



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 012-5471

1. General Property Information

Property name: Blick Plantation

Property address: 686 Wilson Creek Lane

City or Town: Lawrenceville VA

Zip code: 23868

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Brunswick County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building X

Site

Structure

Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 10 +/-

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural X

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

Located in Brunswick County near the village of Smoky Ordinary which has a new historic marker SN 61 (2021), this plantation appeared to contain around 1,000 acres and was an active tobacco and crop plantation while having a millseat during the 18th and 19th centuries up to the mid-20th century. The lands stretched to Smoky Ordinary at what is now Reedy Creek Road. I have traced roots to what appears to be this same land back to my 5th great-grandfather, who fought in the revolutionary war along with his son. They are both likely are buried in the family cemetery out back of the house. The Blick family arrived in Brunswick shortly it was formed off of Prince George County, est. 1730.

The land was divided in the mid-1800s upon Major James Blick's death (via Will), and again in 1919 after George Richard Blick's 1909 death (via Will and later Deed – Auction - from the clerk). In the 1930's a gentleman named Mr. Washburn purchased parcels including the home and in effect put the southeastern part of the old Blick Plantation back together calling it the Washburn Tobacco Plantation. It was divided again in the 1950's when Mr. Washburn alongside Brunswick County formed the nearby public "Brunswick Fishing Lake" also known locally as "Brunswick Pond" that is located on the southeastern part of the land. The remaining estate was finally subdivided in the 1980's into the current property lines and the subdivision was named "Lake Washburn" resulting in the tract where this Blick home exists on now which consists of 10 +/- acres. This is all that remains of the old plantation.

The setting is unmanaged woodland with a mixture of evergreens and hardwoods, plus completely overgrown grounds including its former driveway. For many decades the home and carriage house were invisible from the road, Wilson Creek Lane, and at some point the structures were dropped from the tax bills. Recent clearing by hand has revealed the structure and has started to open up a front path and the old driveway.

There is a large old sycamore tree (177" circumference measurement taken 4' off the ground) located out front towards the road. There is a small pond is to the right of the driveway which could be a foundation from an old house. There are several large unkempt crepe myrtles and a very large round leaf Yucca plant which has three young Yucca's nearby. They flank the natural but abandoned walkway leading from the road to the front of the house. The large cemetery is covered in very thick Periwinkle which has taken over several acres of land. The private road itself is believed to have once been the private driveway for this home/plantation.

Zoning is rural agricultural.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Colonial

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Unknown however it closely matches a Colonial Williamsburg home and it is similar in style as the original Mt. Vernon.

If the builder is known, please list here: NA

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1770

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

This home was recently rediscovered by the descendants of the original family, the Blinks, which now total 9 generations of deep history on the land and likely 7 generations with the home. The family cemetery is located behind the home and has known Civil War and likely Revolutionary War veteran(s) buried there. It is important to note that according to courthouse records the plantation had its own Millseat which can help explain the robust construction and finer trim details. This colonial-style home was abandoned for well over 50 years and has a collapsed 30'x10' front porch, 10 missing windows, weatherboard (pine) wood siding, and Flemish bond brick foundation which has collapsed in several areas. It is most unique because it is unmolested and mostly original survivor home without any living quarters additions and very few modernizations. No kitchens or bathrooms were ever added and there is no indoor plumbing. However, bullet-fuse electric (pull string ceiling lights and ONE 2-prong wall outlet for the whole house) and telephone were connected to the house in the mid 20th century. Another wall-plug was found in the summer kitchen exterior wall debris. Electric power was disconnected from the pole decades ago.

The structure is post and beam, mortise and tenon, and peg construction, using oversized heart pine timbers including two extra vertical timber support beams on each side of the house. Hand hewn robust pine beams support the home which include 15-inch square hand-hewn main (pine) center beam. The home is roughly 1,700 square foot, two-story, and is built with the floor plan 5 rooms over 5 rooms, and a sole winding staircase that is located in the rear of the home, all over a 5' tall Flemish bond brick cellar. The ceilings are 10 ½' on the main level and 8' upstairs. The attic is tall/open span. The roof is

metal, is in good shape, and is built as a side-gable style roof. The ends of the home do not have overhanging eaves.

