

VLR - 10/18/83
NRHP - 11/22/85
OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic WILOMA (Preferred) (DHL 11-39)

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number Route 220 N/A not for publication

city, town Fincastle vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Botetourt code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. T. Garrick Steele

street & number Wiloma

city, town Fincastle N/A vicinity of state Virginia 24090

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Botetourt County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Fincastle state Virginia 24090

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HABSI has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1957 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state DC

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Wiloma is located on a 160.4 acre tract on Catawba Creek one mile north of Fincastle off State Route 220, and one-half mile west on a private road in its original farmstead setting. The original two-story brick I-form structure, completed by 1848, has a two-level porch on the south and a long two-story wing with a two-level porch completed in 1888 extending to the north. The house is of a single pile plan with the two major rooms on the lower floor of the original house, each entered from a central passageway, and each having exceptional woodwork. The west room has a fine Greek Revival handbook derived mantel from Asher Benjamin's 1830 The Practical House Carpenter, plate 30. In contrast, the east room has elaborate wooden arches on either side of a vernacular interpretation of a Greek Revival fireplace. The two original upstairs rooms have mantels derived from plate 49 of Benjamin's handbook. Much original hardware remains throughout the four rooms and the central passageways. The interior of the brick wing has been changed but the exterior still has its 1888 original porch. The nominated acreage includes one contributing building.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Wiloma is a good example of a mid-nineteenth-century, Valley of Virginia "I" house. The original front brick structure, completed by 1848, has Greek Revival details and follows the usual "I" house plan--two rooms over two with a central passage. The main passage faces south and presently has a narrow two-level pedimented portico with paired, slender faceted Doric columns capped by a stucco cornice. Simple square vertical balusters support a molded railing on both levels. The roof above this porch was replaced in 1979. At that time the building materials in the roof of the porch were discovered to be of the same period as the old house roof.

The brick on the front (south) wall of the original house is laid in even-colored Flemish bond. Straight lintels of splayed bricks are above the first-floor windows. The second-floor windows have a row of headers as lintels. The rest of the original house is of brick laid in American bond. Originally all the mortar joints were painted; traces of the paint still remain. The front original section measures 51' x 21'. A shallow hipped roof covers this front section. Skirting the roof is a simple corbel cornice with plain frieze. This cornice forms an entablature-like band around four sides of the original front portion. The roof sheathing was replaced in 1978 with #40 tin with hand-crimped standing seams. There are two brick chimneys in the front section set in the east and west walls.

The lower main entrance from the porch has a paneled double door framed on either side with panes of glass above a wooden panel. Above the door the molded frames for the transoms meet at carved corner blocks at each corner. There is a glass transom above the first-floor door. The door opening onto the second level of the porch is double paneled and the door surrounds are the same but without a glass transom above. Side lights extend to the floor beside this upper doorway. Eight additional wooden doorways in the wing of the house open onto the wing porches. Two paneled doors on the wing porch lead into the basement.

There are six windows on the main section, four on the south wall, and two on the north. These windows have simple symmetrically molded architrave trim. The windows on the lower floor are wooden double-hung, 12-over-12 pane. The windows on the upper floor are wooden double-hung 8-over-12. The shutters are presently painted white.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics:government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1848; 1888	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wiloma is an outstanding and well-preserved example of a large Valley of Virginia "I"-form house, the region's most distinctive and recognizable form. Erected in 1848, the dwelling was built for Morgan Utz, a prominent Fincastle merchant and citizen. At the time of its completion, the structure was distinctly stylish for rural Botetourt County, combining the then popular "I" house with Greek Revival detailing. The detailing which includes a number of first- and second-story Greek mantels, was derived, in part, from Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter (1830), plates 30 and 49. As is typical of country residences, much of Wiloma's architectural charm and interest is derived from the vernacular interpretations of formal academic detailing by local craftsmen. The edifice retains its unspoiled site on Catawba Creek overlooking large, open fields.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land along Catawba Creek north of Fincastle, where Wiloma is sited, was originally part of a grant to Benjamin Borden in 1739.¹ Lydia Borden Peck, his daughter, lived on this land with her husband, Jacob Peck,² and later a parcel of 110 acres was transferred from Jacob Peck's estate to Morgan Utz in 1843. Wiloma was built on this property for Morgan Utz.³ The 1848 assessment⁴ of this property indicates that the original house was finished at that time.

