

VLR 6/1/15
NRHP 7/27/15

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 Trenton

other names/site number The Brick House. VDR #024-0001.

2. Location

street & number 751 Oak Hill Road not for publication
city or town Cumberland vicinity
state Virginia code VA count) Cumberland code 049 Zip 23040

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] [Date]
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
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 Date
 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is other (explain):
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register Signature of Keeper
 See continuation sheet. Date of Action
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

TRENTON
Cumberland, Virginia

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

Funerary Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government Sub: Government Offices

Domestic Institutional Housing

Landscape Forest

Funerary Cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC:Federal

EARLY REPUBLIC: Early Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

roof METAL:Steel

walls BRICK

other _____

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.)

- 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 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Conservation

Period of Significance ca.1829-1955

Significant Dates ca.1829

1936

1954

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder unknown

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

Acreeage of Property Approximately 13 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

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: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian

Organization: _____ date May 2, 2005

street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road telephone 804/233-3890

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23225

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 Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Forestry

street & number 900 Natural Resources Drive telephone 434.977.6555

city or town Charlottesville state VA zip code 22903

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

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7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Trenton, also locally known as the “Brick House,” is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay wide by two-bay deep brick dwelling that research indicates was constructed around 1829 by Dr. John Trent (1788-1862) in Cumberland County, Virginia. Presently located within the boundaries of the Cumberland State Forest, the house is a good example of rural Federal style architecture that features transitional elements of the Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles and that illustrates the tastes of a moderately wealthy resident during the early to mid-nineteenth century. The center-passage, double-pile plan of the house and the Palladian-like motif used in the entry hall and the large archway in the second-floor center passage are hallmarks of the Federal style, the influence of which is also seen in the modest decorative plaster medallion in the entry hall, the attenuated mantel details, the use of fanlights over the entrance doors, and the notable interior woodwork such as the moulded door and window trim with corner blocks, ornamental scroll stair brackets with rectangular balusters, and paneled wainscoting. These elements also exhibit transitional influences from the Federal style toward the Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles that were becoming popular during the first part of the nineteenth century. Overall, Trenton retains a high level of integrity with regard to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

In 1936, the land on which Trenton stands was acquired by the United States of America by the Resettlement Administration under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Farm Act--an act that was supervised by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and that was intended to develop a program of land conservation and utilization in order to correct maladjustments in land use and thus assist in such things as control of soil erosion, reforestation, preservation of natural resources and protection of fish and wildlife.¹ The 15,396.59 acres acquired for the “Cumberland Project, LA-VA-4,” including Tract 10 on which Trenton stood, was leased to the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Conservation Commission in 1939 and then conveyed by deed to the Department of Conservation and Economic Development in 1954. Located within the boundaries for the Cumberland State Forest, Trenton was used as the State Forest superintendent’s home from the time the state acquired the forest property until 1990.² The headquarters for the state forest continue to be housed in Trenton although its residential use is limited to periodic overnight forestry training sessions.

Alterations to the dwelling have been minimal. Around 1960, a one-story, shed-roofed addition was constructed on the north side of the dwelling, which was the original front façade. The addition resulted in the reorientation of the main entrance of the house to the south side. The property retains its rural setting and is surrounded by open fields and forest. The property contains four contributing buildings, one contributing site, ten non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing structure. The National Register property boundaries encompass the historic dwelling and the area immediately

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surrounding the dwelling, the collection of outbuildings to the southwest and the northeast, the cemetery site, and the old roadbed.

Inventory

Contributing resources:

Single dwelling, ca. 1829	Contributing building
Cemetery, ca. 1824	Contributing site
Stable, ca. 1930	Contributing building
Brick Shed/smokehouse, ca.1930	Contributing building
Grading building, ca. 1950	Contributing building

Non-contributing resources:

(Located SW of house)

Paint and tool shed, 1963	Non-contributing building
Tractor shed, 1970s	Non-contributing building
Cold Storage, late 1960s	Non-contributing building
Lunchroom/shop, 1960s	Non-contributing building
Gas shed, 1960s	Non-contributing building
Radio Tower, 1960s	Non-contributing structure

(Located NE of the house)

Pump house, ca. 2000	Non-contributing building
Metal-clad shed, ca. 2000	Non-contributing building
Pole Shed, ca. 2000	Non-contributing building
Garage, ca. 1970	Non-contributing building

(Located NW of the house)

Range office, ca. 1990	Non-contributing building
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Site Description

Trenton is located at the north end of Route 628 (Forest View Road), approximately three miles north of Route 60 in proximity to Cumberland Court House. A long driveway, now marked by a sign for the state forest office, leads into the property through open fields. The present driveway wraps in a circle on the south side of the house. Originally, this drive diverged from the main road, which continued on to the northeast, and looped around the north side (original front) of the house and around it on the west side. A large lawn has been retained around the building and several outbuildings are located southwest of the house. A small cemetery also is located near these

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outbuildings. Two of the outbuildings are of brick and appear to date from the early twentieth century. The remaining buildings and other outbuildings located northeast of the house all date from the mid-to-late-twentieth century and the early twenty-first century. The potential for archaeological deposits within the house yard, along the historic roadbed, and outbuilding area has not been investigated; however, the potential to locate the sites of former outbuildings, including slave quarters, remains high as little ground disturbing activity has taken place in these areas. Small areas of open fields are located south, east, and northwest of the dwelling. Dense woods begin at the edges of these fields, though some timbering activity is underway north and southeast of the house.

Some large trees remain in the house yard, especially to the northeast and northwest, and the old sunken road bed is visible around the northwest and west sides of the house. The modern garage actually stands in the center of this roadbed on the east side. A memorial oak tree has been planted at the southeast corner of the house. A large stone with a plaque indicates that the tree was planted in memory of Fred C. Pederson “state forester, 1932-1944 by his associates in the Virginia Forest Service.”

