

VLR-9-14-98  
NRHP-6-6-02

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 an 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 BURWELL-HOLLAND HOUSE  
other names/site number 033-0003

### 2. Location

street & number 600 Jacks Mountain Road  N/A  not for publication  
city or town Glade Hill  N/A  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Franklin code 067 zip code 24092

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

*M. Catherine Jensen* April 18, 2002  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other. (explain): _____	_____	_____

BURWELL-HOLLAND HOUSE  
Name of Property

Franklin Co., VA  
County and State

**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**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	2	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	2	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

Domestic/single dwelling  
Agriculture/subsistence/storage  
Domestic/secondary structure  
Domestic/secondary structure

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

Domestic/single dwelling (contributing)  
Domestic/secondary structure (contributing)  
Agriculture/subsistence/agriculture outbuilding  
Domestic/secondary structure (contributing)  
Domestic/secondary structure (contributing)  
Domestic/secondary structure (non-contrib)  
Domestic/single dwelling (non-contrib)  
See continuation sheet page 1

**7. Description**

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

Early Republic/Federal

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: granite/sandstone  
walls brick  
roof wood: shake  
other vinyl siding

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation page 1

BURWELL-HOLLAND HOUSE  
Name of Property

Franklin County, VA  
County and State

**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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- B. Politics/government
- C. Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1790-1951

**Significant Dates**

1798

1850

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Burwell, William Armistead

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

See continuation sheet page 8

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation page 12

**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:

BURWELL-HOLLAND HOUSE  
Name of Property

Franklin County, VA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 26.13 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

17	G11600	4092920
Zone	Easting	Northing

3 

17	G12140	4092800
Zone	Easting	Northing

2 

17	G12040	4093140
Zone	Easting	Northing

4 

17	G11660	4092640
Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet page 13 and 14

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See continuation sheet page 13

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Hazel Holland Davis (owner) and Neva J. Hart (author)  
(updated/revised by Jean McRae, April 2002)

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 12, 1998

street & number 600 Jacks Mountain Road telephone (540) 721-3216

city or town Glade Hill state VA zip code 24092

**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. See exhibit A

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. See Exhibit B  
Continuation Sheet Pg. 17

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property. See continuation sheet page 15

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Hazel Holland Davis

street & number 600 Jacks Mountain Road telephone (540) 576-2731

city or town Glade Hill state VA zip code 24092

**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 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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## Section 6, Current Functions (continued)

Agriculture/subsistence/agriculture outbuilding (contributing)

Agriculture/subsistence/agriculture outbuilding (contributing)

Funerary/cemetery (contributing)

## Section 7, NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Burwell-Holland House, located in Franklin County, was built in 1798 as a home for Col. Lewis Burwell, originally of Mecklenburg County and the James River plantation of "Kingsmill". It is located on a knoll at the base of Jack's Mountain, one mile from St. Rt. 40 and Rt. 673. Once part of a 3,000 acre tobacco plantation, the nominated parcel remains a working tobacco and dairy farm in the rural community of Glade Hill. The original two-story four-room Federal style brick section of the dwelling is 46 ft. long and 21 ft. wide with gable roof. Architectural influences of Burwell's friend Thomas Jefferson are evident in splayed interior windows and outside stairs. A 20th century one-story five-room frame addition was added to the back of the brick residence in 1976. Eight secondary structures located within the proposed boundaries date from the 18th to 20th centuries and are used for storage and recreation, including a saddlenotched log blacksmith shop and saddlenotched log and chink smokehouse/storehouse both dating from the early 1800's. One of the oldest existing residences in Franklin County, the Burwell-Holland House is presently surrounded by fenced pasture and farm land, swimming pool, tennis courts, and the Holland family cemetery.

General Description

During the 200-year lifespan on the House, members of Col. Burwell's family owned the 3,000 acre plantation and occupied the home until 1850, when the house and a portion of the plantation were sold in a trustee sale to Thomas J. Holland of Franklin Co. Five generations of Hollands, from 1850 to today, have continually lived in the house and maintained the tobacco plantation/farm. In 1976 the 1798-era section of the residence was faithfully restored to the modest commodious style of a late 18th century Blue Ridge frontier plantation. The original floor plan has never been altered. Still evident are the original stone foundation, brick center support wall, wood panel wainscoting, doors and frames, gable end interior chimneys, fireplaces with mantelpieces and carved wood surrounds, solid wood beams, staircases, and exterior brick walls.

The basic elements of the house as it exists today are essentially the same as in 1798 when it was built of bricks made on the plantation probably by slaves. Leftover brick from the Burwell-Holland House was used to construct the Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, c. 1824, located approximately 4 miles away. The house has a full basement, two living floors, a full attic, and a wood shingled gable roof. The symmetrical facade of the rectangular building is balanced with four nine-on-nine windows on the first floor, first floor double doors with a four-light transom in the center of the front facade, and five six-on-six windows on the second floor. The foundation walls are stone below grade, brick above. The full basement is divided into two areas by a center brick wall which extends upward to the attic. The interior first and second floors are designed identically with one room on each side of a center hall. A wide stair runs from basement to attic. The gable ends of the house have interior chimneys to accommodate fireplaces in all four rooms. A modern addition to the first floor was added on the back of the house in 1976. The addition now includes a modern kitchen, half-bath, family room and full bath. There is a full basement under the addition.

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Franklin County, Va.

