

VLR 6/12/02  
NRHP 9/14/02

(Rev. 10-90)  
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 Maple Roads VDHR file # 019-0057

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Location

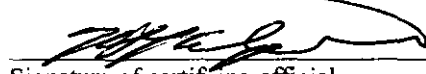
street & number 1325 Richardson Rd. not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Keysville vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state Virginia code VA county Charlotte code \_\_\_\_\_ Zip 23947

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

 7/24/02  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

#### 5. Other (explain):

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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5. Classification of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Ownership of Property

- 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>3</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>2</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: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>agricultural fields and buildings</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>agricultural fields and buildings</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
_____	_____

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### 7. Description

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

EARLY REPUBLIC  
Federal House

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
roof METAL-Seamed  
walls BRICK  
  
other Porches-WOOD,  
chimneys-BRICK, cornices-BRICK

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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 1813 - 1952

Significant Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Richardson, John Davis

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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: Charlotte County Courthouse

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property approximately 26 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1			2		
3			4		

See continuation sheet.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Max & Carol Sempowski

Organization: NA date Feb 27, 2002

street & number: 1325 Richardson Rd. telephone 434-736-9942

city or town Keysville state VA zip code 23947

**Additional Documentation**

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)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Max & Carol Sempowski

street & number 1325 Richardson Rd telephone 434-736-9942

city or town Keysville state VA zip code 23947

**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

As you come upon Maple Roads in Charlotte County, Virginia, with its picturesque setting of mature trees, hay fields and fenced pasture one is taken back in time. Nestled back from the road is the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century Federal-style brick plantation house built almost 200 years ago by John Davis Richardson. The two-story, five-bay front elevation is laid in Flemish bond with traces of original penciling on the joints and has a molded brick cornice. Maple Roads also features important Federal interior woodwork including fine mantels and the remarkable survival of decorative graining and marbleizing. In addition to the dwelling there are two contributing outbuildings and the cemetery, a contributing site.

### Architectural Analysis

Exterior: The brick dwelling consists of a two-story, single-pile "T" house with a 1 ½ story rear wing. It has a partial English basement and is covered by a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century standing seam metal gable roof. The five-bay front (south) elevation is laid in Flemish bond with traces of original penciling on the joints. Capt. John Davis Richardson, the owner, used local labor and bricks made on site. Traces of the kiln were found nearby on Spring Creek. The hip-roofed porch over the original main entrance is a later addition. Evidence remains of an earlier gable-roof porch. The entrance consists of a flat-paneled door set in an architrave frame ornamented with reeded half columns surmounted by a gauged-brick flat arch. The rear (north) elevation of the main block is laid in three-course American bond as is the story-and-a-half perpendicular wing with a corbel cornice. A molded brick cornice is on both the front and rear elevations. Fenestration throughout the house consists of restored small pane (9/9 and 6/9) windows topped by gauged-brick flat arches of varying quality, wooden architraves and evidence of shutters. A late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Victorian L-shaped porch with paired, scroll-sawn brackets, square columns, jigsaw balustrade and paneled frieze serves the main block and the wing. The remains of a herringbone brick walk that once led to the hall door still exists under this porch. The north entrance has a paneled door set in a simple wood architrave frame surmounted by a penciled gauged-brick flat arch. The paneled door to the wing is set in a simple frame with a transom. The east elevation of the wing has a one-story bracketed porch sheltering a paneled door set in simple frame surmounted by a penciled gauged-brick flat arch. Both ends of the house have slightly projecting exterior chimneys, each with one set of stepped weatherings and (restored) corbeled caps. The west end is laid in Flemish bond and the east is in three-course American.

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Interior: The interior of the main block remains in a fine state of preservation. Dominating the center hall is an open-well stair that ascends to the second floor. The stair has paneled spandrels, brackets in the style of Owen Biddle, and twisted rope moldings. There is a rounded handrail and balusters, square in section, two to a tread. The risers and stringers retain their original oak graining. Paralleling the stair is a wooden wainscot and chair rail ornamented with a reeded band. The doorways in the hall and throughout the house have simple molded wooden architraves that frame mahogany-grained paneled doors. The majority of the doors have old box locks some of which are original.

