

*destroyed by fire 6/1/74*

**Delisted**

**2**

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>
COUNTY: <b>Brunswick</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: <b>Bentfield</b>	
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Melrose</b>	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>1 1/2 miles Southeast of intersection of Route 656 and Route 58.</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Lawrenceville vicinity</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>Fifth (W. C. Daniel)</b>	
STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE: <b>51</b>	COUNTY: <b>Brunswick</b>	CODE: <b>025</b>

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) <b>being restored</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: <b>The Reverend Robert S. Creamer, Jr.</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>The Rectory, Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Lawrenceville</b>	STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE: <b>51</b>	

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <b>Brunswick County Court House</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>(Deed book 37, p. 266.)</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Lawrenceville</b>	STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE: <b>51</b>	

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1967</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>221 Governor Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Richmond</b>	STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE: <b>51</b>	

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	COUNTY: <b>Brunswick</b>	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A. General Statement:

1. Bentfield, constructed in 1810, comprises one of the principle manor houses and plantation groups not only in Brunswick County, but in all of Southside Virginia. The number, general location and arrangement of the buildings and gardens makes Bentfield a significant example of federal plantation architecture of the early nineteenth century. The interior wood paneling is elegantly refined.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, and in the process of restoration.

B. Description of the Interior:

1. The main body of the house is a large, single pile seven bay brick structure, two-and-one-half stories high. A wooden kitchen wing was attached to the facade's central three bays probably in the mid-nineteenth century. The rear of the structure, facing away from the Meherrin River, became the principle facade.
2. Foundations: brick.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Exceptionally fine Flemish bond brickwork with molded brick water table. Putlog holes are found on both sides of each window and two are found on each side of the chimney stacks, with one in the center of each stack.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick interior and exterior bearing walls. Interior wood framing.
5. Chimneys: There are two, high exterior chimney stacks, one on the east wall and one on the west wall. Each stack splays inward at the cornice line.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are two entrances to the main structure, both through the center bays of the north and south facades. Each consists of a double raised three paneled door with banded wooden surrounds. The flat archivolt is of rubbed bricks.
  - b. Windows and shutters: All of the windows are wooden double-hung nine-over-nine sash with flat rubbed brick arches. Many of the original shutters remain with double paneled movable vents.
7. Roof: A gable roof covered with tin, with a plain box cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
  - a. First floor: The entrance from the south side of the structure opens into a large rectangular hall with a partially enclosed stair in the northwest corner of the room. To the east of the hall is a large parlor with fireplace. To the west of the hall is a smaller dining room with fireplace.
  - b. Second floor: The stair leads to the second floor front hall. To the west of the stair is a large bedroom with fireplace and two storage areas at the rear of the house. Two bedrooms lie to the north of the second floor front hall, while the master bedroom with fireplace is found at the end of the hall in the extreme eastern end of the structure.
2. Stairway: The mahogany stair is located in a high stair-hall which runs perpendicular to the south facade of the structure. The stair rises to a landing at the southeast corner of the room and then continues to rise to the second level after the landing. A simple wooden molded

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7. handrail, scrolled at the first floor runs broken only at the first floor landing by a round newel post. The balusters are simple wooden square members. An elaborate open stringer runs the length of the exposed stair.

3. Flooring: The floors throughout the main house are heart pine and are in excellent condition.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are all plastered with wainscoting throughout the house. The baseboards are distinctively marbled.

5. Doorways and doors: All doors are 'cross and bible' paneled and those on the first floor have distinctive Adamesque pilastered and modillioned architraves.

6. Windows: The windows are treated in a similar fashion to the doorways with paneled reveals and carved pilasters and architraves.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The main house and the remaining outbuildings are oriented toward the south and the bend in the Meherrin River. The approximately 40 acres overlooking the lowlands of the river form but a small part of the original estate. There are remains of a large formal garden to the north of the house with a fine stand of English boxwood near the north entrance. Another garden and an extremely large box is located several hundred feet to the south of the structure and a cemetery lies to the west of the house. Two remaining wooden outbuildings lie to the east of the mansion while a fine eighteenth century style wooden dairy stands but a few yards from the house in the same direction.

J.L.F.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian    ☐ 16th Century    ☐ 18th Century    ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century    ☐ 17th Century    ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1810

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |  |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bentfield was the home of the Joneses and the Flournoys, two prominent Southside Virginia families. The plantation's impressive brick mansion illustrates how the Federal style was adapted for the region by the local master masons and carpenters. Handsomely proportioned, the house exhibits exceptionally fine craftsmanship in its masonry and interior woodwork. Its complex of outbuildings is a rare survival and helps complete the picture of an early nineteenth century Virginia plantation.

A 1726 patent to Matthew Jones of Isle of Wight County was issued for 200 acres on the south side of the Meherrin River, south of Cattail Creek in Brunswick County. This possibly could have been in the same area where Bentfield stands today.

