

Description

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date entered

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Chimney Rock Farm (Preferred)

and/or common The Willows

2. Location

street & number State Route 91 N/A not for publication

city, town Tazewell vicinity X vicinity of congressional district Ninth (William C. Wampler)

state Virginia code 51 county Tazewell code 185

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

Carolyn R. Harrold, Karon E. Harrold, Robert F. Harrold, Jane Harrold Sorensen  
name c/o Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Harrold

street & number Route 1, Box 289

city, town Tazewell N/A vicinity of state Virginia 24651

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tazewell County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Tazewell state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

(1) Historic American Buildings  
title Survey Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1959  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Chimney Rock Farm, also known as The Willows, in Tazewell County, is a refined three-porch, or Palladian-type, dwelling constructed ca. 1843 by what is believed to be a Bedford County builder. The house is related in form and plan to a number of Tidewater and Piedmont Palladian houses, the prototype for which is the Semple House in Williamsburg whose design may have been influenced by Thomas Jefferson.

Chimney Rock Farm consists of a pedimented two-story center pavilion flanked by one-story wings. The front and side elevations are laid in Flemish bond, while the rear elevation is laid in five-course American bond. The facade mortar joints are penciled. The house is underpinned by brick and sits on a high basement. Typical of the form, the three-bay center pavilion is temple form with a pedimented gable. A lunette fills most of the tympanum. The pediment cornice as well as those on the wings are embellished by a delicate guilloche, mutules, and punch-and-dentil work. The first story of the central pavilion is shaded by a Victorian porch topped by a sawn-work railing. The gable ends of the wings have molded rake boards. The fenestration pattern is 6/9 all around except for the half-story openings. All principal windows have wooden sills and plain wooden lintels with turned corner blocks. Exterior chimneys with stepped weatherings are at the end of each wing and on the north wall of the center pavilion. Original wooden grills have been preserved in basement openings. The roof is sheathed with pressed metal in a shingle pattern. A large, recent frame addition is attached to the rear of the west wing, and a one-story brick addition stretches across the rest of the rear. These additions have been well integrated in that the visual integrity of the facade has been maintained.

The plan of the house is similar to its Tidewater and Piedmont counterparts. The center pavilion contains the entrance hall and parlor on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor; the library is located in the east wing and a bedroom in the west wing. The half-story over each wing, lighted only by end windows, contains a bedroom. The finished basement of the central pavilion, once used as a kitchen, contains a dining room. The basement rooms under the wings function as utility rooms. The addition contains family rooms and a kitchen.

The simply executed trim is original, with the exception of the reeded parlor cornice which was installed by the present owners. Much of the trim has been painted to resemble golden oak. The delicate quarter-turn, open-string stair is located in the entrance hall. There are two square balusters per tread, and the handrail is molded. A recessed-panel wainscot, consistent with that used in each first-story room, encircles the room and ramps up the stair wall where it is capped by a half-handrail and terminated at each end by slender half-newel posts. The first-floor mantels are marked by slender, stretched proportions and are lightly decorated by gouge work and deeply molded cornices. The library mantel is the most striking of the three. The entablature blocks and central tablet are carved with fluted elliptical paterae, and the whole is topped by a deeply molded cornice with a reeded dentil band. The cabinets in the west bedroom are modern, and the entry to the enclosed stair that originally provided the only access to the bedroom over this wing is positioned in this room. Second-story bedrooms are simply detailed. Baseboards rather than wainscoting are found in each room, and mantels are treated conservatively. A quarter-turn stair leads from the second-floor hall to the finished attic over the central block. This graceful stair is similar in design to the main stair, the differences being the substitution of a baseboard for the wainscot and dissimilar scroll brackets.

No original dependencies are associated with Chimney Rock Farm.

(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 type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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. 1843      **Builder/Architect** unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chimney Rock Farm, also known as The Willows, is the purest example of the three-part, or Palladian-type, house in Southwest Virginia. While this form was employed extensively in Tidewater and Piedmont Virginia, Palladian houses are rarely found in the farther reaches of the state. Prominently sited on the West Fork of Plum Creek in Tazewell County, the house was built ca. 1843 for Hervey George, a successful lawyer and farmer who served as county justice and sheriff before representing Tazewell as a delegate to the General Assembly during the Civil War. Local tradition maintains that the builder was a Bedford County man who worked in Lynchburg and built three other houses in the county. The property takes its name from a prominent land form on Knob Mountain called Chimney Rock, which is plainly visible from the house.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

