

VLR 10/14/86  
NRHP 4/27/87

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 Mount Ida (Encl File No. 14-115) 002-5001

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number VA Route 610 N/A not for publication

city, town New Canton X vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Buckingham code 029

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)	<input checked="" 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 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. and Mrs. A. Burnett Jones; William Jones

street & number Route 1, Box 43

city, town New Canton N/A vicinity of state VA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Buckingham County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Buckingham state VA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Division of Historic Landmarks  
title Survey File No. 14-115 has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1973, 1986 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia

## 7. Description

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

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**  
Summary Description

Mount Ida is a circa 1785-1805 residence located off VA Route 610 in Buckingham County. The two-story, wood-frame dwelling is noteworthy for its extraordinary woodwork found in the west parlor. The social importance implied by the parlor woodwork is underscored by the relative absence of such elaboration elsewhere in the house.

The nomination consists of five contributing buildings, including the main house, kitchen, tenant's house, barn and threshing barn; one noncontributing building, a collapsed tobacco barn; and one contributing structure, a stone bridge.

### Architectural Analysis

Mount Ida, a two-story, wood-frame residence, has evolved into a relatively complex plan. It began circa 1785-1805 as a two-story, single-pile, side-passage house with a large parlor to the west of a stair passage, two smaller inner rooms in a single-story wing beyond the parlor, and possibly another room to the east. The presence of the east room may be implied by foundation remains and apparently reused interior woodwork. The room was replaced or largely rebuilt in the mid-19th century, when a large two-story, double-pile addition was constructed to the east of the passage. Furthermore, there was an early porch behind the parlor and passage, as evidenced by exterior flush sheathing on the rear wall. The porch was enclosed as a room and the present south and east porches were added later in the 19th century.

The foundation of the original section is executed in Flemish-bond brick with lined mortar joints. The facade (south) is five bays with a one-bay wing projecting to the west. Like all elevations, the front is covered with weatherboarding attached with wrought nails. The main entrance has paneled double doors and a transom. It is sheltered by a one-story porch with fluted Doric columns and a cornice with triglyphs. A pediment breaks the roof line. Windows consist of 9/9 hung-sash. Some original wrought-iron shutter keepers remain. A modillion cornice embellishes the roof line on all elevations.

The rear (north) elevation is marked by a two-story, one-bay wing as well as a one-story addition. The three-bay length of the original structure may be determined on the second story from the point that the east wing projects. The rear entrance has been blocked. The rear elevation has 9/9 hung-sash and later 6/6 hung-sash windows.

The side (east) elevation has a one-story wing and a brick semi-exterior end chimney executed in Flemish-bond brick. The west elevation has an enclosed porch on brick piers and two interior end chimneys.

The present central passage, formerly a side passage, contains the main stair. It has a turned newel and balusters, a molded handrail, a paneled spandrel, scrolled brackets and ramped rails and related wainscot caps. To the west of the stair is the parlor. It is the most elaborately carved room in the house. The focal point of the room is the fireplace wall. The architrave surrounding the firebox has a well-executed guilloche. Above the firebox is a carved fret and a carved pediment. Above the pediment is a small overmantel with decorated crossettes. Framing this composition is a pair of Doric pilasters that extend from floor to ceiling. The pilasters cut through a cornice that

# 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 checked="" 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 1785-1805 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Statement of Significance

Mount Ida is architecturally significant for its parlor, one of the most formal and sophisticated late-18th century rooms yet recorded in Virginia. The circa 1785-1805 Buckingham County residence was built by William Cannon, a captain in the Buckingham militia during the American Revolution who became one of the largest landowners in the county. Most probably, at the height of his economic prosperity, Cannon allowed his unknown builder to lavish considerable attention on his parlor, the architectural elements of which are derived from English builders' guides of the late-18th century. The parlor woodwork at Mount Ida is matched only by Woodlands, a residence built in Amelia County around the same time and most probably by the same hand. In addition to the main house, a kitchen, tenant's house, barn and threshing mill survive on the property. The threshing mill is one of the few such structures still to be found in Buckingham County.

### Historical Background

Situated on the James River five miles from New Canton, Buckingham County, Mount Ida stands on what was once part of the Cannon family land. The Cannons held land in the area as early as 1730, when William Cannon acquired 300 acres north of the Fluvanna (James) River in what was then Goochland County. In 1733 he added 1700 acres on the south bank, and in 1743 acquired 385 acres on both sides of Bear Garden Creek and 245 acres on the Willis River. In addition, he gained an additional 374 acres on the James River from the Coker family in 1747.

