

VLR-3-13-02
NRHP-5-30-02

**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 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 Locust Hill
other names/site number VDHR file no. 56-5012

2. Location

street & number Junction of US 15, SR 634 & SR 614 N/A not for publication
city or town Locust Dale vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Madison code 113 zip code 22948

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.)

[Signature] _____ 4/15/02
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date

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/Title _____ Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____
 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): _____

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	
<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
EDUCATION	school
AGRICULTURE	animal facility
COMMERCE	department store
COMMERCE	warehouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
GOVERNMENT	post office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Wood

roof Metal
other Brick
 Concrete

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.)

Property is:

- 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 fifty years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1834-ca. 1950

Significant Dates

1834

1897

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mahanes, Harry (builder of fertilizer house)

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

Acreege of Property approximately 30 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	751030	4247310	3	17	751170 4246700
2	17	751500	4247210	4	17	751060 4246700

___ 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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni</u>		
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	date	<u>November 25, 2001</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>

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	<u>Mike and Betty Long</u>		
street & number	<u>3 Stegner Ln.</u>	telephone	<u>(512) 328-1276</u>
city or town	<u>Austin</u> state <u>TX</u>	zip code	<u>78746</u>

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 7 Page 1

Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Locust Hill, located in eastern Madison County, Virginia, is a Federal-Greek Revival house accompanied by domestic, commercial and educational resources dating mostly to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The two-story frame house incorporates an original side-passage-plan section dating to 1834, which was enlarged and given a two-tier Doric front porch probably about 1849. Exterior features include weatherboard siding, metal roofing, and painted brick and stone foundations and chimneys. The interior features graining and a full complement of Federal-Greek Revival mantels. About 1900 a three-story bathroom tower, a summer kitchen, and a brick greenhouse wing were added. Near the house are a frame smokehouse with numerous rafter- and collar-mounted pegs for hanging meat, a brick dairy, and a one-room frame schoolhouse with scalloped vergeboards. Located across US Highway 15 from the house complex is the Locust Dale Store and Post Office, an 1880s story-and-a-half frame store building accompanied by a 1934 fertilizer house and two noncontributing resources. The approximately thirty-acre nominated parcel is situated in a V formed by US 15 on the east and SR 634 on the west with a small extension on the south end to embrace the store and post office. Farmland, woodlots, and historic farms surround the nominated parcel.

Inventory

1. Locust Hill. 1834; ca. 1849; ca. 1890; ca. 1900. Contributing building.
2. Willis's School. 1897. Contributing building.
3. Smokehouse. Mid-19th c. Contributing building.
4. Cistern. Early 20th c. (concrete cap). Contributing structure.
5. Dairy. Ca. 1900. Contributing building.
6. Brick-lined pit. Ca. 1900. Contributing structure.
7. Water tower foundation. Early 20th c. Contributing site.
8. Foundation. 19th c. Contributing site.
9. Chickenhouse. Early 20th c. Contributing building.
10. Locust Dale Store and Post Office. 1880s. Contributing building.
11. Fertilizer House. 1934. Contributing building.
12. Locust Dale Post Office. Ca. 1980. Noncontributing building.
13. Privy. 1960s. Noncontributing building.

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Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.

Description (continued)

House Exterior

The front (west) elevation presents a five-bay facade of which the three right-hand bays including the front entry are the 1834 original section and the two left-hand bays are the ca. 1849 addition. The original section has a gable roof, beaded corner boards and rake boards, a stone foundation, and an exterior gable-end brick chimney with a detached stack above stepped shoulders. The addition has a hip roof, a brick foundation, and an interior end brick chimney, but its ell has a gable roof and an exterior gable-end brick chimney. All sections have three-over-three basement windows, nine-over-six first-story windows, and six-over-six second-story windows; there are small windows flanking the chimneys in the two gables; and most windows have louvered wood shutters.

A two-tier front porch, which probably dates to the same period as the ca. 1849 addition, extends across the three right-hand bays (the original section). The porch features smooth wood Doric columns, rectangular-section Doric pilasters, square-section balusters, flush-board ceilings, brick foundation piers on stone bases with lattice underpinning, and modern wooden steps. The porch shelters an entry with a molded and beaded surround, a five-light transom, double-leaf three-panel doors, and double-leaf louvered wooden storm doors. A similar entry opens onto the second porch tier. A one-story porch, probably dating to the late nineteenth century, extends across the back of the original section. It has posts with chamfered/octagonal sections, brick foundation piers, a sloped flush-board ceiling, screening, and concrete steps. Under the porch is a crawlspace with a brick pavement with stone border; presumably this pavement dates to before the construction of the porch.