Of particular interest on the first floor are the richly detailed Federal-style mantels. The remarkable classically detailed mantel in the west parlor features paired engaged Doric colonnettes and a three-part entablature with end blocks ornamented with palm leaves and a center block with a stylized Adamesque urn. The architrave is embellished with gauged stars. The mantel's cornice breaks in three sections with dentil band and deeply cut moldings. The mantel retains its original marbleized finish in several varied gray tones. The mantel in the east parlor is also highly stylized with variations in ornamental detail such as patera accents and twisted rope moldings. Like the second-floor Federal style mantels, it has been repainted. All rooms retain their original wainscots, molded chair rails and baseboards. In the wing the Federal-style mantel had been removed to the cellar, but has now been returned to its original place. Its woodwork, stained and grained, is similar in execution to that found in the parlor. This room was referred to as the dining room and had direct access to an outside kitchen (demolished). The second-floor bedroom in the wing (referred to as the stranger's room) is reached by an enclosed stair. All floors on the first and second levels are original with the exception of the first floor of the wing. A portion of the English basement floor that was brick, is now concrete, as is the rest of the basement.

Other resources:

There are two contributing outbuildings. One is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century one-room wood framed office. It has a steep standing seam metal gable roof that shelters an attic room reached by a rustic stair. This building is thought to have been used by John D. Richardson to conduct his business. There is no physical sign of a chimney. The other contributing building is a simple early 20<sup>th</sup>-century wood frame barn.

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There is one contributing site, a cemetery consisting of two sections. The Richardson section, surrounded by an ornate iron fence dating from 1843, contains the builder's headstone with the following inscription: "John D. Richardson, Born Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1779. He served his state as a Justice of Peace, a Legislator and a soldier. He ruled his family strictly, yet tenderly, and was earnest, active and diligent in his business. Died June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1855 trusting to the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." The other portion, a 50 x 50-foot property under easement to the Petus family, dates from 1880 and is enclosed with concrete posts and metal rails.

There are two non-contributing resources: a 21<sup>st</sup>-century wood frame pole stable adjacent to the fenced pasture and a two-bay frame garage.



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**Summary Statement of Significance**

Captain John Davis Richardson (1779-1855), large landowner, miller, soldier and politician, was the son of John Richardson (Blackhead) of Charlotte County, Virginia. He married Elizabeth Spencer in 1803. John D. Richardson's farmhouse in the Federal style appears to have been built in two sections, beginning in 1813 and reaching its present form by 1821 according to the Charlotte County land tax records. Richardson embellished his brick residence with highly stylized but provincially interpreted detailing that lends a more sophisticated air than that found in most of the region's farmhouses of that era. Some of the house's features, especially its molded brick cornice, are more typically found in the Shenandoah Valley rather than in Southside dwellings.

**Historical Background**

John D. Richardson, the builder of Maple Roads, was born January 31, 1779. His wife, Elizabeth Spencer, was the daughter of Colonel Thomas Spencer of Charlotte County. After his father-in-law's death in 1806, Richardson purchased some of the Spencer land at public auction. When the war of 1812 began, he commanded a military company at the battle of Craney Island near Norfolk, Va., on June 22, 1813. He kept firing a cannon after his aides had been shot and repulsed the attack of Admiral Cockburn's fleet. Locally he was known as the "Hero of Craney Island." For 28 years, 1809 - 1837, he represented Charlotte County in the Virginia legislature. He was also a "Gentleman Justice." For this reason a copy of his portrait hangs in the Charlotte Courthouse.

After his military service, Richardson began to accumulate large tracts of land in Charlotte County. By 1817 he is recorded as holding 996 acres on Spring Creek, eight miles east of the courthouse. Richardson operated a large milling operation and also maintained a substantial farm. Such prosperity made possible the construction of his residence. He was elected to the Virginia General Assembly and served intermittently from 1809-1837. In 1833 he posted a bond in the full sum of \$30,000 and was appointed sheriff of Charlotte County by John Floyd, Governor of Virginia.

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Built at a time when the "T" house was coming into widespread popularity, Maple Roads combines this innovative house plan with stylized Federal detailing. Although similar to examples publicized in the more urban-oriented pattern books, the provincial interpretation of the detailing at Maple Roads suggests a local craftsman with high aspirations, but limited academic training. To insure the house's formality, the pine woodwork was painted and grained to imitate marble and the expensive woods. Richardson must have wanted space and comfort, as the rooms are ample and the main stair wide and handsomely ornamented.