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Description (continued)

Grounds and Outbuildings

The Burwell-Holland house is situated on a knoll at the base of Jack's Mountain, .2 mile off County Highway 673 and one mile south of St. Rt. 40. The house faces west, and is surrounded by 26 acres carved from the original Burwell plantation of approximately 3,000 acres. Surrounding the Burwell-Holland tract is the Holland family farm and dairy. Tobacco has been the major cash crop for this plantation/farm since the mid-1790's.

The current approach to the residence is from the north via a .2 mile winding fenced and paved driveway, presenting a side view of the house. Located between the road and the house are large hardwood trees and natural area which adjoins a Holland family cemetery. (See listing of cemetery headstones at the end of this section on continuation sheet) Tennis courts and numerous flower beds in a natural setting complete the vista.

Approximately half-way between the road and the house to the left is a log outbuilding with a gable roof. The center section of this early 1800's structure was built of unchinked logs and used as a corn crib. At a later date shed roofed wings were attached on either side and enclosed for use as farm equipment storage.

Running in front of the house is a dirt farm road which passes through wooded acreage to nearby cultivated fields and pasture.

At the end of the driveway the house emerges in a clearing, surrounded by grass lawns to the front and sides and pasture to the rear. South of the house is a swimming pool and restored early 20th century two-story V-notch log cabin (not original to the property), enclosed by chain link fencing and flower beds. The cabin is used as a pool house and guest quarters. Board fencing divides the residence grounds from surrounding pasture to the rear and sides of the house.

Four buildings at the rear (east) of the house support modern farm life. A small one-story saddlenotched log and chink blacksmith shop (c. 1800) has been renovated inside, leaving a dirt floor, and bark-covered hardwood logs. A rebuilt stone hearth and antique tools are displayed. A contemporary aluminum building with cement floor and office is used for storage and recreation. Approximately 45 ft. from the house are remainders of the original plantation kitchen which had been built of handmade brick. The composite chimney still stands outside at the back of a beam and frame wooden structure now used as a garage (c. 1925). The back interior wall of the garage is the restored kitchen hearth and fireplace rebuilt with the original handmade brick and iron pot hanger. The brick fireplace measures 65" wide by 50" high to a log beam in the brick chimney. The fireplace cooking area with iron pot crane measures 39" w x 36" h x 25" deep. The original stone foundation remains. Another one-story log-and-chink building with a gable roof and saddle notches complete the list of outbuildings nearest the house.

Other contributing outbuildings include a 19th century post and beam barn and a 19th century wood frame corn crib built on short stone pillars.

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### Description (continued)

#### The House

The original section of the house was built in 1798. Renovations and an addition were completed in 1976. The house has always been a residence, owned and lived in by Burwells or Hollands. With the exception of the years 1967-1975, it has been continuously occupied.

The 200-year old rectangular Federal style brick residence built for Col. Lewis Burwell exists today with a one-story modern (1976) frame addition added to the back of the original structure. A wood shake shingle roof with boxed cornices was put on the two-story structure in 1986; a tin shed roof covers the addition. The first floor facade has two double hung nine-over-nine sash windows (replaced in 1976) on each side of the center entrance of double French doors, which feature a splayed jack arch over them. The original solid wood six-panel front doors were recycled (1976) for the basement apartment. A small gable roof porch, rebuilt in 1986 on a brick stoop with 5 steps leading directly to a brick walk and the lawn, has wooden hand rails and pickets attached to the brick on either side of the front entry. Wood posts support the porch roof. All windows have black louvered vinyl shutters, which were added in 1976 to replace deteriorating fixtures.

The south gable end wall of the house is marked where lightning struck.

At opposite corners of the north and south gable ends of the house are wood frame doors leading to each first floor room. Although these doors are 5'4" from the ground, no evidence remains of original exterior stairs to the doors or indications for their original intended use. Each gable end wall of the house has a chimney jutting above the roof and two double hung sash windows at the third floor attic level, the only windows on the end walls.

On the south end of the original two-story brick section, a small wood frame/vinyl siding dependancy covers the original basement entrance. This enclosed area, added in 1976, is currently used as a mudroom and for storage. Renovations revealed a brick relieving arch over the entrance to the basement.

Mid-1900's Holland Family photos indicate overgrown plants near the home's front door which were replaced with young boxwoods when a brick walkway to the front porch was added in 1978. Three ventilated ground level windows in front and back walls of the foundation are evenly spaced. New windows were installed during renovation.

The rear of the house faces Jack's Mountain to the east. The back wall of the original brick section has four six-over-six vinyl double hung windows in the second story. The one-story addition (1976) attached to the rear wall has a modern brick basement accessed by a ground-level door on the south side. Entrance to the first floor addition is reached via wood stairs on the south or east sides of a wide wood unpainted deck supported by posts. A single door in the center of the addition's rear wall provides entry to a large family room, half-bath, and adjoining kitchen. To the left of the rear outside entrance door are two double hung windows; a new chimney and double hung window flank the right side.

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## Description (continued)

Another door on the south end permits entrance to the kitchen. The area below the deck, open and landscaped, adjoins a driveway area. The south end of the addition has a double hung sash window left of the kitchen door.

During the mid-1900's, the basement was used as living quarters for James Holland and wife, and the upstairs served as living quarters for a brother John and wife. Three Holland brothers farmed the estate.

In a nearby field, evidence remains in the gray ash-colored soil of a brick kiln, although no excavation has been undertaken to research the site. Holland Family history marks this area as the location of the making of the brick used for the house and outbuildings. An African-American family in the neighborhood, with the surname of Holland, claims through oral family history that a still was also located in this area.

