cumberland County, Will Book 12:440-446. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.
24. Cumberland County Deed Book 28:360. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.
25. Cumberland County Deed Book 38:396. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia. It is their son, Charles Irving, who is buried in the Oak Hill cemetery.
26. Carolyn Zogg Wolf, compiler, The 1860 Federal Census of Cumberland County, Virginia (Woodsfield, Ohio: Published by author, 1988).
27. Cumberland County Deed Book 33:225; 36:359. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.
28. Cumberland County Deed Book 42:273; 52:44. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.
29. Cumberland County Deed Book 42:394; 52:44; 52:243; 67:159; 73:64. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.
30. W.C. "Chuck" Stanley, Superintendent, Virginia State Forests (1966-1978) and former resident of Trenton, personal communication. Telephone interview, April 5, 2005.
31. Warner, personal communication. Stanley, personal communication.
32. Warner, personal communication.
33. "Cumberland State Forest," Virginia Department of Forestry, State Forests Page. Online. Internet. April 3, 2005. Available <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/stforest/index-csf.shtml>.
34. Cumberland County, Deed Book 195:36. On file at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cumberland, Virginia.

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35. "Virginia State Forests," Virginia Department of Forestry, State Forests Page. Online. Internet. April 3, 2005.  
Available <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/stforest/index.shtml>.
36. James E. Bowen, "Cumberland State Forest," Cumberland County Historical Bulletin vol. 1 no. 1 (November 1984):25.
37. Traceries, 25.
38. Traceries, 37.
39. Jacqueline L. Hernigle, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, "Cumberland State Forest: Historic Resources."  
On file in archives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1993.

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Frazee, Marie Keller Frazee. Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, "Report 87, Oak Hill," 1936. Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

--. Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory "Report 112, Oak Hill Cemetery," 1936. Viewed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

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--. The 1860 Federal Census of Cumberland County, Virginia. Woodsfield, Ohio: Published by author, 1988.

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**10. Geographical Data**

UTM References

Hill Crest Quadrangle

Zone 17

<u>Point</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1	737330	4152953
2	737579	4153080
3	737670	4152963
4	737660	4152872
5	737365	4152760
6	737329	4152821
7	737360	4152640

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries for this property correspond to the polygon as marked on the enclosed USGS Quadrangle (Hill Crest) following the above referenced UTM points.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary follows the tree and fence lines where possible to encompass the area immediately surrounding the historic dwelling, the old roadbed toward the cemetery site, the cemetery site, and the area containing the tobacco/hay barn and granary building.

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

All photographs are of:  
OAK HILL  
Cumberland County, Virginia  
VDHR File Number 024-0871  
Date of Photographs: March 2005  
Debra A. McClane, photographer

All negatives (22091 and 22902) are stored with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

VIEW: View of entrance into property from driveway. View looking W.  
NEG. NO.: 22901  
PHOTO 1 of 23

VIEW: View looking SW at front of dwelling.  
NEG. NO.: 22901  
PHOTO 2 of 23

VIEW: Detail of front door, view to W.  
NEG. NO.: 22901  
PHOTO 3 of 23

VIEW: View looking NE at rear ell.  
NEG. No.: 22901  
PHOTO 4 of 23

VIEW: South end chimney. View looking NW.  
NEG. No.: 22901  
PHOTO 5 of 23

VIEW: North end chimney. View looking SE. Note entrance to basement on right side of chimney.  
NEG. No.: 22901  
PHOTO 6 of 23

VIEW: Frame garage located behind dwelling. View to NW.  
NEG. No.: 22901  
PHOTO 7 of 23

VIEW: Bank barn located behind garage. View looking SW.  
NEG. No.: 22901  
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VIEW: Tobacco/hay barn, view looking E.  
NEG. No.: 22901  
PHOTO 9 of 23

VIEW: Granary building, view looking NE.  
NEG. No.: 22901  
PHOTO 10 of 23

VIEW: View of cemetery, view looking W. Tombstone with curved shoulders is that of Charles Irving Thornton.  
NEG. No.: 22901  
PHOTO 11 of 23

VIEW: Interior, view looking E through center passage.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 12 of 23

VIEW: View of staircase, looking W.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 13 of 23

VIEW: Detail of staircase decoration. View to S.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 14 of 23

VIEW: First floor parlor, located north off of passage. View looking N/NE.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 15 of 23

VIEW: Detail of mantle in parlor. View looking N.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 16 of 23

VIEW: View of first floor chamber, looking SE.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 17 of 23

VIEW: View of kitchen located in rear ell. View to NW.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 18 of 23

VIEW: Detail of stair landing, newel post, and pendant. View looking NW.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 19 of 23



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**OAK HILL  
Cumberland, Virginia**

**Section PHOTO Page 24**

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VIEW: View of second story hall from stair landing. View to E.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 20 of 23

