

VLR-12/1/99  
NHRP-1/28/00

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Woodburn  
other names/site number Mundy House DHR File # -2-2208

**2. Location**

street & number Rt. 649, 2 miles east of Rt. 29 not for publication   
city or town Charlottesville vicinity   
state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 Zip 22911

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*McCall Jensen* 12/15/99  
Signature of certifying official Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Keeper  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

N/A 1/28/2000

United States Department of the Interior  
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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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*M. C. Sullivan* 12/15/99  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  6  </u> buildings
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  1  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  7  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

  N/A  

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	Sub: <u>  Single Dwelling  </u>
<u>  FUNERARY  </u>	<u>  Cemetery  </u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	Sub: <u>  Single Dwelling  </u>
<u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	<u>  Secondary Structure  </u>
<u>  FUNERARY  </u>	<u>  Cemetery  </u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC  Federal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation  brick \_\_\_\_\_

roof  standing-seam metal \_\_\_\_\_

walls  brick \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1820-1949

Significant Dates ca. 1821

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 18.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**I. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: John G. Zehmer, Jr., Architectural Historian

Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources date September 1999

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue telephone 804-863-1621

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. and Mrs. David L. Morris

street & number 2512 Profitt Road telephone (804)-973-6276

city or town Charlottesville state VA zip code 22911

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

Section   7   Page   1  

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**7. Summary Description:**

Woodburn, in Albemarle County, is an unusually well preserved example of a basic house type found throughout central and western Virginia. It is exceptional in that its original six rooms retain their interior features and configuration (hall-and-parlor plan). Usually houses of this small size have been significantly altered and retrimmed to accommodate changing needs and tastes. Here minimal one-story frame additions to the rear and a skillfully attached story-and-a-half frame wing at the west end leave the original brick house as the dominant feature of the complex. The built-in cupboards in the present living room and in the basement are unique survivals. Simple but handsome mantels, wainscot, and doors with original hardware are found throughout the house. The original stair rises in the corner of the "hall" (living) room. The house sits in a large clearing in the forested property. Though not technically contributing features (they are all less than 50 years old) the current outbuildings and fenced garden reinforce the rural domestic sense of place. The one contributing site, the Mundy family cemetery, contains marked and unmarked graves and, therefore, ties the property firmly to its past.

Architectural Analysis

The brick walls of the original two-story house are of 5-course American bond on the sides and rear, but Flemish bond on the front. The Flemish bond features both king and queen closers. There is evidence of pencilling of the joints of all walls and the basement and first-floor windows are topped with simple jack arches. The tops of the upper windows touch the simple wooden box cornice. The front (south) façade has a center door flanked by single windows on the first level and three windows on the second level. All windows contain six-over-six sash. The east end of the house has no openings. The top of the gable transitions directly into the shaft of the interior end chimney that is topped with a simple corbel cap. The west end has a pair of rectangular louvred openings in the gable, which ventilate the low attic space. The window arrangement of the rear (north) façade is identical to the front, but the present rear door, off center because of the position of the stair, seems to be an early alteration. The front door is sheltered by a simple one-bay porch with a pedimented roof supported by square posts with cornice caps. This porch is at least the second one on the front and was put on in the 1950s. The form of previous porches is not known, and this one is in keeping with the simplicity of the rest of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 2

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exterior. Off the west end is a 1983 story-and-a-half frame addition. It consists of a short hyphen connecting a perpendicular three-bay block to the west end wall of the house. The frame vocabulary of the house in no way mimics the original house, but does recall houses of its era. The apex of the roof with dormers is considerably lower than the apex of the main roof and is, in fact, about on line with the main cornice. There is a small porch on the west side of the addition. In addition, planting, siting and varied grades were carefully manipulated to make this addition hardly visible except when viewed directly from the west.

The simplicity of the exterior of the main house and its diminutive scale are repeated inside, but with some unexpected flourishes and remarkable craftsmanship. There are two rooms on each floor arranged in the classic hall-parlor configuration. The basement rooms are well above ground on the north side where the original bulkhead entrance formerly gave access to the east room. This room has a fireplace wall with a built-in cupboard on one side. It features pairs of flat-paneled upper and lower doors hung in a door case ornamented with vertical bands of reeding. The doors meet in the center with no visible rail dividing the upper and lower sections. The door to the west room is composed of vertical beaded sheathing. The original hardware survives in most of the rooms and here includes strap hinges and a box lock. In the west room there is a relieving arch in the base of the chimney, but no fireplace. Both cellar rooms have original exposed joists in their ceilings, and a horizontal casement window with six panes on each front and back wall.

