

VLR-9/18/79 NRHP-12/28/79

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Springfield

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 360 not for publication

city, town Heathsville vicinity of First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.) congressional district

state Virginia code 51 county Northumberland code 133

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name ~~Mr. Stephen W. Wordell~~ c/o ~~Motoryacht "Peaches"~~ New owner: L.W. Fleming  
street & number ~~600 Water Street, S.W.~~  
city, town ~~Washington~~ vicinity of Springfield state D.C. 20024  
RD 1, Box 404  
Heathsville, VA 22473

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northumberland County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Heathsville state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey  
title Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1958  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Springfield, a Federal-style residence, is located on Route 360 just outside the town of Heathsville in Northumberland County. Erected between 1828-30 and "improved" in 1850, the brick dwelling is a 2½-story, central-hall plan house covered by a gable roof.

Set on a brick foundation, the front (south) elevation is laid in Flemish bond. The main five-bay facade is dominated by a handsome pedimented two-level portico set on a brick podium. The tetrastyle fluted-columned portico features a semicircular lunette in the tympanum. A cast-iron rail graces the first and second stories. The portico shelters first- and second-story entries, both of which have rectangular fanlight transoms, paneled double-doors, and louvred and paneled shutters, all original to the house. The fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows framed by a three-part architrave and surmounted by lintel-type heads. A molded brick cornice runs the entire length of both the north and south elevations. The facade was extended by the addition of 1½-story, stepped-gable wings containing round-arched windows with intersecting Gothic tracery on the first story. The openings originally were deeper, but the bottoms have been bricked in. The half-story features a lunette. The windows have stuccoed lintels with keystones.

The garden (north) elevation, like the other secondary walls, is laid in Flemish bond. A two-level porch has been removed from the rear wall; its original position is indicated by an outline on the brick and an asymmetrically positioned door on the second story. A double-door rear entrance is provided on the first story. The fenestration consists of the original 6/6 hung-sash windows flanked by shutters.

Both the east and west elevations contain side entrances and paired 6/6 hung-sash windows on the wing and the attic story. The main basement entrance is located on the west elevation.

The interior of Springfield contains distinguished architectural elements. The central hall contains an open-well stair that ascends to the attic. The stair has paneled spandrels, sawn-scroll brackets, a round handrail, and rectangular balusters, two to a tread. Parallel to the stair is a handsomely paneled wainscot with a rounded chair rail. A similarly paneled wainscot runs the perimeter of the hall. The doorways in the hall have fluted symmetrical architrave trim with finely molded corner blocks. The hall ceiling boasts an original stucco acanthus medallion centerpiece enclosed within a border of palmettes. The original lamp hook remains in place. The east parlor remains in a fine state of preservation. The focal point of the room is the Roman Revival-style mantel, original to the house. The mantel is composed of reeded Roman Doric columns that support a simply executed entablature and mantel shelf. A paneled wainscot, similar to that found in the hall, flanks the mantel. Openings in the parlor have fluted symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks. The room features a shallow plaster cornice and an ornamental stucco ceiling medallion composed of feathers and palmettes.

The west side of the first floor is divided into two rooms, presently used as a dining room and a den. The dining room contains a Federal-style mantel, flanked by a paneled wainscot similar to that found in the east parlor. Openings have fluted symmetrical architrave trim with rounded corner blocks. The room also contains an ornamental stucco ceiling medallion of feathers and palmettes; all three medallions differ slightly. The den contains a simply executed mantel flanked by cupboards; also there is a raised-panel wainscot and chair rail. The second-floor rooms are less elaborate than those on the first floor. More simply executed mantels and symmetrical architrave trim are the primary decorative elements.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1828-30; 1850      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Springfield is an imposing Federal-style house dominating an extensive tract of land on the edge of the county seat village of Heathsville. Erected in 1828 by the prosperous merchant William Harding, the house was enlarged and renovated in 1850 and ranks among the finest Post-Revolutionary seats of the Northern Neck. Its fine brickwork, rich Greek Revival detailing, and notable outbuildings illustrate the architectural sophistication of the region during the second quarter of the 19th century.

The name "Springfield" first appears on a Northumberland County deed in 1791 when John Heath acquired property from John Gordon. In that deed the Springfield property is described as consisting of three tracts: one of fifty acres that John Gordon had purchased from William Thomas in 1776; a second tract known as Black Point acquired through Gordon's marriage; and a third tract of two hundred acres purchased from Daniel Muse. Whether Heath lived on the property is not known. His name disappears from the tax books by 1805, indicating that by that time he had probably defaulted on his mortgage. This is borne out in 1813 when the property was purchased by Foushee Tebbs at an auction organized by a group of Special Commissioners of Northumberland County. The deed in 1813 describes the property as Springfield, containing 649 acres and including a storehouse. Tebbs, whose residence is given as Richmond and Essex counties, sold the property in 1826 to William Harding, Jr., the builder of the Springfield residence.