William George, the father of Hervey George, was a prominent early citizen of Tazewell. He acquired land by grant and deed on the Clinch River as early as 1795 when this area was still a part of Wythe County. He continued to enlarge his holdings after Tazewell was formed from Wythe in 1799, purchasing tracts north and east of the courthouse, some in Garden Mountain and others in Burkes Garden. He also owned several lots in Jeffersonville (the original name for the town of Tazewell) which were later charged with substantial building values in the land books. County records reveal that he was appointed to a committee of three to survey land for the town's public buildings in 1800. The next year he obtained a store license and developed in the town a flourishing dry goods and general store known as "George and Co." and sometimes as "William George and John Evans." In 1801 he also was appointed a justice of the peace and qualified as county coroner. The inventory of his personal estate in January 1810 depicts an impressive array of store merchandise as well as personal property consisting of fifteen slaves and valuable farm equipment and livestock. In addition, his accounts receivable amounted to over \$5,500. Upon the death of his widow, Jane, in 1820, responsibility for these properties devolved on the Georges' three sons -- Henry P. George, John B. George, and Hervey George. Each of the three became a well-to-do and prominent citizen of Tazewell and represented Tazewell County in the General Assembly.

Hervey George, the youngest, is first recorded as a purchaser of property independent of his family holdings in 23 February, 1820. He paid \$66.00 for "...a certain lott in the town of Jeffersonville...known as the Fifth Lott in the plan of said town...on the S.E. side from the Public Square..."<sup>1</sup> Having qualified as deputy sheriff in 1819, he became justice of the peace in 1820, commissioner of taxes in 1821, and a captain in a cavalry troop in 1823. In 1827 he bought his second piece of property, a tract of 165 acres located in both Tazewell and Russell counties.

In 1829 Hervey George bought from house joiner William Williams five contiguous tracts located about six miles west of the courthouse which Williams had assembled on Plum Creek from five different owners. Examination of both the deed book records of this transaction

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Harman, John Newton. Annals of Tazewell County, Virginia. Vols. I and II. Richmond: W. C. Hill Printing Co., 1925.
- Pendleton, William C. History of Tazewell County and Southwest Virginia. Richmond: W. C. Hill Printing Co., 1920.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name Tazewell South, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	4	4	5	8	6	0	4	1	0	3	4	4	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** Beginning at a point on S side of State Route 91, on 2680' contour and about 14,900' SW of intersection of Route 91 and U.S. Business Route 19/460 west ramp; thence about 400' SSE; thence about 450' SW; thence about 200' NW to S side of Route 91; thence about 500' NE along said side to point of origin.

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date March 1981

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

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*H. Bryan Mitchell*

title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date MAY 10 1982

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 7/8/82

*for Allouis Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Chimney Rock Farm, Tazewell County, Virginia

Continuation sheet

#1

Item number 6,7,8,9

Page 1

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date entered

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968, 1980 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The register bounds have been delineated to include only the house. The total nominated acreage is three acres.

MH

8. SIGNIFICANCE

and land tax book entries over the next decade reveals no change in the building values on these tracts until 1840. By 1843, however, the land tax book showed that the value of building improvements on this property had increased to \$1,000. This dates the completion of Hervey George's brick house, probably begun in 1840, with substantial additions ca. 1857.

George meanwhile had served as school commissioner in 1830 and delegate to the General Assembly for two terms from 1832-34. He also had increased his landholdings on Plum Creek, acquiring in 1835 three tracts containing 1,235 acres from John and Easter Allen. By the 1840s he owned three lots in the town, each of which was taxed for substantial buildings. Other deeds during this period identify him as a trustee on many documents, as provider of a bond for his brother's appointment to constable, and as a practicing attorney. In 1846 he was again appointed deputy sheriff. Following brief service as sheriff, he was again elected to the General Assembly in 1848 and 1849. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he was returned to the state legislature and served as delegate until 1863. His last official act as presiding judge of the Tazewell County Court in 1864 was to urge the Governor of Virginia to exempt the county from a general requisition for slaves to labor on the fortifications in Richmond.

George lived at Chimney Rock Farm until his death in 1865. His wife, Sallie, had predeceased him, and he left no will. Consequently the land and house in which he resided were inherited by his two daughters, Laura J. French and Mary M. McCall. In 1875 the daughters and their husbands sold the property out of the hands of the family. The house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Harrold of Tazewell.