The main floor is characterized by restrained but inventive Federal woodwork that, while simple, acknowledges the prevailing fashions of its day. For the sake of clarity and simplicity the rooms on this floor are designated by their current names rather than the traditional "hall and parlor"; hence, the "hall" is the living room and the "parlor" is the dining room. In the northwest corner of the living room an open-string stair rises from initial winders in one run to the second floor. It is so compact that it has never had a handrail, but now has a slender tapered vertical post rising from the first step of the straight run to the base of the stair well above. The spandrel of the stair features a flat rail at chair rail level with beaded horizontal sheathing above and below. There is plaster above the chair rail and a flat wide-board wainscot below. Located on the end wall opposite the stair, the mantel exhibits late Federal moldings that break out under the shelf and in the band that runs over the fireplace opening connecting the simplified flanking pilasters. Filling the spaces on either side of the projecting chimneybreast are a



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 3

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pair of remarkable built-in wooden cupboards. Each consists of a lower section with two deep drawers over two vertical rectangular doors finished in one flat panel. Stylized reeded pilasters with reeding that mimics that on the fireplace pilasters flank the whole lower part. The upper section is slightly recessed and repeats the same pilasters flanking a taller pair of doors. A simple cornice runs across each top breaking out over the pilasters. The tops of the cupboards do not touch the ceiling leaving about a 12 inch void. Most of the woodwork in this room is poplar and appears never to have been painted.

The dining room woodwork is pine and simpler than any in the rest of the house. The mantel is similar to the one in the living room, but lacks reeded pilasters, and instead has a wide architrave framing the fireplace opening. The pine wainscot does not continue around the recesses on either side of the chimneybreast. This may indicate the removal of cupboards like those in living room or the unrealized intention to build such cupboards.

On the second floor the only substantial change is the incorporation of the center space at the head of the stair into a bathroom which also takes some space from the corner of the east room. Otherwise the original configurations of the rooms remain. The mantel in the east room has reeded pilasters identical to the mantel in the living room, the central panel and end blocks are also the same, but the moldings under the shelf are heavier and less complicated. A beautifully executed sunburst with concave rays ornaments the center panel. On the other side, the mantel in the west room is the most elaborate in the house. It has an intricate reeding pattern on the pilasters consisting of a single center reed flanked by filets which are, in turn, flanked by pairs of reeds inside single filets which form the outer edges of the pilaster. The blocks above each pilaster have reeded dentils at top and feature handsome vertical sunbursts with convex rays. In the center of the mantel is a larger sunburst of the same design set horizontally. The fact that the upstairs mantels are more elaborate than those downstairs, may indicate that (1) they are not original, (2) the mantels have been moved about, (3) that some have been partly rebuilt with new shelves and the addition of the sunbursts (probably the most likely scenario). Since they have been in the house for some time and the paint has been removed from the upper ones, it will be difficult to ever know for certain. The doors, however, have their original locks and hinges. The back of the door to the west room is inscribed, "Mary Etherton" and "Sarah J. Mundy, 1857."

To the west of the house is the cemetery, a contributing site that contains the five marked

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 4

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graves. Four of these are marked with rough fieldstones. The fifth is a dressed stone with the inscription, "C. Mundy / Died June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1869."

The property contains one contributing building (the house) and one contributing site (the cemetery). Scattered around the precinct are one noncontributing structure (a swimming pool) and six noncontributing buildings (a one-story plus attic log cabin, a one-room frame guest house, a plank garden shed, a board-and-batten one-car garage, a board-and-batten doll's house, and a one-room frame shop over a basement forge). These buildings are all less than 50 years old, but otherwise are well constructed and in keeping with the small scale rural character of the place.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 5

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Summary Statement of Significance

The house at Woodburn is a well preserved representative of a group of rural properties that served middle class farmers in Albemarle County, Virginia, an area better known for its great estates that developed at the same time. Such farms were the basis for the settlement and development of the area. The group of houses built over time on the various farms exhibits fine brickwork and idiosyncratic interior features. It is likely that they were the work of a small group of local craftsmen. Families that intermarried and figured in the political, social, and agricultural history of the piedmont region occupied the houses. The survival of so much original interior wood and metal work, especially its unique built-cupboards, render Woodburn of real importance to the continuing study of the architecture of Piedmont Virginia.

