

VLR 11/10/71  
NR 2/20/72

02-12

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>VIRGINIA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>ALBEMARLE</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**CASTLE HILL**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**CASTLE HILL**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**.8 mi. NW of Rt. 231, 2 mi. NE of intersection with Rt. 600**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**(Cismont vic.) James Kenneth Robinson, Congressman, Seventh District**

STATE <b>VIRGINIA</b>	CODE <b>51</b>	COUNTY: <b>ALBEMARLE</b>	CODE <b>003</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mrs. Clark J. Lawrence**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Castle Hill**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Cismont**

STATE:  
**Virginia**

CODE:  
**51**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Albemarle County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Charlottesville**

STATE:  
**Virginia**

CODE:  
**51**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1957**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D. C.**

CODE:  
**11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>VIRGINIA</b>
COUNTY: <b>ALBEMARLE</b>
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The residence at Castle Hill is composed of two distinct houses joined back to back by a connecting hall. The earliest section -- the 1764 residence of Dr. Thomas Walker -- is a typical example of a more sophisticated farm dwelling of the colonial period. The 64' X 21', story-and-a-half structure is covered by a gable roof featuring one interior chimney, one interior-end chimney and six unevenly spaced gabled dormers. Much of the visible exterior fabric such as clapboards, roofing, and window sills has been renewed, but the original Flemish bond foundation survives in good condition. The front door and two flanking bays are sheltered by what appears to be a post-colonial porch with a shallow hipped roof.

The interior woodwork of this section of the house is surprisingly refined. The parlor is surrounded on three sides with paneled wainscoting, and a dentiled cornice. The paneled end wall of the parlor, with its cornice supported on fluted Doric pilasters set on pedestals, its paneled chimney piece, and its arched openings into the chimney closets, is one of the handsomest of its types in Virginia. A particularly distinctive feature of the wall is the fan-like louvered boards that fill the lunettes of the chimney closet doors. The present mantel is a modern replacement. The central hall of the early house is distinguished by a fine dog-leg stair with a molded hand rail, turned balusters, and scrolled brackets. The hall also has a fully paneled wall opposite the stair, and paneled wainscoting around the other walls. The spacious bedroom (formerly the dining room) opposite the parlor retains most of its original woodwork, but it is less elaborately treated than the parlor's.

The brick section of Castle Hill, added around 1825 by William Cabell Rives, is in itself a typical example of the Piedmont plantation house of the early nineteenth century. The gracefully proportioned five-bay, two-story structure has Flemish bond walls of the rich red brick characteristic of Albemarle County. The shallow gable roof has two interior end chimneys and pedimented gable ends. The front door with its elliptical fan light and side lights is sheltered by a tetrastyle Tuscan portico with a flat roof surrounded by a Chinese trellis railing. Flanking the main body of the house are one-story wings fronted by Tuscan colonnades. These wings were added some twenty years after the main portion of the house was completed.

The interior of the brick section is very spacious, having large, high ceiling rooms ornamented with very refined classical revival trim. One enters a broad central hall flanked by the drawing room on the west and the dining room on the east. A handsome elliptical stair is located in a large hall behind the entrance hall. This stair hall forms part of the original connecting wing and through it a vista from front door to front door of each house can be obtained. The connecting wing itself is a very complex structure having been added to numerous times.

The carefully chosen location and the handsome grounds make the setting of Castle Hill one of the most beautiful in Virginia. Spread before the brick section is an hourglass-shaped lawn some 800 feet in length, bordered on three sides by what is considered by many to be the most impressive boxwood in the state. A splendid axial vista across this lawn and over miles of distant countryside can be obtained from the front door.

On the opposite side, before the Walker section of the house, is a wide rectangular bowling green lined on either side by an unusually complete set of eighteenth and early-nineteenth century outbuildings. On the west side is a frame carpenter shop and a frame storehouse, while on the east

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1764

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Few Virginia plantations offer as many historical associations and interest in as many areas as Castle Hill. The intriguing double house with its beautiful grounds and dramatic setting forms a fitting backdrop for the numerous illustrious personalities who have given the place its fame.