William Cannon died in 1749, and at least a portion of his estate passed to his son, John. Patent records show that a John Cannon already possessed 150 acres on the north Fluvanna (1733) and 300 acres on Randolph's branch of the Willis River (1743). Following William's death, John added to the estate in his own right: 444 acres south of the Fluvanna in 1751, 690 acres between the Fluvanna and Willis Creek in 1752, and 298 acres on the south Fluvanna bank in 1759. In addition a 1760 grant lists John Cannon as the owner of additional land between Bear Garden and Hunt's creeks.

During his lifetime, John Cannon deeded 1200 acres on the upper James to his son William. The remainder of the estate passed to William on his father's death in 1788. In addition William purchased 143 acres from the Lovell family (date unknown), and in 1794-95 acquired a 500-acre Bear Garden tract from the Coker family and an additional 150 acres from the Loving family.

It is unclear as to which of the Cannon land purchases in the Fluvanna/Bear Garden area became the Mount Ida land tract. However, there can be no doubt that the builder of Mount Ida was William Cannon who erected the house during the period circa 1785-1805.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Harrison Papers. Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA.  
Pain, William. The Practical builder. London: I. & J. Taylor, 1793.  
Patent and Grant Index. Archives, Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA.  
(See Continuation Sheet #5)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 21

Quadrangle name Arvonia, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References Lakeside Village, VA

A 

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

B 

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

C 

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

D 

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

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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

state VA code county VA code

state VA code county VA code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Division of Historic Landmarks Staff

organization Division of Historic Landmarks

date September, 1986

street & number 221 Governor Street

telephone (804) 786-3143

city or town Richmond

state Virginia

## 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, Director

title Division of Historic Landmarks

date March 10, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

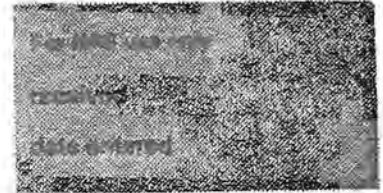
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

MOUNT IDA, Buckingham County, Virginia



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION—Architectural Analysis

runs the perimeter of the room. The cornice has pendants and a fret. The fret is lacking in the area above the mantel and overmantel. Doorways and windows are topped by entablatures containing frets. The passage door is further embellished by a pediment similar to that found above the fireplace. In addition the room has a flush-board wainscoting with a heavily molded baseboard and dentil chair rail. The wainscoting breaks out to form aprons below the windows, and the corners are finished with beads. The doors are deeply paneled and retain their original hardware.

The social importance of the parlor is underscored by the relative absence of such elaboration elsewhere. The west wing and second floor-chambers contain more conventional Federal-era trim; the most distinguishing features in all rooms are the mantels. The first-floor rooms to the east of the passage contain Greek Revival-style woodwork. The door and window openings in the front (south) room have frets that were undoubtedly inspired by Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter, plate 28. The door surrounds are topped by pediments. The rear (north) room is not as elaborate although the openings are also topped with pediments.

Located to the northeast of the main house is a two-room kitchen building, probably dating from the second quarter of the 19th century. The building measures approximately 17' x 33' and is built on a hillside that provides ground-level access to a cellar room. It is covered by a hipped roof. The central chimney has a stone base and fireboxes and a brick stack. The cooking fireplace measures 6' wide, 1' 8" deep, and 5' high. It has an iron lintel and two wrought-iron cranes. The finish of the two rooms is of interest. The kitchen has a raised dirt floor level with the bottom of the sill; its frame walls have always been exposed and the ceiling was plastered. The east room, probably a laundry room, has a wood floor and the walls and ceiling were plastered. There is no access to the attic space in the low hipped roof.

To the southwest of the main house are the remains of a large frame tobacco barn. The barn was possibly built in the mid-19th century. Unfortunately, it has collapsed.

On the lowest knoll beside the flat fields below Mount Ida is a 19th-century house that consists of an 18' 6" x 17' square-notched story-and-a-half single-room log house and a larger frame two-story, side-passage house. The log building, dating from the first half of the 19th century, seems to have been reduced in status to a service building when the frame house was added, probably in the third quarter of the century. The interior of the house has remained unfinished, while the new house is finished with plaster and simple unbeaded trim. It has mortised and tenoned wall framing, but the rafters are butted and nailed. It was most likely used as a tenant's house.