The first known and most famous owner of the Bentfield property was John Jones, often referred to as "Hellcat" Jones. He may have been a descendent of Matthew Jones who in 1726 patented 200 acres on the "southside of the Meherrin River, south of Cattail Creek," in the vicinity of the present house. John Jones was a Colonel during the Revolution, and a letter he wrote congratulating Governor Nelson in 1781 on the glorious victory at Yorktown is preserved in the official Virginia State Papers. John Jones served in the Virginia Senate, representing the area including Brunswick County from 1776 until 1789, and signed a petition urging the new government of Virginia to reestablish the Anglican Church in the state. John Jones' son, John Jones, Jr., was born in 1764 and married Lucy Binns Cargill in 1787. It was for this son that "Hellcat" Jones built the present house on the plantation he called "Melrose", which was the first name of what later was known as "Bentfield."

Information on the Jones family in the nineteenth century is relatively scant, but Melrose remained in the possession of the Joneses until 1854 when Charles G. Jones, possibly a son of John Jones, Jr., sold the property and house referred to as the "plantation whereon I / Jones / now dwell" to George C. Rives. In this deed Jones mentions that he had inherited the property from his father, and a registry of students at the College of William and Mary shows a John N. Jones of Brunswick County registered there in 1835-36 whose guardian was a Mrs. Mary Jones. This might indicate that John Jones, Jr., was deceased by that time.

In 1859, George C. Rives, a wealthy landowner who lived at Sherwood, Albemarle County, who never actually resided at Melrose, sold this property of 720 acres for \$8,000 to Thomas Flournoy.

The property with its name changed from "Melrose" to "Bentfield" remained in the Flournoy family for 114 years. The Flournoy family dates back to Jean Jacques Flournoy, a French Huguenot who came to Virginia between 1717



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8.  
and 1720. Thomas Flournoy, who purchased Bentfield, was originally from Prince Edward County. A horse lover and an ardent Presbyterian, he helped establish the Union Presbyterian Church (since destroyed) in whose churchyard many of the Flournoy family are buried. The last residents of the Flournoy family to reside at Bentfield were two of Thomas Flournoy's granddaughters, both of whom were deceased by 1947.

S.P. & J.L.F.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents, 1666-1720, Patent Book 12, p. 716.  
 Bell, Landon, The Old Free State, 2 vols., Richmond, William Byrd Press, 1927.  
 Vol. I, p. 353, Vol. II, p. 70.  
 Brunswick County Deeds, Book 36 (1852-57) p. 277 Book 37, (1859), p. 266.  
 Brunswick County Wills.  
 Calender of Virginia State Papers, Vol. II, pp. 261, 570. Vol. VI, p. 104.  
 Childs, James Rives, Reliques of the Rives, Lynchburg, 1929, pp. 80, 110, 287,  
 401, 596.  
 King, Margaret Rives, A Memento of Ancestors and Ancestral Homes, Cincinnati,  
 1890, p. 33.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36 ° 43 ' 42 "	77 ° 52 ' 59 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	36 ° 43 ' 42 "	77 ° 52 ' 43 "				
SE	36 ° 43 ' 23 "	77 ° 52 ' 43 "				
SW	36 ° 43 ' 23 "	77 ° 52 ' 59 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 39.82 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff	
ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATE: November, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER: 221 Governor Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date NOV 20 1973

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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9.  
Letter of Mrs. Sally T. Gerhardt, dated April 30, 1968 (Mrs. Gerhardt is a  
descendent of Thomas Flournoy and was a part owner of "Bentfield").  
Marriage Records of Brunswick County, 1730-1852, compiled by Augusta Fothergill  
in 1952, p. 60.  
Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 36, pp. 188-189.  
William and Mary Quarterly, 1st Series, Vol. 19, pp. 290-291. 2nd Series,  
Vol. 3, p. 276.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Brunswick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Bentfield			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Bentfield			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: South of Lawrenceville off Route 58			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE: Virginia	CODE	COUNTY: Brunswick	CODE
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
SCALE:			
DATE:			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Brunswick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Bentfield			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Bentfield			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: South of Lawrenceville off Route 58			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE: Virginia	CODE	COUNTY: Brunswick	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Zelma Lee Overby, for Va. Historic Landmarks Comm.			
DATE OF PHOTO: October 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Brunswick	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Bentfield			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Melrose			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 1/2 miles Southeast of intersection of Route 656 and Route 58.			
CITY OR TOWN: Lawrenceville vicinity			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Brunswick	CODE 025
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle White Plains, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1963			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Melrose			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 1/2 miles Southeast of intersection of Route 656 and Route 58.			
CITY OR TOWN: Lawrenceville vicinity			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Brunswick	CODE 025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Richmond, Va.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
1. View of house from northwest.			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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1. NAME			
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Melrose			
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STREET AND NUMBER: 1 1/2 miles Southeast of intersection of Route 656 and Route 58.			
CITY OR TOWN: Lawrenceville vicinity			
STATE: Virginia		CODE 51	COUNTY: Brunswick
			CODE 025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Richmond, Va.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  2. View of living room/ ball room first floor.			