The Castle Hill lands were owned during the early part of the 18th century by Nicholas Meriwether. Through his marriage to Meriwether's widow, Mildred, in 1741, the then 1500 acre tract came into the possession of Dr. Thomas Walker, who built the earliest or frame portion of the house in 1764. By the time Dr. Walker built the house he already had achieved fame as a physician, surveyor, merchant, and early explorer of the west. His journal on his 1750 expedition through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky forms a valuable description of the frontier wilderness. Dr. Walker also served as a burgess and a representative in the revolutionary conventions. Following the Revolution, he served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. He was a commissioner of Virginia in several important conferences with the Indians, and was visited at Castle Hill by several Indian chiefs, among whom is said to have been Chief Logan.

An interesting incident involving Castle Hill during Walker's occupancy occurred in 1781 when Jack Jouett, on his night ride to Monticello to warn Governor Thomas Jefferson and the Virginia Legislators in Charlottesville that Colonel Banastre Tarleton and his men were on their way to capture the group, stopped at Castle Hill for food and a fresh mount. Later in the morning, when Tarleton came by Castle Hill, the Walkers, armed with an abundant breakfast and plenty of Virginia hospitality, were able to detain the British long enough to allow Jefferson and the legislators to escape. Other, more welcome, visitors to Castle Hill over the years include George Washington, James Madison, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, and John Tyler. Thomas Jefferson, one of Dr. Walker's closest friends was, of course, a frequent visitor to Castle Hill.

Castle Hill came into the possession of the Rives Family in 1819 when William Cabel Rives (1793-1868) married Judith Page Walker, a granddaughter of Dr. Thomas Walker, and heiress of Castle Hill. Several years after their marriage the couple added the large brick portion to Dr. Walker's frame house. A prominent lawyer, William Cabel Rives served twice as minister to France, and also served in the United States Senate and in the Confederate Congress. Rives also was the author of biographies of James Madison and John Hampden. Rives's wife, Judith, was an authoress of several novels. In her second book, Home and the World (1857), she gives a vivid picture of ante-bellum Castle Hill and the life there through her descriptions of the fictional "Avenmore". The beautiful

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bradshaw, Herbert Clarence, "A Tale of Two Houses," Virginia Cavalcade, vol. 8, no. 3 (Winter, 1958).  
 Christian, Frances Archer, & Susanne Williams Massie, eds., Homes & Gardens in Old Virginia, Richmond: Garrett & Massie, Inc., 1962.  
 Slater, Kitty, "Castle Hill," Spur of Virginia, vol. III, No.1 (July 1967).  
 Tyler, Lyon Gardiner, LL.D., Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography, vols. I & II, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1915.  
 Wayland, John W., Historic Homes of Northern Virginia, Staunton, Va.: The McClure Co., Inc., 1937.

**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			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	38°	06	20"	78°	19	10"		
NE	38°	06	20"	78°	17	15"		
SE	38°	04	27"	78°	17	15"		
SW	38°	04	27"	78°	19	10"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1,183 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF; James W. Moody, Jr., Director**

ORGANIZATION: **VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**      DATE: **August 6, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond**      STATE: **Virginia**      CODE: **51**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
**James W. Moody, Jr., Director**  
**Va. Historic Landmarks Commission**  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
ALBEMARLE CO.	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

side, from north to south, is a frame smokehouse, a brick smokehouse, a carding house, and a frame dairy. Behind these are servants' houses, a spring house, and a carriage house. From the front door of the Walker section there is an impressive vista across the bowling green to the peak of Walnut Mountain which in less than a mile and a half rises sharply 800 feet above the house. To the west of the house are handsome flower and vegetable gardens and a group of early farm buildings. Located off a farm road to the southwest of the front lawn is the Rives family cemetery containing the graves of Prince and Princess Troubetzkoy.

8.

grounds and plantings at Castle Hill are largely the result of Judith Rives's interest in landscaping.

Castle Hill's literary tradition persisted through William Cabell Rives's granddaughter Amelie (later Princess Troubetzkoy), noted authoress of numerous novels, poems, and plays. First married in 1888 to John Armstrong Chandler of New York, Amelie Rives later obtained a divorce and in 1896 married Prince Pierre Troubetzkoy, a member of a prominent Russian family and a noted portrait painter. The Troubetzkoy's lived at Castle Hill in their latter years and were buried there.

