

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Dinwiddie
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

DEC 23 1974

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Wales
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 miles south of Appomattox River; .4 mile southeast of the intersection of State Route 632 and U.S. Rt. 460			
CITY OR TOWN: (Petersburg vicinity)		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)	
STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Dinwiddie	CODE 053

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. William R. Phillips, Jr.	
STREET AND NUMBER: U. S. Route 460 West	
CITY OR TOWN: Petersburg	STATE: Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dinwiddie County Court House	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Dinwiddie	STATE: Virginia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)	
TITLE OF SURVEY: (1) Historic American Buildings Survey	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1935, 1936, 1940 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The dwelling house at Wales is a five-part Palladian composition situated amid broad, flat fields surrounded by woods, two miles south of the Appomattox River near Petersburg. It is remarkably well preserved with few changes having been made either to the exterior or to the interior over the course of two centuries. Several of its outbuildings are intact.

The house formerly stood as the central structure in a south-facing range with an office to the west, a kitchen to the east, and a smokehouse beyond the kitchen. Another range of outbuildings lay to the north, with orchards and gardens beyond it, and a third, including several barns, to the south. One approaches the house from the north along a quarter-mile long, winding road through the woods separating it from U. S. Route 460.

The house as it stands is 104 feet long. The central portion was apparently built about 1730 as a 32' by 17', one-and-one-half-story, hall-and-parlor plan framed house; its brick exterior end chimneys with corbelled caps are laid in Flemish bond. The rear file of lean-to rooms may have been added somewhat later, increasing the depth to its present 26 feet. This portion of the house sits upon a brick, English-bond basement ventilated by two grills with wooden diamond mullions set in either facade. The center section is covered with beaded weatherboards. Its windows display plain frames with molded or plain sills, early raised-panel, two-panel shutters hung on foliated "Queen Anne" H-hinges, and original nine-over-nine, six-over-six, and four-over-four sash with much old glass. The door frames are of the architrave variety, with six-panel, raised-panel doors. A wooden box lock remains on the rear door. The central portion is covered by a gabled roof with three narrow hipped-roof dormers on the front and two gable-roofed dormers on the rear.

The one-story wings and connecting hyphens were added around 1752. These consist of a 24' by 20' west wing with an 11' by 12' hyphen, and a 24' by 25' east wing with a 12' by 12' hyphen. All of these parts of the building sit upon brick underpinnings laid in Flemish bond with periodic vertical slits left for ventilation. The wings and hyphens are also timber-framed covered with molded weatherboards. Their brick interior end chimneys have corbelled caps.

The door and window treatment of the wings is similar to that of the main portion of the house, and like it they retain most of their original sash and old glass. The shutters here are three-panel. In addition, each of the connecting halls has a large Salmon-type door with four upper panels and a lower cross-panel. All of these additions are gable-roofed, but the wings are hipped on their inner ends.

The cellar of the center portion is one full-size room divided by a bearing wall running part of the length of the house. On the first floor of this section, the original hall-and-parlor has three lean-to rooms running across the rear. Both the west wing and hyphens have a single room, however, the east wing is two rooms deep.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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The interior of Wales is as well preserved as the exterior. It is filled with early raised-panel doors on H-L hinges, and is plastered and paneled throughout. In the center room of the lean-to, a closed-string, sawn-baluster stairway rises from the back of the house toward the front. The stair probably rose near the front door originally and ran toward the rear until the addition of the wings.

The house is unusual in that its west wing is its most elaborate room. This was probably occasioned by the vernacular plan of the center portion which leaves no large room there sufficiently shielded from the entrance. The fireplace in this room projects from the end wall featuring a segmental opening with a broad surround of white-painted plaster framed by a paneled chimney breast flanked by full-length fluted Roman Doric pilasters with full entablature. The denticulated cornice is carried across the chimney breast between the pilasters and around the rest of the room. The wall from which the chimney projects, like the other three walls, is wainscoted to a height of one panel above the unusual asymmetrical chair rail.

The larger, southwest room of the main block has a fireplace with a rectangular-opening, architrave surround, and paneled overmantel flanked by small fluted Roman Doric pilasters resting on a mantel shelf. The shelf itself is a later addition and probably replaces an original one. This end of the room is paneled to its full height with a symmetrical chair rail at the appropriate level. The other walls are plastered and have a beaded baseboard and the same chair rail molding backed by a double-beaded rail. These rails butt against the window frames rather than continuing to form the sills.

The southeast room is plastered and has the same baseboard, window and chair rail treatment. Its rectangular firebox is framed with a white-painted plaster surround, a chimney breast with a segment opening and a very high mantel shelf atop a pulvinated frieze. A later mantel shelf has been inserted below the original one, along with small, round-headed panel pilasters on either side of the fireplace surround. The rear rooms are plain. The northwest room is a modern kitchen. The southwest room has a double-beaded chair rail. The second floor consists of two rooms with a central stair hall. The east room fireplace is treated with a simpler version of that in the room below it.