To the northeast of the tenant's house is a large gable-fronted barn, possibly mid-19th century. Its frame consists of 8" x 5" posts tenoned and pegged to a sill and plate, with down braces butted and nailed to the sills and corner posts. Lapped collars have been cut out of the roof structure to facilitate a fork. The present sheds, with pole studs replace earlier sheds evidenced by tie beam mortices in the posts.

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MOUNT IDA, Buckingham County, Virginia



Continuation sheet 2

Item number 7

Page 2

7. DESCRIPTION—Architectural Analysis

An ashlar stone bridge with a 5' span is located to the west of the tenant's house. The bridge is constructed of well-dressed stone and may date from the 1820-1830 period.

The building furthest from the house is a threshing barn. Located to the northeast of Mount Ida, the barn dates to the period of circa 1815-1850. The barn has a double door on a long wall facing the top of a knoll and a smaller cellar door on the long downhill wall. There is a full unpartitioned cellar, with plastered stone walls pierced by iron-barred windows. The walls have traditional heavy framing, with intermediate posts framing all openings. Because of the long span, however, a series of five posts run along the center from end to end, carrying a beam that supports the joist centers. Alternate rafters have lapped and nailed collars. The building is constructed with cut nails, but wrought nails are used for the doors and shutters. There is a good selection of original hardware, including twelve strap hinges marked with "JS&S" below a crown. There is a flat raised area beyond the barn with a rubble stone retaining wall.

RCC/EAC

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MOUNT IDA, Buckingham County, VA



Continuation sheet 3

Item number 0

Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE—Historical Background

William Cannon, the first owner of Mount Ida, is the most notable figure associated with the house. Cannon was a man of stature in Buckingham County during the second half of the 18th century—at various times a vestryman for Tillotson Parish, a recorder of the county list of tithables, and a county sheriff. According to Henings Statutes, a ferry established in the county in 1776 was placed on Cannon land, and this ferry later served as a boundary point in a 1778 land annexation from Buckingham to Cumberland County.

During the Revolution Cannon served as a Captain in the Buckingham Militia. Public Service Claims records show his authority to requisition goods and transport for the militia, as well as his own contribution of stores to the Continental Army. His requisition activities were associated with the movement of the Buckingham Militia to aid General Greene in the North Carolina campaign of 1781, and it may be assumed that he served in that campaign.

The Buckingham County Personal Tax Lists indicate that William Cannon's greatest prosperity came during the period 1785-1787, when he owned as many as 50 slaves, 70 head of cattle and 22 horses. On June 24, 1790 Cannon married his second wife, Martha Cocke, fourth child of James Cocke of Amelia County. Presumably, it was during this period that Cannon constructed Mount Ida.

A reflection of Cannon's wealth and prosperity, the parlor woodwork at Mount Ida ranks among the finest and most elaborate found in Virginia during the late-18th and very early 19th centuries. Derived in large part from English builders' guides of the mid-to-late 18th century, the woodwork demonstrates a sophistication of workmanship and knowledge of architecture on the part of its presently unidentified builder. Unfortunately, no clues have been found to suggest the builder; however, his work may survive in one other house, Woodlands, in Amelia County.

Woodlands, now moved to Goochland County, was originally built 1789-1794 in Amelia County by Stephen Cocke, the youngest son of James Powell Cocke. Stephen Cocke was the brother of Martha Cocke Cannon, the second wife of the builder of Mount Ida, William Cannon. Hence, through marriage Cannon and Cocke would have known each other's residences thereby making a comparison of the two properties valid.

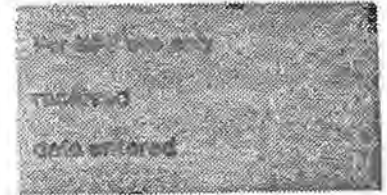
Like the parlor at Mount Ida, the ballroom at Woodlands is elaborately ornamented with finely executed architectural elements. Its fireplace wall also has a mantel and pedimented overmantel flanked by pilaster and pedimented doorways, a composition similar to that found at Mount Ida. Like Mount Ida, the ballroom composition is basically mid-18th century in its inspiration, with details reflecting a late-18th century source.