### Historical Background

The land now comprising Woodburn was part of some 5000 acres north of the south fork of the Rivanna River patented between 1730 and 1737 by Thomas Carr of King William County. His son John inherited the holdings in 1769. One of John's sons, Dabney Carr married Thomas Jefferson's sister. Another son, Garland owned 3000 acres of the holdings by 1799. Garland, who served as an Albemarle County Magistrate, lived at nearby Bentivar and died in 1831. Garland's son, Dr. Francis Carr, received not only the land that would become Woodburn, but also Red Hills that included an earlier but similar house. Francis was "a useful man, a physician, a teacher, an editor, Secretary of the County Agricultural Society, Secretary of the Faculty of the University [of Virginia], and for many years an active magistrate." (Woods, Rev. Edgar, *Albemarle County in Virginia*, 1964).

In 1817 Achilles Broadhead married Mary Carr, Francis Carr's sister. In 1821 they purchased 101 acres of land from Francis Carr which is believed to be the Woodburn tract. The Broadhead family moved to St. Louis, MO in 1835, the year in which they sold a house and 101 acres to Charles and Elizabeth Mundy for \$880. It seems probable that the present house was built by the Broadheads because of the dates of the Broadhead ownership (1821-1835), and the fact that the 101 acres remained consistent and included a house in the 1835 sale. Architectural features are compatible with this period as well as a decade earlier.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 6

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It is, however, the name of the next owners, the Mundys that has long been associated with the house. Charles Mundy, the father of four, remains an obscure figure. One of his daughters, Mary J. Mundy, left her name and that of Mary J. Etherton and the date 1859 inscribed on the back of the door into the west bedroom on the second floor of the house. In the same year Charles Mundy's will expressly postponed the inventorying of his estate until his youngest daughter, Margaret Isabell, reached her majority. This occurred in 1863, when the estate now including 201 acres and 12 slaves, sold at auction for a total sales value of \$20,000 (Confederate States currency).

A neighbor, Dr. A. C. Wood, purchased the house and land for a total of \$5,427. Wood died before taking title to the property. His executors received a Deed of Release in 1871. D. O. Etherton bought the house and 104 acres in 1879 and acquired the rest of the land in 1881. One wonders how he was related to the Mary J. Etherton whose name was carved with that of Mary Mundy on the upstairs door. In any case, the Ethertons owned the house for 50 years, longer than any other family to date.

In 1931 Randolph Birkhead bought the house. In 1949 Richard Mann purchased it. The Manns updated the house and added a kitchen with full basement to the north side, a greenhouse (since removed) to the west end and a small front porch. They also installed central heating and a bathroom on the second floor. In 1978 the present owners, Dr. David and Mrs. Kathie Morris purchased the property and eighteen and a half acres of land. They added the west addition, appropriate landscaping and the collection of interesting, but noncontributing, outbuildings. They went to great lengths to care for the historic fabric of the house both exterior and interior.

Perhaps Woodburn's special significance lies in the fact that its successive owners have not made the changes that so often compromise the integrity of houses of such small size. That the original hall-and-parlor plan survives without subdivision, that much of its handsome woodwork has never been painted, that all additions have left the volume and configuration of the original house unchanged make it a particularly important subject in the study of basic dwellings of its time and place. The modern wing is clearly subservient to the original house, yet provides the amenities that facilitate the almost antiquarian treatment of the main structure. The survival of so much original fabric and the existence of the rare built-in cupboards add to the significance of the property as a whole.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

Section 9 Page 7

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**Bibliography**

Albemarle County Deed Books and Will Books.

Lay, Professor Edward (University of Virginia) & student Philip Newberg. Annotated drawings on one sheet of the plans of the three floors of Woodburn. 3/2/90.

Mickler, Margaret. Survey report. Virginia Department of Historic Resources files. 1979.

Morris, Dr. David. Unpublished research report on Woodburn.

Rawlings, Mary. Antebellum Albemarle. Charlottesville, no date.

Woods, Rev. Edgar. Albemarle County in Virginia. Charlottesville, 1901.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodburn  
Albemarle County, Virginia

Section 10 Page 8

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**Geographical Data**

**UTM References:**

**Zone 17**

	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1	725860	4221720
2	725850	4221670
3	725910	4221670
4	725910	4221620
5	725780	4221460
6	725680	4221540
7	725500	4221480
8	725670	4221810