The south room in the east wing has a fireplace treatment similar to that in the southeast room of the center block. The segmental opening of the sealed corner fireplace is decorated with a paneled chimney breast, high shelf on pulvinated frieze, and later mantel shelf. It is, however, paneled above the original shelf to the ceiling, as is the east wall, which forms a partition for a closet. The remaining walls are plastered above a paneled dado.

Like the front room, the rear room in this wing displays a paneled closet partition and a paneled chimney breast with later shelf, but with no

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original frieze or mantel shelf. The fireplace has a rectangular opening, surrounded by plaster l, as in the other rooms, and framed by a segmental-arched opening in the paneling. The other walls are trimmed with a flush wainscot formed of a single board with chair rail and baseboard above and below.

Several outbuildings survive. The finest of these is the office, a gable-roofed building with a porch on the front and a lean-to on the rear. The exterior end chimneys are laid in Flemish bond with tumble-coursed weatherings.

Behind the office stands the slave quarters, and a dairy lies to the east of this. East of the house is a ruinous smokehouse. Between the smokehouse and the house, the brick foundation of a kitchen is still visible. A detailed map in the possession of the owners and dated 1866 shows the number and location of other outbuildings at Wales. Thus, the property has archaeological merit nearly equal to its architectural value.

Wales has been restored by its present owners, who have refrained from making any significant changes in the fabric.

DTU

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wales is notable as a well-preserved eighteenth-century plantation associated with a family prominent in the political and social life of Dinwiddie County and its environs.

The dwelling house has evolved into a distinctive five-part plan and is little changed on either the interior or the exterior from its colonial appearance. It is filled with fine early paneling, hardware and other appointments. Many of its outbuildings survive, and precise documentary evidence of others exists, making the complex a remarkably complete artifactual assemblage.

The house was probably built by Howell Briggs (1709-1775), a militia captain, magistrate and vestryman, and an early emigrant to what is now Dinwiddie County from that part of Surry County which is now Sussex. Briggs named the plantation in honor of the Prince of Wales.

Howell Briggs' son, Gray Briggs (c. 1731-1807), was a member of the House of Burgesses from Sussex County, 1752-1758. Born and raised at Wales, he returned there after his term in the Assembly. Gray Briggs was a man of some standing in the area and served as state attorney for Dinwiddie County in 1789. One of Briggs' account books discovered on the property by the present owners reveals an active and far-flung private legal practice as well. Gray Briggs was a well-to-do man who was listed in the 1782 Personal Property List for Dinwiddie County as the owner of 43 slaves, 16 horses, 43 head of cattle and one "charriott."

The chain of title after his death is difficult to trace owing to the destruction of the Dinwiddie County records in the War between the States. Wales is known to have been owned early in the twentieth century by the Gilliam and MacIlwaine families. The property was purchased by its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Phillips, Jr., in 1949.

An 1866 map in the owners' possession shows Wales to have been a large establishment with an office, two kitchens, a laundry, a henhouse, six stables, two barns, two double barns, a granary, a crib, a servants' graveyard, and a family graveyard.

DTU

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lancaster, Robert A., Jr., "Wales, Dinwiddie County, Va." Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Volume 44, Number 3, 1936, pp. 232-237.
WPA Federal Writers Project. Dinwiddie County: "The Countrey of the Apamatica". Richmond: Dinwiddie County School Board, 1942.
Wyatt, Edward A. IV. Plantation Houses Around Petersburg in the Counties of Prince George, Chesterfield, and Dinwiddie, Virginia. Petersburg: The Progress-Index, 1955.
Zehmer, John Granderson, Jr. "The Early Domestic Architecture of Dinwiddie County, Virginia," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Virginia, 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37 ° 11 ' 39 "	77 ° 30 ' 48 "			
NE	37 ° 11 ' 39 "	77 ° 30 ' 14 "			
SE	37 ° 11 ' 15 "	77 ° 30 ' 14 "			
SW	37 ° 11 ' 15 "	77 ° 30 ' 48 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 94 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OF COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE
October 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE
Virginia

CODE
51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Executive Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

Date NOV 19 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Arthur Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

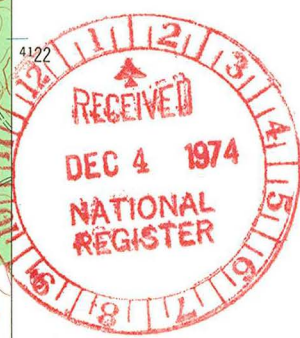
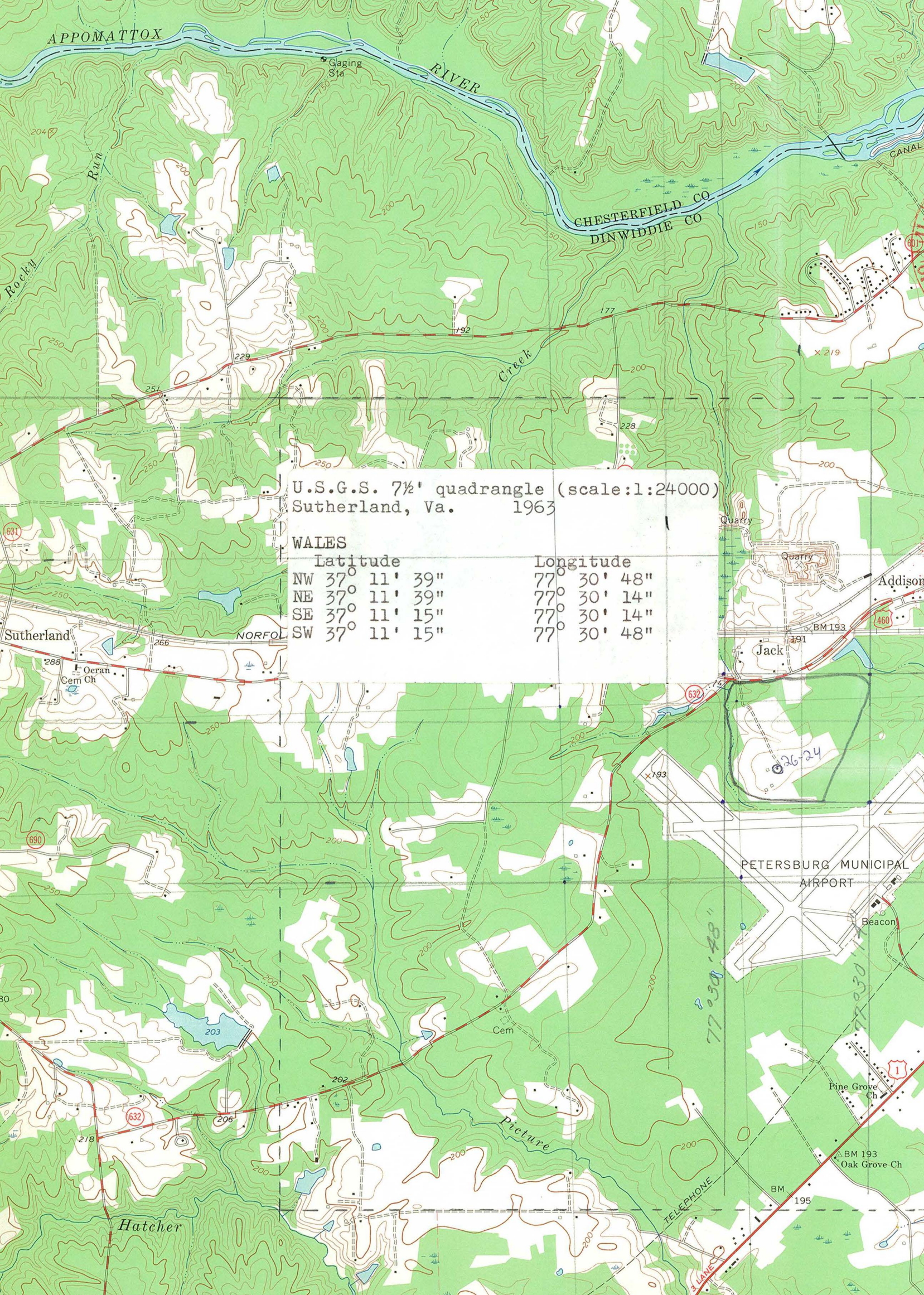
Date 12/23/74

ATTEST:
Cornelius Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12-20-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NW 18/276940/4119160 CD
SE 18/277740/4118410
SW 18/276920/4118430



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Sutherland, Va. 1963

WALES

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 11' 39"	77° 30' 48"
NE	37° 11' 39"	77° 30' 14"
SE	37° 11' 15"	77° 30' 14"
SW	37° 11' 15"	77° 30' 48"

PETERSBURG 6 MI.
RICHMOND (VIA INTERSTATE 95) 29 MI.
PETERSBURG 7 MI.
2.7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95
(PETERSBURG) 5558 III NW

37° 11' 39"

Wales (26-24)

37° 11' 15"

UTM
NE 18/277 760
4119 140
SE 18/277 740
4118 410
SW 18/276 920
4118 430
NW 18/276 940
4119 160
CJ