

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 Guerrant House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ DHR File # 014-5001

**2. Location**

sect & number \_\_\_\_\_ Rt. 1 not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Arvon vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Virginia code VA county Buckingham code 029 Zip 23004

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 10/3/2000  
Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**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:

- 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 of Keeper  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**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>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

  N/A  

**6. Function or Use**

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

Cat: \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>  Domestic: Single dwelling  </u>	<u>  work in progress  </u>
<u>  Domestic: Secondary structure  </u>	<u>  "  </u>
<u>  Funerary  </u>	<u>  family cemetery  </u>

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

Cat: \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>  Vacant/not in use  </u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_ brick, stone, concrete block \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_ slate \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_ wood frame \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance \_\_ 1835-ca.1950 \_\_\_\_  
Significant Dates \_\_ 1835\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_ Peter Guerrant \_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property \_\_ 9 \_\_

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	729900	/	4178700	2
3	_____	_____	/	_____	4

See continuation sheet.

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: Marie R. Ham

Organization: N/A date 7-19-98

street & number: 2136 Cortland St telephone 540-942-2011

city or town Waynesboro state VA zip code 22980

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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 Marie R. Ham

street & number 2136 Cortland St. telephone 540-942-2011

city or town Waynesboro state VA zip code 22980

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**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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**Summary Description:**

The Guerrant House in Buckingham County, Virginia, consists of a one-and-a-half-story, two-room frame house with a separate kitchen set perpendicular to the rear of the main block. It was built by Peter Guerrant about 1835. For over 130 years it was the home of the Guerrant and Snoddy families. The house has typical federal period decorative and construction details, including beaded weatherboards, a boxed cornice with dentils and shouldered chimneys. Its two-room plan, enclosed stairs, and bold exterior end chimneys are typical of basic farmhouses built throughout Virginia in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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**Detailed Description:**

Set on a broad ridge of land along the south bank of the James River, the Guerrant House in Buckingham County, Virginia, is surrounded today by large tracts of timberland. From family reminiscences, we know that it was once a bustling farm with open fields, orchards, vegetable gardens, pastures and barns and sheds. In addition to the main house only a smokehouse survives to recall the many structures that once complimented the dwelling. No doubt the sites of lost buildings and artifacts associated with them lie just below the surface of the young woodland that now covers the curtilage.

The Guerrant House consists of a one-and-a-half-story, two-room frame house with a separate kitchen set perpendicular to the rear of the main block. It is unclear if the main house and the rear kitchen were built at the same time or several years apart. What is clear is that the present hyphen connecting them was constructed considerably later. It may or may not replace an earlier connection. The siding of the main house is attached with rose-head nails and that on the kitchen with cut nails. Both chimneys of the main house are laid in five-course American bond. The west chimney is double shouldered and served single fireplaces on each floor. The east chimney is single shouldered and has only one fireplace on the ground floor. The kitchen chimney no longer exists.

The house is of beaded wooden siding with plain corner boards and a box cornice enriched with dentils. The main façade has an off-center door with a single window on each side. The window to the right of the front door retains its original 9-over-9 sash and still has its louvered shutters. Two small windows in the west gable light the second-floor room on that end and a single window in the east gable lights the other upper room. A vertical line in the siding between the door and this window may result from the removal of a porch. It may also suggest that the west room (with the front door and the stair) may have been a one-room house from which the rest of the house evolved.

The two-story sections of the house, but not the hyphen, are roofed with slate. The material certainly came from the nearby slate quarries for which Buckingham County is famous. In this area most dwellings and many outbuildings often were roofed with slate. Paths and roads were often graveled with slate chips.

The interior is simply finished with plaster walls and plain wood trim. The parlor room has a single-board chair rail, beaded top and bottom. The mantel is a typical three-part federal one. It has reeded panels at each end and had a center panel carved with a stylized sheaf of wheat that unfortunately was recently stolen. Each of the remaining mantels in the house has an opening

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surrounded by an architrave below a plain board frieze topped by a simple shelf. The doors downstairs are of the traditional six-panel type, one of which has all flat panels. The second floor doors feature vertical sheathing. Most doors retain their original H-L hinges.

The interior finish of the kitchen is similar to the main house except that the initial section of its enclosed stair and sections of the adjacent walls are sheathed with horizontal boards. The connection between the two sections is of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century construction. It may be a replacement of an earlier structure. Of interest are the steps to the basement which occur in this area and are, therefore, protected from the weather.

