

VLR-12/11/84 NRHP-2/14/85

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 MAJOR DAVID GRAHAM HOUSE (Preferred) (VHLC FILE #98-8)

and or common Cedar Run Farm

2. Location

street & number Intersection of VA Route 619 and 626 N/A not for publication

city, town Fosters Falls X vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Wythe code 197

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<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 Dr. James L. Chitwood

street & number P.O. Box 1229

city, town Pulaski N/A vicinity of state Virginia 24301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wythe County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Hytheville state Virginia 24382

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

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey

title Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1958 X federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington, DC state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Major David Graham House is a 2½-story wood and brick structure of immense proportions whose constituent elements date from the last two-thirds of the 19th century. Designed in consecutively popular styles, from late Federal to orientalized Queen Anne, the house sits atop a hill overlooking the intersection of VA Routes 619 and 626 in Wythe County. Although the entire 215 acres of Graham's original farm is subsumed within the 300 acres owned by Dr. Chitwood, only the twenty-one acres surrounding the house and its outbuildings are nominated. Surrounding the Graham House are several outbuildings, including an office and commissary, kitchen, springhouse, and two barns. Elements of the original landscaping for the house also remain, including brick walks and ornamental ponds.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

As it exists today, the Major David Graham House is the result of four distinct building campaigns: ca. 1840, ca. 1855, ca. 1870, and ca. 1890.

The house is roughly T-shaped in plan along an east-west axis. Resting on a stone half basement, part of the house, the easternmost section, is a 2½-story, 3-bay side-passage-parlor plan house. This beaded weatherboarded wood-frame structure's decorative details incorporate late Federal and early Greek Revival elements. The northern and southern facades have porches appended to the main floors. The northern porch has been filled in recently while the 2-story, 4-bay southern porch has retained its bracketed Italianate features and paired post supports. The easternmost bay was enclosed to accommodate a dumbwaiter from the kitchen porch below.

The interior of the house is distinguished by Greek Revival window architraves, chair rail paneling, and mantels, while the late Federal stair banister, balusters, newel posts, and stringer with its stylized beaded scrollwork, may have been derived from plate 29 of Owen Bidde's Young Carpenter's Assistant (1810). The other aforementioned elements are derived from other patternbooks, including Benjamin and Reynard's American Builders' Companion (1806) cf. pl. 21, and Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter (1830) (cf. pl. 43).

Aside from the porches, the exterior of this section of the house further reflects the transitional and additive nature of the building. The main facade's (south) two western bays are delineated by 9/9 sash while the easternmost bay is explicated by an elaborate arched entry on the main floor as well as an arched doorway which leads onto the second-floor porch. The ground-floor entry consists of paired two-panel doors flanked by Greek Ionic engaged half columns en ressaut with high bases. The intercolumniations form narrow 1 by 4 paned sidelights whose architraves are carved as ovolos with roping. The shafts of the Ionic columns are solomontic and are supported by checked half round bases which flank carved panels beneath each sidelight. Above the column capitals, the abbreviated entablature is composed primarily of rope moldings interspersed between fascia. Atop the entablature is an elliptical fanlight whose archivolt is articulated by a triple fascia with rope molding and a heavy wooden keystone. This exuberant carving encloses equally elaborate Gothic tracery in the fanlight itself.

The second-floor doorway employs similar decorative elements, including diagonally carved antepagments which terminate in ovoid Adamesque discs. Above the door a

(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 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 checked="" 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 1840, 1855, 1870, 1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architecture of the Major David Graham House provides a chronicle of the architectural taste of a successful southwestern Virginia family during the last two-thirds of the 19th century. In conjunction with surviving documents, one can study the house to define the sources, materials, and inspirations for what passed as high-style architecture in this relatively remote section of the state. The various building campaigns appear to coincide with periods of financial success for the family, turning the house into a financial barometer of the health of the iron industry in southwestern Virginia. The house is also the site most closely associated with David Graham and his son, Major David Graham, prominent figures in the development of the regional iron industry.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1826 the heirs of James Crockett sold David Graham twelve tracts of land in Wythe County totalling 2,000 acres and with several structures standing, including an iron forge.¹ Among these parcels was a 213-acre tract, located on Cedar Run, on which Graham chose to build his home. Evidence of the existence of any structures on the property in 1826 is imprecise, but tax records reflect a major increase in the value of the property in 1840, indicating a major renovation of the existing buildings.² The fact that by 1835 David Graham had married, and that he buried two infant children by 1837 at his previous residence at Boiling Springs, serves further to confirm this date.