When Richardson died in 1855, his children inherited the property. Due to the hard post-bellum conditions, the Richardsons were forced to sell the farm in 1870 to Alexander and Rolina Garden. In 1877 the property was conveyed to Ann W. Pettus, who was responsible for the Victorian embellishments on the north side. In 1910 the house with 349 acres was sold to Mrs. Elsie J. McCorkle, the grandmother of Ellen Mercer Clark Maxwell who acquired the property in 1952. Mrs. Maxwell, upon her death in 1983, willed the property to the Charlotte County Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) and to the Briery Presbyterian Church. In 1988 Mrs. Elsie Edmunds and Caroline Freeman, her daughter, acquired the property with 349 acres through probate with deed restrictions protecting portions of the interior, the exterior of the house and the office building stipulated by the branch of the APVA. The present owners Max and Carol Sempowski acquired 92.73 acres in Nov. 2000 including the house, various outbuildings and the Richardson and Pettus cemetery (1843-1917) that had been excepted from the tract of land in 1910.

Maple Roads remains to this day a substantially intact and unaltered rural residence. It still has tangible evidence of the activities of the people who developed, used and shaped the land to serve their needs and their community.

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**Bibliography**

History of Maple Roads and families of Charollote County  
Compiled by Ellen Mercer Maxwell, Dr. Hoskins Mallory Sclater, J.D. and Reginald H. Pettus.  
Unpublished 1980.

Principals of the Loose Suit Papers, Cumberland County Virginia and the Loose Court Papers, Prince Edward County Virginia, housed in the archives of The Library of Virginia, Richmond.  
Compiled by Dorothy Graholt Hankins.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey, 1979.

Department of Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey of Charlotte County, Nov. 1997.

Charlotte County Deed Books 9,10,11,12,13, 32, 59.

Charlotte County Land and Property Tax Records 1803 to 1850.

Charlotte County Will Books 11 and 12.

*Charlotte County Rich Indeed*, Copyright 1979 by Charlotte County Board of Supervisors.  
Pages 325, 391, 396, 437 and 438.

*A Field Guide to American Houses*, Virginia and Lee McAlester, Published Alfred A. Knopf Inc.  
1984.

"Keysville Virginia, A Pictorial History," Robin G. J. Crouch, Keysville Women's Club 1987.  
Unpublished.

"Maple Roads Report," Joseph F. Yates, Architect, June 2000, unpublished.

"Oral and Pictorial History," P. K. Petus 2001, unpublished.

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**UTM References**

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1) 17	720460	4104830	2) 17	720440	4104340
3) 17	720200	4104330	4) 17	720160	4104470
5) 17	720260	4104800			

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated acreage is bounded by a line beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of State Routes 652 and 653; thence extending 1600 feet south along the west side of State Route 653; thence extending 700 feet west; thence extending 500 feet north; thence extending 1250 feet northeast to State Route 652; thence extending 650 feet east along the southern side of State Route 652 to the point of origin.

**Boundary Justification**

The approximately 26 acres being nominated includes the main house, all contributing outbuildings and the family cemetery.