A two-story weatherboarded tower with a pyramidal roof rises at the north end of the house. This element contains bathrooms on both floors and was apparently added during the first decade of the twentieth century. A one-story brick greenhouse attaches to the south end. It is built partly below grade and has a shed roof and a bank of three nine-over-nine windows on its west side. A carbide tank, used to produce gas for lighting the house and store, formerly stood in the greenhouse. At the east end of the ell, attached to the house by a latticed breezeway, is a one-story summer kitchen with weatherboard siding, a gable roof with scalloped vergeboards, six-over-six windows, a beaded batten door with a pottery knob, and brick foundation piers. According to one account the summer kitchen was attached to the house about 1890; it may actually date to that period, as suggested by its styling and the presence of cut nails.

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**Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

House Interior

Locust Hill's interior is characterized by board floors, plaster-and-lath wall and ceiling finishes, mantels that combine varying degrees of Federal and Greek Revival influence, beaded baseboards, and six-panel doors hung on butt hinges. The center passage has a winder stair with a closed stringer, a square newel with a ball finial, rectangular-section balusters, a tear-drop pendant finial under the upstairs landing, and a small closet underneath. The room also has a wainscot grained to simulate panels with dark borders. Likewise the six-panel and double-leaf three-panel doors openings into the passage have light-grained panels and dark rails and stiles, and there is also graining on the stair and on a high nail rail studded with wire nails with porcelain buttons at their ends.

The first-floor room on the south side of the passage, the main room of the original section of the house, features a three-part mantel with pilasters with symmetrically molded faces, narrow tablets at the ends of the frieze that continue the molded faces of the pilasters, a blank tablet at the center of the frieze, and a shelf with multiple bed moldings. The room also features a wainscot with molded and beaded chairrail and flush-board panels, and door and window surrounds with asymmetrical moldings.

The first-floor room on the north side of the passage is more Greek Revival in its appointments, with lesser Federal influence, as would be expected considering its date of ca. 1849. The two-part mantel has pilasters with convex faces bordered by fillet moldings, and are continued into the frieze as narrow end tablets. Doors and windows have symmetrically molded surrounds with blank corner blocks. Other features include a molded chairrail, a paneled partition to the side of the chimney that incorporates a door to the lower tower bathroom (this wall may be a reworked press), and a lock box on the door to the ell with a porcelain knob and a circular seal stamped with an eagle and the inscription "No. 16 Improved Lock Co." (the same lock box appears on a first-floor ell door).

The lower tower bathroom has beaded matchboard walls and ceilings, a claw-foot tub, and a marble sink with chamfered edges (the upper tower bathroom is similarly detailed). The ell contains a two-run stair with a paneled spandrel, square newel posts, and rectangular-section balusters; a pantry with a built-in cupboard; and a kitchen with ca. 1940 cabinetry and a Federal-Greek Revival mantel with paired vertical concave channels on the faces of the pilasters and frieze end tablets in frugal imitation of fluting. Typical in the second floor of all sections of the house are varnished six-panel doors with pottery knobs, and beaded chairrails and baseboards.

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Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.

Description (continued)

The second-floor north room and ell room have mantels with fluted effects in their pilasters and frieze end tablets, and the south room has an architrave mantel. A small room above the first-floor center passage contains an enclosed winder attic stair that passes through cut-out ceiling joists, suggesting the stair was an early addition to the house.

The basement, reached by a winder stair under the ell stair, historically contained a kitchen in the original section and a dining room in the addition (the room under the ell, now a mechanical room, may have served for storage). The kitchen has a brick-paved floor, painted stone walls, a crude stone fireplace that appears to be a reduction of an originally larger fireplace, and a plaster-and-lath ceiling. Partitioned off from the kitchen is a narrow room under the center passage with whitewashed log ceiling joists and a beaded batten door in the vertical-board partition. The dining room has a simple Greek Revival mantel, a concrete floor, and a beaded matchboard wainscot with painted brick walls above.

In the attic of the original section are revealed sawn common rafters lapped and pegged at the ridge with lapped and nailed collars. The roof over the addition has a ridge board in the hipped section but has common rafters mortise-and-tenoned and pegged over the ell. When the addition was added the original north gable was enclosed; it retains weatherboards with weathered white paint. A loose section of gas pipe with a turncock is left over from the house's former carbide gas lighting system (it is not known where the carbide tank was kept).