To the west of the house is the other contributing building, a smokehouse. This building is smaller in area and height than most surviving smokehouses. It probably dates from the early 20th century. By this time more and more mass-produced food was available and the large smokehouses of previous eras were no longer necessities. It is a simple frame structure with a gable roof covered in metal. Its sheathed door is in the east gable end.

That only these two buildings are left is regrettable for many others are known to have existed. Manuscript recollections by members of the Guerrant and Snoddy families mention the following: An office northeast of the house, two tobacco barns, a stable/hay barn, a grist mill, an icehouse, a sawmill, a garage, a chicken house, and a privy. Two roads led down to the James River. At the end of each road the farmers kept flat boats that were large enough to float farm equipment across the river to islands. On these islands cattle were grazed and some crops grown.

The contributing site is the family cemetery. It contains at least six graves. Two are marked with cut tombstones: Lucy V. (nee Garrett) Guerrant (born 1842, died 1910) and her sister Betty A. Garrett (born 1838, died 1899). Others are marked with fieldstones.



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**Summary Statement of Significance:**

The Guerrant House built circa 1835 in Buckingham County, Virginia, is locally significant in the category of architecture, as a rare survival of a once prevalent house type—the basic one-and-a-half story frame farmhouse with a kitchen building connected to the rear. Many farmers in the Virginia Piedmont built such structures during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19th centuries. Few of these farmhouses survive *in toto*. Some were incorporated into larger houses. Many became slave dwellings, barns or storage sheds as their owners moved to larger or new houses. Most have been lost to fire or abandonment. Much of the Virginia landscape was once dotted with these buildings. Few remain and fewer still in Buckingham County, a county with a relatively low number of buildings built more than 150 years ago. Though weather-beaten and left empty for almost a half century, the Guerrant House retains a high degree of integrity and is a rare and important example of a once common house type.

**Criteria Justification:**

The Guerrant House is nominated under criterion C because it is a rare survival of a hall-parlor house type connected by a hyphen to a separate kitchen building. This was once a common architectural form in Buckingham and the surrounding counties. It has a high degree of integrity in that it has not been altered in later periods and retains its simple original features.

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### **Historical Background:**

The Guerrant family came to Buckingham about 1760. Peter Guerrant built this one-and-a-half story frame house on a promontory overlooking the James River about 1835 on land he inherited in 1819 from his father, John Guerrant of nearby Rose Bank. The property remained in the Guerrant family until it was sold to Clinton Snoddy in 1912. His granddaughter is the present owner.

The farm first produced tobacco and corn. Later owners raised cattle and wheat as well. Reminiscences of both the Guerrant and the Snoddy families and a drawing detail the various buildings used for agricultural purposes. There was a small schoolhouse in the yard where a daughter of the house, Lucy Emily (Guerrant) Anderson taught a handful of pupils in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

There has been no comprehensive survey of Buckingham County, but studies of several surrounding counties help to provide a general context for architecture in Buckingham. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the two-room hall-parlor plan dwelling was a common building type. A majority of these house were one or one-and-a-half stories with steeply pitched gable roofs. Some had basements. These vernacular forms evolved from the traditional British folk houses, but grew to accommodate the needs of the local climate and emerging traditions.

Front porches, rear shed- roofed and salt-box additions were common to these houses. So, too, was the typically southern arrangement of a separate kitchen building close behind the dwelling. These were usually set perpendicular to the main house. Some were completely separate, some connected by a roofed porch, and some by an enclosed passage. The Guerrant House kitchen was probably built shortly after the main house, but may have been connected and at least roofed over from the beginning because of the inclusion of the steps to the basement within the hyphen.

As time passed the center-passage plan or I-house type became more popular. Though the two types coexisted well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Guerrant House is a late example of the use of the older plan type. Its configuration of main house-hyphen-kitchen is, however, both in the tradition of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and typical of the decades around 1830.

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## Major Bibliographical References

Land and Tax Records, Buckingham County, Virginia.

Murphy, Lucy A., Letter to Nellie Gregory including recollections of the Guerrant Family,  
October 8, 1989.

Murphy, Lucy A., Letter to Marie Ham including information on the Guerrant family and house,  
January 13, 1999.

Marie Ham, hand drawn map showing placement of present and past roads and structures.

## Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is identified as 19-5 on the tax parcel maps for Buckingham County, Virginia.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated acreage includes the house, smokehouse and cemetery, all that remains of the buildings historically connected with the Guerrant House.