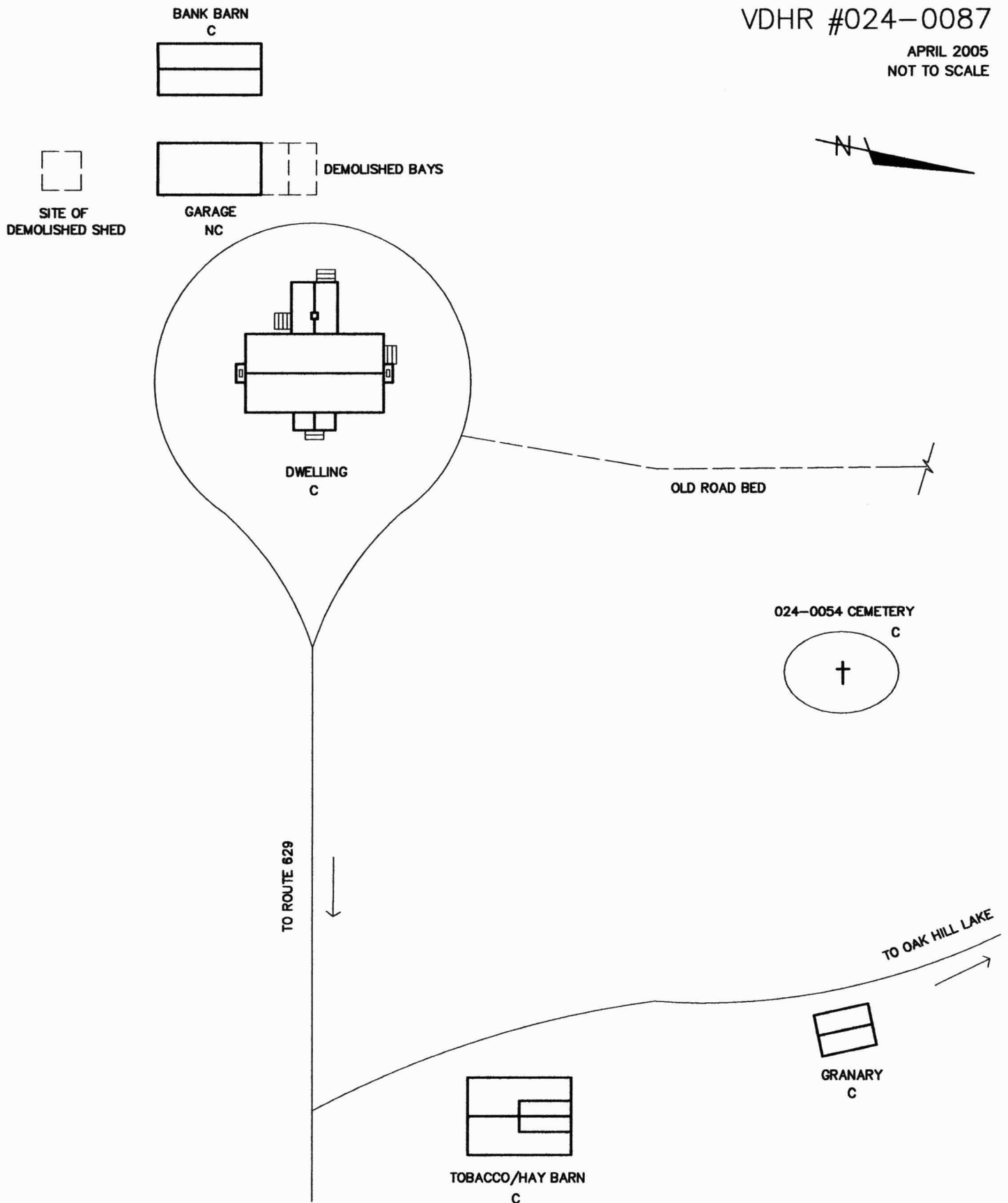
VIEW: Second floor, north side bedroom. View looking NW.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 21 of 23

VIEW: Detail of mantle in second floor, north side bedroom. View to N.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 22 of 23