Domestic Outbuildings and Landscape Features

Locust Hill's surviving outbuildings are mostly arrayed along a north-south line behind the house, and most are connected by a concrete walkway with a stone border that passes through the summer kitchen breezeway. At the south end of the line is the 1897 schoolhouse known as Willis's School, a one-story frame building with weatherboard siding, a gable roof with scalloped vergeboards and metal sheathing (in place of earlier wood shingles), six-over-six windows, a beaded batten door with a pottery knob, beaded door and window surrounds, and a foundation of brick piers. The roof engages a front porch with chamfered posts and, at its south end, a closet constructed of old and modern lumber. The one-room interior features mid-twentieth-century drywall finishes above a horizontal beaded board wainscot, plain door and window surrounds, and was formerly heated by a stove that stood at the center of the room and was exhausted by a brick flue that once projected above the roof ridge. The front porch was enclosed shortly after the schoolhouse was built, for the room it contained is said to have been used to store the coats and shoes and students. The porch was reopened, perhaps during the mid-

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**Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

twentieth century when the building was used as an artist's studio.

Next in line is the smokehouse, which has mortise-and-tenon and pegged framing members suggesting a date of construction in the mid-nineteenth century. Exterior features include weatherboard siding, beaded cornices and cornerboards, a steep metal-sheathed gable roof, a batten door hung on wrought strap hinges, and a deteriorated foundation of brick and stone piers and infill. The smoke-darkened interior is arranged with crude work tables and bins, and there is evidence of salt use, especially in the furring of the joists and hewn sills under the building. A notable feature are the numerous pegs that were used for hanging the meat. These are set into the rafters and collar beams (both classes of members are lapped and pegged), but not into the hewn ceiling joists below.

To the north of the summer kitchen is a cistern with a rectangular concrete cap, and beyond that a dairy constructed of painted six-course American bond brickwork with a metal-sheathed shed roof, a batten door hung on wrought strap hinges with spade ends, a shuttered window opening, and brick pavers and whitewashed walls and rafters inside. On the dairy's south and east elevations are vertical indentations that may have served as attachment points for some now missing outbuilding or addition. Beyond the dairy is a crude stone foundation, roughly rectangular in lay out, that is thought to represent the remains of a slave dwelling.

Off the line, to the north side of the house, are four concrete footers in the form of a square for a former water tower, and a brick-lined pit of semi-octagonal form and unknown original function. At the north edge of the nominated parcel is a one-story frame chickenhouse with vertical-board and board-and-batten siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof with exposed rafter ends, south-facing window openings, and a whitewashed interior divided into two unequal parts by a partition. In front of the house, on axis with the front entry, is a herringbone-pattern brick walkway that extends down slope, with an offshoot leading to the greenhouse. The front yard is shaded by numerous deciduous and evergreen trees, including specimen trees such as a blue spruce, and there are plantings of lilac and Rose of Sharon, particularly off the north side of the house. A depression near the front drive indicates the site of a former icehouse.

Store Complex

The Locust Dale Store and Post Office and associated resources are located in the south corner of the intersection of Highway 15 and routes 614 and 634. The north-facing store is a story-and-a-half building of weatherboarded frame construction with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof.

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Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.

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There is a story-and-a-half gabled wing on the east side flanked by one-story shed-roofed wings on each side. The building stands on a foundation of brick piers (except for a stone footer at the southwest corner) and has a brick flue projecting from the interior and evidence of a second flue that once served the side wings. The shed-roofed front porch stands on turned posts and has beaded exposed rafters in the roof structure, decorative rafter ends, beaded matchboard sheathing in the roof ends, and concrete steps inscribed with the date 1935. Under the porch is a center entry with a four-light transom and two-leaf doors. The doors have removable upper wood panels which were originally put in place at night to protect the glass panes behind them from break-ins. To either side are large ten-over-ten windows with mid-twentieth century metal mesh screens. A pair of ten-over-ten windows are also found on the rear gable end; other windows are six-over-six and have delicate moldings. Other features visible on the exterior include a molded cornice, quarter-round cornerboards, hewn sills and sawn floor joists, a batten door to the front shed wing and a diagonal beaded batten door to the rear shed wing, and cut nails used to attach the weatherboards on all sections of the building.

The first floor of the main section of the store has a single long sales room interrupted only by a concrete stove flue that rises through the center of the space. The floors are wood and there are sections of beaded matchboard sheathing on the front and back walls but the ceiling and most wall surfaces have pressed-metal sheathing. The ceiling is patterned with coffer-like squares with egg and dart borders and has three larger squares with central medallions and surrounding arabesques and a narrow coved cornice. The wall has a three-part frieze with elliptical sunbursts and geometric Art Nouveau designs above a trellis-like surface ornamented with fleur-de-lis designs. Along the two side walls are shelves on curved metal brackets above lower wood counters with drawers and turned legs; the shelving is said to have been manufactured by the Clore company of Madison. On the east wall are built-in bins for flour, beans, salt and sugar, and near the bins are pigeon holes for bolts, screws and other such hardware. Separated from the shelves by narrow aisles are counter tables with turned legs, and running on tracks over the aisles are rolling ladders. At the back of the room is a post office counter, window grille, and pigeon holes (this counter formerly stood at the front of the room).