Section Photo List Page 7

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Photographs

The following items of information are common to all photographs:

NAME OF PROPERTY: Guerrant House  
LOCATION: Rt. 1, Arvonnia, Buckingham County, Virginia 23004  
NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Wilson  
LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
DATE: 1998

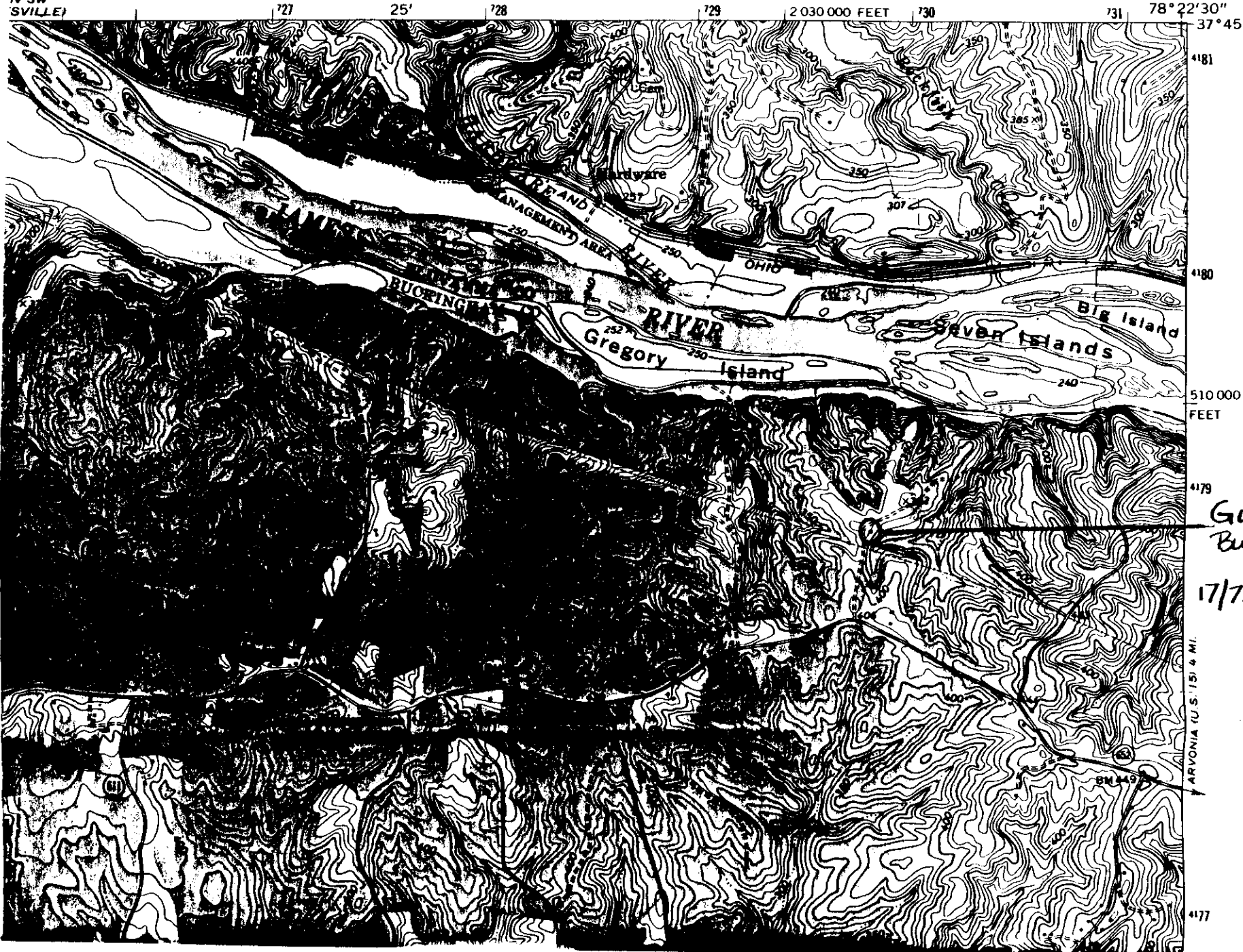
- 1 of 6: Front of house
- 2 of 6: East side of house
- 3 of 6: Cornice detail
- 4 of 6: Parlor mantel
- 5 of 6: Smokehouse
- 6 of 6: Cemetery

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE GEOLOGIST  
DIVISION OF  
GEOLOGY

DIANA MILLS QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 DILLWYN 15' QUADRANGLE

5399 IV SE  
(PALMYRA)



727 25' 728 729 730 731 78°22'30"  
37°45'  
4181  
4180  
510 000  
FEET  
4179  
4177

Guerrant House  
Buckingham Co.,  
VA  
171729900/417870

ARVONIA (U.S. 15) 4 MI.