William Harding, Jr., was the son of William Harding, Sr., who was a substantial landholder in Northumberland County. Harding Jr. married in 1818 and by 1820 was affluent enough to have fourteen slaves, five horses, and one carriage. He and his father paid the merchant's licensing fee of \$20 each in 1820, indicating they were operating some kind of a store in Heathsville. Later, the fee is charged to Harding and Son, a firm that is also referred to in the will of William Harding, Sr., dated 1827. By 1828 the firm is referred to as William Harding Jr. and Brothers, which it remained until ca. 1837 when the ownership of the store is transferred to Cyrus Harding alone, brother of William Jr. During the period 1830-50, William Harding was buying substantial acreage throughout the county. In the 1850 census, he is listed as holding real estate valued at \$71,000, nearly the highest amount in the county. In the period just prior to 1851, Harding added some \$4,000 worth of improvements to his Springfield property. The Springfield improvements were initially \$3,000, and the total valuation of \$7,000 remained unchanged through at least 1863.

Springfield is interesting architecturally for being a fine Federal house elaborated at a later period by its builder. Harding, at the apex of his business career, added the wings and installed elaborate Greek Revival-style appointments. The improvements included the restyling of the portico and addition of the cast-iron railings. Interior modifications included the ornamental stucco ceiling medallions. In spite of his accumulated wealth, Harding was satisfied improving his property, rather than building a stylistically more fashionable residence. The improvements of 1850 are among the more notable and well-preserved examples of fine Greek Revival-style detailing on the Northern Neck and rival Richmond town-houses of the period.

The trees and shrubs that survive around the house were formerly a part of an elaborately planned formal landscape typical of large early 19th-century Virginia houses. A most unusual

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bulletin of the Northumberland Co. Historical Society, vol. V, N. 1, (1968), pp. 37-49.  
 Eubank, H. Ragland. The Authentic Guidebook of Historic Northern Neck of Virginia.  
 Colonial Beach, Va. 1934.  
 Northumberland County Land Tax Books 1782-1863.  
 Personal Property Tax Books 1820-50. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 29 acres

Quadrangle name Heathsville, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

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3	6	9	9	3	0
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4	1	9	8	4	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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3	6	9	9	3	0
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4	1	9	7	8	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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3	6	9	7	4	0
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4	1	9	7	8	9	0
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D 

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3	6	9	7	1	0
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4	1	9	8	4	0	0
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E 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point at NW corner of E intersection of State Route 601 and U.S. Route 360; thence extending 700' NW along N side of said U.S. route; thence extending about 1700' N; thence extending about 700' E to W side of route 601; thence extending about 1800' S along said side of said route to point of origin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #2)

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date August 1979

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Tucker Hill  
 Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date SEP 18 1979

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Springfield, Northumberland County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1969, 1970, 1979 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

The east and west wings, added in 1850, are connected to the main house by an arcaded hall with exposed brick and German boarded siding. The wings contain fluted symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks and ornamental stucco ceiling medallions. The west passage contains a stone step carved with the initials, "W.H. 1828".

A number of Springfield's original outbuildings survive. The office is a one-story building with Flemish bond and a gable roof. The original paneled front and rear doors, 6/6 hung sash, and louvred shutters survive. The interior contains a simply executed wood mantel.

The dairy is a one-story brick building executed in Flemish bond and five-course American bond and covered with a gable roof. The original paneled door survives.

The slave quarters is a three-bay, one-story building executed in Flemish bond and five-course American bond and covered by a gable roof. Three original doors survive. The original windows are presently blocked. The carriage house is a 1½-story, gable-roof building executed in five-course American bond. The south wall is presently in a state of disrepair. No woodwork survives.

A description of the estate grounds is contained in Lucy Waring's "Hardings of Northumberland County, Virginia" (1971):

The lawns were designed symmetrically. If a yew tree were planted at one point-another was placed at a point opposite...At one time there were great quantities of handsome English boxwood growing on both the front and back lawns. The formal garden to the rear was designed in the nature of a puzzle. Upon entering the main passageway-it was virtually impossible to find an exit...In later years an occupant experienced great difficulty in disposing of the boxwood. It was fed to hogs who refused to eat it, then presented to the cows who likewise declined - finally it was carted away.<sup>1</sup>

Box survive immediately in front of the main house.

RCC

<sup>1</sup>Lucy Waring, "Hardings of Northumberland County, Virginia, p. 127.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Springfield, Northumberland County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 8,9,10 PAGE 2

### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

feature of the garden was a box maze located to the rear of the house. Although common in 18th-century England, the maze garden at Springfield is atypical to 19th-century Virginia garden plans. The garden site has unfortunately been plowed up and converted into a field.

