

VLR - 6/15/82  
NRHP - 9/9/82

02-26

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Edgehill (Preferred)

and/or common Edgehill Farm

**2. Location**

street & number VA Route 22

N/A not for publication

city, town Shadwell

vicinity of

~~congressional district~~

state Virginia

code 51

county Albemarle

code 003

**3. Classification**

**Category**

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

**Ownership**

public  
 private  
 both  
**Public Acquisition**  
 in process  
 being considered  
N/A

**Status**

occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress  
**Accessible**  
 yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

**Present Use**

agriculture  
 commercial  
 educational  
 entertainment  
 government  
 industrial  
 military  
 museum  
 park  
 private residence  
 religious  
 scientific  
 transportation  
 other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. Ray Graham

street & number Edgehill Farm, P.O. Box 5

city, town Keswick

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 22947

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albemarle County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Charlottesville

state Virginia

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

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey

title Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1957

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington

state DC

# 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
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1828</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		(1st house)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Edgehill, an Albemarle County landmark, was built in 1828 by Thomas Jefferson Randolph, grandson of Thomas Jefferson. The two-story, Flemish-bond brick house burned in 1916, resulting in the almost total destruction of the interior of the main block and a large west ell. The exterior walls of the 1828 house were salvaged, the ell removed, and the house extended to the north shortly thereafter. The original Edgehill residence, a one-story, wood-frame structure of ca. 1799 stands to the rear of the main house and has been extensively altered to serve as a school and later as an office.

## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Following their service under Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia, a number of his workmen continued to build in the Piedmont area. Edgehill, the 1828 residence of Thomas Jefferson Randolph, was built by two such workmen: William B. Phillips, a master mason, and Malcolm F. Crawford, a master carpenter. Thus, it is not surprising that the two-story, hipped-roof residence is executed in a style and quality of workmanship comparable to that in Jefferson's own supervised work at the University.

The original block is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond that is distinguished by its carefully tooled mortar joints. The brick has been washed perhaps to cover smoke damage caused by the 1916 fire. A large, two-story addition to the north, which replaced an earlier ell, is laid in six-course American bond with a wood-frame bay attached to the northernmost end of the house. The main entrance faces south. The doorway frontispiece has an elliptical fanlight and rectangular sidelights flanked by fluted pilasters and engaged fluted columns. The single door and doorway are 20th century and postdate the 1916 fire. The entrance is sheltered by a one-story Tuscan porch with paired columns. The columns are virtually identical in size, proportion, and material to those used on the colonnades of the Lawn at the University of Virginia. The porch is topped by a flat roof with a Chinese lattice railing, a favorite Jeffersonian motif. The Tuscan entablature on the porch continues along the facade and is repeated along the eaves of the main house and its rear addition. The porch and entablature on the main block are original to the 1828 date of construction. A variety of side entrances is found on the east and west elevations. On the main block the west elevation has a rectangular transom doorway with multi-paned double doors flanked by ca. 1920 louvred shutters. The doorway is covered by a one-story porch in the Tuscan order. A similar doorway found on the east elevation lacks the porch. On the east and west elevations, the post-1916 addition has three round-arched openings with fanlights and rectangular transoms with multi-paned double doors. The doors on the west elevation open onto a terrace which incorporates a cornerstone with the date "1828" and some illegible initials. The rear entrance has a round-arched opening with fanlights and a rectangular transom above a single door. The house's principal fenestration consists of 8/8 hung-sash windows in molded architraves flanked by ca. 1920 louvred shutters. The shallow hipped roof, covered by slate shingles, is broken by stretcher-bonded chimneys, all with corbeled brick caps.

The original portion of Edgehill has a center-passage plan, the passage running from the front (south) entrance to the rear. Although the interior was severely damaged by the 1916 fire, an early photograph shows the original hall in some detail. The prin-

(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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1799; 1828; 1916      **Builder/Architect** William B. Phillips, Malcolm Crawford  
(Attribution)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beautifully sited among the rolling hills of eastern Albemarle County, in view of Monticello, Edgehill was originally the home of Thomas Jefferson Randolph, favorite grandson of Thomas Jefferson. It was Randolph who served as his grandfather's executor and it was to him that Jefferson bequeathed his business and personal papers. The stately though conservative brick house was built in 1828 and is attributed on the basis of style and workmanship to the University of Virginia builders William B. Phillips and Malcolm F. Crawford. Standing near the house is a simple wooden dwelling that had served as the residence of Thomas Mann Randolph and his wife, Martha Jefferson Randolph, before Thomas Jefferson Randolph acquired the property in 1826 at the sale of his debt-ridden father's land and slaves. This older house functioned as part of the Edgehill School, a private academy, throughout the 19th century. Although the brick house was gutted by fire in 1916, the interior has been rebuilt, and the house today is the nucleus of one of Albemarle County's great historic estates.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Edgehill plantation first came into the possession of the Randolph family in 1735 when William Randolph of Tuckahoe obtained a land grant of 2,400 acres from King George II. This land was located along the eastern slope of the Southwest Mountains in what became Albemarle County. The property was inherited by Thomas Mann Randolph, Sr., also of Tuckahoe, who sold it to his son, Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr., following the younger Randolph's marriage to Thomas Jefferson's daughter Martha in 1790. Although the elder Randolph had presented the old Randolph estate Varina, in Henrico County, to Thomas and Martha as a wedding gift, the young couple came to prefer the mountain climate of Albemarle County that was familiar to Martha from her life at Monticello. Soon after purchasing the Edgehill tract, the couple found themselves residing at Monticello where Randolph served as Jefferson's overseer.