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Section Photo List Page 8

**Photographs**

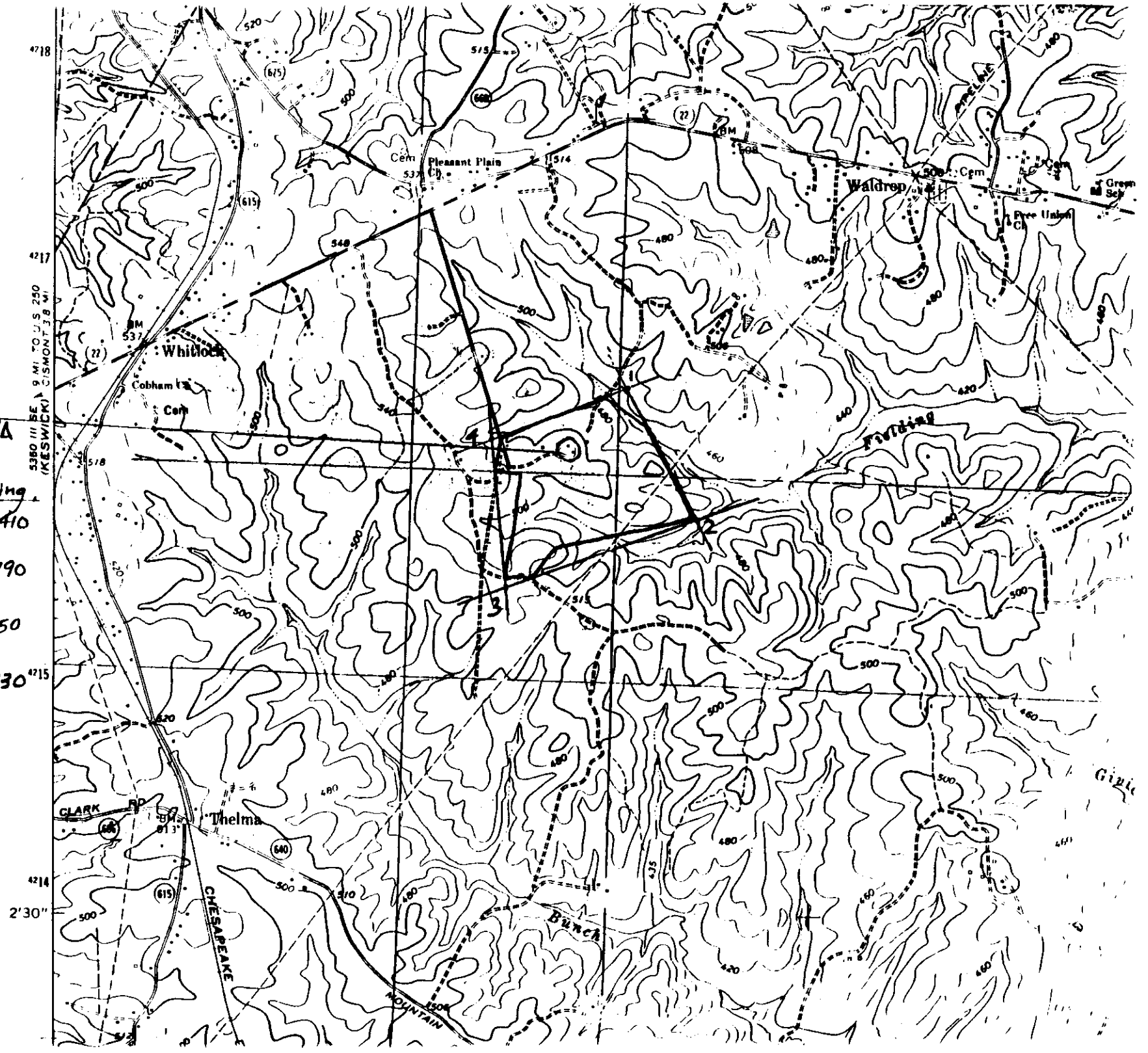
The following items of information are common to all photographs:

Name of Property: Maple Roads  
Location: Charlotte County, Virginia  
Photographers: Max and Carol Sempowski, March, 2002  
Location of negatives: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA  
Negative numbers: 19755 except those marked with an asterisk(\*) which are 19756

- 1 of 14: Main façade\*
- 2 of 14: North side of house\*
- 3 of 14: Molded brick cornice
- 4 of 14: Molded cornice and flat arch
- 5 of 14: Corbel brick cornice
- 6 of 14: View of main stairhall
- 7 of 14: Detail of main stair
- 8 of 14: Marbleized parlor mantel\*
- 9 of 14: Dining room mantel
- 10 of 14: Mantel 2<sup>nd</sup> floor west bedroom
- 11 of 14: Original lock and graining\*
- 12 of 14: View of office
- 13 of 14: View of barn
- 14 of 14: View of cemetery

Longwood  
 Louisa Co., VA  
 Zone 17

	Easting	Northing
1)	743090	4216410
2)	744380	4216790
3)	744470	4215450
4)	743380	4215130 <sup>1215</sup>



5380 III SE 9 MI TO U.S. 250  
 (KESWICK) CISMONT 3 B MI

4214  
 2'30"