A doorway leads into the front shed wing which has plaster-and-lath walls and ceiling. The room may originally have served as an office, but in the early twentieth century it served as a bedroom for the clerk. Another doorway leads into the first floor of the story-and-a-half wing, an unfinished wareroom that extends into the back shed wing. Crude stairs rise into the upper level of the wing, which has a partitioned off clerk's bedroom. The attic in the main section is unfinished. In a west-facing gable are stored numerous store records, most apparently from the

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**Locust Hill
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Description (continued)

1920s, 1930s and 1940s.

The fertilizer house, built in 1934, is a one-story frame building with board-and-batten siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The building has a concrete foundation, a metal-sheathed front door on a track, and rectangular louvered vents in lieu of windows on the other elevations. Set into the concrete under the front door are two horseshoes. The privy, built in the 1960s to replace an earlier privy that stood nearby, is a small frame building with weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, a cinder block foundation, diamond-shaped vents, and two batten front doors. The present post office is a ca. 1980 metal trailer with a wood handicap ramp. A driveway--the pre-1929 bed of Highway 15--runs along the west side of the store and present post office, and a board and barbed wire fence encloses the complex on the south side.

Integrity Statement

Locust Hill possesses very good integrity of fabric and setting from the period of significance. The house is virtually unchanged from the appearance it had acquired by the early twentieth century. It retains its full complement of mantels and doors as well as other trim and extensive historic decorative finishes such as the graining in the center passage. Most of the property's domestic outbuildings survive, although it has lost a group of nineteenth-century farm buildings that stood at the north end of the nominated parcel. The present concentration of shade and ornamental trees to the west (in front) of the house follows historic precedent, as seen in a late-nineteenth-century photograph, and it appears that some of the trees date to the nineteenth century. The Locust Dale Store and Post Office and accompanying fertilizer house also possess very good integrity: the store, for example, retains shelves, counters, post office pigeon holes, metal wall and ceiling sheathing, and other features from the historic period. The ca. 1980 trailer that houses the present post office detracts somewhat from the store's integrity of setting. The land around the Locust Hill complex remains agricultural and lightly developed, with a number of other historic properties visible from the nominated parcel.

The house began to deteriorate in recent years due to deferred maintenance. The present owners have retained the architectural firm Don A. Swofford & Associates to prepare a rehabilitation plan that will correct the deterioration and will upgrade the house to modern standards. Few alterations are anticipated to the character-defining exterior and interior features, although two modifications require mention. The present back porch will be replaced with a new one-story porch, modeled on the old, that will extend along the south side of the ell rather than the main body of the house, and a two-tier porch and bathroom stack will be added to the north side of

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**Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

the ell behind the historic bathroom tower. Neither of these alterations will be readily visible from the front. The basement will be returned to its historic function as a food preparation and eating area. The chickenhouse will be removed but the other outbuildings and landscape features will be retained as is or rehabilitated for new uses. A new access drive and parking area are to be put in behind (east of) the outbuilding row, and a barn may be built further to the east. For the Locust Dale Store and Post Office, which is presently used for storage, a sympathetic new use is anticipated.

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Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Locust Hill, located amid the rolling farmland of eastern Madison County, Virginia, is a well-preserved Federal-Greek Revival residence accompanied by a school, a store, and domestic and commercial outbuildings. The original section was apparently built in 1834 by Travis J. Twyman, who enlarged the house to its present form about 1849. Notable architectural features include a Doric front porch and spirited interior mantels and graining. In the late nineteenth century the house belonged to the scholarly Willis family. Larkin Willis II taught at the nearby Locust Dale Academy, and his daughter, Mary Lucy Willis, taught public school in a one-room schoolhouse built on the property in 1897 and known as Willis's School. To the house the Willises added a greenhouse, a summer kitchen, and a bathroom tower. A smokehouse and dairy number among the domestic outbuildings, which date from the mid-nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. The nominated parcel includes the Locust Dale Store and Post Office, a well-preserved 1880s store building of characteristic gable-fronted form located across the highway from the house and operated by the Willis family into the mid-twentieth century. A rehabilitation of the Locust Hill complex is now underway by the Willis descendants.

Applicable Criteria

Locust Hill meets Criterion C and is eligible in the architecture area of significance as the embodiment of Federal and Greek Revival domestic design, for the artistic value of its well-preserved graining, and for other notable architectural attributes cited in the text. The property also meets Criterion A and is eligible in the education area of significance primarily for its inclusion of Willis's School, a one-room schoolhouse dating to 1897, and also by its association with rural Virginia's late-nineteenth-century transition from private to public education as the residence of two generations of Willis family educators. The period of significance extends from the apparent 1834 date of construction of the original section of the house until ca. 1950, embracing the construction dates of outbuildings such as the 1934 fertilizer house. Locust Hill is eligible at the local level of significance. Information in support of designation appears throughout the historic context.