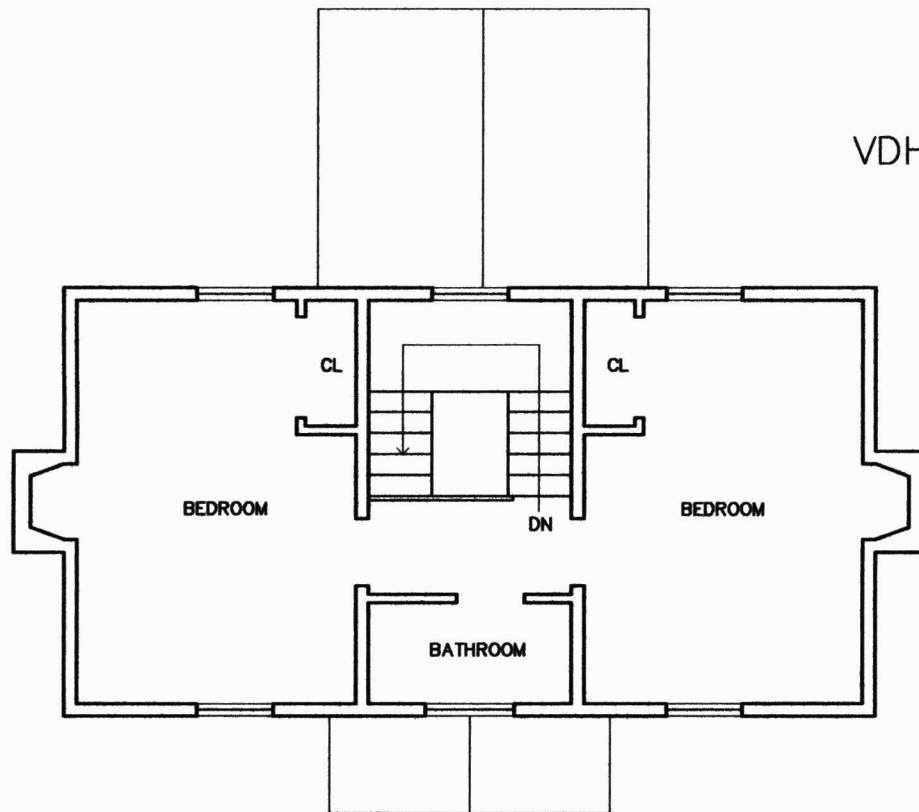
VIEW: Second floor, south side bedroom. View to SW.  
NEG. No.: 22902  
PHOTO 23 of 23

OAK HILL  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA  
VDHR #024-0087

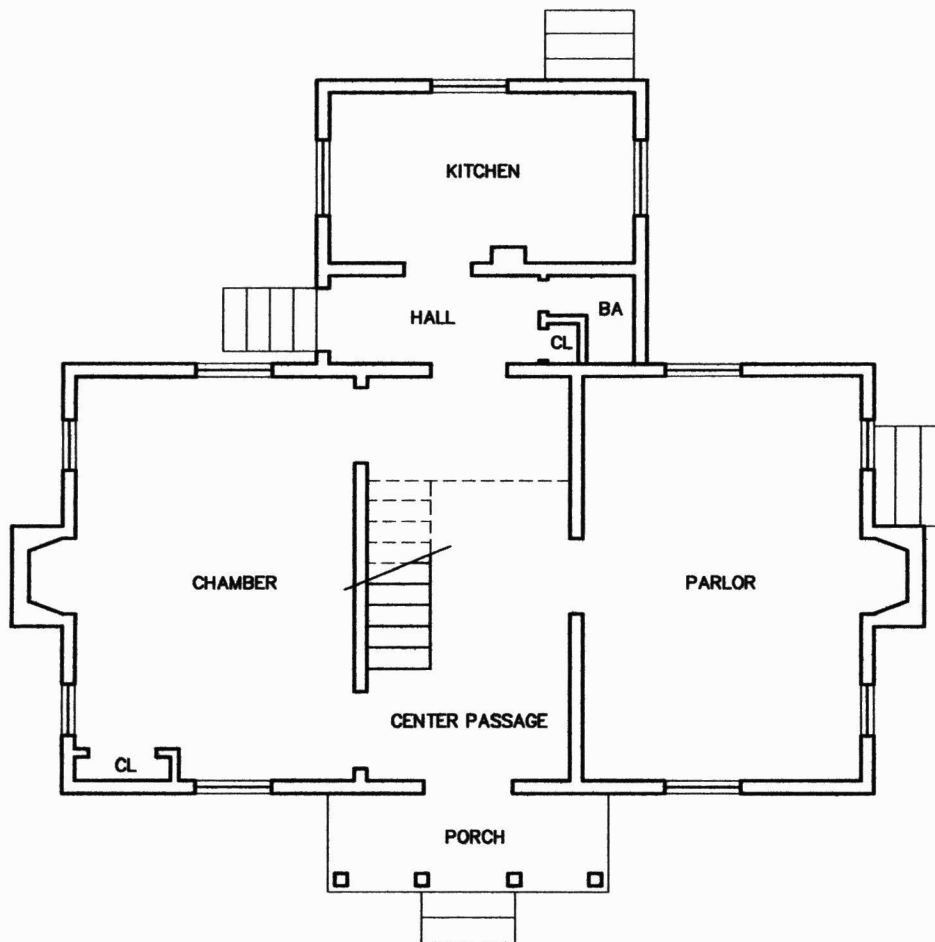
APRIL 2005  
NOT TO SCALE



OAK HILL  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA  
VDHR #024-0087  
APRIL 2005  
NOT TO SCALE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
NTS



FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
NTS



1864 Cumberland County Map indicating residence of "Mrs. Thornton."  
 J.F. Gilmer, Engineer. Virginia Historical Society.