Morgan Utz was a merchant and leading citizen in Fincastle, born in Madison County, Virginia, on October 12, 1796. (Birth recorded in family Bible presently in possession of O.W. Coon, III, Richmond, Virginia.) Utz was a descendant of George Utz,⁵ one of the fourteen founders of the Germanna colony in 1717 in Central Virginia. He was first recorded in the records of Fincastle in 1830.⁶ In that year "Utz, Pettigrew and Carroll" received a license to operate a store.⁶ Advertisements for his "goods store" show that it offered a variety of items. (See, for instance, the Fincastle Democrat, February 26, 1836, and March 25, 1836.) In 1845 "Utz and Hannah," a goods store opened in Fincastle. Morgan Utz was a ruling elder in the Fincastle Presbyterian Church, Treasurer of School Commissioners, and trustee of Botetourt Seminary. His name appears on the muster roll of Botetourt home guards in Fincastle during the Civil War.

Morgan Utz and his wife, the former Mary Lavinia James, had two sons, Calvin who died in the Civil War and Charles who married Anna Jane Hansborough. After Charles' untimely death, Morgan Utz left the property to his daughter-in-law Anna Jane Hansborough Utz. (According to family tradition, the ell was completed by 1888 under her ownership.)

Wiloma stayed in the Hansborough family until title⁸ was transferred to W.E. Shaw in 1944. The property changed hands again in 1948,⁹ and Burford and Gladys Compton lived at Wiloma operating a dairy until the property was conveyed to T. Garrick Steele in 1978. Mr. Steele is attempting to preserve and restore Wiloma.

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #3)

Botetourt County. Deed Books; Land Tax Records; Will Books.
 Johnson and Waterman. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. U.N.C. Press, 1941.
 Kegley, F.B. Kegley's Virginia Frontier. Roanoke, Va.: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1938.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 40 acres

Quadrangle name Oriskany, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 7	5 9 8	4 1 0	4 1	5 2	5 1 0	B	1 7	5 9 8	2 3 0	4 1	5 2	0 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing					Zone	Easting	Northing			
C	1 7	5 9 8	1 7 0	4 1	5 1	9 7 0	D	1 7	5 9 8	0 7 0	4 1	5 2	0 8 0
E	1 7	5 9 8	0 1 0	4 1	5 2	3 2 0	F	1 7	5 9 8	0 8 0	4 1	5 2	6 9 0
G							H						

Verbal boundary description and justification Boundary Justification: The nominated property consists of 40 acres and includes the main house and four 20th-century outbuildings. The nominated acreage is less than one-half of the original land transferred from Jacob Peck to Morgan Utz in 1843. The house was built on this tract in 1848 and the present boundaries are drawn to encompass a plateau on which the edifice sits.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #3)

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mr. Tony Whitwell

organization N/A date September 1983

street & number 308 2nd Street, SW telephone N/A

city or town Roanoke state Virginia 24011

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 H. Bryan Mitchell
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Division date August 27, 1985

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date _____
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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WILOMA, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA
Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

Below the front original section of Wiloma is a full basement with brick walls and dirt floors. In the basement is a modern furnace, a fireplace on the west end, and wooden storage bins on the east end.

The rooms in the original section have spacious proportions; 18' x 19' in the east parlor and 14' x 19' in the west parlor. The center passage contains the main staircase and a door to the rear wing at the north. The open-well staircase consists of 13 wooden steps to a landing where a door opens onto the upper wing porch. Four more steps lead to the upper passage. There is a simple turned, dark wood (probably mahogany) newel post. The small square banisters and simple rail are dark painted wood. On the second floor of the front section there is one bedroom on either side of a wide center passage. A door leading to the upper level of the portico is at the south end of the passage. Above the entire front section there is an unfinished attic.

This house reflects the simplified Greek Revival style as utilized in this area in the mid-nineteenth century. Most noteworthy about Wiloma is its interior woodwork in this Greek Revival style. There are six double, vertical paneled doors in the old section of the house. These have symmetrically molded architrave trim with turned corner blocks. The mantels in the two downstairs rooms are well executed examples of Fincastle area architectural decoration. The mantel and decorated arches on either side of the east parlor fireplace at Wiloma are related to arches at the Bolton Store in Fincastle and Wiloma's east parlor bears a close similarity to the fireplace and arches at the Burton House, Beatties Ford plantation in Lincoln County, North Carolina. At Wiloma the arches have pilasters with heavy reeding rising to a cap; the elliptical arches are each interrupted by molded keystones in the center. In overall appearance this decoration, as with much of the woodwork of this period in the Botetourt County area, is "exuberantly decorated with woodwork carved, according to Fincastle tradition, by an itinerant German craftsman."² The fireplace surround relates to the arches with similarly treated pilasters and a wide overhanging shelf. A turned ornament is set into a block just below the cap. The downstairs west room has no arches and a less ornate mantel. This mantel is a variation on the chimney piece seen in plate 30, The Practical House Carpenter (1830) by Asher Benjamin. Carved pilaster-like supports are capped by a Greek key above. Below the shelf the carved design is repeated horizontally. Typical of Valley architectural decoration of the 1820s and 1830s, the Benjamin plate has been somewhat freely interpreted. The mantel in the west room is also similar to that in the living room of Belle Aire in Roanoke City, which also relates to the Benjamin Practical House Carpenter. All the woodwork in both downstairs rooms in the original section was grained in the twentieth century; according to local oral tradition, this work was done around 1944 over beige paint to imitate light-colored southern yellow pine.