Exterior

Trenton is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay dwelling that is covered by a side-facing gable roof with a simple moulded wooden cornice and pedimented ends that hold wooden louvered lunettes at the attic level. Paired interior end chimneys with corbelled caps pierce the roof, which is clad with standing seam metal (an original finish, but recently replaced). The raised basement level holds rectangular, six-pane windows. The three-bay front (south) façade features a centrally located one-story, three-bay porch that is covered by a front-facing gable roof with front returns. The roof is clad with standing seam metal and is supported by four square wooden posts with a wooden railing located between them. Pilasters are located at the junction with the exterior wall of the house. The porch is raised on a high brick foundation and has brick steps. A secondary basement entrance is located beneath the porch.

The front porch was constructed around 1960 when an addition was constructed on the original front (north side) of the house, which resulted in reorienting the main entrance of the house to the south side. Notations found on drawings for the addition indicate that materials from the original (north side) front porch were to be used in the construction of the south side porch and the new design was “to be constructed from salvage of rear [north] porch” and was “to conform in size and style with existing porch on right [east] side of dwelling except in depth.”³ A 1936 photograph of the house, showing the original (north side) porch, confirms that the new design did indeed maintain the character and proportions of the north side porch.

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The entrance located off the south side porch consists of six-panel, double-leaf doors with a seven-pane fanlight above within a rectangular transom and recessed side panels within the depth of the doorway. The window openings hold six-over-six, wooden sashes with thin muntins and board shutters flanking each opening. A few of the side windows retain metal shutter dogs (hooks) located at the bottom of each shutter, although most of these elements have been lost over time and the holes in the masonry have been filled in with mortar. Simple wooden surrounds frame the windows, which also feature wooden sills.

The side elevations hold two window openings centered on the first- and second-floor levels with rectangular, six-pane windows at the basement level and a louvered lunette at the attic level within the pedimented end of the roof. A screen-enclosed porch is located on the east side of the house and double-leaf doors with a fanlight above lead from the porch into what is now a kitchen space (original use was probably a parlor). The porch is similar in design and character to the front (south) porch and features a metal-clad, front-facing gable roof, square supports and a raised brick foundation. A basement (cellar) entrance is located at the southwest corner of the house and is covered by a projecting gable roof.

The rear (north side) façade has been altered with the construction of a one-story, five-bay wide brick addition. The addition, constructed around 1960, provided additional utility and office space for use by forestry personnel and extended the basement level of the dwelling. The construction resulted in the removal of the original porch, which was centrally located on the three bay north façade. Ghost lines of the porch's pilasters can be seen on the original exterior wall of the house at the east end of the addition. The addition along the rear of the house is covered by a metal-clad shed roof. The gable-roofed wing, located at the west end of the addition, serves as the forest reception office. A covered entrance porch is located on the south side of the wing. A small frame, screened-enclosed porch is located on the north side of the easternmost bay of the shed addition and gives access via a single-leaf, wooden door into an office space. The addition replicates the use of pedimented ends and louvered lunettes of the original dwelling. Windows are eight-over-eight sash on the first-floor level and one-over-one sash on the basement level.

The brickwork of the house is in good to fair condition. Only a few mortar cracks were noted on the south side of the dwelling. Some repairs on the south side and west end of the house have been completed with inappropriate mortar. Overall, however, the brickwork is the most defining Federal-style characteristic of the exterior. While no decorative brick cornice is present on the dwelling, the thin mortar joints and the use of Flemish bond on the original front (north) and east end of the house and the use of four-course American bond on the original rear (south) and west side of the house all with fine, narrow joints are typical of the style. The late-twentieth-century addition has been laid in

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four-course American bond on the north side and five-course American bond on the sides, while the foundation of the south side (front) porch is laid in a running bond.

Besides the late-twentieth-century addition on the north side of the dwelling, alterations to the exterior include installation of aluminum guttering and downspouts, the installation of aluminum storm windows and doors, and the replacement of the roofing material. The latter alteration, however, was made with in-kind materials. The current forest manager has speculated that the dwelling may have had a slate roof given the substantial framing found in the attic space.⁴

Interior

Because the orientation of the house has been altered, the original orientation of the floor plan will be described here. A description of the late twentieth century addition and its relation to the original interior spaces is also included.

Entering the dwelling from the north, one now passes through a late twentieth century screen-enclosed porch, through an office space, and through the original double-leaf, six-panel entrance doors into an entry hall. The seven-pane fanlight above the doorway has been left exposed on the interior (south side). The entry hall, now used as a general meeting room, features a modest plaster beaded border outlining the ceiling, a wall moulding, and paneled wainscoting with plaster above on all walls. The wainscot is approximately thirty inches high and consists of a wide baseboard, a recessed, plain wooden panel, and a moulded chair rail. The door openings have fluted surrounds with corner blocks featuring a concentric circular motif. Single rooms flank the entry hall on the right (west) and left (east).

The most striking feature of the entry hall, however, is the Palladian-inspired motif located at the south end of the space. All mouldings around the motif are fluted with corner blocks exhibiting circular motifs located at the corners of the trabeated openings and at the top of the central arched opening, where a keystone would normally be located. Recessed wooden panels decorate the interior depth of the openings. The south side of the motif, which is viewed from the center passage, is awkwardly inserted into the space. On that side, the east wall of the southwest room intersects abruptly with the west side of the archway effectively terminating it at its springing. The trabeated opening on the west side is located beyond the east side wall and is not visible from the south side, i.e. passage side. The use of this motif clearly defines the boundary between the public entry hall and its flanking rooms and the rest of the house, which most likely served as private spaces.