Acknowledgments

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among these were the owners of the property and the nomination's sponsors, Mike and Betty Long. Others who provided assistance included Don A. Swofford and Janet Ferrance of Don A. Swofford & Associates; E. L. Tucker; Lee A. Twyman; and David Edwards, June Ellis, Quatro

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Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Hubbard, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historic Context

The land on which Locust Hill stands belonged to Uriel (or Urial) Mallory in the early nineteenth century, and may have been acquired by Mallory in 1811. In 1831 Uriel and his wife Malinda conveyed approximately forty acres to their son, James Mallory, and tax records for the years 1832 and 1833 show a building or buildings valued at \$200 on the tract. In December 1833 James and his wife Ann sold the tract (now described as approximately fifty acres) to Travis J. Twyman for \$1,800. According to one account, James and Ann Mallory sold the property upon their removal to Alabama. In 1834 the value of buildings on the tract increased to \$1,000, an amount sufficiently large to suggest construction of the original section of Locust Hill. Locust Hill's present owner, Betty Long, whose family has owned the property since 1864, recalls older family members stating that the house was built in 1834. The Federal-Greek Revival styling of the original section is consistent with a date of construction in the 1830s.¹

Col. Travis J. Twyman and his wife Sarah were therefore Locust Hill's original occupants. Their new house stood near the intersection of Scott's and Fry's roads and near the Locust Dale Post Office, established in 1823. (The post office, at first known as Locust Grove, is said to have taken its name from a surrounding grove of locust trees, perhaps the same source of the name for Locust Hill.) Tax records for 1849 describe \$800 worth of "Improvements" to the property: this likely represents the addition of the north part of the house and the ell. Twyman was a farmer, and the 1850 census indicates a small but productive agricultural operation worked by farm hands among Twyman's eleven slaves. From 100 improved acres Twyman harvested 300 bushels of wheat and 500 bushels of corn, and he produced hay, grass seed, and hops, the last two articles unusual for Madison County farms of the era. Twyman sold the property to Miles Turpin of Richmond in 1864. According to his descendants, Turpin bought the property as a refuge in the event he and his family were forced out of Richmond by the war. Soon after the

¹ Madison County Deed Book 11, p. 42, Deed Book 12, p. 2, and tax records; Betty Long personal communication; Dore, *Madison County Homes*, 48; and Vogt and Kethley, *Madison County Marriages*, 50.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

purchase Turpin gave the property to his daughter, Lelia Agnes Willis (b. ca. 1841).²

Lelia's husband was Larkin Willis II (1835-1927), one of the original instructors at Locust Dale Academy. The academy, a boys' preparatory school begun shortly after the Civil War, stood across SR 634 from Locust Hill. Willis, who had attended the University of Virginia, taught at the academy in 1870, as did his neighbor Andrew J. Gordon, who was the school's principal and who boarded thirty-five students at his home in 1870. (It is not known whether the Willis family also boarded students.) Larkin Willis retired from teaching in the late 1890s, but the family association with local education was continued by his daughter, Mary Lucy Willis (b. 1871). In 1897, for a reported \$75, Larkin Willis built a one-room schoolhouse on the property, known as Willis's School, at which Mary Lucy taught public school. A photograph believed to date to about 1898 shows Mary Lucy Willis seated in front of the schoolhouse with a group of male and female students, including Mary Lucy's younger sister Ruby (see Exhibit C). The careers of Larkin and Marcy Lucy Willis reflect an important transition in the history of Virginia education, the change from a system of privately run and funded academies for the benefit of the privileged to one based in state-supported public schools and open to all children.³

In later life Larkin Willis II went into the general merchandise business. The first indication contained in statewide business directories of a store at Locust Dale is in 1884 when the R. G. Willis & Co. general store is listed, and Larkin Willis is listed as the Locust Dale postmaster. The present store building has architectural features that support a date of construction in the 1880s. Eugene M. Scheel's 1984 historical map of Madison County locates "L. Willis's 1st store" across SR 614 from the present location, and longtime area resident Lee A. Twyman recalls hearing that the original location of the business was a short distance to the east on the same side of the road. (Twyman notes that the present store has stood at its present location since

² U.S. census; Betty Long personal communication; Yowell, *History of Madison County*, 61, 145; and Dore, *Madison County Homes*, 48. Miles Turpin and his wife Rebecca Marshall Turpin do not appear to have taken up residence at Locust Hill.

