

VLR 10-15-85
NPLP 12-2-85

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

DEMOLISHED

1. Name

historic Spring Hill

(DHL File #40-17)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number VA Rt. 730

N/A not for publication

city, town Emporia

vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Greenville

code 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Wayne K. Mangum

street & number P.O. Box 308

city, town Jarratt

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 23867

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenville County Clerk's Office

street & number N/A

city, town Emporia

state Virginia 23847

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Division of Historic Landmarks
Survey File #40-17

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks

city, town 221 Governor St., Richmond

state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Spring Hill is a hall-parlor house appended on its east (rear) elevation with a one-and-a-half story dormered wing. Located on Route 730 in Greenville County, the residence was constructed by 1786. Of frame construction, the house is covered with beaded weatherboarding and contains very fine quality interior woodwork. Paint colors, surviving from at least the early nineteenth century, are found in a number of interior spaces. The nominated acreage includes the main house and two contributing outbuildings.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Spring Hill is a two-story, hall-parlor frame house built on a brick foundation. Its clapboards are beaded and beveled; the original boards survive except on the west facade. The main entrance is found on this west side of the house and is sheltered by a gabled porch supported by double columns at the front and rear. The posts currently in place are not original as indicated by the one surviving original, which is on the rear of a matching porch on the north elevation of the house. Double doors are topped by simple rectangular fanlights, which similarly flank the entrance. Three of the four corners of the two-story section of the house have original corner boards that are over thirty feet long and are of one-piece construction being beaded along their entire length.

Perpendicular to the main body of Spring Hill is a story and one-half room that is original to the house; its roof line has been altered to allow the addition of a breezeway on its south face. The original cypress-shake roofing survives under a tin roof. Entrance to this room and the English basement are on the east side of the structure. Fenestration was 9/9 except in the English basement and the dormers on the story and one-half section as shown by several surviving examples. On the west and north faces, these have been replaced with 2/2 sashes. All the original corner blocks are intact, each being twenty-four inches in height and made from a single piece of wood.

In 1920 a one-story, two-room addition was added to the south of Spring Hill and was used as a kitchen and dining room. Its construction is atypically primitive for 1920 buildings; it may have been an outbuilding that was moved and joined to the house. Tax records note it as "value added for building".

Two large chimneys of handmade brick laid in random bond are found on the north and east facades of Spring Hill. Their brickwork is reproduced in the foundation of the entire house; this is one of several features of the house that establishes that the entire building (excepting the 1920 attached kitchen) was built at one time.

Spring Hill has a passage on the southern side of the two-story section that contains an elaborate staircase. Its grained finish appears to be the original finish and is well preserved. The open string stair has turned balusters, scrolled-sawn brackets, a paneled spandrel, and is broken by two landings. Its square newels are matched by half-newels which interrupt the wainscotting which parallels the stair.

(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/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1786 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Spring Hill is significant as the finest eighteenth-century residence surviving in Greensville County. The quality of its craftsmanship, together with its styling suggest a sophistication in residential architecture equal to dwellings found in more urban areas of Virginia. Throughout its two-hundred year history, Spring Hill has served Greensville County as a residence, tavern, and school owned by and associated with many of the county's most prominent citizens.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Spring Hill was built on land willed by Michael Wall to his son James in 1749; the same will ordered that the executor patent the land [WB 2, p. 156, Brunswick]. While an exact date for the building of the house has not been found, it is known to have been built by 1786. Two theories on the origin of the house emerge from the documentary evidence.

The first is that it was built as a dower home for Mary Wall. She was the wife of James Wall, Jr., who inherited the Spring Hill property from the above-mentioned Michael. Her husband's uncle was the first sheriff of Greensville and had loaned the government \$50,000.00 during the revolution. Land tax records of Greensville show that she paid taxes on over 5000 acres of land in the year after her husband's death. The prominence of such a family would have justified the high quality of the construction reflected in Spring Hill's building, especially its interior and exterior woodwork. The grandness of its stairway bespeaks a house being built for an important person or family. Yet the house, having only one major bedchamber, seems not to be built for a family, but an individual. Mary Wall remarried in 1783 and moved to Petersburg. In 1786 the 490 acres on which Spring Hill stands was leased to William Andrews by her for use as a tavern.

It is from this transaction that the second theory on Spring Hill's origin comes. As noted above, William Andrews became a tavern keeper at Spring Hill in 1786-87. Andrews' fame in Greensville history stems from his mention in George Washington's Journal entry for 16 April, 1791:

Got into my Carriage a little after 5 Oclock, and travelled thro' a cloud of dust until I came two or three miles of Hix'ford when it began to rain. Breakfasted at one Andrews' a small but decent House about a mile after passing the ford (or rather the bridge) over the Meherrin river...