In 1947 Castle Hill was purchased from the Rives family by Colonel and Mrs. Clark Lawrence who, over a period of several years, restored the house and its grounds with great sensitivity.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY ALBEMARLE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: CASTLE HILL			
AND/OR HISTORIC: CASTLE HILL			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: .8 mi. NW of Rt. 231, 2 mi. NE of intersection with Rt. 600			
CITY OR TOWN: (Cismont vic.)			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Albemarle	CODE 003
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle Keswick, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1964			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
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 Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

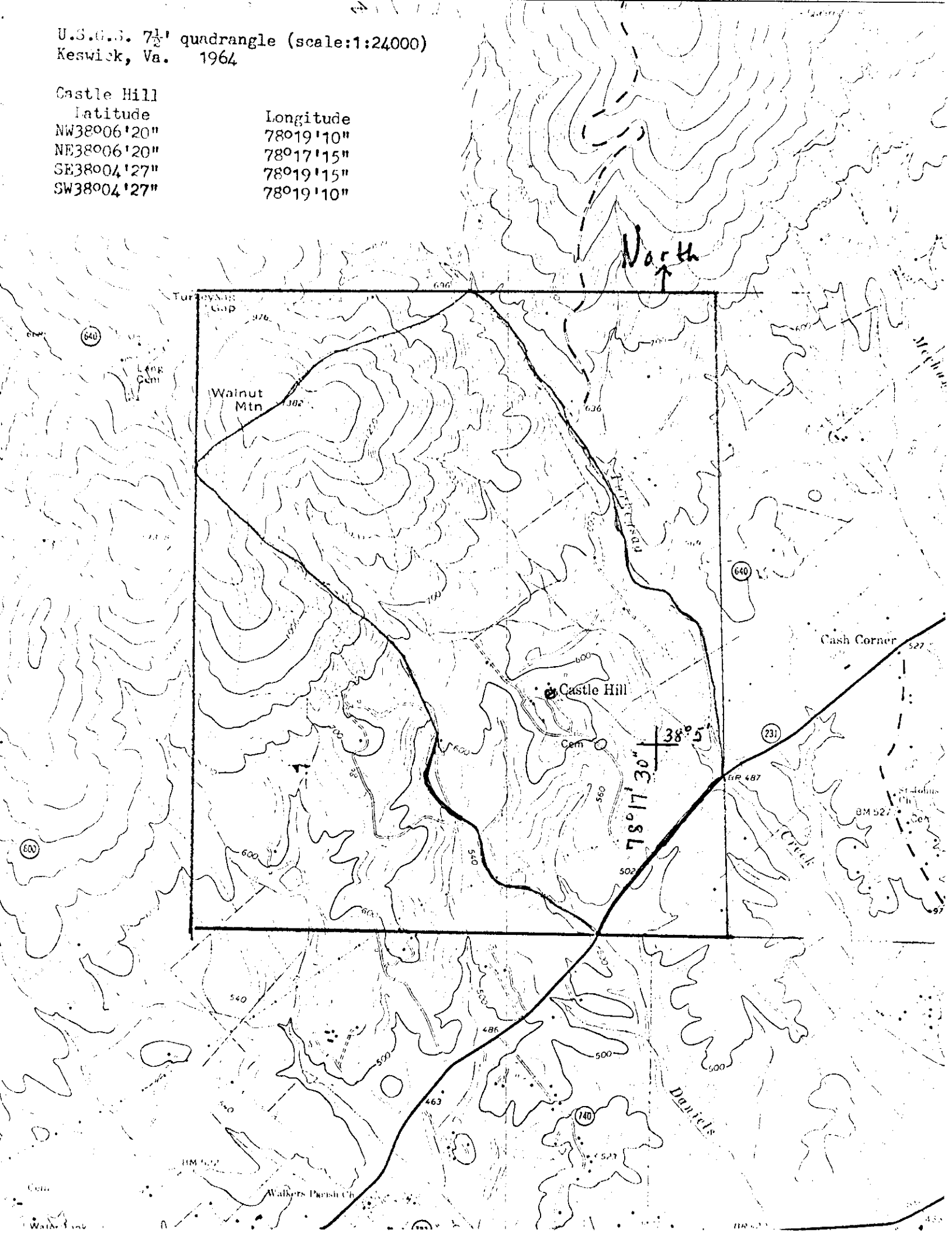
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