³ U.S. census; Betty Long personal communication; Dore, *Madison County Homes*, 48-49; Yowell, *History of Madison County*, 110; and Scheel, "Madison County." As might be expected, Larkin and Lelia Willis's other children were properly schooled. A book shelf in Locust Hill's attic contains numerous composition books, mathematics books, geographies, and other text books used by the children from the 1870s to the 1890s.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

his earliest memory about 1920, and Willis family tradition maintains that the present building has always stood at its present site.) Both store and post office are listed under Larkin Willis's name during the 1890s, and in the first two decades of the twentieth century the name Willis & Son was used, reflecting the addition of Larkin's son Jack to the firm. Larkin Willis had retired from business by the 1920s, but Jack carried on into the second half of the twentieth century. Letter head of the 1940s period for Willis & Son lists "General Merchandise and Country Produce, Standard Gasoline and Motor Oils, Agents for Seed & Fertilizer." Jack Willis also succeeded his father as Locust Dale postmaster.⁴

Lee A. Twyman recalls many details about the store's operation during the first half of the twentieth century. As a general merchandise store the stock included "a little of everything." The fertilizer house, which was used to store potatoes on occasion, was built in 1934 by Harry Mahanes, a carpenter who built barns and other buildings in the area (a 1906 statewide business directory lists Harry Mahanes as a sawmill operator in the Radiant vicinity of Madison County). The clerk slept in the store, at first in the front shed wing and then later, when break-ins became a concern, in the upstairs. The store was robbed only once that Twyman is aware of, in the 1930s or 1940s. Carbide gas, piped from the main house, provided lighting until the store was electrified about 1927. Clerks included men named Crigler and Clore and, more recently, C. Scott Dean.⁵

Locust Hill passed to Larkin and Lelia's daughter Ruby (1887-1982), who married Spotswood Burwell in 1914. Jack Larkin lived with the couple for much of the twentieth century. Ruby and Spotswood's children are William Spotswood Burwell, Agnes Burwell Sparks (d. 1999), and Gertrude Burwell Poole. William is a retired mechanical engineer who lived in the house until 1999. Agnes was an artist who summered at Locust Hill, using the schoolhouse as her studio. Gertrude is the mother of present owner Betty Long, who with her husband Mike has initiated

⁴ Scheel, "Madison County;" Chataigne and Hill business directories; and Lee A. Twyman personal communication. Longtime area resident E. L. Tucker, who has used the store for storage in recent years, has heard a tradition that the present store building was moved to its present site, but this is contradicted by Lee Twyman and Willis family tradition.

⁵ Lee A. Twyman personal communication.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

a rehabilitation of the house (see section 7 integrity statement for rehabilitation discussion).⁶

Architectural Analysis

Locust Hill and its associated historic resources are notable for the quality and diversity of their architectural features. The Federal-Greek Revival interior styling is notable for the earliness of the Greek Revival influence in the 1834 section and, somewhat more expected, the persistence of Federal influence in the ca. 1849 section. The Greek Revival front porch and symmetrical door and window moldings in the first-floor north room are normative for the period. In contrast to the classically-inspired antebellum features are those added to the house during the late nineteenth/early twentieth century period. The scalloped vergeboards on the ca. 1890 summer kitchen and the 1897 schoolhouse recall the more ornate Gothic Revival vergeboards that were popular earlier in the nineteenth century. The pyramidal-roofed bathroom tower is a simplified version of the towers that graced the larger Queen Anne houses of the era. According to family tradition, the Willises were among the first families in the area to have indoor bathrooms.⁷

There is almost an assembly line aspect to the efficient arrangement of the domestic outbuildings and their relation to the house. The smokehouse and dairy are linked to the summer kitchen by the north-south concrete walkway (with stone borders that may survive from an earlier brick or stone walkway), and the central summer kitchen, where foodstuffs from the smokehouse and dairy were made into meals, links directly to the house by way of a basement entry under the breezeway. A detail that reflects the spirit of efficiency are the peg meat hooks in the smokehouse, which project from the sides of the rafters to maximize the use of space.

Willis's School is representative in scale and form of the first generation of one-room schools built after the inception of the Commonwealth's modern system of public schooling in the 1870s, albeit Locust Hill's schoolhouse was better built than many described by historian William A. Link in his study of Virginia public education, *A Hard Country and a Lonely Place*. Architecturally the building is not far removed from the template for small-scale nineteenth-century rural Virginia construction: a weatherboarded and gable-roofed box. Willis's School pre-

⁶ Dore, *Madison County Homes*, 49; Scheel, "Madison County;" and Betty Long and Lee A. Twyman personal communication.

⁷ Betty Long personal communication.