William Cannon's enjoyment of Mount Ida was short-lived. Cannon's wealth declined from circa 1790 and sources indicate that he had lost Mount Ida by 1805. At that time the property was presumably sold to David Ross who had previously purchased land from Cannon's extensive holdings. Cannon and his family moved to Tennessee in 1807, eventually settling in Kentucky where he died in 1820.

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

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MOUNT IDA, Buckingham County, VA



Continuation sheet 4

Item number 3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE—Historical Background

Under Ross family ownership, Mount Ida formed part of a trust established by David Ross in 1815 to settle his son David's debts. A series of letters from David Ross, Senior, then living in Richmond to a Mr. LaFontaine, his attorney/business agent in New Canton, provide an interesting glimpse into a father and son relationship under strained circumstances. It was probably under the period of Ross family ownership that the threshing mill was built along with the bridge and tenant's log house. The mill stands near the river undoubtedly the source of transporting the mill products to market.

In 1833 William Leitch left his merchandising business at Buckingham Court House and purchased Mount Ida presumably from the Ross family. Since the Buckingham County records burned in the courthouse fire of 1869, a chain of title for the property is incomplete. Leitch added to his Mount Ida holdings until the estate numbered over 1300 acres. From the Leitchs the property passed to the Coles family in 1909 and to the Percie family in 1934. The present owners, the Jones family, purchased the land in 1959. Mount Ida is now part of a working farm.

BC/RCC



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

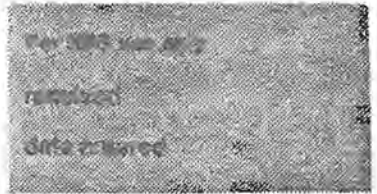
National Register of Historic Places  
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MOUNT IDA, Buckingham County, VA

Continuation sheet 5

Item number 0

Page 1



9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES--(continued)

Pennington, Margaret, and Scott, Lorna S. The Courthouse Burned.  
Waynesboro: Charles McClung, 1977.

Reed, H.S.T. "Woodlands, A Virginia Plantation House." Antiques.  
January, 1981, pp. 228-232.

Whitley, Edythe R. Genealogical Records of Buckingham County, Virginia.  
Berryville: Virginia Book Co., 1984.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

MOUNT IDA, Buckingham County, VA



Continuation sheet 6

Item number 10

Page 1

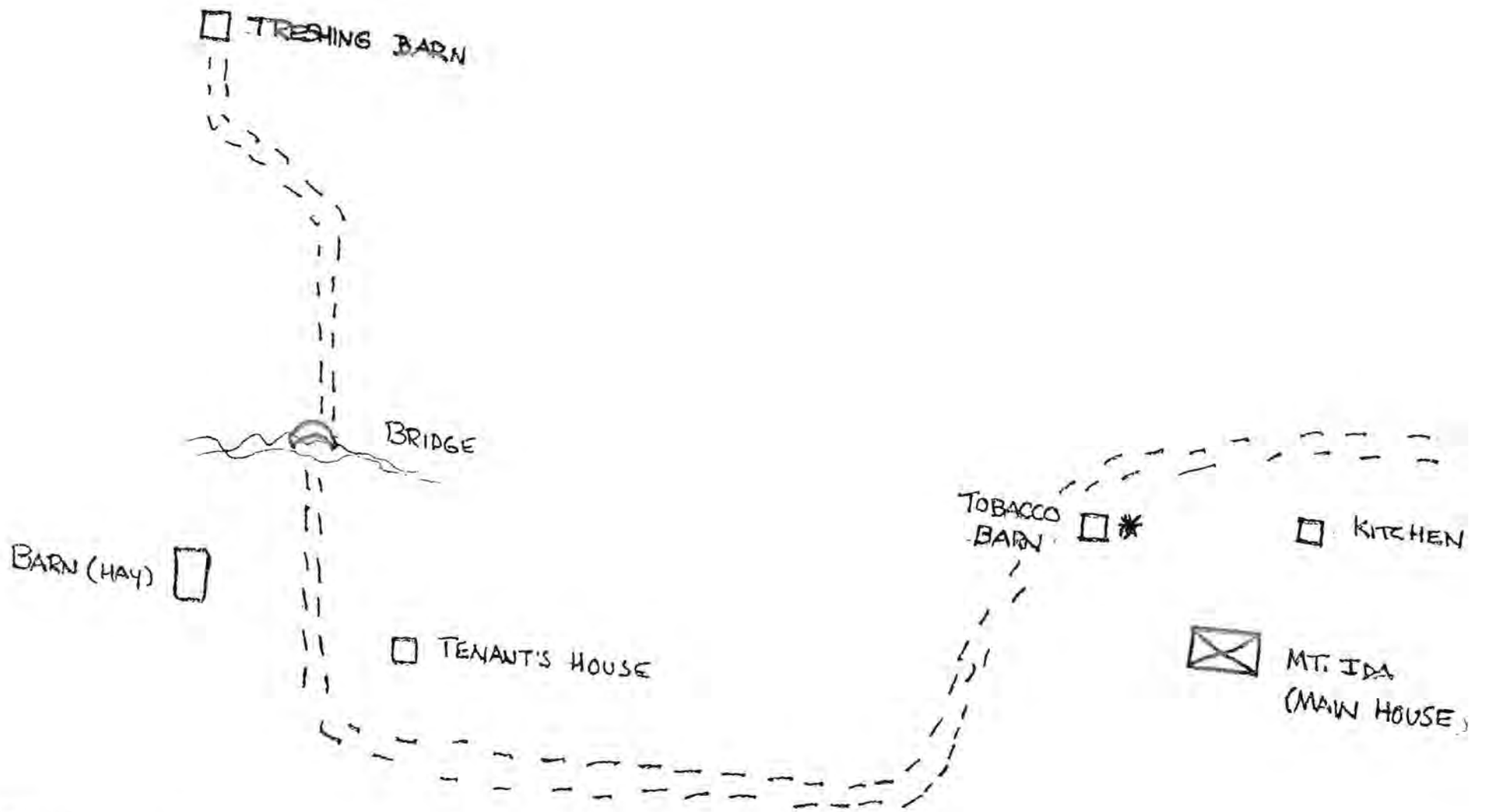
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA—Boundary Justification