The floorplan of Spring Hill suggests a house built for use as a tavern. That plan consists of an entry hall and one large room on the main floor of the two-story section, and one

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Greensville County. Deed Books.
 Land Tax Books.
 Order Books.
 Will Books.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Emporia, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	18	2	7	2	6	12	0	4	0	6	11	0	7	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing										

B

Zone	Easting				Northing										

C

Zone	Easting				Northing										

D

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 #2)

DESCRIPTION: Beginning at a point on the W side of a dirt road approx. 100' NW of the end of a private road located approx. 900' SW of VA Rt. 730 at a point approx. 100' SE of Falling Run Cemetery; thence extending approx. 125' NNW along W side of dirt road; thence approx.

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 William Pruett

organization Greensville County Historical Society date 1985

c/o Hunterdale School

street & number Hunterdale Road telephone N/A

city or town Franklin state Virginia

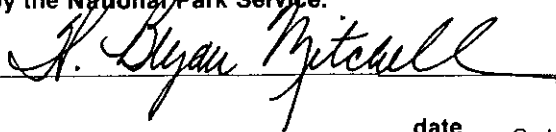
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title H. Bryan Mitchell, Director
Division of Historic Landmarks

date October 21, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

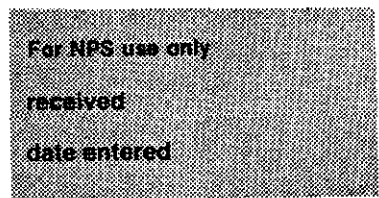
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



SPRING HILL, Greensville County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION - Architectural Analysis (cont.)

On the same floor is a large room entered from the north from the passage. Entry to the room may also be made from the south by an outside door, and from the east by a door from the story and one-half wing. A mantel centers on the north wall between the door from the outside and a window. The room has wainscotting identical to that in the hall-passage.

Above stairs in the full two-story section of Spring Hill are two rooms, one being only the size of the top stair landing. The other is identical in size to the main room downstairs, its ceiling being somewhat lower. The mantel in this room has been removed.

The rear (east) wing main-floor room has entrances from the west, and from the outside on the east. There are two windows each in the north walls, and a fireplace with a simple mantel on the east wall between the door to the outside and a small door to a chimney pent. A very steep staircase rises to a room above this. The room has four dormered windows facing as those in the room below and a small fireplace above the one below it and serviced by a common chimney. Both rooms are plastered with molded chair rails.

The English basement is entered either from a staircase beneath the spandrel or by steps from the yard that descend below the chimney pent. The floor plan of the basement replicates that of the floor above exactly, i.e. one room beneath the passage, one below the large room on the northwest corner, and one below the room on the southeast. Flooring in the front (west) of these rooms is of brick; dirt floors remain in the east room of the cellar.

Four outbuildings are in the yard of Spring Hill. The oldest seems to have been a slave or overseer's quarters. It has one room on the ground floor, and a loft entered by a ladder-like set of stairs. It is remarkable only in its rafter system. Viewed in near ruin, the roof trusses were either built with the shortest possible counterbalance beams or the main center section of each beam has been cut out approximately three feet from each exterior wall.

Located to the east of the main house as is its older neighbor, is a one-room house said to have been used as a doctor's office. It is a tool storage room today. The other two outbuildings are a contemporary pump house and a garage with lean-to. Away from the house to the north are two barns of twentieth century construction (not within nominated acreage).

The entire environment of Spring Hill has changed. Originally, approach was from the ancient Halifax Road, now screened by trees. It is now approached from Rt. 730 that is perpendicular to the Halifax Road; from Rt. 730 a farm lane provides approach to the house from its northeast elevation.

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SPRING HILL, Greensville County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8, 10

Page 1,1

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8. SIGNIFICANCE - Historical Background (cont.)

large room, one tiny room at the top of the stairs in that section of the house. That which architecturally is most suggestive of a tavern, however, is the story and one-half section that is perpendicular to the two-story section. It has one room that would have served the same purpose as the main room in the house, suggesting a separate set of living quarters for the tavern keeper's family. Also in support of the tavern theory is the door providing egress from the main room in the two-story section to the yard area where the kitchen probably stood.

Spring Hill is the sole surviving house in Greensville County that can be documented to have existed in the eighteenth century.

Theories of origin aside, Spring Hill's ownership continued in the Wall family until 1820, being passed by will from Mary to her son Michael, by will from him to his wife Elizabeth, and to their son, James M. Wall who sold the property to Thomas Turner on March 21, 1820. Six years later, Turner sold 220 acres to Wright Robinson. His brother, Braxton, was his sole heir and inherited the property which he gave his daughter, Mary G. Jane Johnson, on 26 August, 1828. In that deed of gift [DB 6, p. 302, Greensville] the "...parcel of land..." is noted as "commonly called 'The White House.'"

Mrs. Johnson retained the property until 1873, at one time running a school for girls there. She is noted as the owner of the site on the Gilmer maps of the Civil War era, and it was during her ownership the property began to be referred to as Spring Hill on the Land Tax books of the county.