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**Locust Hill
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Statement of Significance (continued)

dates the early-twentieth-century trend in Virginia school construction towards standardization of form. Likewise, the Locust Dale Store and Post Office is representative of the gable-fronted frame general stores built throughout rural Virginia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The well-preserved interior features Clore shelving and decorative pressed-metal wall and ceiling sheathings that appear to date to the early twentieth century.⁸

⁸ Link, *A Hard Country*, 49-52; McCleary, "Augusta County Schools," 32.

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**Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.**

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel is depicted on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination.

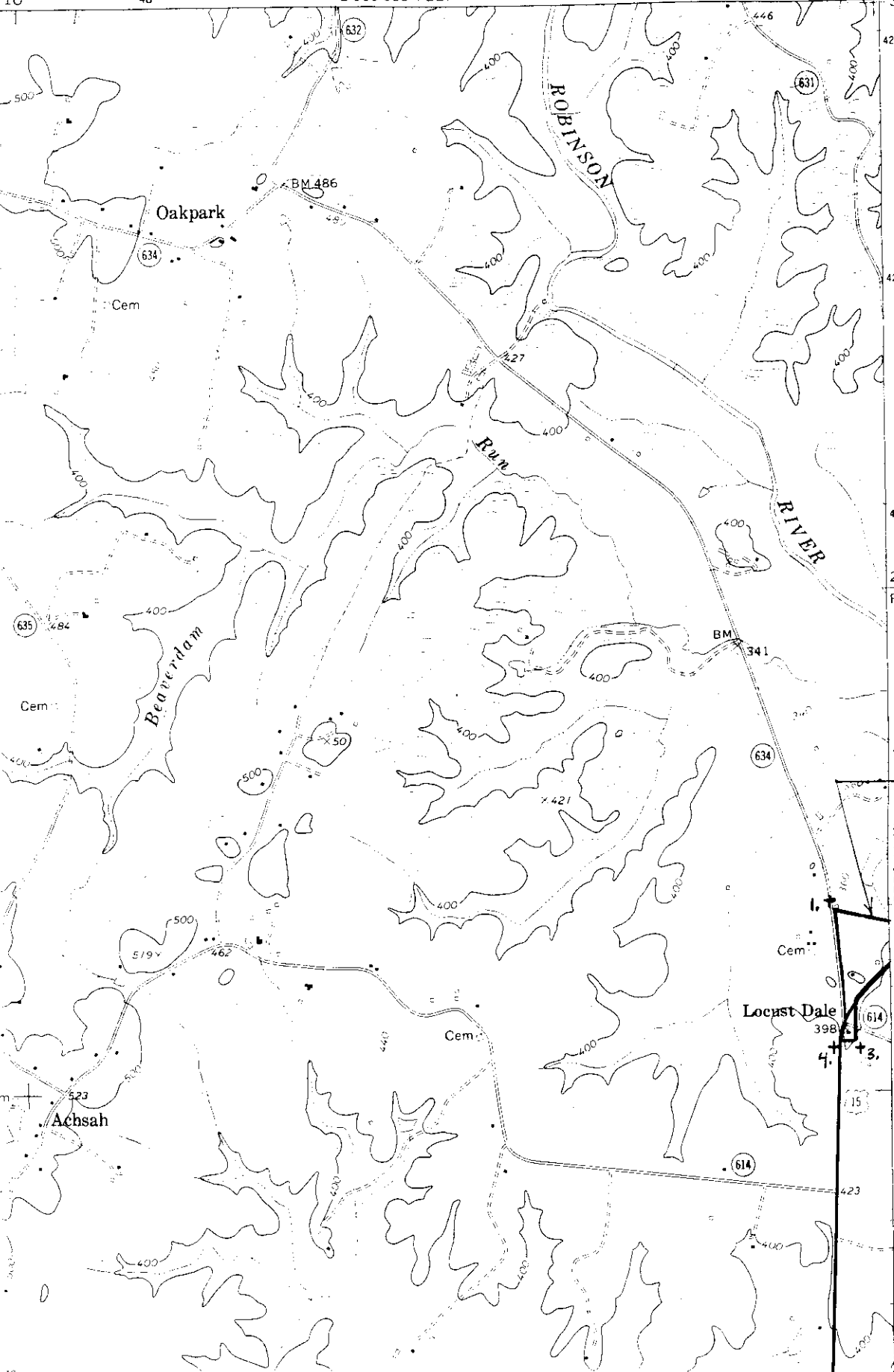
Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated parcel embrace the historically associated main house at Locust Hill, Willis's School, the Locust Dale Store and Post Office, and miscellaneous other resources. The boundaries are wholly contained within the modern tax parcel for the property (Madison County tax map section 51 parcel 39A).