From the north side, the central arch of the motif opens into a narrow hallway, or passage, which creates a central axis through the back part (south side) of the house. The lower, trabeated opening

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to the left (east) of the central archway is on axis with the stairs leading to the second floor that are located on the east side of the passage. The lower trabeated opening to the right (west) of the central archway holds a single-leaf wooden door. A 1936 survey of Trenton, produced as part of the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Virginia Historical Inventory, noted that the opening held a door that formerly led into "the right back room," or chamber. At present, the doorway leads into a bathroom that was created out of the larger chamber space. A door at the west end of the bathroom leads into the chamber space. The 1936 survey recorded that the bath had been installed "three years ago [1933] when the Federal Land Bank remodeled it to some extent. Pipes for water have been installed in various places in the house and the house has been wired for electricity, but as yet, means for getting these two conveniences into the house have not been completed."⁵

The room located east (left) of the entry hall, renovated around the mid-twentieth century as a kitchen space, was probably originally a parlor. The 1936 survey indicates that at that time, this space had "a window on the front [north], a fireplace with a plain mantel on the east, a door leading to small high entrance porch on the right [south] of the fireplace and a door on the south leading to the back room. On the left of the fireplace is a built-in cabinet."⁶ In the ca. 1960 renovation of the space, the fireplace was covered and the mantelpiece removed. A stove and wall cabinets are now located on the east wall. The double-leaf doors to the side porch are still extant, as is the built-in cabinet. The doorway to the south room, however, has been enclosed. The window on the south side of the room also is still extant, though the installation of a kitchen sink cabinet has covered the lower part of the opening. The wooden flooring in this room has been covered with vinyl sheet flooring. The walls retain their plaster finish and a chair rail is present.

The room located west (right) of the entry hall, now used as an office, features a fireplace on the west wall that is flanked on the south by a window. A window opening that was located on the north side of the room has been removed and a door opening there now leads into the space created by the 1960s addition. This room retains its mantelpiece, which features attenuated freestanding columnettes and a frieze decorated with dentils, metopes, and triglyphs. The fireplace opening, however, has been filled in with brick. The hearth, as it is in all other rooms with fireplaces, is of slate. The walls exhibit a blend of old and new with the paneled wainscot still in place with modern wooden paneling above. A drop ceiling of acoustical tiles has also been installed in this room. The flooring has been covered with carpeting. The office and kitchen areas are the most altered interior spaces of the house and yet they retain the overall proportions and most of the decorative elements and finishes of the original spaces. The 1936 survey of the dwelling records that this room had been used as a doctor's office.⁷

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The southeast room of the house is accessed by a doorway located at the south end of the center passage that leads past the staircase. This room, also probably originally used as a parlor, was once connected to the room north of it (now the kitchen space) by a doorway in the north wall. On the kitchen side, this doorway has been plastered over. On the parlor side (south) a bookcase has been built into the opening. This work was completed in the 1960s. The fireplace and mantle, located on the east wall, are flanked on the north by a window and on the south by a built-in cabinet. Another window is located on the south wall. The mantle consists of single round column supports with stylized capitals that carry a tripartite frieze. The fireplace opening has been covered with a wooden board. The finishes in this room include wooden flooring, plaster walls, and a wooden chair rail and baseboard, but no paneled wainscoting. Water damage was noted on the south wall of this room; this was caused by water intrusion due to mortar failure on the exterior wall and a leak in the roof. This situation has been addressed, the roof has been replaced, and appropriate repointing work will occur soon.

The southwest room, probably originally used as a chamber, also is accessed by a doorway located at the south end of the center passage, just opposite the doorway into the parlor. The layout of this room is nearly a mirror image of the parlor. The fireplace and mantle, located on the west wall, are flanked by a window on the north and a built-in closet on the south. Another window is located on the south wall. The closet in this room, which may be of twentieth century construction, has double-leaf doors and is a single space, whereas the parlor closet is constructed with an upper case and lower case with separate doors for each compartment. The fireplace has been relined with modern brick and masonry but retains its slate hearth. The finishes in this room include wooden flooring, plaster walls, and wooden paneled wainscoting. As previously mentioned, the original proportions of this room have been modified by the creation of a modern bathroom at the northeast corner of the space. The 1936 survey of the house noted that this room had an "elaborately carved mantle," whereas the mantle in the parlor was described as "plain." At present, both mantles are identical. One additional alteration noted in this room is the addition of gypsum board over the existing plaster wall on the east wall, which results in the wall plane being nearly level with the edge of the door trim rather than the trim projecting from the wall plane. This alteration occurred in the 1960s when the house was remodeled for use as the Superintendent's home.⁸

The stairs, located on the east wall of the passage, are oriented to be accessed from the north. The sidewall facing the center passage is paneled and the stair stringers feature nicely carved scroll decorations. A door to the basement (cellar) is located at the south end of the stairs. The dog-leg stair features two flights of stairs at right angles to one another with a half landing between them. Carved pendants hang from the newels located at the landing of the stairs. The handrail is of walnut and there are two rectangular balusters per tread. The treads have been left unpainted while the risers

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have been painted white. Paneled wainscoting is located on the wall along the stairs, along the landing, and up to the second floor. A window is located on the south wall of the landing.

The second floor consists of a wide central hallway with two bedrooms located to either side. A small bathroom has been added at the north end of the hallway. A broad, elliptical archway is located across the center of the hallway, in line with the partition walls of the bedrooms. The moulding of the archway is similar to that seen in decorative elements on the first floor and features fluting, corner blocks with concentric circle motifs, and paneling on the interior depth of the opening. The finishes in the hall include wooden floors, plaster walls with chair rail and baseboards, and trabeated doorways into each bedroom.