Boundary Justification

The nominated property for Mount Ida consists approx. of twenty-one acres. This encompasses the main house, kitchen, tobacco barn, threshing barn, bridge, tenant's house, and storage barn. The boundary is drawn to include the hill on which the main house sits and the road from the main house to the threshing barn. The buildings and bridge along the road have always been associated with Mount Ida and, with the exception of a collapsed tobacco barn, are contributing buildings/structure. The nominated acreage of twenty-one acres is a very small fraction of the over 1,000 acres that originally constituted the Mount Ida plantation of William Cannon and David Ross.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 734 which is approx. 7400' NW of the intersection of VA 734 with VA 610; thence extending approx. 500' ENE; thence approx. 200' NE; thence approx. 150' E; thence approx. 200' E; thence approx. 100' W; thence approx. 200' NW; thence approx. 500' W; thence approx. 400' curving SSE and following the W side of an unimproved road; thence continuing along W side of said road approx. 700' curving SW; thence approx. 150' W; thence approx. 100' SW; thence approx. 100' S to a point on the W side of VA 734; thence approx. 700' WSW; thence approx. 300' W, thence approx. 200' W following S side of a pond; thence approx. 200' W following W side of pond; thence approx. 100' W to a point on the E side of an unimproved road; thence approx. 500' W following said side of said road; thence approx. 400' NE along said side of said road; thence approx. 200' curving NW; thence approx. 200' curving W; thence approx. 200' NW; thence approx. 100' NW; thence approx. 100' SW; thence approx. 100' SSE; thence approx. 75' NW to a point on the W side of an unimproved road; thence approx. 75' SSE; thence approx. 300' curving SE along the W side of the unimproved road; thence approx. 200' curving SE; thence approx. 500' curving SSE; thence approx. 500' S; thence approx. 75' NW; thence approx. 325' SW; thence approx. 225' SE to a point on the W side of an unimproved road; thence crossing the road and continuing approx. 600' along S side of road; thence approx. 700' ENE; thence approx. 200' SE; thence approx. 100' NE, crossing VA 734 and extending to the point of origin.