The mantel pieces in the two upstairs rooms of the original section are based on another Asher Benjamin mantel design, plate 49 of The Practical House Carpenter (1830) shows the derivation for these mantels. Flanked by pilasters with four-part panels with a three-part panel used horizontally below the shelf, the upstairs Wiloma mantels, now painted a dark color, are quite similar to their handbook source.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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WILOMA, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA
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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

The hardware on the doors in the front section appears to be original. Hinges on the upper level exterior door have BALDWIN printed on them. The closet doors in this section have small circular plates on the hardware showing James Tildesley was their manufacturer. One interior door has a lock with a plate showing an eagle emblem reading: "No. 60 Improved Lock." Exterior doors have plates on the locks showing they were made by the Carpenter Company.

At the rear of the original section of Wiloma is a long ell extending off the center of the front section. The total length is 79' x 28' wide. It is two stories high with a low gabled roof and with a basement and an attic. It is constructed of brick, butting against the original front section, laid in American bond. Traces of painted mortar joints may be seen all over. A long two-level gallery runs along the east side of the wing. Between two windows on the first level of this gallery can be seen the following inscriptions: "1886 AJU," (Anna Jane Utz) "1886 HU," (___ Utz) "1886 GU," (___ Utz) "1886 SB." Because of obvious brick joints, this ell appears to have been built in several sections and was completed around 1888 according to family tradition. The addition originally consisted of six bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, and meat storage area. In an enclosed section of the upper story of the wing at the north there is a large iron cistern which was probably added at a later date. Between 1904 and 1944 a bathroom was installed in the lower northeast room in the ell. Between 1944 and 1948 the dining room was remodeled as a kitchen, and the chimneys in the ell were rebricked. Another bathroom was installed on the lower east side.

There are 15 windows on the wing. They all have simple symmetrically molded architrave trim with brick lintels above. Thirteen of these are double-hung, 2-over-2 pane windows. One window on the north wall is a wooden double-hung window with 8-over-12 panes and there is one 6-pane wooden fixed window on the wooden wall section on the west side of the wing. All of these windows plus the doors have shutters with fixed louvres.

The porch on the west side has square supports with small square capitals. On the second level the simple bannisters and rail remain, but on the first level the porch has been screened from floor to ceiling. The doors to the porch are made of a variety of paneling and are without transoms. Two doors on the east side of the wing are replacements. This east side of the ell has a wooden covering over what was once a passage.

The original outbuildings have been destroyed. According to previous residents of the house, these buildings included a large wooden barn, a brick well-house, an icehouse, a brick furnace, a stable, three chicken houses, a woodshed, a log corn crib, a pigpen, and an outhouse. The present outbuildings are northeast of the house. They consist of a machinery shop, a tractor shed, and dairy barns.

Wiloma faces south-southeast. It sits on a knoll above Catawba Creek facing the major fields used for farming. A grove of maple trees surrounds the house.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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WILOMA, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA
Continuation sheet #3

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis (Footnotes)

¹Johnson and Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina (U.N.C. Press, 1941), p. 224.

²Frances J. Niederer, The Town of Fincastle, Virginia (Charlottesville, 1965), p.41.

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background (Footnotes)

¹R.D. Stoner, A Seed-Bed of the Republic (Radford: Commonwealth Press, 1962), p. 16.

²Ibid., p. 273-274.

³Botetourt County Deed Book 27, p. 15.

⁴Botetourt County Land Tax Records (1848).

⁵F.B. Kegley, Kegley's Virginia Frontier (Roanoke: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1938), p. 22.

⁶Botetourt County Land Tax Records (1830).

⁷Botetourt County Land Tax Records (1845).

⁸Botetourt County Deed Book 93, p. 377.

⁹Botetourt County Deed Book 100, p. 127

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Niederer, Frances J. The Town of Fincastle, Virginia. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1965.

Stoner, R.D. A Seed-Bed of the Republic. Radford, Va.: Commonwealth Press, 1962.