The bedrooms themselves are nearly identical. Each consists of a fireplace on the outside end wall that is flanked on one side by a window and on the other by a built-in closet. Each room has a six-panel, single-leaf wooden door with fluted surround and corner blocks. The mantles in the northeast and southwest bedrooms are identical to those in the first floor chamber (southwest room). The mantle in the northwest bedroom has fluted pilasters supporting fluted brackets that curve to support the mantle shelf. The mantle in the southeast room has deeply fluted pilasters supporting a plain, tripartite frieze. The walls in the bedrooms are plastered with wooden baseboards. Only the southwest room has a chair rail.

Heating is provided in most rooms by twentieth-century hot water radiators. No central air conditioning has been installed, although the second floor rooms are equipped with small air conditioning window units. Small sinks have also been installed in these rooms as Trenton is used for overnight training sessions and the house serves as a dormitory on those occasions. Early-twentieth-century ceiling lighting fixtures were also noted. The built-in closets, which do not appear to be original elements in the house, may have been added in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. An exception to this may be the two-compartment closet in the southwest bedroom, which resembles the closet in the downstairs parlor.

The full-height basement, or cellar, extends the full depth of the house and adjoins the later addition of the basement area beneath the late-twentieth-century addition. Floor joists in the historic part of the dwelling show both reciprocating saw marks, as well as hewn marks. Some modern reinforcement of framing has been added.

The modern addition consists of office and utility spaces. Finishes in these spaces include carpeted floors, gypsum board and vertical wood paneled walls, and acoustical tile ceilings with fluorescent lighting fixtures. From the south, the offices are entered via a porch at the west end of the rear wing

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addition. Entry is into a large reception office. A corridor to the right (east) leads to the other offices in the wing. At the west end of the corridor, an entrance leads into the Superintendent's office, which is part of the historic dwelling.

Secondary Resources

A collection of outbuildings used for the agricultural purposes of the state forest are located southwest of the house. None of these buildings appears to date to the period of the dwelling, however, two brick outbuildings appear to date to the early twentieth century and one building—the grading building—dates to the mid-twentieth century. The earliest of the outbuildings, which are related to the agricultural practices of the period, are the story-and-a-half brick stable with loft and a one-story shed that may have originally served as a smokehouse.⁹ Both buildings are laid in a running bond brick pattern and have slate covered gable roofs. Modern windows have been installed into the walls of both buildings. The grading house, located on the north side of the outbuilding complex and constructed in the 1950s, is a one-story, brick building that is covered by a gable roof of standing seam metal. Six pairs of barn type, double-leaf doors are located on the south side of the building. The interior shop area has a poured concrete floor. Other buildings in this area include a concrete block lunchroom/shop, a concrete block cold storage facility, and an open-sided concrete block tractor shed. Smaller sheds include a concrete block gas storage building, and a concrete block paint and tool shed. These buildings were constructed between the 1960s and 1970s.¹⁰ Although these outbuildings help to illustrate the agricultural history of the property and its twentieth-century role in the state forestry program, they do not meet the age criteria for listing in the National Register. The buildings are of common, utilitarian forms and do not exhibit any significant characteristics of design or construction, but they are illustrative of the practices of early conservation efforts and relate to this historic context.

Another collection of outbuildings is located northeast of the house and includes buildings of late-twentieth-century and early-twenty-first-century vintage. Since these buildings do not date to the period of the dwelling they are non-contributing resources on the property. Among these buildings is a brick garage, a brick pump house, a metal-clad shed, and a pole shed used for tractor storage. The Sporting Clay Range office, located northwest of the house, is a timber structure that serves as offices for the clay shooting range operated within the state forest. This building is located within a field, beyond the fence that encompasses the immediate area of the house. Around 1995, the office was converted from a timber horse barn that was constructed by a former superintendent living at Trenton.¹¹ A radio communications tower is located directly behind the house near the northwest corner. This tower was erected by forestry staff and is used for radio communications among forestry personnel while out in the field.

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The small family cemetery, located south of the truck shed and southwest of the house, dates from the 1850s during Dr. Trent's ownership and is a contributing resource to the National Register property. The cemetery, which is not encircled by a fence or wall, consists of four marked graves and perhaps several other unmarked graves. Only one of the marked graves has an inscribed marker, the others are marked only with fieldstones (headstones and footstones). The inscribed headstone and initialed footstone mark the grave of Mary B. Trent, 1815-1856, Dr. John Trent's daughter who predeceased her father.

ENDNOTES

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Trenton, the Cumberland County homeplace of Dr. John Trent, is a two-story, brick dwelling constructed around 1829 that is a good example of the Federal style of architecture that features transitional elements of the Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles. Since 1936, the land on which Trenton is located has been part of the Cumberland State Forest and since 1954, it has been under the ownership of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. John Trent (1788-1862), was a native of Cumberland County and a physician. He built this dwelling for his family and after his death, the dwelling passed to his wife and son. The family lost ownership of the property, however, in the late nineteenth century due to delinquent taxes and it was taken over by the Auditor of Public Accounts. From the turn of the twentieth century until 1936, the property passed through many owners, several of which did not reside at the house. In 1936, the Resettlement Administration of the federal government acquired the property, known as "Trenton" or "the Brick House," under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Farm Act, which was an act supervised by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture that was intended to develop a program of land conservation. The land in this area of Cumberland, which had been farmed since the eighteenth century, had been heavily depleted and was severely eroded due to poor agricultural practices including the continual cultivation of tobacco. The land acquired for the "Cumberland Project, LA-VA-4," including Tract 10 on which Trenton stood, was conveyed to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1954; Trenton was used as the forest superintendent's home (1954-1990) and continues to be used as the state forest headquarters and occasional overnight accommodations.