The essential decorative elements of the house, i.e., entryway, stairs, and window architraves, being composed of late Federal and early Greek Revival elements indicate the somewhat retardataire taste of this area of Virginia. Of particular note are the Greek Ionic engaged half columns of the entryway. Their solomontic shafts and checked dadoes are features that are rarely seen in Virginia and not usually found in architectural patternbooks. Others elements, such as the beaded scrollwork stair stringer, window architraves, mantels and fanlights, are clearly adapted from well-known patternbooks.

Sometime before 1856, David Graham began construction on a major addition to the earlier house on Cedar Run. Almost forty-five feet square and composed of brick formed from a nearby claybank, this addition brought the house to a size befitting the financially successful entrepreneur David Graham, his wife, and their five children. This expression of personal wealth coincides with a general economic boom in the early 1850s that would have sparked an increased demand for iron around the country and the state.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #4)

- Boyd, C.R. Resources of Southwestern Virginia. New York, 1881.
Dew, U.B. Ironmaker to the Confederacy. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966.
Hardesty, H.H. Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia. New York: H.H. Hardesty, 1884.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 21 acres

Quadrangle name Fosters Falls, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	1	7	5	1	1	4	8	1	0	4	1	0	8	1	5	4	8	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing															

B

1	1	7	5	1	1	6	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	8	1	5	2	1	7	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing																	

C

1	1	7	5	1	1	5	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	8	1	5	1	1	5	1	0
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D

1	1	7	5	1	1	2	1	7	1	0	4	1	0	8	1	5	1	1	2	1	0
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E

1	1	7	5	1	1	2	1	6	1	0	4	1	0	8	1	5	4	1	4	1	0
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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point approx. 50' NW of intersection of VA 626 with VA 619; thence extending approx. 600' NNW along W side of VA 619; thence approx. 300' NW; thence approx. 500' W; thence approx. 1,000' S to stream;
(See Continuation Sheet #4)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

organization VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION date 1984

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

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

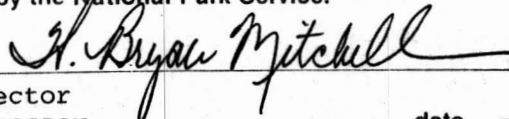
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
title VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

date December 11, 1984

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

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

MAJOR DAVID GRAHAM HOUSE, WYTHE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6, 7

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1977, 1984 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

semicircular fan window with diagonally carved archivolt, wooden keystone and Gothic tracery enliven the surface. Above the doorway the projecting cornice of the gable roof is notable for its series of bold rope moldings.

The western facade of this section of the house includes the chimney and is unadorned except for the returns of the cornices of the north and south sides. On the north side of the building, the original 9/9 sash remains on the second floor as does the roped cornice above it, but the ground-floor porch was enclosed sometime in the 20th century.

The remaining portion of the building, located to the east of the earlier structure, is a 2½-story, 5-course American bond with Flemish variant brick structure. It is extremely large, being approximately 45' square and 40' high. The surmounting hip-on-hip slate roof is articulated by metal crested hipped dormers, with a short hipped roofed tower with metal cresting, on the east (main facade) side of the house. The three-bay main facade is articulated by 8/8 sash windows. The central bay on the ground floor is expressed as a paneled doorway reached by a stone stair that leads to a porch in front of the door. A pair of cast-iron Ionic columns support a full Ionic entablature above the porch. A large bracketed cornice, broken only by the aforementioned tower mediates between the brick exterior walls and the slate roof. The tower pierces through the cornices and its walls are articulated by a single window on its face. This window is decorated by a hood mold in an Eastlake manner.

The north facade of this section is rather utilitarian, being the location of two chimneys with corbeled caps which flank paired 4/4 sash windows on each level.

The south elevation reflects the effects of the last addition. It consists of two full height bay windows built in a light orange colored brick. Each tripartite division of each bay is characterized by inset panels and simple double-hung 1/1 sash windows. These bays are topped by gable roofs whose bargeboards are of a Queen Anne design. The two bay windows flank porches at each level and each of these porches is partially enclosed by Moorish-arched wooden trellises. Behind the porches are a pair of symmetrically placed openings, one a window and one a door, which flank a single chimney.

The interior plan is a relatively simple double pile center-passage configuration. The stairway newel post and baluster are of a design that is consistent with the

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

United States Department of the Interior
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MAJOR DAVID GRAHAM HOUSE, WYTHE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #2

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Italianate section of the exterior of the house while the mantels are in a series of styles from Greek Revival to Queen Anne. Toilets and bathrooms occupy the westernmost of the bay windows while a simple arched opening provides access to the eastern bay.

In the basement the original coal fired steam boiler heating system remains intact.

There are several outbuildings in the house complex including two barns that date from the late 19th century and a springhouse, summer kitchen and a 2-story brick commissary and office building dating from the mid-19th century. One room in the commissary, presumably Graham's office, contains a Greek Revival mantel. In addition, several original landscape features, including brick walks, drives, and fish ponds, survive on the grounds.