Special features include original alternating Flemish Bond brick chimney and foundation/crawl, 9" weatherboard ¼ round siding, bull-nose windowsills with a moulding on the underside, solid crown molding under the eaves & under the edge of the roof, original 9 over 9-pane main-level windows with some apparent crown-glass remaining, thick 2-layer door trim, very rare Chinoiserie/Chippendale Balustrade crowning a unique 42" wide winding staircase still in its original condition. The floors are mostly 6"x1¼" tongue and groove heart pine floors. Some flooring and a mantel were pillaged from upstairs main chamber. The patchwork flooring is a different width in the 1st floor east room but some appear original. Most of the main level has original 38" tall horizontal wainscot wall boards and are comprised of 4 individual boards. The lower board is 16" wide, middle board is 15" wide, the top board is 6" wide and the top cap trim is 1" wide. One wall (western-side hall) appears to have been added in the early 19th century thus creating a center hall which makes the front door not centered in the hall. The 1st floor west rooms main fireplace mantle is raised panel and measures 103" wide x 58" tall. The unmolested original brick firebox is 48" wide and 31" tall. The upstairs mantle is missing but the brick fireplace is in place. Indications are that it matched the downstairs mantle with the same arch over the firebox. Clearly there was a symmetrical twin chimney on the right side of the home, however it was removed or fell long ago replaced with a concrete single flu 20th century interior stack with two stove pipe flues, one on the main level and one upstairs. The main alternating Flemish Bond brick chimney appears original and is perched atop large granite blocks, everything with is built with lime mortar. Because of accessibility issues and overgrowth, a date has not been located yet. The upper chimney stack sits away from the house and is not original brick because it has a more modern smooth 20th century brick. The standing seam roof is metal, is intact, and appears to be 20th century. The siding is 9" wide quarter-round molded-bottom (likely pine) weatherboard installed with forged rose-head nails. The foundation had 10 vents, 5 on the front and 5 on the back of the home. There are two remaining INTACT original crawl/foundation louvered pine wood vents on the front western end of the house that faces due south. Four additional original vents are partially damaged, 3 on the front and 1 on the rear western end that faces north. 4 other rear vents were filled-in with stone/brick.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- 2-bay carriage house - cedar pole barn in usable condition however endangered if left to rot -19th century
- 20th century Concrete well / 50' deep about 15' water column
- Hand dug stone lined well (dry) about 10' deep built in a low spot in the yard near the back right corner of the home.
- Probable corn crib – 19th century
- Structure shed or smaller wooden building (collapsed)
- Possible log and stone summer kitchen (collapsed and small chimney) located immediately to the right side/eastern side of the house. A family member said it was last used in the late 19th century/early 20th century as a doctor's medical office for Dr Joseph A Blick, a Hospital Steward for the Confederacy, who is buried in the cemetery out back. This was his birth home, his grandfather's home, possibly his great grandfather's home and this home was left to his brother, George, by his father Elijah's revised Will.
- Several modern mid-20th century trash pits are visible and located in the woods behind the carriage house. More exploration is needed.
- Ca. 300-year-old family cemetery out back, some with stones as markers, however the cemetery boundary lines are unknown. Overgrown in Periwinkle, which could be covering up many more graves. The access path is from the old house and a cart path went straight to the road. The exact location of the

cemetery vs the modern subdivision property boundary line depends on the unknown boundary of the cemetery. Preservation Virginia estimates 100-300 graves exist.

- Small pond is located to the right of the driveway in an overgrown area and could be an old crawl space.
- It is believed that this portion of the road, Wilson Creek Lane, which is still gravel however improved, used to be the sole carriage path to and from this property when it was a plantation.

4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The Blick family was a prominent military and government Virginia family, from the late 1600's.

Past owner George Richard Blick who after the civil war he was said to be the superintendent of Brunswick County Schools around 1900. Prior to emancipation he was a plantation owner and Civil War soldier who fought at Gettysburg, was captured at Hatcher's Run and taken as Prisoner of War. His brother Joseph A. Blick was the local medical doctor, also a veteran, and had his popular medical office here in the log house located right off the main house, right side. Their brother William Blick was born and raised here and was lost in action at Gettysburg. Their father, Elijah H H Blick ran a boy's school in nearby Dolphin, ran the plantation, was a lawmaker, justice of the peace, and member of the Virginia House of Delegates in 1842 & 1843. He is believed to be buried there, too. He inherited his part of the land (minus 500 acres his sibling inherited) from his father, James who was a Major in the American Revolutionary War. He fought at the battle of Trenton and was wounded Battle at Princeton, then discharged at Valley Forge, PA in 1778, by General George Washington. He died in 1837 and is also believed to be buried here. He inherited his land from his father, Benjamin, who also fought in war, was reportedly a military Judge or Lawyer, and he is believed to be buried here, too.