The earliest indication of Thomas Mann Randolph's intention to build a residence at Edgehill is found in a letter to Jefferson of January 13, 1798, "I have no hopes of getting farther than one flank of house next summer - that I must make a sacrifice in my crop to obtain and will, for one flank with a temporary roof must be our habitation next winter as we cannot remain here."<sup>1</sup> By March 1, 1799, Edgehill was occupied by the young couple, whose situation was described by Jefferson in a letter to his daughter Maria, "They had got to Edgehill and were in the midst of mud, smoke, and the uncomfortableness of a cold house."<sup>2</sup> Understandably, the Randolphs came to spend the greater part of their time at Monticello, where they established their permanent residence upon Jefferson's retirement from the presidency in 1809.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #3)

Albemarle County Land Tax Books, 1810-1837.  
 Boston, Mass. Massachusetts Historical Society Archives. Jefferson Papers.  
 Kimball, Fiske. Thomas Jefferson, Architect. New York: Da Capo Press, 1968.  
 Madison, Va. Madison County Clerk's Office. Madison County Courthouse Papers.  
 Malone, Dumas. Jefferson and His Time: The Sage of Monticello. Boston, 1981.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 24 acres  
 Quadrangle name Charlottesville East, VA Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on N side of I-64 about 800' NW of I-64/VA22 overpass; thence extending about 950' NW along N side of I-64; thence about 650' N to N side of access road and to 460' contour line; thence following said contour NE, then SE, then S, all for about 2500'; thence about 400' S to N side of I-64, the point of origin. (See Continuation Sheet #4)

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 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff  
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date June 1982  
 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.

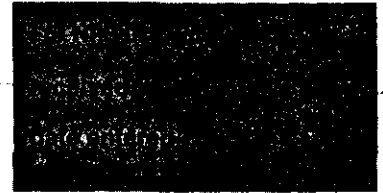
State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell  
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date JUN 15 1982

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



EDGEHILL, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6, 7

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey (02-26)  
1967, 1982 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

cipal stair was originally located to the rear of the passage on the east wall and was broken by a landing. The open-string stair had a turned newel, square balusters, and a molded handrail. The passage had a paneled wainscot and around the doors was molded architrave trim. A cornice was also found in the hall. Major changes in this arrangement were made following the fire. At that time the stair was relocated to the front (south) end and positioned on the west wall. Colonial Revival in style, the open-string stair has a turned and fluted newel, turned balusters, and molded handrail. A chair rail rises with the stair to the second floor. The ca. 1916 wood flooring in the hall was removed by the present owners who installed marble paving taken from a counting house in New Orleans. The remaining woodwork is Colonial Revival and Adamesque in style and reflects the tastes of owners since the 1916 fire. It was noted in an early description that the house originally had a marble mantel presented to Jefferson's daughter Martha as a wedding gift by the French government. The mantel was destroyed in the 1916 fire.

The front (south) elevation of the original wood-frame, one-story dwelling house to the rear of the main house contains two single entrances to an office and to the main hall. The plan and original fenestration have been extensively altered through numerous modifications into a school, a dormitory, and most lately an office. Standing between the house and the office is a circular icehouse constructed in American-bond brick. The icehouse has an entrance towards the east and is one of only a few such icehouses in the state to retain its conical roof. Located to the northeast of the icehouse and the office is a large 20th-century farm complex that includes barns, sheds, and garages. The complex is separated from the house site by a fence.

The setting immediately around Edgehill remains open and little changed from the time the house was built. With the exception of the intrusion of Interstate Highway 64 across the field to the south of the house, there is still a relatively unobstructed view of Monticello. The highway, although regrettably destroying the original cedar-lined axial approach, was sunk below a bank so that it cannot be seen as one looks due south from the house. Edgehill's gently rolling farmlands extend to the north, east, and west of the house and help preserve the rural vistas that the house commands.