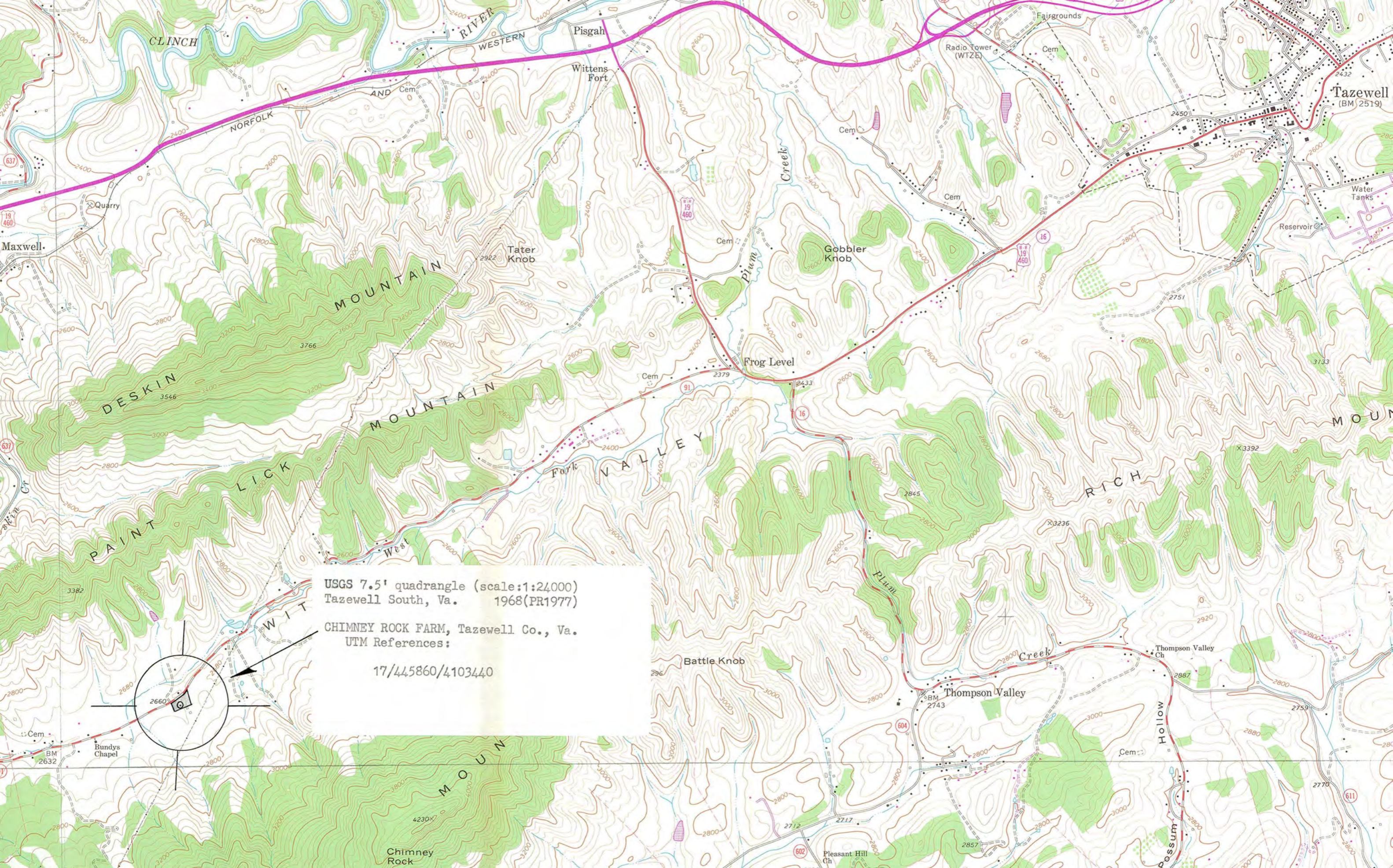
VDS/RAC

<sup>1</sup>Tazewell County Deed Book 3, p. 102.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tazewell County Deed Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15.

Personal Property Tax Books 1801, 1815; Will Books 1, 3; Land Tax Books 1801, 1810, 1820-49, 1850-1870.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Tazewell South, Va. 1968(PR1977)

CHIMNEY ROCK FARM, Tazewell Co., Va.  
UTM References:  
17/445860/4103440