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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## PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Brunswick	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

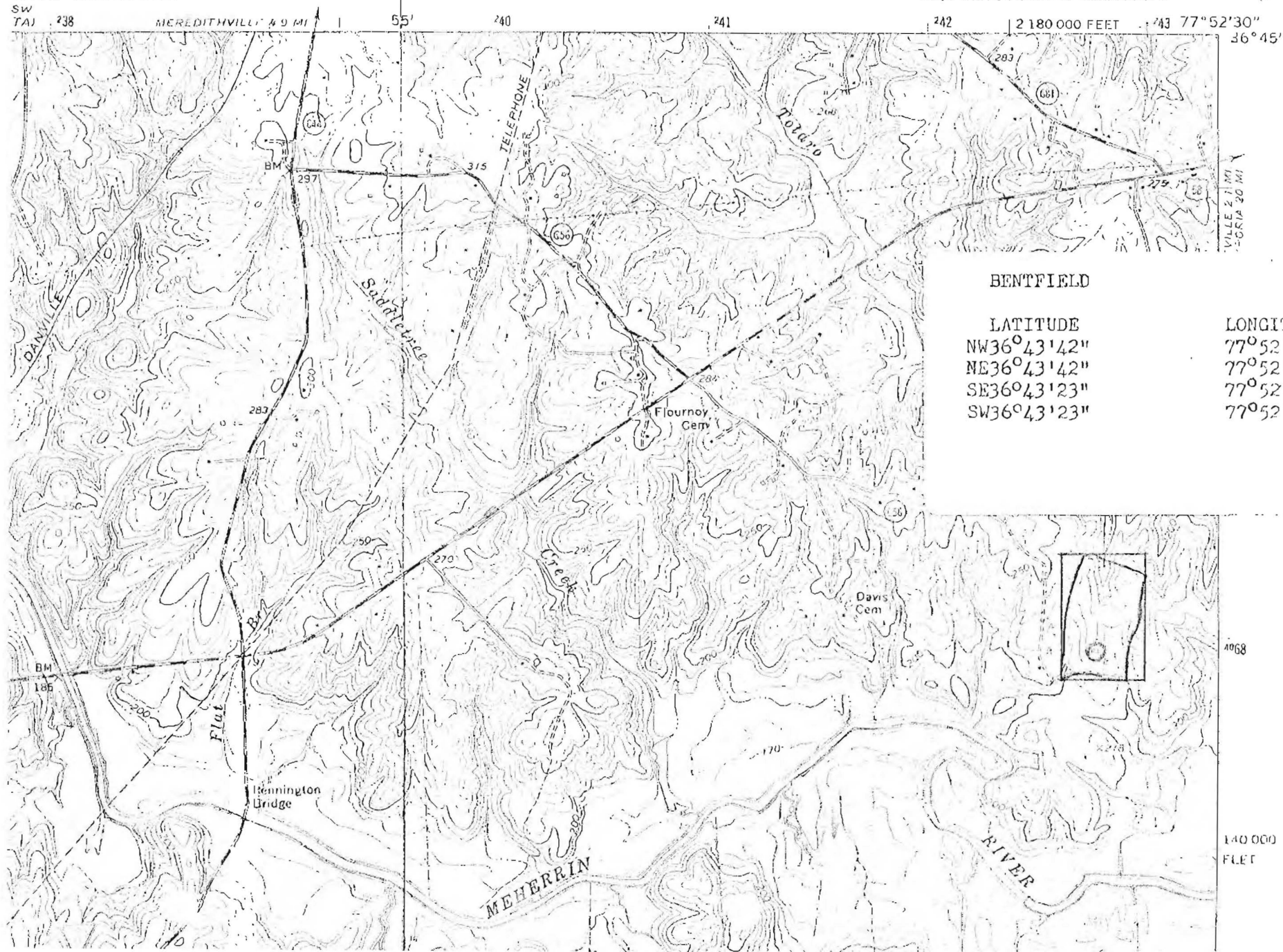
1. NAME			
COMMON: Bentfield			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Melrose			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 1/2 miles Southeast of intersection of Route 656 and Route 58.			
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PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Richmond, Va.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  3. View of first floor doorway.			

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 NATURAL RESOURCES  
 STATE GEOLOGIST

WHITE PLAINS QUADRANGLE  
 VIRGINIA--BRUNSWICK CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 NW/4 WHITE PLAINS 15' QUADRANGLE E

0.001 IV SE  
 (LAWRENCEVILLE)



BENTFIELD

LATITUDE  
 NW36°43'42"  
 NE36°43'42"  
 SE36°43'23"  
 SW36°43'23"

LONGITUDE  
 77°52'59"  
 77°52'43"  
 77°52'43"  
 77°52'59"



4068

140 000  
 FEET