# The Oak Hill House and Grounds at Cumberland State Forest



## Cumberland State Forest Roads

— State Route

- - - Forest Road

- - - - - Forest Trail



State Forest Boundary



2002 Aerial Imagery





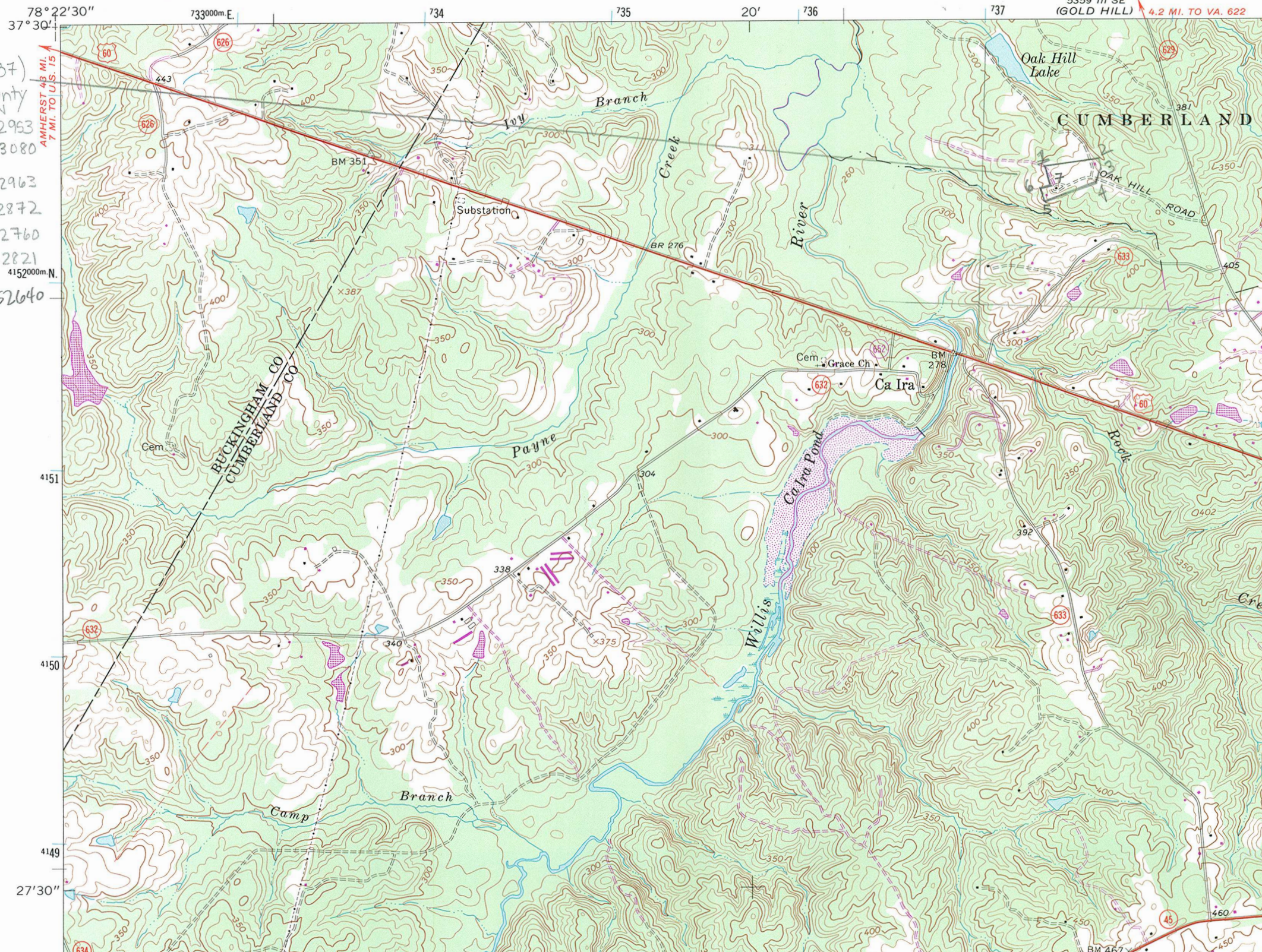
Aerial photograph of Oak Hill property taken by Gary Heiser, State Forest Manager.  
April 2005.



5359 III SW  
(DILLWYN)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES



Oak Hill (24-07)  
Cumberland County

- 1. 737330 4152953
- 2. 737579 4153080
- 3. 737670 4152963
- 4. 737660 4152872
- 5. 737365 4152760
- 6. 737329 4152821
- 7. 737360 4152640