SMB

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

The Italianate form chosen in Graham's first addition was popularized by the writings of Downing, Davis and Vaux. The appearance of this form in Wythe County in the mid-1850s coincides with its popularity across the country and indicates that David Graham, who traded frequently with Baltimore, was concerned with keeping up to date. A bill from a Baltimore merchant for a baluster and newel post, dated March 1856, indicated that the house was virtually complete by that date.³ The penetration of the railroads into southwestern Virginia in the 1850s provided easily available transportation and a ready market for Baltimore millwork. The Ionic porch is typical of Italianate structures in the western Valley areas of Virginia. The paired windows on the northern side of the addition is also seen in such Valley house as Bethel Green in Augusta County.

Between 1840 and 1870 David Graham, referred to as the "Squire," fully integrated his various industrial operations and guaranteed his supply by adding several iron and lead mining and milling facilities to his holdings in Wythe County. The ore he extracted was usually sent to one of the fourteen furnaces he operated at various times on Cedar Run and Cripple Creek. These furnaces all provided iron to be worked at Graham's forge. Graham employed as many as twenty-nine of his own slaves in manufacturing and hired dozens more to work in his mines, furnaces, forge, and mill. From his original purchase of 2,000 acres in 1826, Graham gradually increased his property holdings to nearly 6,000 acres valued at \$70,000 in 1860.⁴ "Squire" David Graham's reputation as a shrewd businessman for almost half a century in the pioneer age of the iron industry in Wythe County, has caused him to be remembered as the first ironmaster of southwestern Virginia.

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MAJOR DAVID GRAHAM HOUSE, WYTHE COUNTY, VA

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Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

The home is named for the son of the "Squire," Major David Pierce Graham. Born in 1838, David Pierce Graham was commissioned a captain in the Fifty-first Virginia Infantry in 1861. He served the Confederacy for three years, fought in five major battles, was promoted to the rank of major, and was discharged in 1864 due to poor health.⁵

Once discharged, Graham remained active in his support of the Confederacy by helping his father oversee the production of iron at Graham's forge which sent "gun metal of the highest quality"⁶ to the Tredegar Ironworks in Richmond. The major inherited a portion of his father's properties and interests in the iron industry when the Squire died in 1870. Following the war, the economically depressed South provided a poor market for iron. Furthermore, new technologies for the production of iron and steel were pioneered in the North that made most Virginia iron plants virtually obsolete. By 1881 Major Graham was operating the only forge in Wythe County. Graham's forge was equipped with three heating furnaces, four trains of rolls, five nail machines, and a hammer.⁷

In the post-war period, Major Graham continued to remodel his house, first adding a hip-on-hip roof, tower and dormers with the likely intention of creating a third story on his house, although the project was never fully realized. Later prosperity allowed Graham to add once more to his house. In an apparent quest for further creature comforts two bow windows, connected by porches to one another, were added to the southern side of the house. The easternmost of the bow windows contains toilets and baths. The exoticism of the addition, particularly the porch trellises, is quite surprising and unexpected for this area of Virginia.

The house and farm remained in the possession of the Graham family until 1944 when Reid S. Fulton purchased the property from Jim Graham. Mr. Fulton, a relative of Creed Fulton, one of the founders of Emory and Henry College, amassed one of the world's largest personal libraries. Fulton stored most of his library, which was estimated at nearly one million volumes, at Cedar Run farm.⁸ Fulton later sold the farm to Dr. James Chitwood, who has kept the farm and its outbuildings in excellent repair.

SDC/SMB

¹Wythe County, Deed Book 10, p. 362

²Wythe County, Personal Property Tax Records, 1840.

³Graham Family Papers, Manuscripts Collection, University of Virginia, Alderman Library, Charlottesville, VA.

⁴Wythe County, Personal Property Tax Records, 1860.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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MAJOR DAVID GRAHAM HOUSE, WYTHE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #4

Item number 8, 9, 10

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Footnotes

⁵ H.H. Hardesty, Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia (New York: H.H. Hardesty, 1884), p. 408.

⁶ U.B. Dew, Ironmaker to the Confederacy (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966), p. 78.

⁷ C.R. Boyd, Resources of Southwestern Virginia (New York: 1881), pp. 89-90.

⁸ Newsweek, August 12, 1963, p. 74.