The Burwell-Holland House original foundation and full basement is divided into two rooms by a 14" thick wall built from the same brick as the exterior walls. Local stone was used for the first 40" of the foundation. Handmade brick completes the 18" thick basement walls. Parts of the original stone foundation have been covered with wood paneling on 2x4 stud framing. A cement floor was poured in 1976 to cover a dirt and wood floor. Ceiling height measures 7'2". On the south end of the basement wall is a fireplace original to the house. The fireplace measures 9' wide with a 20" deep firebox. Currently the opening measures 4' wide, 32" high; a 9'x11"x9" oak beam incorporated into the brick wall above the hearth is placed 47" from the floor. A 3'x9' hearth built from large natural stones was added in 1976. To the left of the fireplace is the original doorway half below grade leading to the outside. Currently the door measures 6'6"x36" in a wall 18" thick. Above ground, handmade brick walls measure 14" thick. In front and rear foundation walls are three 31"x22" windows just above ground level.

On the north wall of the basement the chimney has been left exposed, with stepped brick above the stone foundation. Mortise and tenon bark-covered logs hold beams into wood structural supports. Contemporary renovations covered the stone with concrete to accommodate the installation of a bath and bedroom. The basement apartment currently has electric for heating and cooking, with plumbing for the kitchen and bath. Cupboards and closets have been added.

The basement ceiling has original oak posts and beams. The 5"x7"x17'8" beams in the ceiling support 1-1/2"x6" pine tongue and groove overhead for the first floor flooring. An open 10'4" oak staircase attached to the center wall, with 11 treads 10" deep x 34" wide, leads to the first floor. The treads are mounted in handcut grooves in the stringer, with occasional mortise and tenon. At the top of the staircase is a 1" thick plain wooden 6-panel door measuring 5'4"h x 31"w, with handwrought iron hinges, rosehead nails and latch.

In the brick wall dividing the basement are two doorways, one at the foot of the stairs and one under the stairs. Double hardwood doors cut down to measure 45"x74" exhibit wooden pegs holding panels and trim, and original keyhole hardware. The paneled doors were originally the first floor main entry doors.



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### Description (continued)

The first and second floor interiors of the original two-story brick section have identical floor plans -- an open staircase in the center of the house going from basement to attic, a 21'x10' center hall with a room on either side, one larger than the other. French double doors are used at the front entrance. Opposite the front entry, at the end of the center hall, French double doors provide access to the new addition. This passageway was originally the rear exit.

The 14" thick brick supporting wall dissecting the house anchors the central staircase. Bare brick in the basement, the wall on the first and second floors is covered with lath and plaster above 19" high solid wood panel wainscoting above the beaded baseboard. First floor ceilings are 10 ft. Entry to the basement from the center hall is under the enclosed first floor stairs. The 10 ft. long staircase bannister appears to have been replaced in the past. Three square flat ballisters per tread holding a plain handrail of hardwood are held in place with wooden pegs; square wrought nails hold twelve treads 12"x46" each. However, Italianate scrollwork decorates the board stringer.

Running the length of the center hall walls is a beaded wood chair rail 31" from the floor above solid wainscot panels and a high wooden beaded baseboard. All doors are framed with identical wood trim.

Entry to the larger of the first-floor rooms on the right of the central hall is through a large uneven 6 panel molded wood door 76"h x 41"w. Wood pegs in the cornice above the door frame can be seen; the iron rim lock and brass knob are thought to be original. The owners presently use this room as a formal dining room. Solid wood wainscot panels 12"x14" line the walls below a chair rail 46" from the floor. A large fireplace is framed by a wood mantel 65"h x 73"w carved in the Federal style with good fret work. The fret carving on the fireplace surround matches the carved wood trim over an archway to the left of the fireplace.

All rooms in the house have working fireplaces and each supports a unique carved wood mantelpiece and frame. Prior to the 1976 renovation, the downstairs rooms were wallpapered; woodwork was painted. The house had been minimally electrified in the late 1940's.

To the right of the fireplace is a press which has been enclosed by a wall flush with the chimney. In the press are shelves and on the exterior wall is a door 73"h x 39"w. Family history holds this to be a wine closet. Owners speculate that originally the door led to an outside stair for unseen access by domestic help. To the left of the fireplace an arch 99" from the floor has been framed in wood carved with the same fluted fret design as the mantel. The inset created beside the fireplace to the left is large enough to accommodate a large sideboard, which has its own interesting history. Unique to this room are the windows on the front (west) wall. Encased in splayed jambs running from the floor to the top of the window frame, the two windows measure 65"h x 28"w. The nine-on-nine windows are 46" from the floor, with flat sills. The rear wall's original identical windows have been converted to a doorway to the new addition and the other bricked over to accommodate a passthrough to the new kitchen. This back wall, the original rear exterior wall, measures at least 13" thick.

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## Description (continued)

The other room on the first floor of the old section (now used as the master bedroom) is entered from under the center hall staircase through a plain six-panel hardwood door with wood pegs and iron door lock. The room's north wall was made flush with the chimney to create closets on either side of the fireplace. A wood mantel 23" high, and carved frame with a fluted pillar design, surrounds the fireplace. Although the two windows on the front side of the house are identical in size to those of the other first floor room, the splayed window jambs frame only the windows and do not extend to the floor. On the wall which was originally the rear of the house, the original window openings have been converted to bookshelves and a doorway to a bathroom in the modern addition.