Mrs. Johnson willed to her daughter Sally Green Wyatt [WB 5, p. 661, Sussex] "the balance of my estate in Greensville", which included Spring Hill. The land and house passed to her son Edward Wyatt who never recorded a deed to it. So that his heirs could sell the property, a suit in chancery was necessary [chancery order #71, 1886]. Over the next thirty-three years, Spring Hill had five owners of short durations, ranging from fourteen years to twenty-two days.

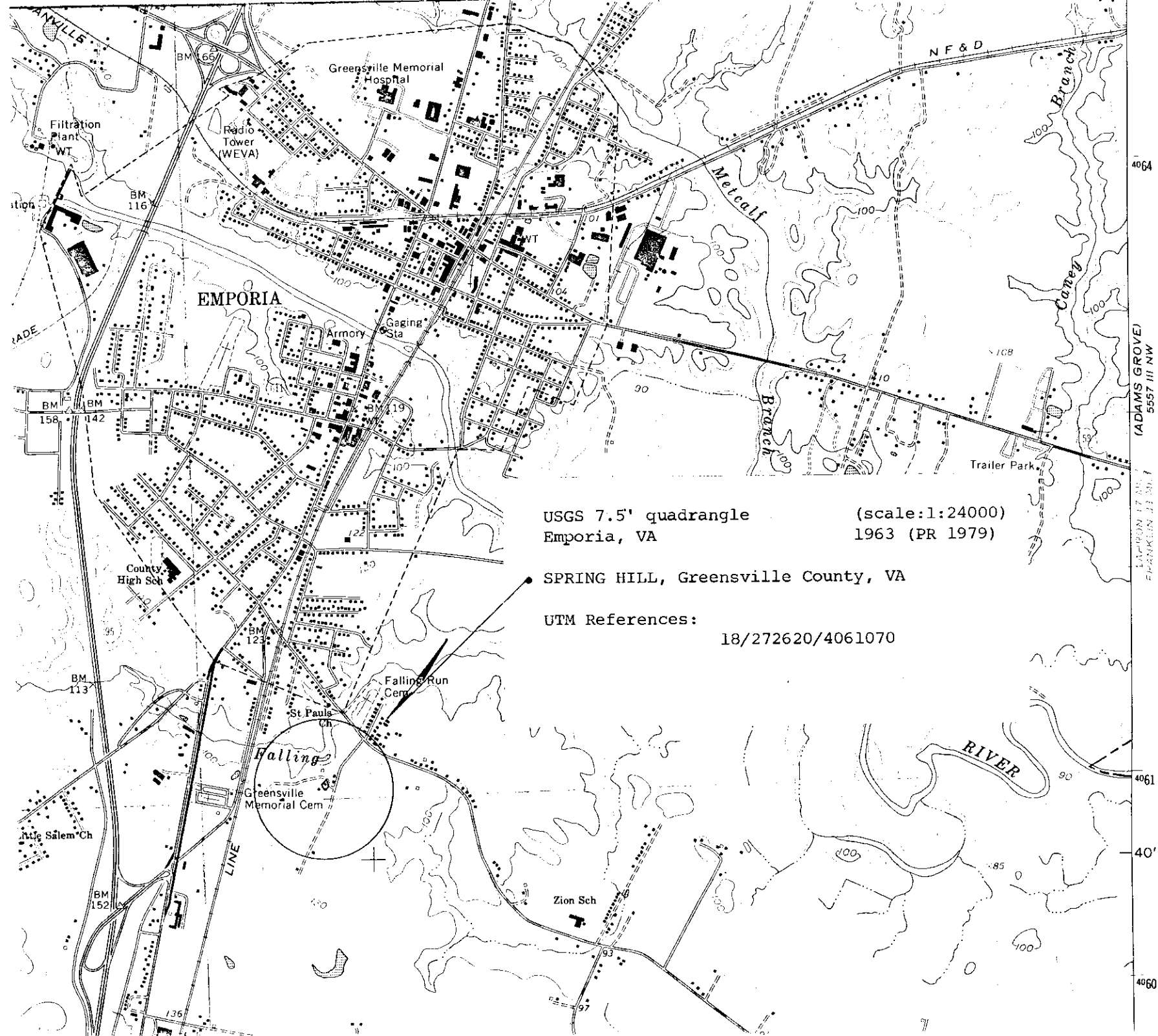
In 1919 it was sold to Jerry L. Batts and his wife and has passed by will and family sale to the current owners, Mrs. Mangum having been a member of the Batts Family.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - Description

100' SW; thence approx. 100' SE; thence approx. 100' NE to point of origin.

JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is a fraction of the 161.98 acre tract as found in Deed Book 113, p. 594, 1984. The bounds have been drawn to include the house and two contributing out-buildings.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Emporia, VA

(scale:1:24000)
1963 (PR 1979)

● SPRING HILL, Greensville County, VA

UTM References:
18/272620/4061070

4064
4061
40'
4060
ADAMS GROVE)
5557 III NW
EMPIRIA 7.5' QUADRANGLE
SPRING HILL, VA