George Richard Blick left in his Will that the remaining land of the plantation and his remaining possessions be auctioned after his death, if he lived longer than his wife. He died a month after his wife in 1909 and according to courthouse records, the auction occurred in 1919. Every item was cataloged and sold and the home left the Blick family for the first time ever. Family burials continued there for another 40 years but the property became lost between the generations until July 2023 when my father and I rediscovered it. I used an old civil war map, a mid-1900s map, and modern mapping technology, along with a lot of luck over 11 years of searching to find it. The house was not visible from the road and quietly sat behind thick overgrowth. On November 7, 2023, The Blicks purchased the property back. After researching the history and recognizing special features throughout the untouched abandoned original home, we began the process to recognize and save this endangered piece of history.

The inside of this home is very well preserved especially considering its outside decrepit appearance. It is a robustly built early-American home style home with the only alterations appearing to be an added interior wall (early change), adding two interior doors (early change), adding a floor extension off of the stair landing upstairs while modifying the unique balustrade, and adding a front porch (current front porch is later 19th century). There is original horse-hair plaster on the eastern-side of the center hall, in a main level western rear room, up the winding staircase, and all of upstairs. The plaster seems to have original paint! Most of the original heart pine wood floors remain, original painted pine trim, large plank pine wainscoting, original window trim, original 9 over 9 main level windows, and it could be one of the few examples of the very rare Chinoiserie/Chippendale balustrade crowning a unique and even more

rare original 42" wide winding staircase which is located in the rear center of the home. The original Flemish Bond brickwork is inspirational and exquisite. This was no ordinary farmhouse as the trim under the bull-nose sills show off and the double crown eve trim. Located 2 ½ miles from major highway 58, and 10 miles from I85/Rt 1, it is in a good position for accessibility.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- Deeds
- Wills
- Census records
- Internet translations
- Internet search information (Google, Find a Grave, Ancestry, WordPress, FamilySearch)
- Civil War Book: Civil War Soldier, author, Pritchett.
- Family ancestral papers (Blick and Lucy)
- Locals

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local Public\State Public\Federal

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

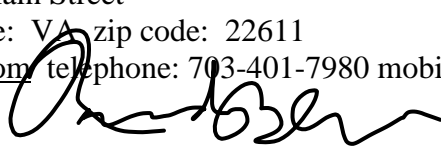
name/title: **Richard Blick**

organization: Historic Blick Plantation

street & number: 227 East Main Street

city or town: Berryville state: VA zip code: 22611

e-mail: richieblick@gmail.com telephone: 703-401-7980 mobile

Legal Owner's Signature:  _____

Date: 01/30/2024

• • *Signature required for processing all applications.* • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: NA

Daytime Telephone:

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: Owner Applicant

organization:

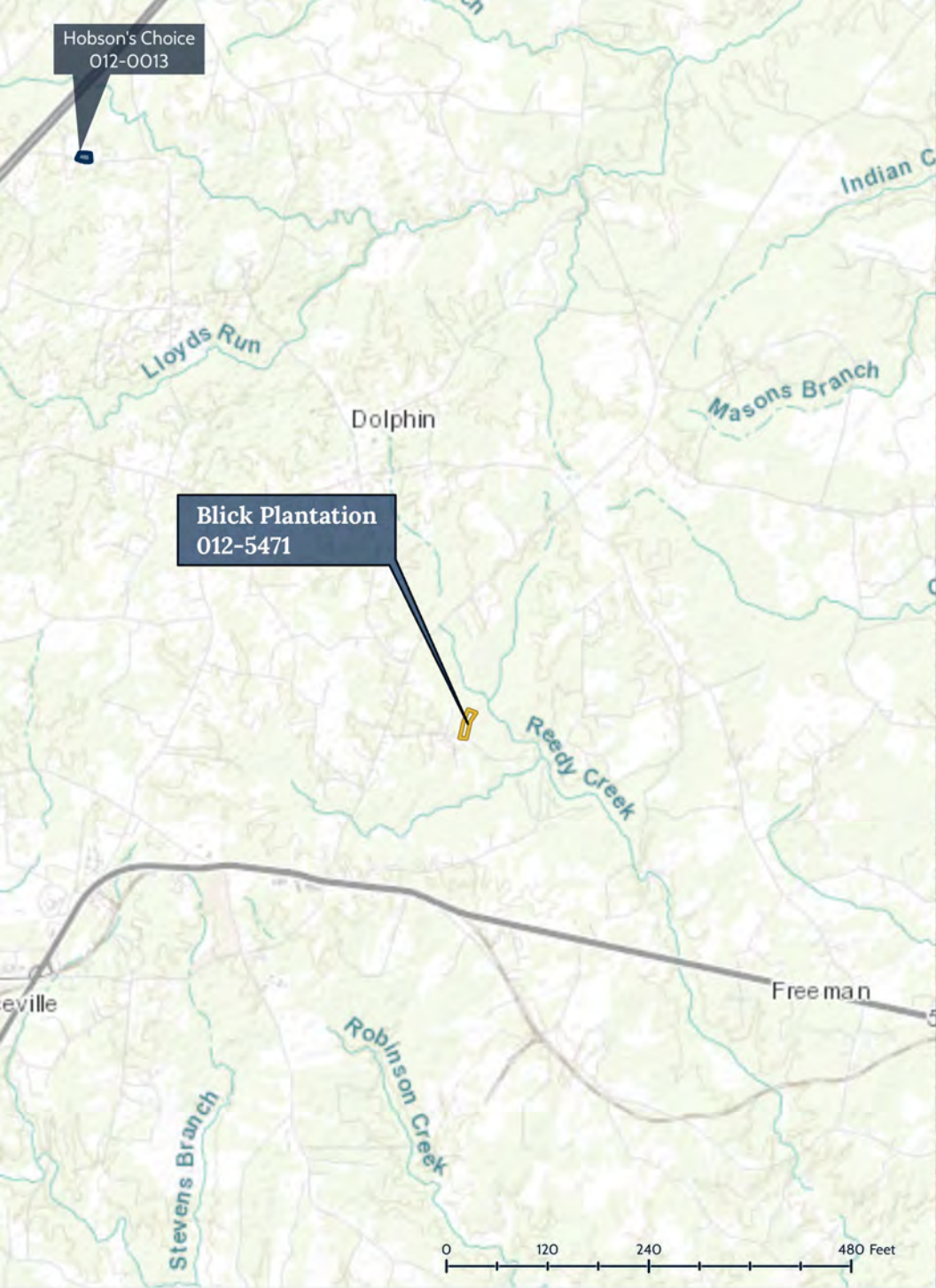
street & number:

city or town: state: zip code:



e-mail: telephone:

Date:

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

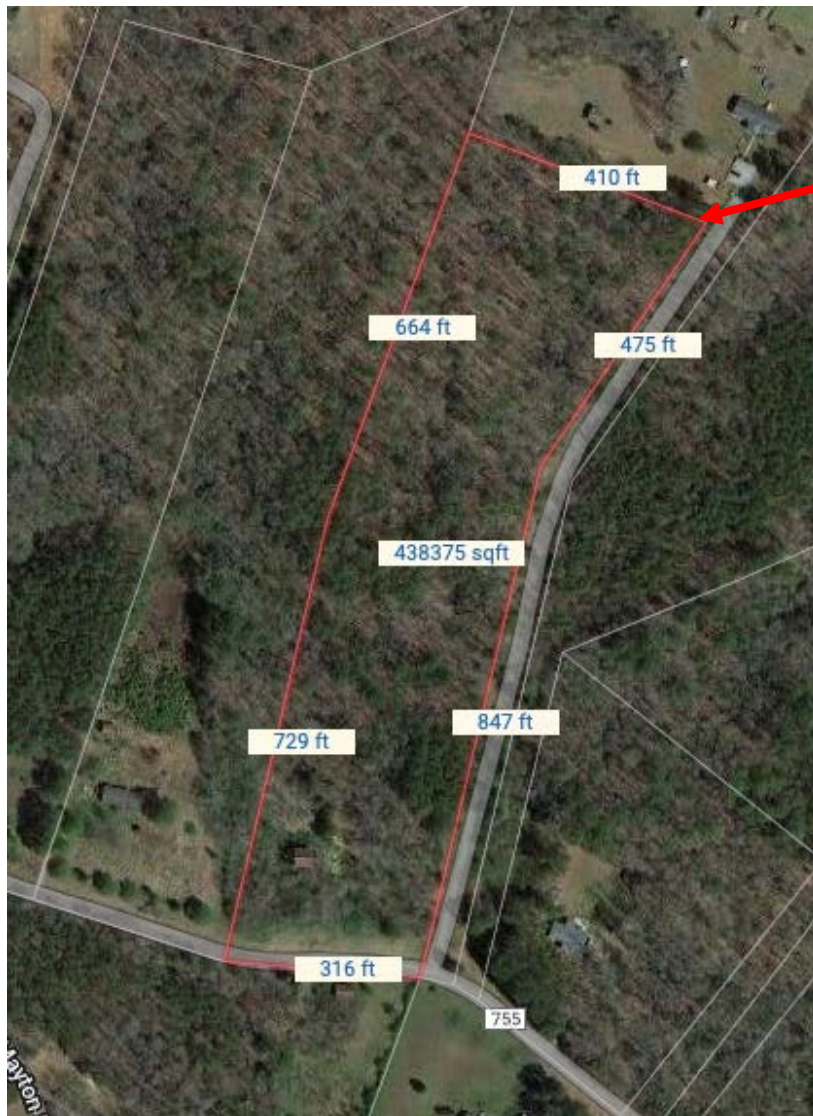


Blick Plantation
Brunswick County, Lawrence Quad
DHR ID: 012-5471

-  Listed Resources
-  012-5471



Created By: D. Bascone 2/1/2024
Sources: VDHR 2024, ESRI 2024, VGIN 2024
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually



Historic Boundary



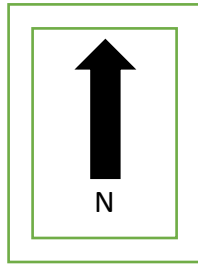
DHR# 012-5471
Blick Plantation
Location Map
686 Wilson Creek Ln
Lawrenceville, VA 23868
Brunswick County Virginia

01/30/2024 by Richard Blick

Tax ID 44F(1)6
10 acres +/-

Google Maps 36,797982, -
77.755980

SKETCH MAP



Family Cemetery

Wet Weather Run-Off stream

Footpath

Hand-Dug Well

Main House

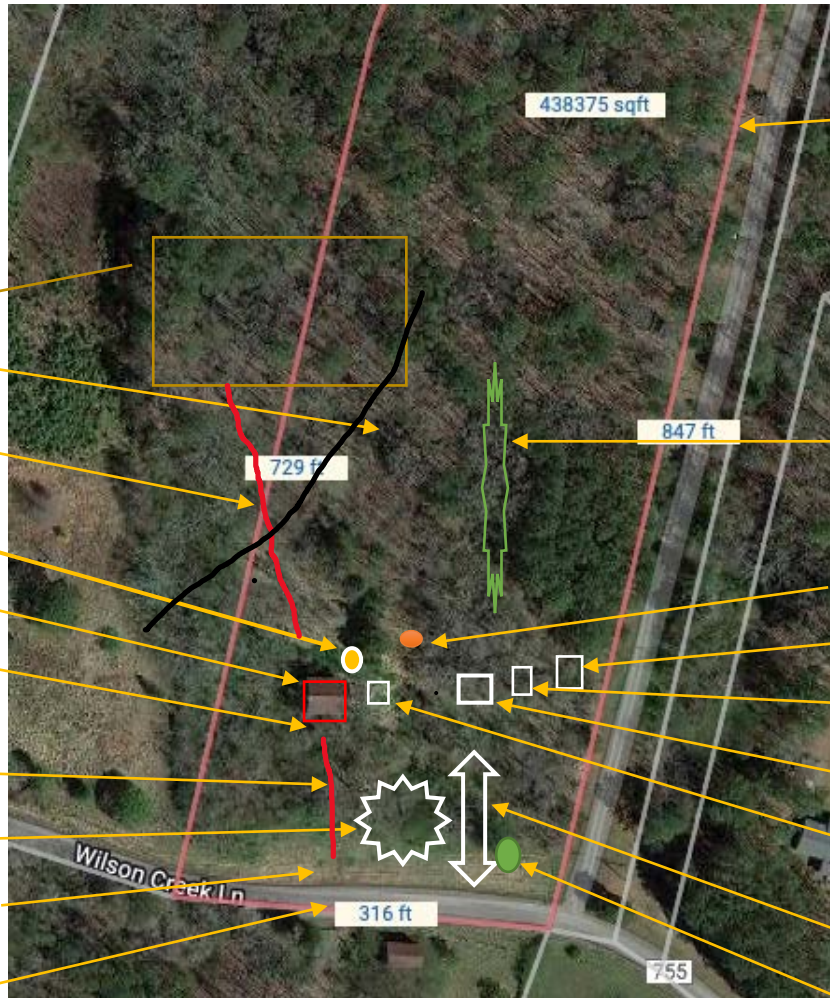
Collapsed Front Porch 10'x30'

Footpath

Sycamore Tree

Cleared Power Line Easement

Gravel Road



Historic Boundary

-Trash Pits

-Concrete Well

-Collapsed

Corn Crib

-Collapsed

Chicken coop?

-Carriage Barn

-Summer

Kitchen-collapsed

-Driveway

-Small pond



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Blick Plantation

Sketch Map

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Lawrenceville, VA 23868

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