Criteria

Trenton is significant under National Register Criterion C as a building that embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Federal style of architecture and features transitional elements of the Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles, most notably in its interior woodwork. Though no builder or architect has been associated with the design for Trenton, the house clearly emulates the hallmarks of the style that was current throughout the United States during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Based on architectural evidence, as well as written records, it appears that Trenton was probably built around 1829. The National Register property includes a small family cemetery that contains the grave of one of Dr. Trent's daughters and other, unmarked graves. There are no extant outbuildings dating to the period of the house's construction.

Trenton is also significant under National Register Criterion A for its contribution to the broad patterns of Cumberland County history and Virginia history in the areas of agriculture and conservation. Although Trent was a physician, his large estate also was a working farm that produced tobacco, corn, and other marketable products. As a productive farm of the early and mid-nineteenth century, Trenton played an important role in Cumberland County's significant agricultural

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history, which continues to be a dominant economic pursuit in the county. In the twentieth century, the property became important as one of several tracts included in the federal government's purchases that in 1954 became the Cumberland State Forest. Today, the forest is part of the Commonwealth's reforestation and conservation program operated by the Department of Forestry. As the state forests headquarters and as the residence of the first three Virginia State Forests Superintendents (from 1954 to 1990), Trenton has played a significant role in the establishment and continued management of the Cumberland State Forest.¹² It is one of only a few dwellings in the Cumberland State Forest that have been used in this capacity. Oak Hill, located southwest of Trenton, is another early-nineteenth century dwelling that was used by the state forest agency for employee housing.

The property is significant on a local level in the area of architecture as an example of early nineteenth-century Federal-style architecture in Cumberland County that retains a high level of overall integrity. While the building no longer serves as a single-family dwelling, it retains sufficient character to convey its historical appearance and use. Trenton is also significant on a local level in the area of conservation for its role in the establishment and management of an early state forest. The identified period of significance for Trenton is ca. 1829 to 1955.

While a handful of known archaeological sites are located within the boundaries of the Cumberland State Forest, no systematic archaeological investigation has been undertaken at Trenton. Given the continuous rural nature of the area, the agricultural use of the land through the early twentieth century, and the program of conservation of the land throughout the late twentieth century, it seems likely that intact historical deposits may be found within the vicinity of the house and the proposed National Register property boundaries. For this reason, should archaeological survey be undertaken within the National Register property boundaries or within the historical boundaries of the Trent tract and archaeological sites are located that contain intact, dateable deposits that relate to the identified period of significance, then these sites should be considered potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion D as contributing components to the property as they may contain information important to one of the associated historic contexts. Non-extant outbuildings that may have existed at Trenton and were common on early-nineteenth-century rural properties include detached kitchens, spring houses, smokehouses, dairies, corn cribs, tobacco barns, hay barns, and icehouses. The approximate site of the latter was noted in a 1936 survey of Trenton, though its exact location is not known.¹³ A well house, which was extant until the late twentieth century, formerly was located northeast of the house, but its date of construction is unknown.¹⁴

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Historic Property Ownership

According to family records, John Trent (1788-1862) was the second son of Alexander Trent and Nancy Anderson Trent. John Trent, born in 1788, married Lucy Cunningham, daughter of John Cunningham, on August 10, 1812. The marriage is recorded in Cumberland County records. Family records indicate that Trent married Cunningham just prior to his service in the War of 1812. Lucy Cunningham Trent died in 1835 and in 1845, John Trent married Mary Thompson Jellis, a widow living in Ca Ira, a nearby community in Cumberland County. Although Trent's military service could not be confirmed through muster roll lists, pension records indicate that his widow, Mary, received a pension based on his service.¹⁵ It would have been during Trent's first marriage that he built "Trenton."

John Trent is first listed in the Cumberland County personal property and land tax books in 1809 and at that time owned 521 acres described as "on the Willis River." While no deed of conveyance could be found for this parcel, it appears that John Trent inherited this tract of land from his father Alexander Trent IV, who died in 1805. The first Alexander Trent (died 1703) lived at the house known as "Barter Hill" in what was then part of Henrico County (now Cumberland County). His son, Alexander II (died 1750) had two sons, Peterfield and Alexander III (1729-1793). According to family records, Peterfield became the progenitor of the Manchester and Richmond line of the Trent family, while Alexander III was the progenitor of the Cumberland County line of the family. Alexander III lived at Barter Hill and married Elizabeth Woodson. His son Alexander IV (died 1805) also lived at Barter Hill, but died at a plantation he owned in Amelia County. Dr. John Trent, who built Trenton, was the son of Alexander Trent IV.¹⁶

During the mid-eighteenth century, numerous land patents were awarded by King George II to Alexander Trent III. Trent patented nearly 7,000 acres in the Piedmont, including parcels in Goochland (now part of Cumberland) and Albemarle counties. (Trent served as one of the Cumberland representatives in the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1765-1771.) Alexander III also purchased land and inherited land from his father, who died in 1750. In his will, Alexander Trent II, bequeathed to his son Peterfield two tracts of land containing over 3,000 acres. To his son Alexander (III), he left "all the rest of my lands." In the late 1780s, a few years before his death, the land books of Cumberland County list Alexander Trent III as holding over 133,000 acres. His son, Alexander IV (listed as Alexander Jr. in the records), first appears in the land books in 1790 in possession of two parcels totaling over 1,500 acres. At his death in 1805, Trent's Cumberland County land holdings comprised a 198-acre parcel of land and a 1,150-acre parcel of land. An inventory and appraisal of Alexander Trent IV's estate indicate that he owned nearly 100 slaves, household goods, livestock, and farm implements totaling over 3412£. The county land books for 1805 through 1807 (no book found for 1808) list Alexander Trent IV's estate with these two parcels