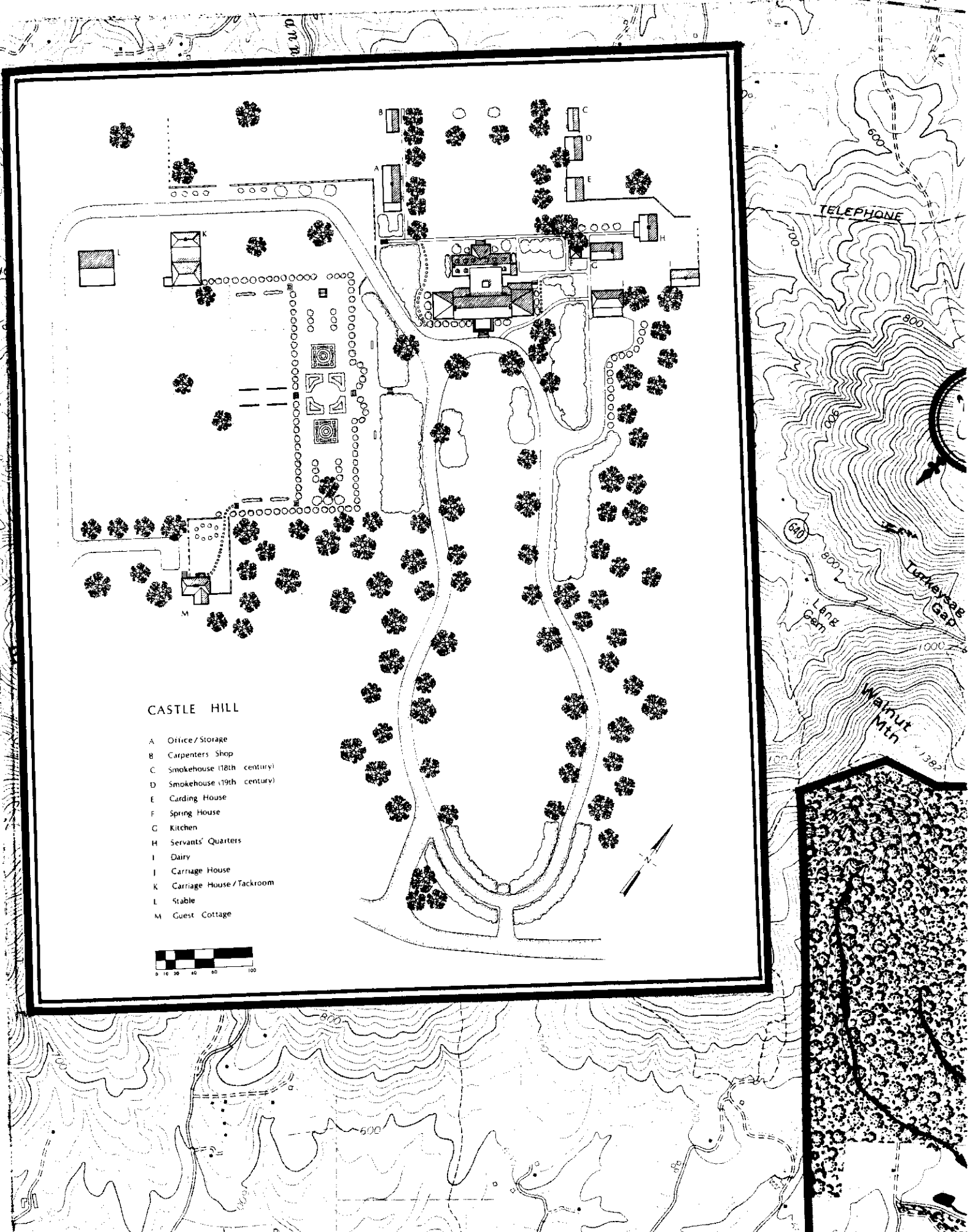
<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Castle Hill			
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<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: .8 mi. NW of Rt. 231, 2 mi. NE of intersection with Rt. 600			
CITY OR TOWN: (Cismont vic.)			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Albemarle	CODE 003
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia State Library			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1958			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  VIEW OF 18th CENTURY SECTION FROM THE NORTH.			

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Keswick, Va. 1964

Castle Hill  
Latitude  
NW38°06'20"  
NE38°06'20"  
SE38°04'27"  
SW38°04'27"

Longitude  
78°19'10"  
78°17'15"  
78°19'15"  
78°19'10"





**CASTLE HILL**

- A Office/Storage
- B Carpenters Shop
- C Smokehouse (18th century)
- D Smokehouse (19th century)
- E Carding House
- F Spring House
- G Kitchen
- H Servants' Quarters
- I Dairy
- J Carriage House
- K Carriage House/Tackroom
- L Stable
- M Guest Cottage



TELEPHONE

Walnut Mt.  
1382'

Turkey's Gap

Lang Gap