**Verbal Boundary Description**

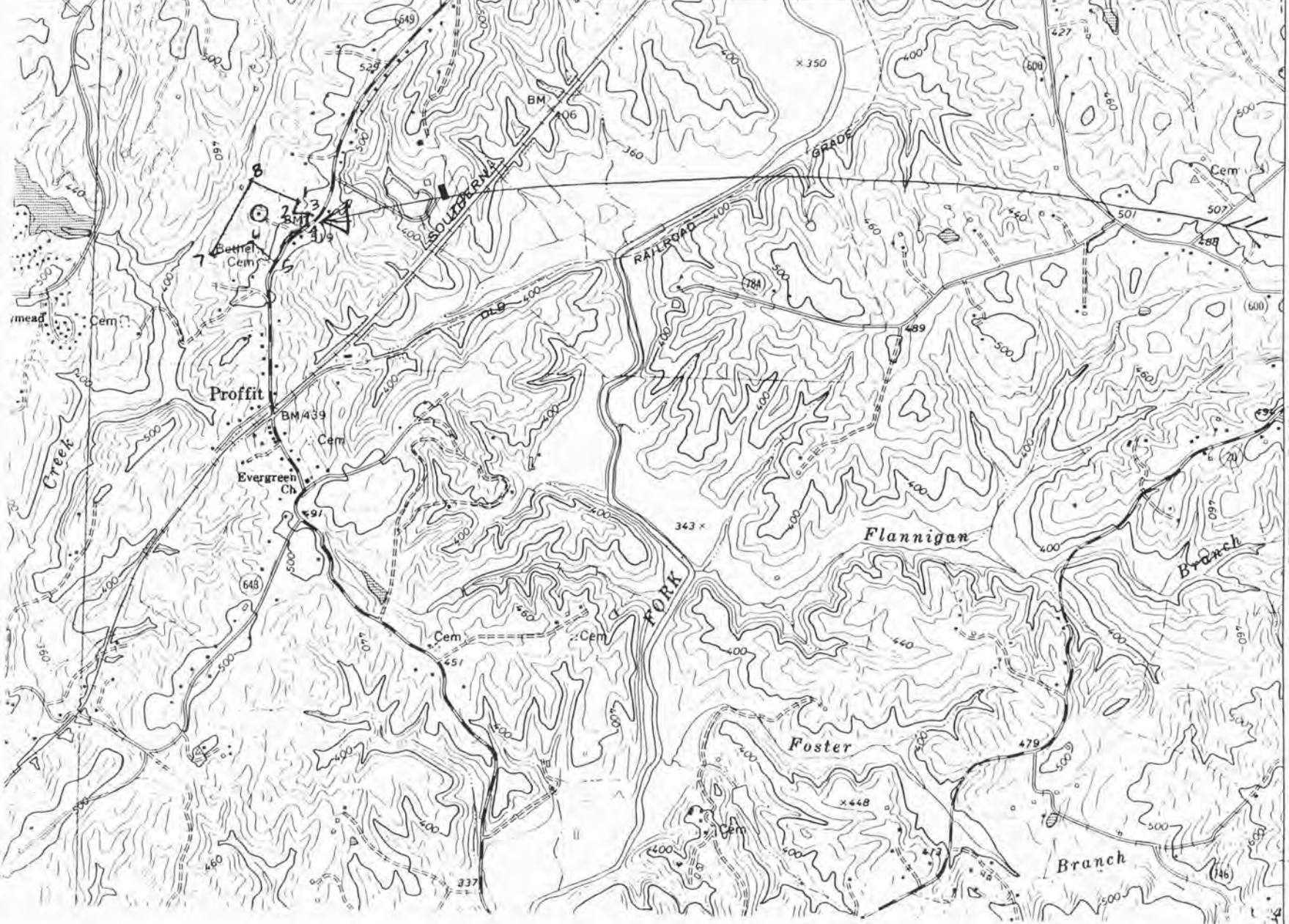
The boundaries for Woodburn correspond to the present boundaries for the property that are shown as parcel 35A on Tax Map 46 for Albemarle County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated acreage for Woodburn includes the 18.5 acres currently associated with the property and all the contributing resources associated with its history.

5360 III N  
(BARBOURSVILLE)

III NW (BARBOURSVILLE) 725 726 727 728 729 2 030 000 FEET 78° 22' 30" 38° 07' 30"



650 000  
FEET  
Woodburn  
Albemarle Co., VA  
Zone 17  
E N  
1) 725 860 / 4221 720  
2) 725 850 / 4221 670  
3) 725 910 / 4221 670  
4) 725 910 / 4221 620  
5) 725 780 / 4221 460  
6) 725 680 / 4221 540  
7) 725 500 / 4221 480  
8) 725 670 / 4221 810

4221  
BARBOURSVILLE 8 M

4220  
4219