Only two rooms in the contemporary addition are accessed through the first floor center hall french doors: a family room (with powder room) and kitchen. The kitchen ceiling was constructed with exposed solid oak beams taken from another antique structure. The rear brick wall of the original Burwell-Holland house has been left exposed in both rooms. Walnut panel wainscoting above the baseboard has been continued in the family room. A large brick fireplace, with gas insert, is faced with old brick on the east wall.

The two second floor rooms, now used as bedrooms, are reached by the central staircase in the old section. There are twelve steps from the first floor to a large landing, and five steps to the second floor center hall (10 feet wide). A double hung sash window is in the center of the west (front) wall. (The staircase proceeds seven additional steps to a full attic which has been closed off, but is accessed through a door at the top stair step.) Ceiling height in these rooms is 8'10". Each room has a fireplace, two windows on the front and rear walls, and enclosed presses on either sides of the differently carved wood mantels and surrounds.

The fireplace in the south room is larger than the fireplace on the first floor directly below. The windows are framed with the same splayed jamb design used on the first floor. Walls are plaster over lath over brick, with beaded wood chair rail and baseboard. A picture rail has been mounted on the plaster-over-brick chimney wall. Electrical outlets on the floors were added in 1976. There is one door leading to this room from the center hall.

In the north room, dentil molding placed just below a chair rail surrounds the room, but no picture rail remains. Walls are plaster over lath over brick. The fireplace wall is flush with a closet on the right; a commode and vanity sink have been installed in the enclosed closet space to the left. This wood fireplace frame is more elaborately carved than any other in the house, using an egg and dart frieze. The room's two windows on front and on rear walls are double hung sash with conventional jambs and sills. Electrical outlets were installed in 1976.

In the attic under the modern plywood sheathing and shake roof, oak and chestnut planks used for what is thought to have been the original roof can be seen between solid wood beams and trusses. Several types of wrought nails left from various roof applications testify to many roofs on this old house.

Riven lath under crumbling plaster is seen on the wall which supports the attic floor as you climb the stairs. Mortise and tenon construction was used for the bannister which still

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## Description (continued)

has simple carved newel posts. Hardwood flooring with iron wrought nails has been left intact through the centuries. From attic floor to the roof peak is 11'2". A double hung sash window flanks each side of the shoulders on the chimneys on each gable end. Heavy post framing for a wall partition has been left unfinished.

HEADSTONES  
HOLLAND FAMILY CEMETERY

Holland, William Anthony

b. Mar. 28, 1843 d. Jan. 17, 1935

(Co. K, 10th Va. Cav. C.S.A.)

Holland, Fannie Lucinda (wife of W. A. Holland)

b. Nov. 28, 1845 d. Oct. 11, 1905

Holland, Benjamin Thomas

b. May 21, 1869 d. Aug. 21, 1955

Holland, Julia Fannie Mattox (wife of B. T. Holland)

b. June 21, 1876 d. Oct. 26, 1948

Holland, John William

b. Mar. 2, 1871 d. Oct. 18, 1951

Holland, Mamie Julia Mattox (wife of J. W. Holland)

b. May 17, 1888 d. Sept. 29, 1970

(marker in place but she was buried nearby in Mattox Family Cemetery. Her niece, who cared for her, refused to bring her home to husband)

Holland, James Anthony

b. Aug. 5, 1873 d. Mar. 24, 1955

Holland, Mary (Mollie) Parker Dudley (wife of J.A. Holland)

b. May 6, 1877 d. June 3, 1957

Holland, Floyd Smith

b. May 13, 1917 d. Oct. 9, 1987

Brown, infant son of W. C. and Sallie Kate Brooks

b. Feb. 9, 1935 d. Feb. 10, 1935

(nephew of Floyd Holland's wife Effie)

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Franklin County, Va.

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### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

The Burwell-Holland House was built in 1798 on the burgeoning frontier of Virginia's Blue Ridge at a time when the region was being carved into counties for political governance and commercial enhancement. During this period two-story houses were statements of prosperity. As one of the oldest remaining residences in the county, the Burwell-Holland House is one of only a handful of substantial brick residential dwellings remaining in the area which represent frontier plantations. In this case, qualifying under **Criterion C**, the Burwell-Holland House is an existing example of the type of dwelling built by large Tidewater plantation owners during westward expansion of land grant holdings following the Revolutionary War. As with many speculative Eastern plantation owners, the Burwells found "farming" in the Blue Ridge an economic challenge. Unable to pay debts, the Burwell family's estate was sold in 1850 to a long-time county resident who understood the task, Thomas J. Holland. The house and surrounding farm remain in the Holland family today.

Under **Criterion C**, the Burwell-Holland House, built from bricks made by slaves on the plantation, exemplifies the austere but functional center hall design house typical in the rural south. Original brickwork, wood work, interior layout and structural design have been unchanged. Specific period architectural influences have been retained, such as Thomas Jefferson's favorite splayed windows. Built to resemble the Burwell family plantation home "Kingsmill" on the James River, there are no other houses in the area like the Burwell-Holland House.

However, it is under **Criterion B** that the Burwell-Holland House is most significant as the home of William Armistead Burwell (1780-1821) during his service as a member of the Virginia General Assembly (1804-1806), as the first Congressman from Franklin County, Va. (1806-1821) and as personal secretary (1804-1806) to President Thomas Jefferson. Burwell also was appointed a Trustee by the Virginia General Assembly (1804) to supervise the establishment of the town of Mount Pleasant, which became Rocky Mount, the county's courthouse seat. As a substantial landholder and slave owner, Burwell was one of the most important planter-politicians from Virginia's Piedmont and was a significant part of the Virginia Dynasty of American political life before 1830.

