

VLR-4/17/86 NRHP-4/2/87

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Beaumont (DHL File No. 72-95)

and or common Beaumont Learning Center; Virginia Industrial School for Boys

2. Location

street & number VA Route 313 N/A not for publication

city, town Michaux  vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Powhatan code 145

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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
	N/A	<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. Edward W. Murray, Director, Department of Corrections

street & number 4615 West Broad Street

city, town Richmond  vicinity of state VA Zip Code 23261

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Powhatan County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Powhatan state Virginia Zip Code 23139

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Division of Historic Landmarks  
title Survey File No. 72-95 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1986  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks  
221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia Zip Code 23219



# 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 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** 1811; 1839      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beaumont is significant architecturally as a rare example in Virginia of a two-story, single-pile, central-passage plan house. A large dwelling when it was built in 1811, Beaumont consisted originally of only four rooms; the erection of the brick wing dates to ca. 1839. The formality of the original interior of the residence is suggested by the mantels and overmantels of the first-floor rooms as well as by Beaumont's finely executed wood trim. Its stylish doorway ranks among the finest Federal-period doorways yet found in Virginia. The plan and the interior and exterior finish of Beaumont reflect the prosperity and social prominence of William Walthall, one of Powhatan County's wealthiest citizens and landholders, who built the house after his marriage to Sally Michaux in 1806. The building is currently under the stewardship of the State Department of Corrections.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

William Walthall, the son of Archard and Frances Walthall, was born in Chesterfield County about 1784. On November 26, 1806 Walthall married Sally Michaux, daughter of Major Jacob Michaux and Mary Woodson of Powhatan County. The couple settled in Powhatan on the estate that William Walthall's father had bequeathed to him, taking title from his mother in 1810. In 1811 Walthall erected his two-story, wood-frame dwelling.

What is remarkable about Beaumont is the formality of its plan. Walthall erected a large two-story frame dwelling that contained only four rooms. A more conventional plan for the couple's needs could have been a two-story, hall-parlor plan house with two rooms on the first story and two rooms on the second story. Such a plan had become standard in Virginia architecture by the early 18th century and was eventually replaced by the central-passage "I-house" which became popular by the 1830s-1840s.

Besides its floor plan, Beaumont is formal in other ways. The doorway is quite stylish and distinguishes Beaumont from vernacular farmhouses of the same period found in Powhatan County. The design was derived from a contemporary builder's guide and ranks among the finest Federal-period doorways found in Virginia. Like the exterior, the interior woodwork is well executed. The first-floor rooms have both mantels and overmantels which are complemented by a dentiled cornice. Once again, such woodwork places Beaumont in a class of high-style building that most certainly reflected the social aspirations of its first owner, William Walthall.

William Walthall, one of the wealthiest citizens in Powhatan County and one of its largest landholders, built Beaumont on a 1,502-acre tract valued in 1821 at \$39,052. Through the 1830s Walthall continued to acquire land in Powhatan County and by 1837 owned over 3000 acres. Reflecting his status as one of the largest property owners in Powhatan, he served as county sheriff in 1836-37.

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BEAUMONT, Powhatan, County, VA

Continuation sheet # 2

Item number 8, 9, 10

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Although William and Sally Walthall had no issue, they did adopt a child, William B. Michaux, the nephew of Sally Walthall. For this adopted son's family, Walthall in 1839 added the brick wing to Beaumont, thereby increasing the value of his improvements in 1840 from \$3000 to \$6000. In 1842 the Beaumont tract was split with his nephew, the land tax book recording, "To William W. Michaux by deed from William Walthall for one half." Walthall died in 1847, followed by his wife in 1863. The Beaumont tract was inherited by William B. Michaux and remained in the Michaux family until 1889. After a succession of owners, it was acquired in 1937 by "Beaumont Farms" as a reform school for boys. The property is presently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and serves as the Beaumont Learning Center. The house is presently unoccupied.

R C C

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

WPA Survey. "Beaumont." Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the E side of an unimproved road (VA Rt. 313) approx. 1500' SW of the point where VA 313 forks SW; thence extending approx. 200' NE; thence approx. 300' SE; thence approx. 200' S; thence approx. 100' SW; thence approx. 100' NW; thence approx. 100' SW to E side of unimproved VA Rt 313; thence following said side of said route approx. 300' NNW to point of origin.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet # 2 )

Coulture, Richard. Powhatan: A Bicentennial History. Richmond: Dietz Press, 1980.  
 Powhatan County. Deed Books. 1847-1863.  
 Powhatan County. Land Tax Books. 1815-1845.  
 Walthall, Malcolm Elmore. Walthall Family. A Genealogical History. Charlotte:  
 C.D. Walthall, 1963.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approximately 2 acres

Quadrangle name Goochland, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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2	4	3	0	8	0
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4	1	7	2	7	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property for Beaumont consists of approximately two acres. This includes the house and a 20th-century non-contributing outbuilding. The two acres encompasses a small hill on which the house sits and is a small fraction of the original Beaumont tract of 1502 acres.