Whitwell, W.L. and Winborne, Lee W. The Architectural Heritage of the Roanoke Valley. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1982.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the N side of Catawba Creek approximately 2'00' SW of intersection of VA 655 with U.S. 220; thence extending approximately 1750' SSW; thence extending approximately 300' SW; thence extending approximately 500' NW; thence extending approximately 850' NNW; thence extending approximately 1300' NNE; thence extending approximately 1200' ESE to point of origin.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Oriskany, VA

(scale:1:24000)
1962

WILOMA, Botetourt County, VA

UTM References:

A 17/598410/4152510

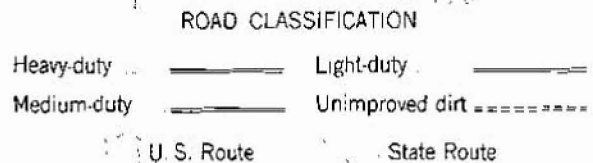
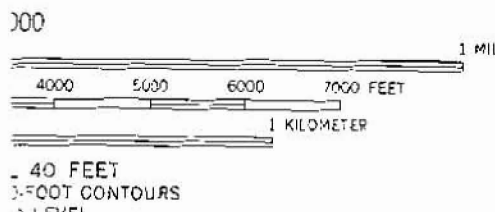
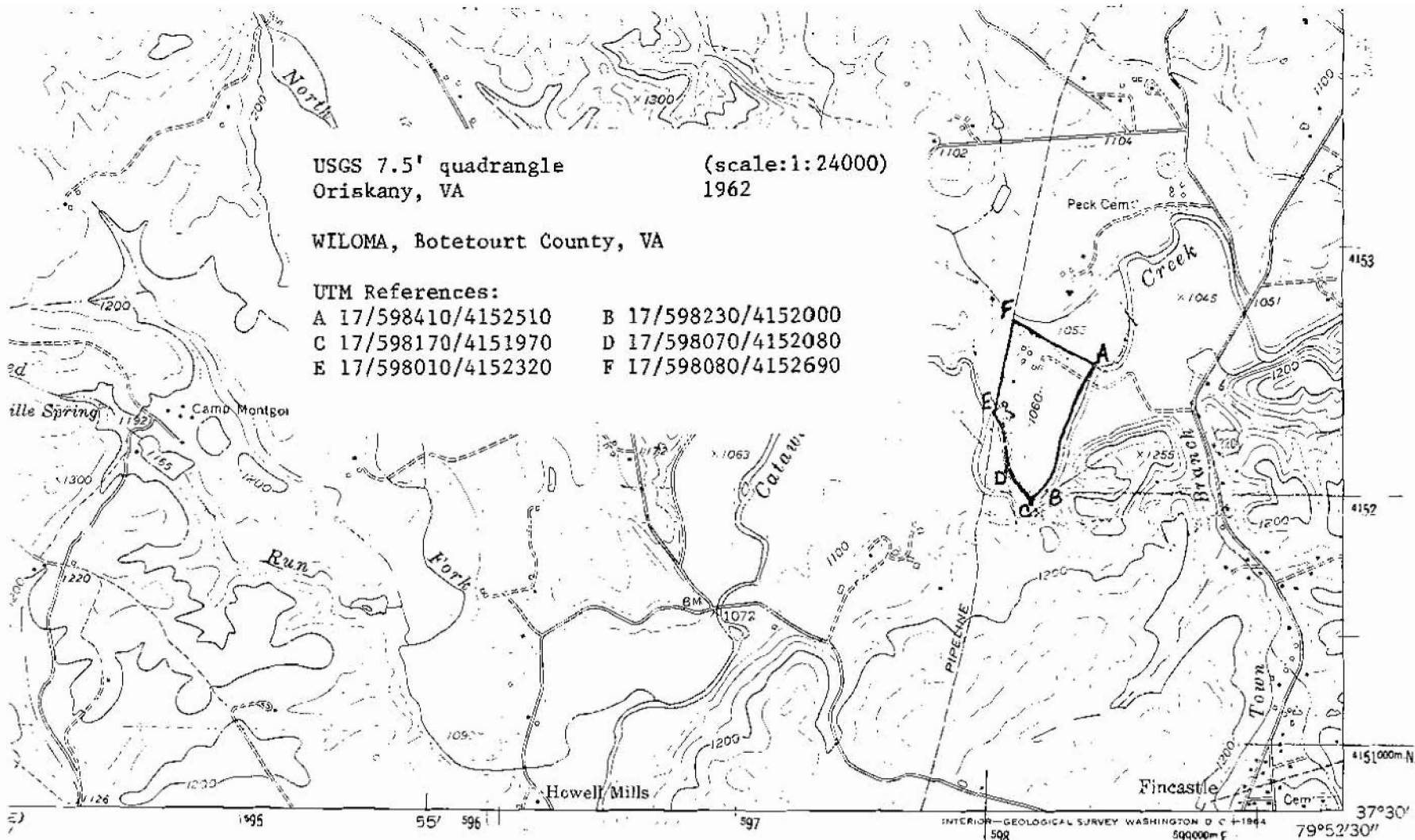
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C 17/598170/4151970

D 17/598070/4152080

E 17/598010/4152320

F 17/598080/4152690



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SW/4 EAGLE ROCK 15' QUADRANGLE
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1962
AMS 5059 III SW—SERIES V834

(WILLAMONT)
5059 IV NE