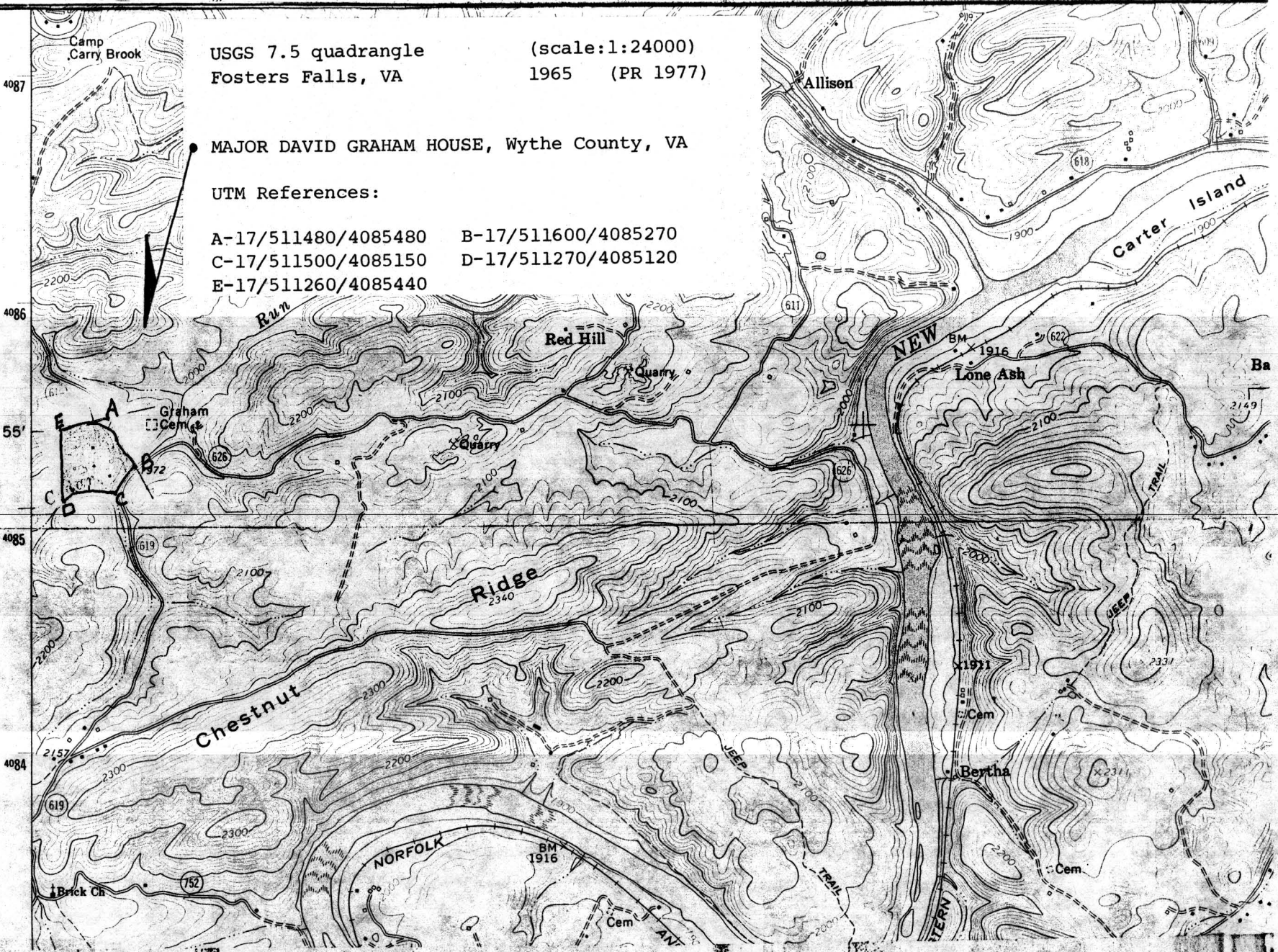
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charlottesville, VA. University of Virginia. Graham Family Papers.
Kegley, Mary B. "Squire David Graham." Wythe County Historical Review 16 (July 1977): 1-6.
Newsweek, August 12, 1963.
Wythe County. Deed Book 10.
Wythe County. Personal Property Tax Records, 1857, 1860.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

thence approx. 800' E following stream; thence approx. 500' NE following stream to point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The 21 acres circumscribed by this boundary encompasses all land owned by Chitwood that is within view of the house. The remaining 279 acres are beyond a ridge behind the house.



USGS 7.5 quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Fosters Falls, VA 1965 (PR 1977)

MAJOR DAVID GRAHAM HOUSE, Wythe County, VA

UTM References:

- A-17/511480/4085480 B-17/511600/4085270
- C-17/511500/4085150 D-17/511270/4085120
- E-17/511260/4085440

4087

4086

55'

4085

4084

Camp Carry Brook

Allison

Carter Island

Red Hill

NEW

Lone Ash

Ba

Graham Cem

Ridge 2340

JEOP TRAIL

Chestnut

1911

Bertha

NORFOLK

BM 1916

Cem

Cem

Brick Ch

752

AN

STERN