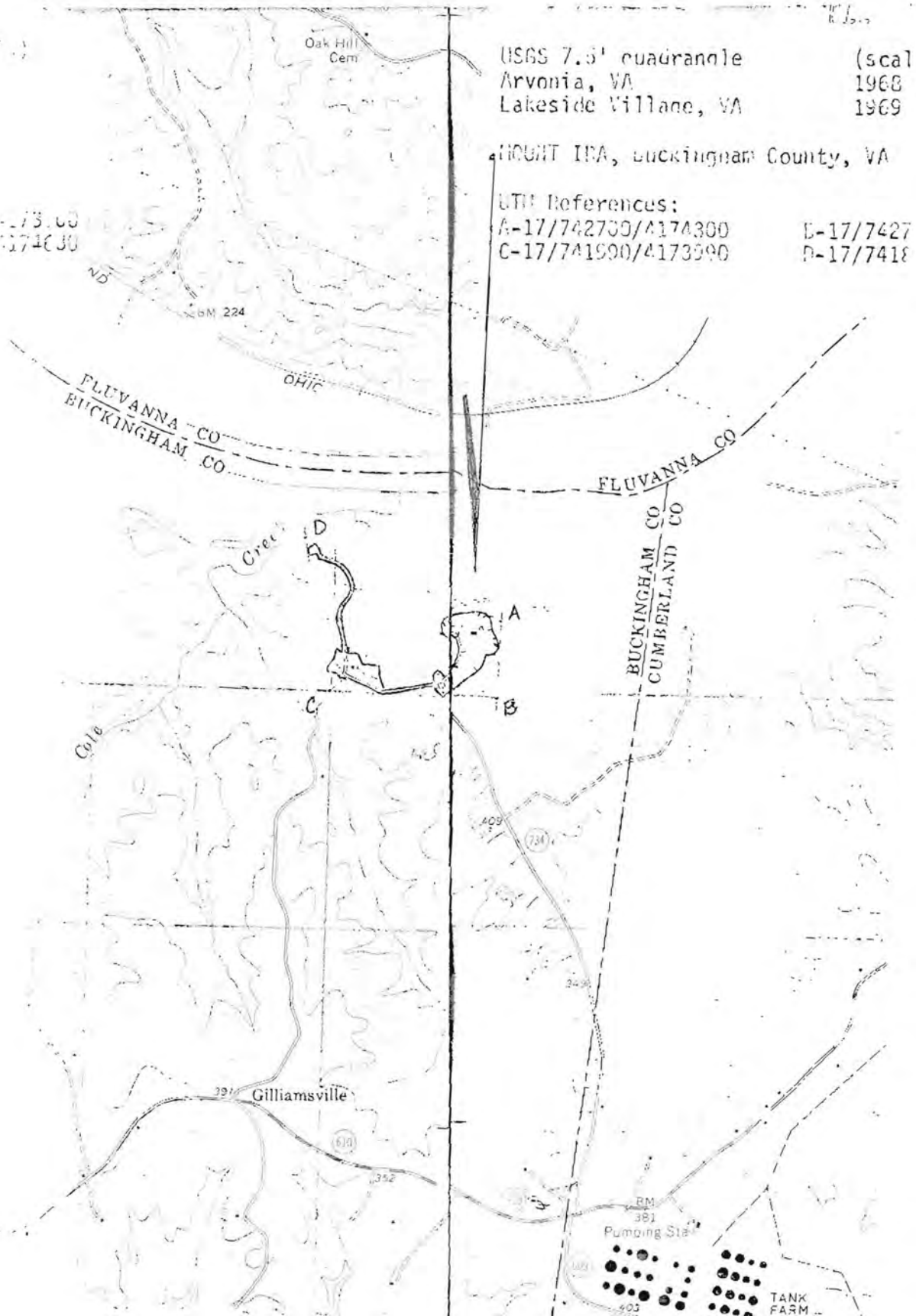


MOUNT IDA, BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA  
 SKETCH MAP MAP 1 OF 2  
 NOT TO SCALE

\* = NON-CONTRIBUTIVE

  
 NORTH

MT. IDA  
 (NTC)



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale)  
 Arvon, VA 1968  
 Lakeside Villane, VA 1969

MOUNT IRA, Buckingham County, VA

UTM References:  
 A-17/742700/4174300 E-17/7427  
 C-17/741900/4173900 D-17/7418

4173.00  
 4174.00

FLUVANNA CO  
 BUCKINGHAM CO

FLUVANNA CO  
 BUCKINGHAM CO  
 CUMBERLAND CO

Gilliamsville

RM 391  
 Pumping Sta

TANK FARM