#### Narrative-Historical Background

William Armistead Burwell was a decendent of an important Tidewater Virginia family of soldiers, plantation owners and builders. His great grandfather was Lewis Burwell III (1702-1744) builder of Kingsmill plantation near Williamsburg. Through land grants and purchases, succeeding Burwell family members (Lewis IV and his nephew Col. Lewis Burwell) established plantations westward into Mecklenburg and Franklin Counties.

William moved to Franklin County in 1802 to live with his guardian Col. Lewis Burwell, and eventually inherited that estate. William's only son, William McCreery Burwell, would continue the family tradition and build Avenel, in Bedford County, a National Register Historic Property.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Burwell-Holland House  
Franklin County, Va.

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Significance (continued)

Col. Lewis Burwell (1745-1800) served in the Revolutionary War at Yorktown and had settled in Mecklenburg/Lunenburg County, along with other relatives. In 1780 he became guardian to William Armistead Burwell, the infant son of Col. Lewis' first cousin and neighbor. In 1790 Col. Burwell began purchasing tracts of land in Franklin County, eventually owning about 3,000 acres. It is conceivable that the Burwells were made aware of the Blue Ridge Piedmont by William Byrd II of Mecklenburg. Byrd, a neighbor in Mecklenburg of William Armistead's grandfather, was one of the official surveyors of the Virginia Commission of 1728 which fixed the boundary between Virginia and North Carolina. Also, the family's close friend Thomas Jefferson had inherited land at Poplar Forest, 45 miles to the east of the Burwell Franklin County property. Jefferson had been romantically involved with William's father's cousin Rebecca, and had been a classmate of William's uncle at William & Mary. Jefferson's most trusted servant and head of the Monticello house help was named "Burwell."

In 1798, a substantial two-story brick manse was built on Col. Burwell's Franklin County plantation located between Jacks Mountain and Glade Creek in the east central portion of that county, within a mile of the main route of travel from the county seat to Lynchburg and Danville, major tobacco markets.

At the age of 22, William Armistead Burwell moved from his home in Mecklenburg County to Franklin County in 1802. Col. Lewis Burwell died in 1800. It is suspected that William lived in his guardian's Franklin County plantation home. However, will books show that it was not until 1804 that William Armistead Burwell inherited the land owned by Col. Lewis Burwell "estimated as 3,000 acres, lying on both sides of the Pigg River" to which Glade Creek is a tributary. Family records reflect that William Armistead's landholdings in Mecklenburg were sold when he moved to Franklin Co., and that he moved more than 50 slaves to his inherited plantation.

The two-story house on the Burwell plantation in Franklin Co. was constructed of brick, probably hand made on the property. Built in the Federal style, the home was situated on a knoll at the foot of Jack's Mountain, and approximately in the center of the 3,000 acres described in deed books of record in the county courthouse. With two large rooms on the first floor and two large rooms on the second floor, and a central hall dividing both floors, this was not a home in the grand style of the Tidewater, but rather a large and sturdy residence for the Blue Ridge frontier. However, judging from sketches in William Kelso's book *KINGSMILL PLANTATIONS*, the Franklin County dwelling matched the design of the James River plantation, although smaller in scale.

Leftover brick from the Burwell-Holland house was used in 1824 for the construction of a small chapel for the local Church of Christ parish located less than 4 miles from the Burwell plantation. Brick from another plantation, that owned by Major John Holland, approximately 6 miles from the Burwell plantation and within a mile of the church location, was also used for the chapel construction. Of interest is that two sides of the church were constructed of brick laid in the English bond pattern, matching the house of John Holland, and the other two sides of the building has brick laid in the Flemish pattern used on the Burwell residence. Obviously, the slaves from the two adjoining plantations who built the church walls laid the brick in the style they had used on their home plantations.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Burwell-Holland House  
Franklin County, Va.

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Significance (continued)

Typically during this period in history farmers in this region raised livestock (sheep and cattle) and tobacco. Although historical accounts indicate that profits from the Burwell plantation were modest, 1810 Census records show W. A. Burwell owned 63 slaves over the age of 12. It is believed that during this period the existing agriculture and domestic secondary structures were built, consistent with farm life as recorded in John S. Salmon's FRANKLIN CO. VA, A Bicentennial History.

Evidentially a leader even in the early years of his residency in Franklin County, William Armistead Burwell was appointed by the Virginia General Assembly in January 1804 as one of 9 trustees to manage a political problem of locating a site for a new courthouse for Franklin County, although there is no record of the trustees' specific actions.

In 1804 William Armistead Burwell was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. The same year he was also offered the position of Personal Secretary to President Jefferson. Jefferson had been a family friend and frequent social guest of the Tidewater and Mecklenburg Burwells, having been a college classmate of William's uncle Lewis V at William and Mary. Jefferson appointed William Armistead Burwell as an aide-de-camp, starting a long relationship in which Burwell delivered confidential communications for Jefferson, prepared state papers and presidential messages, and publicly spoke out for his President during the years Jefferson was sharply criticized by political opponents. Burwell's first-hand knowledge of the inside accounts of Jefferson's secret efforts to purchase Florida, confrontations with Aaron Burr, controversial treaties, and the emergence of political parties are detailed in correspondence and narratives assembled by editors of Jefferson's papers at Princeton University, the University of Virginia and the Library of Congress.