MTP/RCC

### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

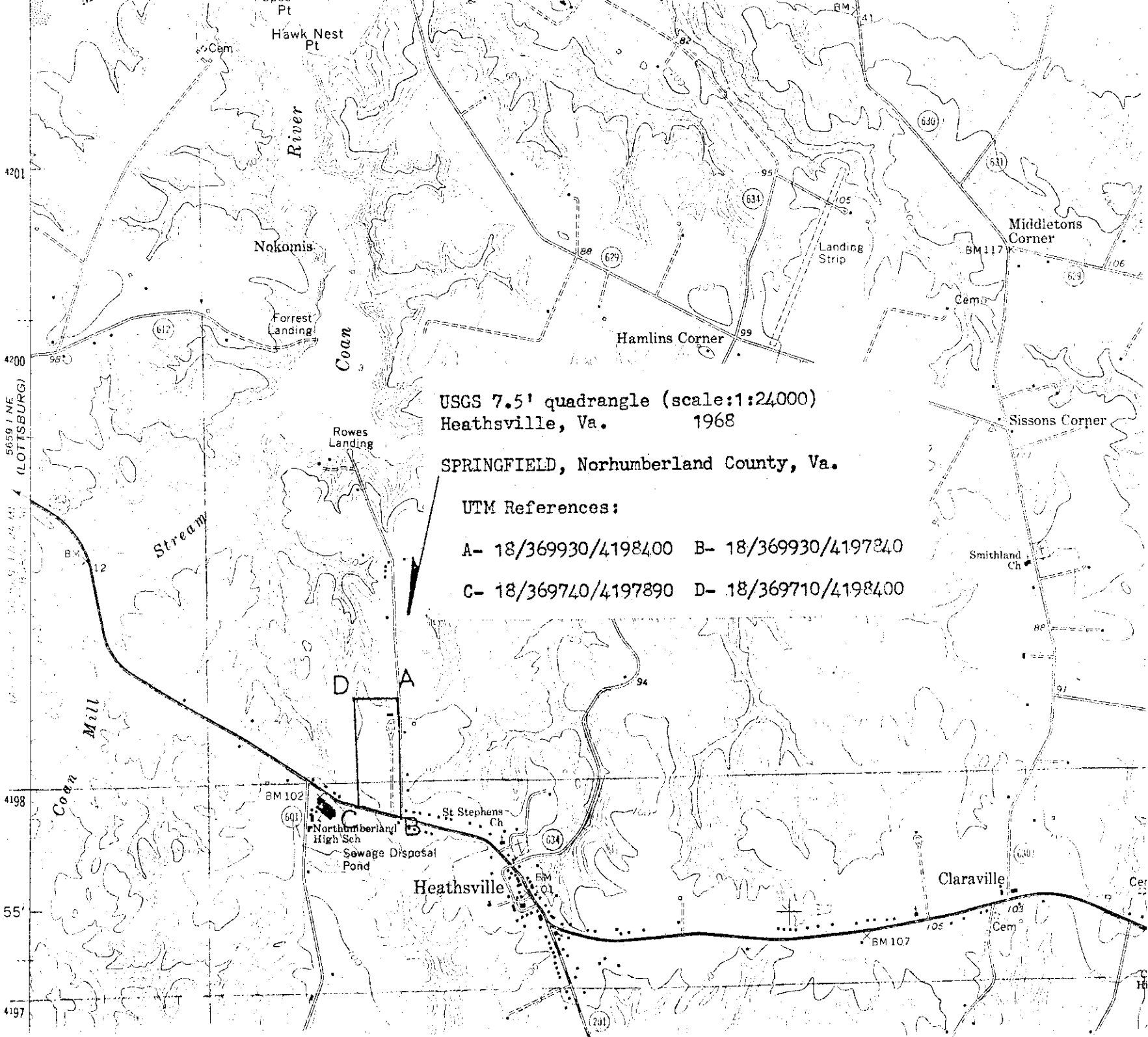
Record Books 14, 19, 25.

U.S. Census, 1850, Northumberland Co.

Waring, Lucy Lemoine. "Hardings of Northumberland County, Virginia, and Their Related Families." Wicomico Church, Virginia, 1971.

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property of twenty-nine acres is a fraction of the original land holdings of William Harding. The boundary is drawn to include a field in the front of the house fronting Route 360 and a sufficient amount of land around the house to include all the original outbuildings on the original Harding home tract. Route 360 and a road to Rowes Landing constitute two definite boundaries.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Heathsville, Va. 1968

SPRINGFIELD, Northumberland County, Va.

UTM References:

- A- 18/369930/4198400 B- 18/369930/4197240
- C- 18/369740/4197890 D- 18/369710/4198400