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noted.¹⁷

In 1809, John Trent and his brother Edward are first listed in the land books and Alexander Trent's estate is no longer listed. John held a 521-acre parcel and Edward held a 500-acre parcel. Though no deed or will has been found to confirm the conveyance, it is assumed that both sons inherited the land from their father's estate. John Trent would have attained the age of majority in 1809, as well, which may support this assumption. In 1820, the first year that land tax records list a separate value for buildings, Trent's 521-acre parcel was assessed for \$400 of buildings—a sum that indicates that a fairly substantial house was extant on the property at the time. However, the sum is low for a brick house the size of Trenton. Following the land tax records through subsequent years, there is a sizable increase (from \$400 to \$2,000) in the value of buildings on the 521-acre parcel between 1828 and 1829. This jump in value seems to point to a sizable structure being erected on the property and is assumed to be the construction date of the brick dwelling known as Trenton.¹⁸

As Trent continued to add to his land holdings in the early nineteenth century, he also continued to add to the number of slaves who would have worked the plantation for him. Although Trent was by occupation a physician, his land was a productive farm that required substantial amounts of labor to operate it. By 1817, Trent was taxed for 20 slaves (16 years and older) and in 1850, Trent owned 23 slaves.¹⁸ Compared with most of his neighbors, Trent appears to have owned an average number of slaves, giving an idea of the size of his farm operation. His neighbor, William Thornton at Oak Hill, was operating one of the larger farms in the county at over 2500 total acres and in 1850, he owned 89 slaves. At the time, Cumberland was typical of many of Virginia's rural counties in that its slave population (6,329) was twice that of the free white population (3,166), indicating the enormous amount of labor used to maintain the plantation system.

The agricultural census taken in 1850, about a decade prior to Trent's death, indicates that Trenton's land was used to produce substantial amounts of cash crops, as well as to raise livestock. Though not one of the largest producing farms in the county, the production was fairly diversified. According to the census, Trent held 400 acres of improved land and 300 acres of unimproved land with a total cash value of \$7,000. The census also recorded a value of \$100 for farm implements. Trent owned four horses, six milk cows, six oxen, eight cattle, and sixteen sheep with a total value of \$508. Tobacco (11,000 bushels) and Indian corn (1,000 bushels) were the main products on the farm, while wheat, oats, and vegetables also were grown. Butter and wool also were produced.¹⁹

The 1850 population census lists Trent as a 60-year-old physician. Mary T[hompson], 46 years of age and Trent's second wife, is listed in the household as are Mary B., 34 years of age; Letitia, 24 years of age; and Peter, 18 years of age with no occupation recorded. Son Robert was living on his

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own and daughter Lucy had married Archibald Page in 1847 and was no longer at home.²⁰

The census of 1860 records Trent's real estate value at \$12,500 and the value of his personal property at \$13,172. Only his wife, Mary, is recorded in the household. Letitia most likely had married and moved out of the home, Mary B. Trent had died in 1856, and Peter B. Trent is listed separately in the census as an overseer with real estate valued at \$1,500 and personal property listed at \$1,500.²¹

Dr. Trent died in 1862 at 74 years and the cause of his death was listed as neuralgia. His death was reported to Cumberland officials by "R.B. Trent, son."²² No will for Dr. Trent was found recorded within Cumberland County records, but it appears from subsequent land dealings that the property that he owned and on which Trenton was located was divided between his immediate family members including his wife and son Robert. A map of the county made in 1864 indicates that "R.B. Trent" lived in the vicinity of Trenton and may have occupied the house for a time after his father's death.²³ In the late nineteenth century the property became delinquent for taxes. Trent's widow, Mary, died in 1885 and deed records show that taxes for 1886, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, and 1899 for the John Trent estate, then containing 633.75 acres, were not paid. The land was held at public auction, but no buyers came forth. The land was then purchased by the county treasurer in the name of the Auditor of Public Accounts of Virginia for the amount of taxes owed. No owners came forth to claim the land or pay the delinquent taxes on the land and so, in 1900, the property was sold to Ben H. Gray for just over \$275.²⁴ Within the year, Gray had sold the property to A.L. and J.L. Trent, who were partners in trade under the firm name A.L. Trent and Bro. Since some land had been sold off the larger tract, this conveyance was for 508.75 acres and was described as "being all the land which stands on the land books in the name of John Trent."²⁵

During the next few years, the property passed through several owners and in 1908 ownership was lost in default on a deed of trust by W.J. and Bettie Trent. Once again, the property was sold at public auction and Bruce Bowe, as trustee for his wife Caroline G.M. Bowe, was the highest bidder.

Bowe, who lived in Richmond, then sold the property to H.D. Flood of Appomattox. Again, the property passed through several owners until T.H. Freese purchased the property in 1913 from W. Lancaster. At this time, the property consisted of 464 acres. Freese retained ownership of the property until 1933 when he and his wife sold it to L.W. Farrier. Farrier and his wife sold the property to the United States government in 1936. The property, identified as "The Brick House tract," contained 444.4 acres and included the brick mansion built by Dr. John Trent.²⁶

During the 1930s, the federal government began purchasing tracts of land in Cumberland County and acquiring others by condemnation decrees. These acquisitions were completed by the Resettlement Administration under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Farm Act, which sought to develop a program of

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land conservation in rural parts of the country and to correct such things as soil erosion through reforestation, and preservation of natural resources. After acquisition, the land of the “Cumberland Project” was improved and reforested by workers in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who operated from a camp located near Cumberland Court House.²⁷ The CCC was a federal program established in 1933 that provided jobs to thousands of unemployed men, ages 17 to 25, focused on reforestation and conservation projects on a national scale. These men worked in forests and parks on land and water projects aimed at the preservation and recreational use of the country’s natural resources. In the Cumberland State Forest area, these workers helped to install culverts and build dams to create lakes including Winston Lake now in the state forest.²⁸