Not only a political confidant to Jefferson, but a personal friend as well, Burwell visited Monticello often. Although no records show that William Armistead was a visitor to Jefferson's Poplar Forest retreat, Jefferson did correspond with Burwell from Poplar Forest regarding building materials and general plantation management. Letters dated 1810 between the two gentlemen discuss quarry stone for a mill Jefferson wanted to build. Jefferson, inquiring about stone from Burwell's Franklin County quarry (located near the Pigg River), was advised against it by William Armistead.

First elected to Congress in 1806, Burwell represented the counties of Bedford, Franklin, Henry and Patrick, known then as the 13th district. Throughout his 15-year tenure in Congress as a state's rights advocate and plantation owner, Burwell was naturally interested in legislative affairs concerning agriculture, especially tobacco. However, he did support Presidents Jefferson and James Madison policies re embargoes, nonimportation, and war.

William A. Burwell married Letitia McCreery in 1808. Letitia, the adopted daughter of William McCreery, a wealthy congressman from Maryland, inherited estates near Baltimore. After being elected to Congress, Burwell had to divide his time between his landholdings in Franklin Co., Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. Finally, in 1813 William and Letitia sold 1300 acres on Glade Creek and Jacks Mountain (land and appertanances) to John Spotswood Burwell, son of William Armistead's guardian Col. Lewis Burwell. Letitia McCreery Burwell died in 1815; William Armistead Burwell in 1821. Their only son, William McCreery Burwell (b. 1809), was raised by his father's aunt in Liberty (now Bedford) Va. William McCreery Burwell later built Avenel plantation in Bedford Co., which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Burwell-Holland House  
Franklin County, Va.

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Significance (continued)

To settle a lawsuit and debts, John Spotswood Burwell turned over the 1300 acre tract, known as the "Glade and Jack's Creek tract," to Moses G. Carper, trustee, for \$5.00 in a deed of conveyance in trust in 1844. In 1850 Carper, as trustee, sold 753 acres of the tract, including "the homeplace", to Thomas J. Holland for \$4,029.74. Holland, who farmed the estate, died in 1857, leaving 362 acres and "the mansion house" to his wife Miriam, and Lot A (180 acres) assigned to his son William A. Holland (aged 14.) Upon Miriam's death, William A. Holland lived on the plantation and raised his own family under "the mansion house" roof. A veteran of the Confederate Army (Franklin County's Co. K, 10th Va. Cav.), William Anthony Holland died in 1935. His was the first grave in the family cemetery plot northwest of the house.

Four successive generations of William Holland have continually owned the brick "mansion house" built by Col. Burwell (see following chronology) and have maintained the acreage as a working tobacco farm to this day. In addition to the house, several original outbuildings used to support farm life since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century still exist: the blacksmith shop, a log chicken coop/smokehouse/storehouse, and the remainder of the original plantation brick kitchen fireplace and chimney.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page  12 

Burwell-Holland House  
Franklin County, Va.

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES AND SOURCES

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 13

Burwell-Holland House  
Franklin County, Va.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Burwell-Holland House nominated parcel of 26.13 acres (Franklin County Deed Book 318, p. 504) are shown on the 1:100' scale map that appears as Exhibit A.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Burwell-Holland House nominated parcel correspond to the present boundaries of the property and include the house as well as several associated buildings and cemetery.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 15

Burwell-Holland House  
Franklin County, Va.

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### PHOTOGRAPHS:

Burwell-Holland House, File #033-0003. Negatives stored at Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

- |           |  |           |   |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| 1 of 12:  | Credit: Travis Mittel, April 1997<br>Main House, Neg. 19836/18   | 2 of 12:  | Credit: Neva Hart, July 1998<br>Main House, Corn-crib/Garage<br>Neg. 16816/17A  |
| 3 of 12:  | Credit: Neva Hart, July 1998<br>Rear Main House, looking at barn,<br>log cabin, old kitchen, smokehouse<br>Neg. 16816/4A                   | 4 of 12:  | Credit: Neva Hart, July 1998<br>Main House, looking at barn,<br>log cabin, Neg. 16816/1A  |
| 5 of 12:  | Credit: Hazel Davis, June 1998<br>Smokehse/Storehse, Neg. 16817/16A  | 6 of 12:  | Credit: Travis Mittel, April 1997<br>Blacksmith Shop, Neg. 16817/17A  |
| 7 of 12:  | Credit: Neva Hart, July 1998<br>Interior Blacksmith Shop<br>Neg. 16816/16A   | 8 of 12:  | Credit: Hazel Davis, June 1998<br>Main House, basement stone/brick<br>foundation, log ceiling beams,<br>South gable end, Neg. 16817/10A |
| 9 of 12:  | Credit: Neva Hart, July 1998<br>Main House, basement steps, shows<br>mortise and tenon construction<br>Neg. 16816/11A                      | 10 of 12: | Credit: Neva Hart, July 1998<br>Main House, dining room, splayed<br>windows, SW corner, Neg. 19836/3A                                   |
| 11 of 12: | Credit: Neva Hart, July 1998<br>Main House, center hall, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor,<br>facing west, door to basement on right<br>Neg. 19836/5A | 12 of 12: | Credit: Neva Hart, July 1998<br>Main House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor bedroom, north<br>gable end, Neg. 16816/8A                            |

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Records Page 16

Burwell-Holland House  
Franklin County, Va.