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**United States Department of the Interior  
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EDGEHILL, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

By the early 1820s Randolph had accrued numerous debts and was forced to sell his property and slaves, including the Edgehill tract. According to the Mutual Assurance Society policies taken out on the structures at Edgehill in 1823, the property then included a two-story, 44' x 18' dwelling house and a stone storehouse, 40' x 22'. At the time of the sale, Randolph was listed as residing at Monticello. The public sale of Edgehill occurred on January 2, 1826. The property was purchased by Randolph's son, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, who had parted with his own land and slaves in order to keep Edgehill in the Randolph family.

Thomas Jefferson Randolph, as Jefferson's favorite grandson, had an unusually close relationship with the elder statesman. The young man frequently accompanied his grandfather on trips to Poplar Forest in Bedford County and toward the end of Jefferson's life provided him with financial assistance. Not only did Jefferson appoint him as a trustee of his estate and executor of his will, but he also bequeathed him all his personal and business papers, including the farm books and account books as well as 40,000 letters. Of this generous bequest Jefferson biographer Dumas Malone has recently written, "Thus his grandson's heritage became a priceless gift to posterity."<sup>3</sup>

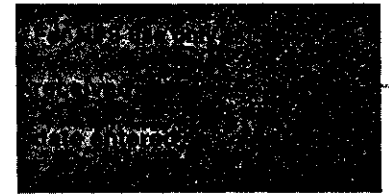
Although Thomas Jefferson Randolph acquired the property on January 2, 1826, the present two-story brick house was not erected until 1828, a date which contradicts a theory advanced by Fiske Kimball in his monumental work Thomas Jefferson, Architect (1916). In that work Kimball reproduces a Jefferson drawing of a one-story house which he labels as Edgehill. Kimball's identification was made solely on the basis of a photographic comparison of the present house to the drawing. Since the drawing is of a one-story residence, Kimball implies that Edgehill had at some point been enlarged from one story to two. An examination of the brickwork indicates, however, that the house was actually built in one campaign in 1828 and then as a two-story residence.

Edgehill's brickwork is of the highest quality, similar in its execution to the work found on the pavilions of the University and other documented Phillips and Crawford projects. It is also from the University that the Tuscan columns and entablature may have been derived, used by Jefferson for the colonnades on the Lawn. In 1828, the date found on a cornerstone incorporated into a rear patio, Thomas Jefferson Randolph wrote a letter of recommendation for William B. Phillips and Malcolm F. Crawford, two former University of Virginia builders. He stated in his letter that he was personally familiar with the two builders' work, calling them, "The best of our workmen."<sup>4</sup> It is on the basis of the quality and style of the work as well as the evidence of Randolph's letter that Edgehill is attributed to Phillips and Crawford.

In order to build the brick house on the top of the hill, Randolph rolled the wood-frame dwelling to the hill's brow, where it was subsequently converted into a schoolhouse. The first official school at Edgehill was established ca. 1829 and consisted of a class of six students taught by Jane Hollins Nicholas Randolph. The school prospered until the 1850s when according to tradition Randolph had paid off the debts inherited from his father and grandfather. A second school was established in 1867 and was larger and better managed than the first. A young ladies academy, with the main

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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EDGEHILL, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA  
Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

house and former wood-frame residence used as its classroom and dormitory, attracted students from throughout the South. The school was discontinued before 1900.

Edgehill passed out of the Randolph family in 1902 upon the death of Carolina Ramsay Randolph. In 1916 the interior was destroyed by fire, but it was soon rebuilt within the original walls. Passing through numerous owners who have adapted the interior to their personal tastes, the house and surrounding farmlands are now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Graham. Edgehill today is one of the county's more prosperous farms.

RCC

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas Mann Randolph to Thomas Jefferson, January 13, 1798. Jefferson Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Jefferson to Maria Jefferson Eppes, February 12, 1800. Jefferson Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

<sup>3</sup>Dumas Malone, Jefferson and His Time: The Sage of Monticello (Boston, 1981), p. 489.

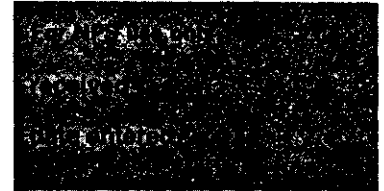
<sup>4</sup>Thomas Jefferson Randolph to Madison County Commissioners, August 9, 1828. Madison County Courthouse Papers, Madison County Clerk's Office, Madison, Va.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia. Policy RL2 V84 N5262 (1823); Policy RL2 V84 N5263 (1823).  
Taylor, Olivia. "Edgehill." Magazine of Albemarle County History. 30 (1972): 61-8.  
"The Edgehill School." The Annual Report of the Monticello Association. 1966-1967.