In 1939, the land was leased by the federal government to the Virginia Conservation Commission and in 1954, all the land acquired as “Cumberland Project, LA-VA-4” was deeded to the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Conservation and Economic Development. This land became the nucleus of the Cumberland State Forest. Acquisition of interior or adjacent tracts has added to the total acreage in the forest, which is presently over 16,000 acres. Joseph Hayes, the first superintendent of Virginia’s state forests, lived at Trenton during his tenure (1954-1965). W.C. “Chuck” Stanley was selected as the next superintendent (1966-1978), followed by James Bowen (1979-1990), who was the last to live fulltime at Trenton. While the house is no longer used as a superintendent’s dwelling, the state forest headquarters are still located at Trenton. All state forests are managed by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) for multiple-use purposes, including watershed protection, recreation, timber production, hunting, fishing, and applied forest research. The state forests are self-supporting (no taxes are used to operate the system). In addition, one-fourth of all income is returned to Cumberland County. Income is received from the sale of forest products and hunting stamp sales.²⁹

In 1993, the land, originally held by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the Department of Conservation and Economic Development and the Department of Conservation and Historic Resources), was transferred to the Department of Forestry excluding a tract located northeast of Trenton, which in 1962 became Bear Creek Lake State Park.³⁰ Today, Cumberland State Forest contains 16,222 acres within the piedmont of Virginia and lies in both Cumberland and Buckingham counties. Cumberland State Forest is one of eighteen state forests operated by the Department of Forestry. Since their inception, the state forests have been charged with managing the forest land to ensure a sustained yield of timber for the operation and maintenance of the resource and stability of the local economy while at the same time fulfilling multiple benefits, such as timber management, recreation, aesthetics, wildlife, natural reserves and water quality. Special management areas provide demonstration and research areas for the promotion of good forestry practices and observation of applied research.³¹ Cooperative agreements with other state agencies have been a trait of state forest operations since the late 1930s. Prior to the designation of wildlife areas, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries assisted in the game management

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activities of the forest. Game propagation also was part of an early agreement and involved approximately 20 acres for wild turkey propagation and a subsequent quail program. This area, located at the northern end of the forest, operated into the 1970s.³²

Architectural Context

Trenton is a good example of Federal-style architecture constructed in rural Cumberland County during the first part of the nineteenth century that features transitional elements of the Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles. Earlier surveys have noted that while the house's plan type—a center-passage, double-pile plan—was common in Virginia during this time, it was rare in Cumberland County.³³ The house is significant for its plan type, its early date of construction, and its intact interior Federal detailing including mantles and door and window surrounds. Given that the land around Trenton remained in agricultural use into the twentieth century and was either abandoned or used by tenants for much of the late nineteenth century, very few alterations have been made to the building. The most notable alterations to the property occurred during the twentieth century. On the exterior, the front of the house has been reoriented from the north side to the south side. The north side entrance porch was removed to allow for construction of an office wing. A new porch, similar to the earlier porch, was constructed on the south side of the house using salvaged materials from the dismantled north porch. On the interior, a kitchen and plumbing systems were added for modern domestic usage of the house.

While Dr. Trent's primary occupation was as a physician, he also was the owner of a productive farm. Agriculture was the predominant economic pursuit of Cumberland County residents during the nineteenth century with tobacco as the main cash crop. Corn and wheat were raised for local consumption and this production gave rise to numerous local mills. After the Civil War, the production of tobacco began to decrease, while corn and wheat continued to increase.³⁴ Given the amount of production known to have occurred at the Trent farm during the mid-nineteenth century through census records, it is assumed that the Trent farm would have included agricultural-related outbuildings including tobacco barns, hay barns, and corn cribs, as well as slave quarters. The 1936 survey of the property does not record any existing outbuildings, but notes that one of the largest oaks in the yard is the site of the former icehouse.³⁵ Although the original outbuildings are no longer extant, the subsequent construction of later outbuildings gives the feeling the property may have had as a working farm.

No archaeological investigation has been undertaken at the property; however, it seems likely that intact historical deposits may be found within the vicinity of the house. In 1993, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources completed a report on known cultural resources within the Cumberland State Forest. One Archaic period site and two sites related to canal locks constructed

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along the Willis River navigation were listed among the recorded resources. The report stated that the potential for prehistoric sites was highest along the major drainages and that larger Native American camps or villages might be found along the Willis River, while smaller drainages, such as Bear Creek might hold deposits from smaller, seasonal camps.³⁶ At present, no systematic investigation of archaeological resources has been completed for Cumberland State Forest. Should archaeological survey be undertaken within the National Register property boundaries or within the historical boundaries of the Trent tract and archaeological sites are located that contain intact, dateable deposits, these sites should be considered potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion D as a contributing component to the property as they may contain information important to one of the associated historic contexts.

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10. Geographical Data

UTM References

Gold Hill Quadrangle

Zone 17

<u>Point</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1	739804	4156915
2	739977	4156966
3	740007	4156798
4	739819	4156727
5	739783	4156808

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for this property correspond to the polygon as marked on the enclosed USGS Quadrangle (Gold Hill) following the above referenced UTM points.

Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the tree line immediately surrounding the historic dwelling, the collection of support outbuildings to the southwest and the northeast, the cemetery site, and the old roadbed.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

All photographs are of:
TRENTON
Cumberland County, Virginia
VDHR File Number 024-0001
Date of Photographs: March 2005
Debra A. McClane, photographer

All negatives (22091 and 22903) are stored with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

VIEW: View of entrance into property from intersection of Route 628 and 629.
NEG. NO.: 22901
PHOTO 1 of 12

VIEW: East side of dwelling.
NEG. NO.: 22901
PHOTO 2 of 12

VIEW: Rear elevation of dwelling showing one-story (ca. 1960) addition.
NEG. No.: 22901
PHOTO 3 of 12

VIEW: West side of dwelling.
NEG. No.: 22901
PHOTO 4 of 12

VIEW: Lunch and work shop building. View to SW.
NEG. No.: 22901
PHOTO 5 of 12

VIEW: Brick stable, view to NE.
NEG. No.: 22901
PHOTO 6 of 12

VIEW: Cold storage building, view to S/SW.
NEG. No.: 22901
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**Trenton
Cumberland, Virginia**

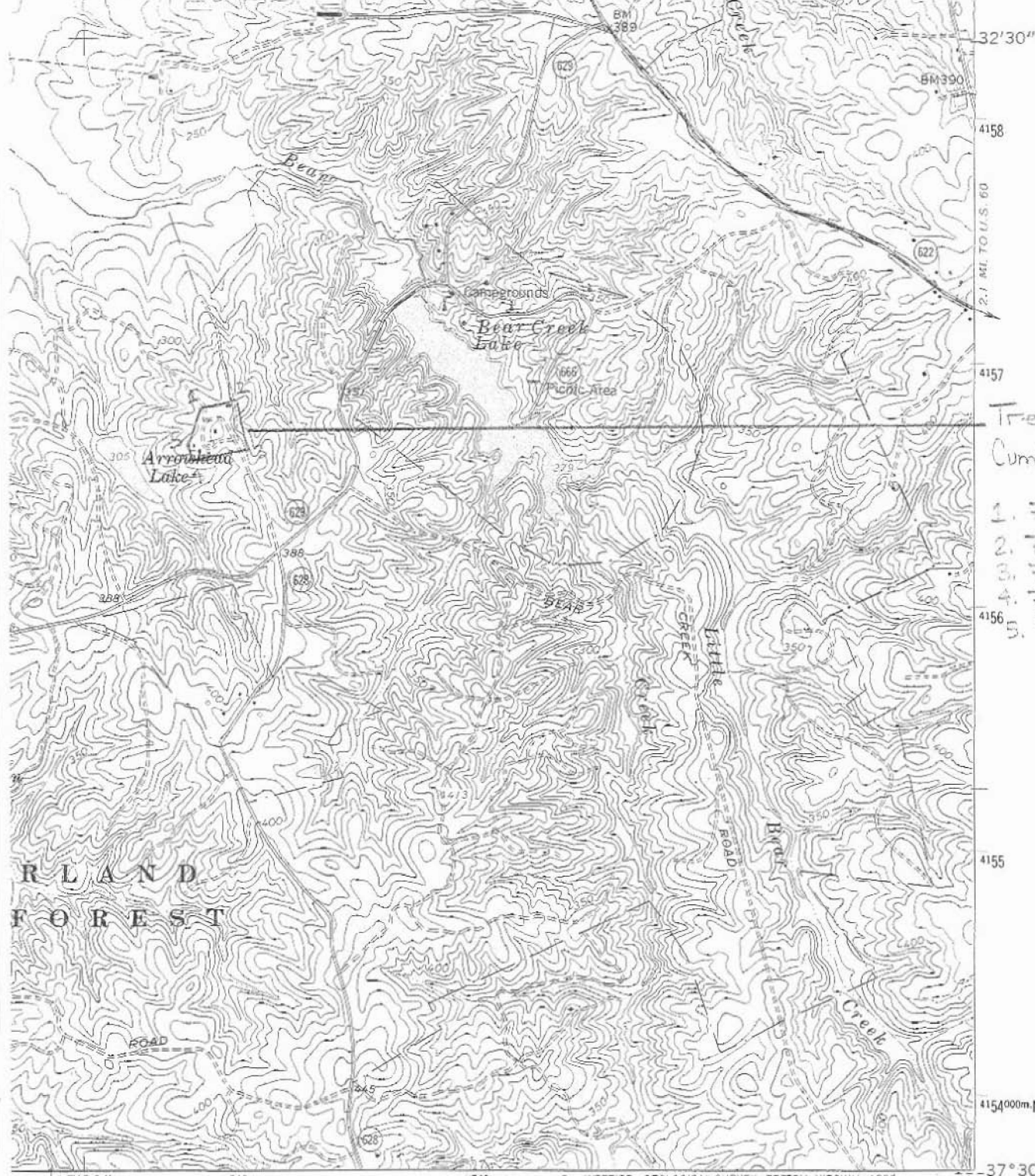
VIEW: View of cemetery, view to N/NW. Truck shelter in background.
NEG. No.: 22903
PHOTO 8 of 12

VIEW: Interior, view looking S at Palladian-inspired motif from entry hall.
NEG. No.: 22903
PHOTO 9 of 12

VIEW: Interior, room located east of entry hall that has been remodeled as a kitchen. Note built-in cabinet to left and doors to east side porch at right. View to E.
NEG. No.: 22903
PHOTO 10 of 12

VIEW: Interior, entrance doors located at south end of passage. View to S.
NEG. No.: 22903
PHOTO 11 of 12

VIEW: Interior, second floor hallway. View to S.
NEG. No.: 22903
PHOTO 12 of 12



Trenton (24-1)
Cumberland County
E N

1. 734004	4156915
2. 734977	4156976
3. 740007	4156790
4. 739819	4156772
5. 739783	415665

IRLAND
FOREST

17'30" 740 741 742000m.E 78°15' 37°30" 4154000m.N

1 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



GOLD HILL, VA.
N3730—W7815/7.5

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1979 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981

1968
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 5359 III SE—SERIES V834

CUMBERLAND
5359 I NW