Records Consulted

### OWNERSHIP OF THE BURWELL-HOLLAND HOUSE\*

1790/June - Lewis Burell (sic) of Mecklenburg Co. bought 2,705 ac. from Richard Witten (Mecklenburg Co.). Part of a patent granted to Witten's father for 5,316 ac. situated on both sides of the Pigg River and Simmons Creek (DB 2, p. 112-113)

1797 - tax value Lewis Burwell 2,705 ac. \$561.00 (LB 1797)

1798 - tax value Lewis Burwell 2,705 ac \$1,803 (LB 1798)

1804/January - William Armistead Burwell inherited tract of Franklin Co., Va., land owned by Col. Lewis Burwell, est. 3,000 ac. lying on both sides of the Pigg River (DB)

1813 - William A. Burwell & wife Letitita sold Glade and Jacks Creek land and appertances to John S. Burwell, 1300 ac. (DB 7, p. 31)

1844 - John S. Burwell deeded and \$5 to Moses G. Carper, trustee, tract lying and being upon Glade Creek 1300 ac. (deed of conveyance in trust) (DB 18, p. 449-462)

1850 - Carper, trustee, sold tract 753 ac. to Thomas J. Holland, \$4,029.74 (DB 21, p. 290)

1857 - Thos. J. Holland died.; Lot A 180 ac assigned to Wm. A. Holland, son of Miriam and Thos. J. Holland (WB 10, p.559)

1858 - Miriam Holland through dower leased 362 ac. with mansion house (WB 10, p. 559)

1935 - Wm. A. Holland willed all personal and real property to 4 children: Benjamin, John, James, and Carrie (WB 30, p. 307)

1936 - Carrie Holland Caldwell deeded acreage inherited from father (W. A. Holland) to brothers John, James and Benjamin (DB 88, p. 371)

1944 - Benjamin T. Holland deeded to son Floyd S. Holland 113.5 ac. (DB 101,p.154) 1955 - James A. Holland willed to wife Mary, then to brother John Will, then to nephew Floyd S. Holland "Home Tract" and "Home Place" (WB 37, p. 74)

1973 - Floyd S. and Effie B. Holland deeded to daughter Hazel Holland Davis lot with house on Rt. 673 Franklin County Glade Hill District 2.5 ac. (DB 123, p.457)

1976 - Floyd S. and Effie B. Holland deeded to Hazel Holland Davis 26.13 ac. (DB 318, p. 504)

\*DB = Franklin Co. Deed Book  
WB = Franklin Co. Will Book  
LB = Franklin Co. land and tax records

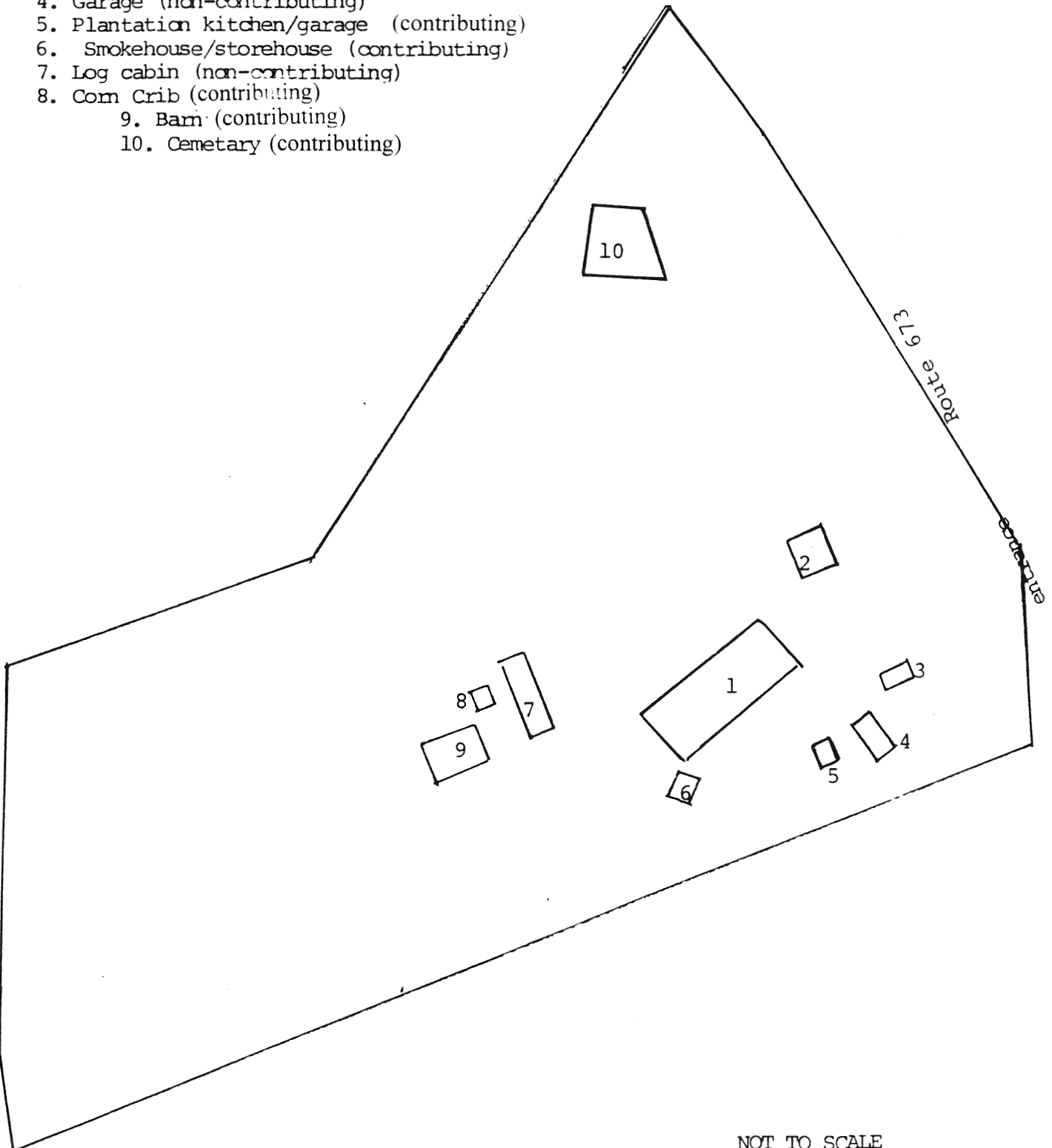
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Sketch Page 17