MADISON MILLS QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 SW/4 RAPIDAN 15' QUADRANGLE

5360 1 NE
 (CULPEPER WEST)

10' 748 2 100 000 FEET 750 78° 07' 30" 38° 22' 30"



4251
 4250
 4249
 250 000
 FEET
 4248
 4247
 20'
 4246

56-5012

Locust Hill
 Madison Co., Va.
 UTM refs (zone 17):
 1. E751030 N4247310
 3. E751170 N4246700
 4. E751060 N4246700
 (See Rapidan USGS map
 for 2nd coordinate)

Locust Dale
 398
 4. + 3.

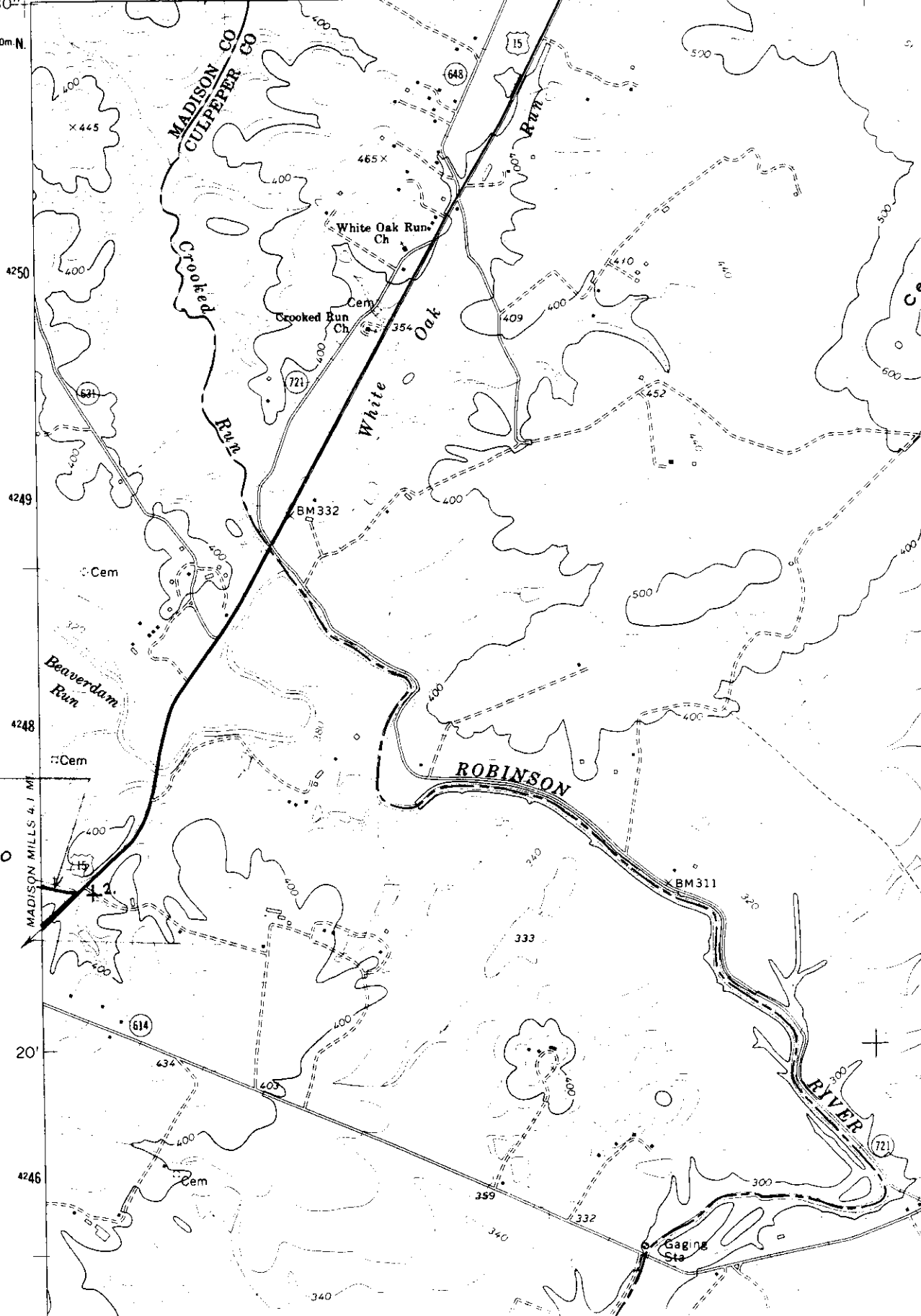
CULPEPER 11 MI.

53601 NW
(BRIGHTWOOD)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

78°07'30" 752000m E 753 5' 38°22'30" CULPEPER 8 MI.

4251000m N



Locust Hill
Madison Co., Va.
UTM refs (zone 17)
2.E751500 N4247210

(see Madison Mills USGS
Map for 1st, 3rd + 4th
coordinates)

MADISON MILLS 4.1 MI

20'

4246

