

VLR-3/15/77

NRHP 1/30/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Oakridge (Preferred); Oak Ridge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

.8 mile North of State Route 626; .5 mile South of Whetstone
Creek; .9 mile NNE of intersection of State Routes 601 and 626.

CITY, TOWN

Blackstone

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Nottoway

CODE

135

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. George H. Walker

STREET & NUMBER

Oakridge Farm

CITY, TOWN

Blackstone

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

23824

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Nottoway County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Nottoway

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1971, 1975

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oakridge is a rolling tract of farmland situated near Blackstone in Nottoway County. The dwelling house, the only old structure on the property, is an early nineteenth-century frame structure consisting of a two-story, three-bay western section and a story-and-a-half, one-bay east wing, set back from either facade. The first-floor windows have nine-over-nine sash, and the second-floor windows have nine-over-six sash. Modern louvred blinds embellish the windows of the present (south) front. At the east end is a small lean-to, with an ell projecting from the rear of it; these twentieth-century additions accommodate a kitchen and a dining room. The original sections are clad with molded weatherboards (except for the south side of the east wing, which has beaded weatherboards) while plain weatherboards are used on the modern sections. A modillion cornice embellishes the eaves of the gable roofs which are covered with standing-seam sheet metal, and there is a single shed dormer with six-over-six sash built against the west block wall on the south slope of the east wing roof. The house is set on a Flemish-bond brick underpinning, and there are exterior Flemish-bond brick chimneys at either end; that on the west has small tiled weatherings. Distyle gable-roofed, twentieth-century porches shelter the front and rear entrances.

The plan of Oakridge is a common one in early nineteenth-century houses in the region. The main block has a side-passage plan with a single large room to the west, and there is a single room in the east wing. The closed-string, Chinese Chippendale stair is located in the passage. It has a square newel, molded banister, no spandrel, and a recessed-panel soffit. Under it a railing with plain square balusters marks the former location of a stair to the basement now replaced by a trap door. Recessed-panel wainscoting is carried around the passage.

The west (bed) room was probably the original parlor. It has recessed-panel wainscoting, a punch-and-dentil cornice, and a full-height chimney breast. The latter consists of an architrave surround and a frieze consisting of two adjacent rectangular recessed panels. A molded, unsupported shelf separates these from two more tiers of recessed panels--a single large one below two smaller adjacent ones. The whole is flanked by a pair of fluted Roman Doric pilasters with plain, high bases and plain entablature blocks.

The east (living) room, formerly either a dining room or a chamber, is decorated very similarly to the west room. However, it lacks the cornice carried around the room and for the two tiers of panels above the mantel shelf on the chimney breast are substituted three diminishing tiers of two adjacent recessed panels each.

Many original six-panel, raised-panel doors hung on HL hinges survive throughout the house, as do several iron box locks with brass knobs.

DJ

Justification of Acreage

The boundaries containing the 60-acre Oakridge tract enclose a natural geographic area composed of a ridge of open land surrounded, for the most part, by the tree-line. The setting, on the ridge, is a suitable one for this Early Republican plantation dwelling.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The handsome frame dwelling house at Oakridge, a rolling tract of farmland in Nottoway County, is a fine example of the residence of a prosperous Early Republican planter in Southside Piedmont Virginia. Built late in the eighteenth or early in the nineteenth century by Burwell Smith, the house is handsomely decorated and is particularly noteworthy for its handsome stair in the Chinese Chippendale taste. Chinese lattice stair railings are rare in Virginia; most of the surviving ones are in post-Colonial Southside houses. The Oakridge example is a simplified but effective version of the form; its particular pattern has not been observed elsewhere.

Smith (d. 1828) began acquiring land on Whetstone Creek and the Little Nottoway River in 1793 and continued to add to his holdings until 1823. There were already buildings on the land at the first recording of structures in the land tax books in 1820 (at which time Smith owned holdings of 3168½ and 232 acres). Since the value of the buildings remained unchanged throughout the remainder of Smith's life, it is evident that the present house was standing by 1820. In fact, architectural evidence supports the traditional date -1800- although it is not specifically documented. Smith was a colorful and perhaps a prototypical planter of the Southside tobacco belt, having been described by one writer as "a particularly parsimonious and illiterate man, but one who accumulated much property."

From Burwell Smith the property passed to his wife and then in 1830 to his son, Kennon Smith. Kennon Smith's widow, Mary, transferred Oakridge, which she had inherited in 1838, to her second husband, Warner Wortham Guy, in 1843. It descended to Guy's son, William Scott Guy, sometime after 1860. Mrs. George H. Walker is the current owner.