Burwell-Holland House  
Franklin County, Va.

- Key: 1. Burwell-Holland House (contributing)  
2. Corn Crib/garage (contributing)  
3. Blacksmith shop (contributing)  
4. Garage (non-contributing)  
5. Plantation kitchen/garage (contributing)  
6. Smokehouse/storehouse (contributing)  
7. Log cabin (non-contributing)  
8. Corn Crib (contributing)  
9. Barn (contributing)  
10. Cemetary (contributing)

EXHIBIT B



NOT TO SCALE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5058 III SE  
(REDWOOD)

79°45' 612000m E. 613 614 42'30'

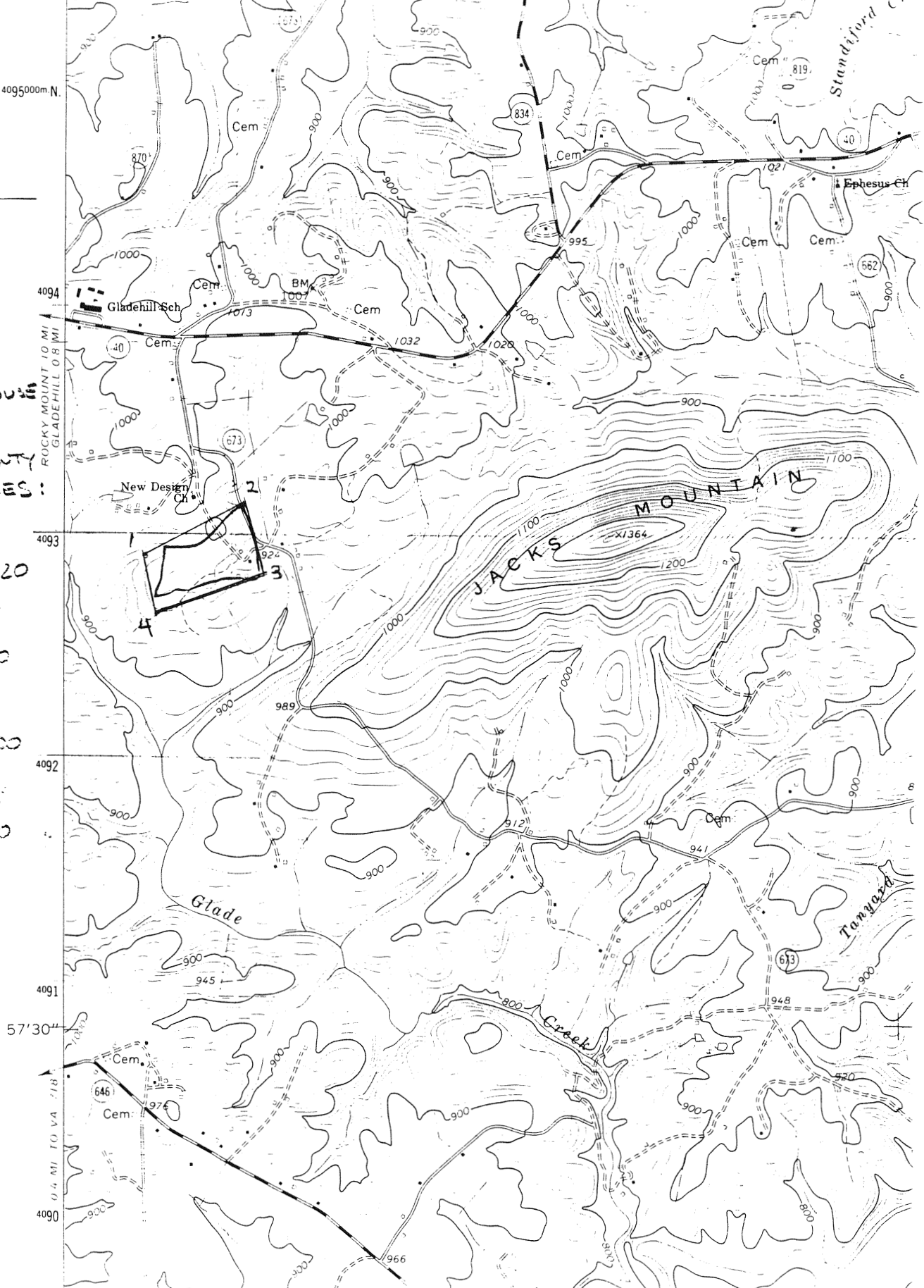


Exhibit A

BURWELL -  
HOLLAND HOUSE

(033-0002)  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
UTM REFERENCES:

- 1) 17/611 600/  
4092 920
- 2) 17/612 040/  
4093 140
- 3) 17/612 140/  
4092 300
- 4) 17/611 660/  
4092 640