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

state N/A code   county N/A code  

state N/A code   county N/A code  

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Division of Historic Landmarks Staff

organization Division of Historic Landmarks date 1986

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143

city or town Richmond state Virginia Zip Code 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director  
 title Division of Historic Landmarks date February 26, 1987

**For NPS 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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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BEAUMONT, Powhatan County, VA

Continuation sheet # 1

Item number 7

Page 1

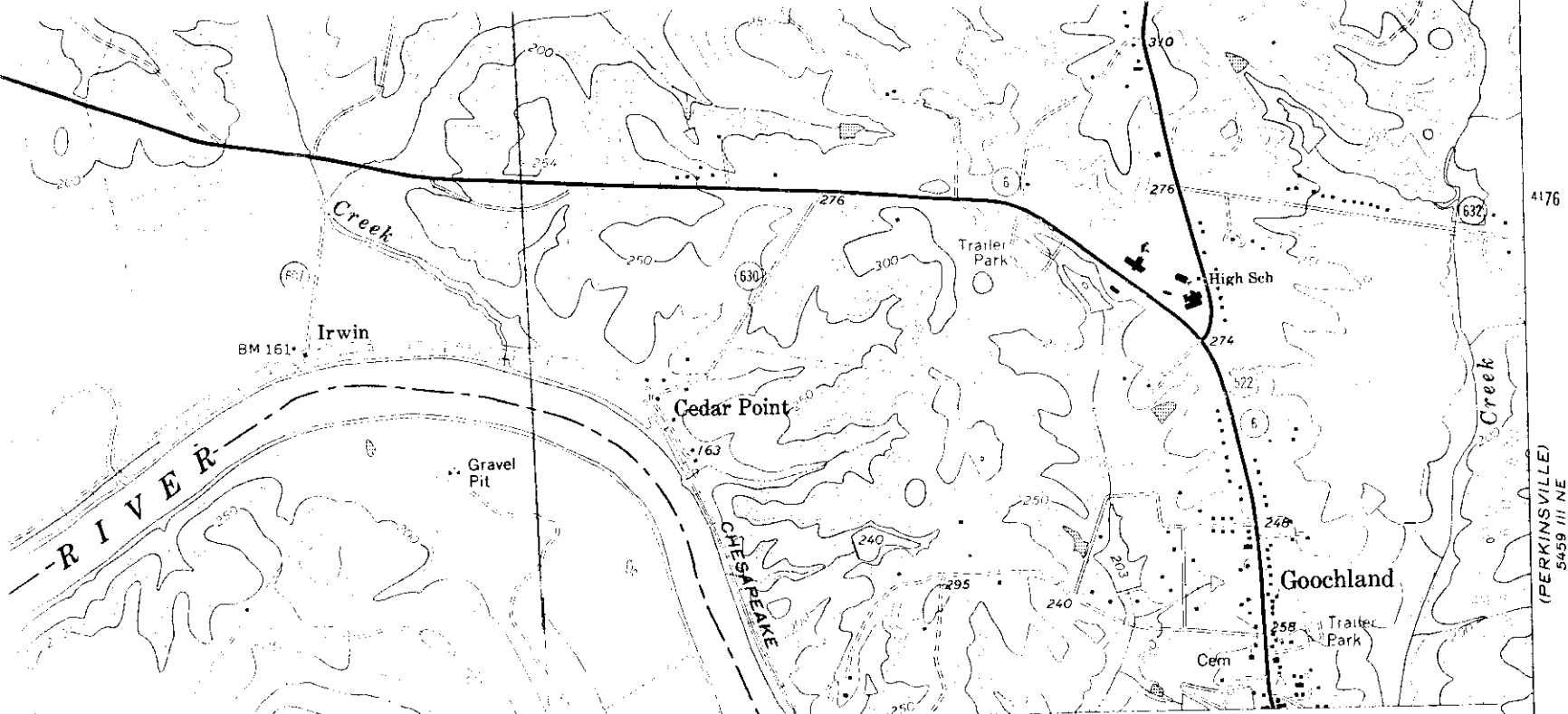
7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

has square posts that support a Greek Doric entablature. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows and 4/4 hung-sash windows. A single door is positioned in the southern-most bay. All openings are topped by Greek Revival-style lintels. A cornice runs along the roof line of all the elevations. The east elevation has a one-story, screened porch. While the porch dates to the same period as the one on the west elevation, it has been altered. Alterations include a cinder-block foundation and weatherboarding. It does retain its original posts and entablature. Like the west elevation, openings consist of 4/4 and 6/6 hung-sash windows. Two single doors lead into the addition. A one-bay, two-story addition projects from the northern-most bay. Unfortunately, the addition has suffered extensive repointing and is presently in a deteriorating state of repair. The northern elevation is pierced by 6/6 hung-sash windows.

The interior of the addition consists of a side-passage plan. The passage contains the main stair. The dog-leg stair has a turned newel, molded handrail and square balusters. All the doors and windows are framed by architrave trim. The mantels are Greek Revival in style.

A small one-story storage shed stands to the rear of the main house. It was erected during the past ten years and is non-contributing.

R C C



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Goochland, VA 1968 (PR 1974)

BEAUMONT, Powhatan County, VA

UTM References: 18/243080/4172740