DJ & VDS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cummins, A. B. Nottoway County Virginia. Richmond: W.M. Brown & Son, Inc., 1970.
Nottoway County Court Order Books: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14.
Nottoway County Deed Books: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10.
Nottoway County Land Books: 1812-1850.
Nottoway County Will Books: 6, 7, 8.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 60 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	7,5,8	9,0,0	4,1	0,8	3,9,0	B	1,7	7,5,8	8,2,0	4,1	0,7	6,7,0	
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	7,5,8	3,2,0	4,1	0,7	7,2,0	D	1,7	7,5,8	4,2,0	4,1	0,8	2,3,0	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Oakridge property is bounded by a line beginning at a point (D) approximately 1 mile NNE of the intersection of state routes 601 and 626, less than .3 mile S of Whetstone Creek; then running generally eastward following the treeline for a distance of approximately 2200 feet; then running generally southward, following the treeline for a distance of approximately 2700 feet; then extending 1500 feet W in a straight line cutting across open land and the lane to the house, to intersection with treeline; then running generally N following treeline for a distance of approximately 2300 feet to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☒

LOCAL ☐

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

DATE MAR 15 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Oakridge, Nottoway County, Virginia

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER

9

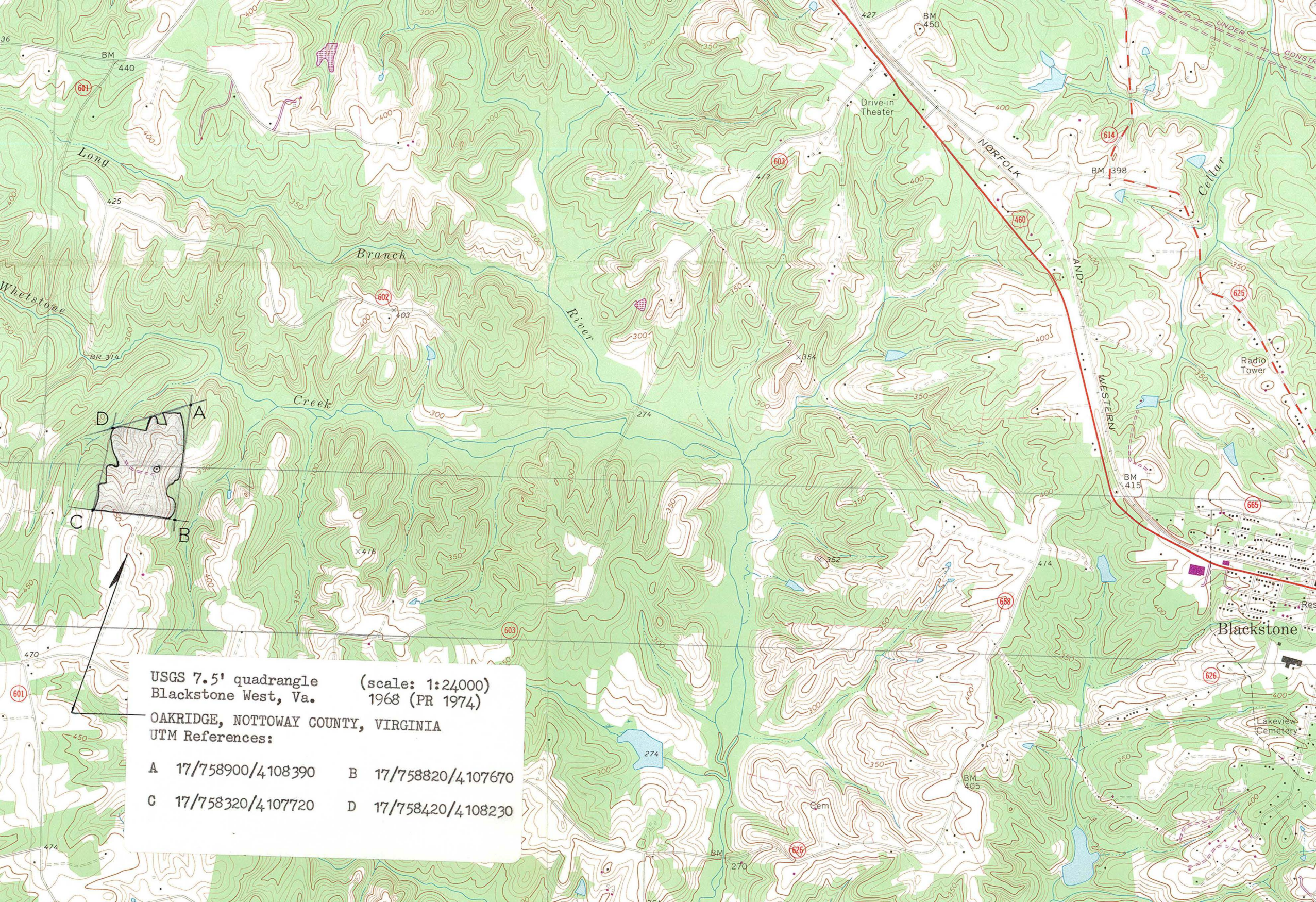
PAGE

1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Turner, W. R. Old Homes and Families in Nottoway County. Blackstone,
Virginia: The Nottoway Publishing Co., Inc., 1932.

Watson, Walter A. Notes on Southside Virginia. Richmond, 1925.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Blackstone West, Va. (scale: 1:24000)
1968 (PR 1974)

OAKRIDGE, NOTTOWAY COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References:

A 17/758900/4108390	B 17/758820/4107670
C 17/758320/4107720	D 17/758420/4108230