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

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



EDGEHILL, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #4

Item number 10

Page 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Boundary Justification

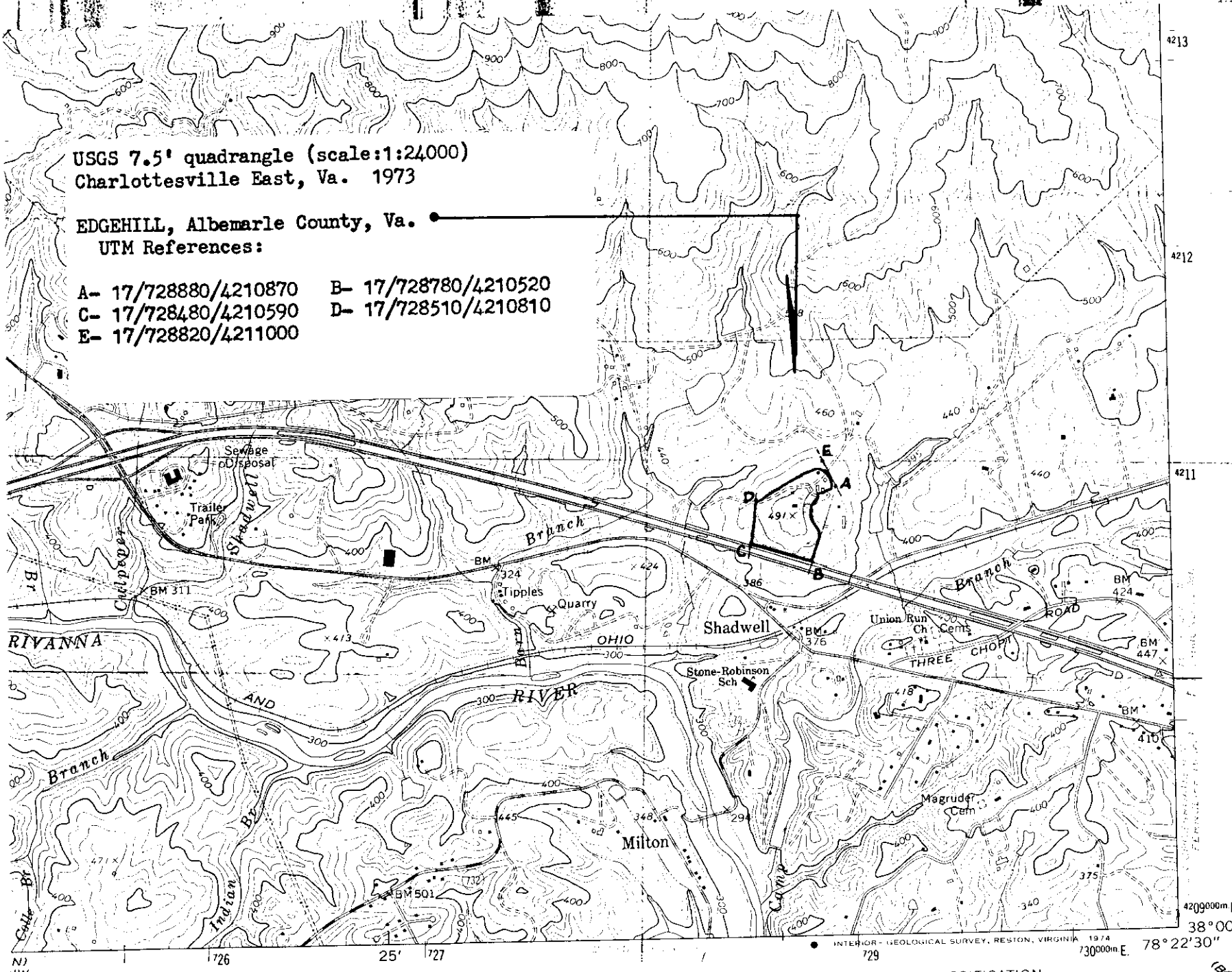
Boundary Justification: The nominated property for Edgehill consists of twenty-four acres. It includes the main house, icehouse, the original wood-frame residence, and a portion of the 20th-century farm buildings. The boundary line follows a natural contour line on the west, north, and east and Interstate 64 along the southern edge. The twenty-four acres are a small fraction of the original Edgehill estate of Thomas Mann Randolph which consisted of 1,540 acres and that of Thomas Jefferson Randolph of 1,552 3/4 acres. The hill constitutes the nominated acreage around the house site.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Charlottesville East, Va. 1973

EDGEHILL, Albemarle County, Va. ●  
UTM References:

- A- 17/728880/4210870
- B- 17/728780/4210520
- C- 17/728480/4210590
- D- 17/728510/4210810
- E- 17/728820/4211000



INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 1974  
729 730000m E 78° 22' 30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION