

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR-4/18/89 NRHP-11/2/89

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodlands  
other names/site number 02-621

2. Location

street & number SR 676  N/A not for publication  
city, town Charlottesville  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 zip code 22901

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>5</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official VA Department of Historic Resources Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:

agricultural outbuildings

agricultural fields

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Same

Same

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Federal

No style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Metal (iron)

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Woodlands is a 340-acre farmstead located three miles northwest of the city of Charlottesville in an area currently undergoing piecemeal residential development. Retaining its traditional rural ambiance, the property features five contributing buildings and structures, including a large 1840s house and an antebellum barn. The dwelling's main block is a brick I house with Federal detailing; this was expanded in the 1890s by a two-story frame-and-brick rear T with one- and two-story wraparound verandas. The oldest associated structure, a tall, narrow frame barn, is roughly contemporary with the house, being a rare early example of a multipurpose barn designed to house grain, fodder and livestock. Later farm buildings erected in the 1910s and '20s include a frame dairy barn, a glazed-tile silo, and a stone-and-frame horse barn. All contributing buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity, being complemented by a traditional farmscape of gently-rolling fields and forest. Woodlands forms an exceptionally intact agricultural complex in an area noted for its scenic countryside and historic farms.

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Woodlands tract straddles Virginia Route 676, an early road running between Hydraulic Mills and Owensville. The farm is bordered on the north by the North Fork of the Rivanna River and on the south by Ivy Creek; Jumping Branch bisects the southern half of the farm. The domestic and farm complex lies on the south side of the road, with the main house being approached on its east side by a straight 40-yard drive. A level lawn dotted with locust and other shade trees surrounds the house, which faces directly north toward the main road. Two mid-twentieth-century outbuildings--a cottage and pumphouse--stand in the back yard near the drive. This drive continues south about 200 yards to the property's three barns. Although most of the Woodlands tract is forested, pastureland surrounds the domestic complex on all sides, affording panoramic views of the gently rolling terrain. The wooded summit of Shack Mountain, another register property about one mile south, is clearly visible from the vicinity of the horse barn.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1842-1930

Significant Dates

1842-1843

1890s

Cultural Affiliation

European

Significant Person

John Richard Wingfield I

Architect/Builder

Martin, Patrick (carpenter)

Ward, James H. (brickmason)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Woodlands is a nineteenth-century farmstead located three miles northwest of Charlottesville in central Albemarle County. The main house, built in 1842-1843 and expanded in the 1890s, is a large brick and frame structure significant for its remarkably intact state of preservation. Associated with it are three early barns, including a rare unaltered frame, mixed-use antebellum barn. The handsome original brick I house was erected by local builders John H. Ward and Patrick Martin for Richard Woods Wingfield, but the property is best known for its association with his nephew John Richard Wingfield, who lived there from about 1875 until his death in 1931. A native of Albemarle County, Wingfield was a Confederate soldier, an attorney, and a state senator. As a senator, he played a significant role in breaking the power of the Readjuster party in 1883; he was also a close associate and supporter of Senator Thomas S. Martin, whose political machine dominated Virginia politics in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In his later years Wingfield served as a consul to Costa Rica and a member of the State Corporation Commission. In the 1910s he turned farming operations over to his son J. R. Wingfield II, a progressive agriculturist who built the present large dairy and horse barns on the property, equipping them with innovative features. Today Wingfield descendants continue to farm Woodlands, one of the few properties in Albemarle that has remained a century and a half in the hands of a single family. With its gently rolling terrain and scenic mix of pasture and forest land, Woodlands preserves its nineteenth-century character despite encroaching residential development.

**JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA**

Woodlands is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C. It is eligible under Criterion B because of its association with John Richard Wingfield, a native of Albemarle County. Wingfield was a Confederate soldier, attorney, and politician of statewide significance during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Under Criterion C the property is eligible because it retains

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:  
Va. Div. of Historic Landmarks  
221 Governor St. Richmond, Va. 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 270.5 acres

UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes much of the acreage historically associated with the Woodlands tract, and includes all significant buildings on the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jeffrey M. O'Dell, architectural historian; John S. Salmon, historian  
organization VA Division of Historic Landmarks date March 1989  
street & number 221 /Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143  
city or town Richmond, Virginia state Virginia zip code 23219

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### Main Dwelling

Erected in two major stages, the main house consists of an 1842-43 central block and a ca. 1895 rear wing. The main block is a symmetrical, two-story, five-bay brick structure with shallow gable roof. Raised on a tall basement, this unit features a single-pile, central-passage plan with interior end chimneys.

This part of the house was erected for Richard Woods Wingfield in 1842-43 by two local builders: brickmason James H. Ward and carpenter Patrick Martin. Original building contracts with both tradesmen survive, shedding light on the dwelling's original form. Both contracts reveal that the 52' x 20' structure was erected beside a smaller, older house (destroyed before 1900) to which it was connected by a 10' x 12' wooden "passage." Contract specifications for the brickwork of the new dwelling refer to the John H. Timberlake House in adjoining Fluvanna County, a structure that burned in the mid-twentieth century, but for which measured drawings exist. Contract specifications for carpentry, joinery and painting refer not only to the Timberlake House, but also to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and to the John A. Marchant house in Charlottesville.

The 1842 house at Woodlands was built during a period of general agricultural prosperity in Albemarle, a time when similar-sized dwellings were being erected by many of the county's large landowners. At that time the single-pile I house was the most popular format for dwellings of this size in Virginia; indeed, some two dozen similar structures from the 1840s and '50s stand in Albemarle alone. The house at Woodlands is typical of these dwellings in size, form, detailing and quality of workmanship. However, unlike many other surviving houses of its kind it has sustained relatively few changes, the only major one being the replacement of its original front porch.

The brickwork of the dwelling's front and east facades is of finely-laid Flemish bond with thin, penciled mortar joints. Brickwork on the west side and rear is of less meticulously laid five-course American bond. On the front facade, closer bricks define all doors and windows. Openings are spanned by wooden lintels resting on iron bars, rather than on brick arches. Doors and windows are trimmed with double-architrave casings, and the ends of the lintels are decorated with projecting square blocks. A notable decorative feature is the transom over the front door, whose wooden muntins form a decorative pattern of semicircles and diamonds.

Both main- and second-floor windows were originally fitted with six-over-nine-light sashes. These were replaced in the late nineteenth century by the then more fashionable two-over-two-light sashes; basement windows,

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though, retain their original three-over-six-light sashes. Louvered shutters with pine frames and poplar slats flank all windows; all but four of these are original. The wooden eaves cornice may be original, but the present curvilinear Italianate brackets were probably added in the late nineteenth century when the former two-tier front porch was erected.

The original porch, judging by the building contract, was an 8' x 10' structure, probably standing a two full stories and probably covered with a pedimented roof. The present front door at second-floor level is original, and opened onto the upper level of the porch. The present portico, designed by the owner's father-in-law, D. M. Romeo, and erected ca. 1970, is two bays wider than the original. Although it rises a full two stories, it lacks an upper level, and its square columns are narrower than those of the original. This porch, in turn, replaced an 1890s Victorian veranda illustrated in the photographic section of this report. The late-nineteenth-century porch, which replaced the original portico, featured a full-length veranda at main-floor level and a central, single-bay porch at second-floor level. A sunburst motif formed by carved boards filled its steep pedimented gable. Lacy wooden brackets and a spindle frieze on both levels gave it a delicate character very unlike that of the present and original porches.

The interior of the main block is finished in a manner typical of similar-sized Virginia Piedmont houses of the period. The quality of its detailing is implied by the 1842 building contracts, which call for "all (work) to be well finished"; for certain trim elements to be "after the most fashionable order," and for materials to be "of the best quality." Original detailing survives throughout the house, including iron door locks and other hardware, five-inch tongue-and-groove pine flooring; wall and ceiling plaster; six-raised-panel doors; double-architrave door and window casings; pedestal chairrails, and tall, heavily-molded baseboards.

The mantelpieces on the first floor were to have been designed, according to the 1842 building contract, "after the order of those in the parlor of the Monticello House." They are, however, utterly unlike those at Monticello, having simplified Ionic colonnettes, a plain frieze, and entablature blocks with arch motifs. The stair in the main passage was to be, according to the building contract, "of the most fashionable stile and order." Carpenter Patrick Martin interpreted this directive in the attenuated Federal style long favored in the Charlottesville area rather than in the Greek Revival style then popular in larger American towns. The graceful two-run stair with intermediate landing features a spandrel with heavily-molded recessed panels, fluid wave-form tread brackets, two rectangular-section balusters per tread, and a thin colonnette newel. The oval handrail is ramped and eased at the landing, and the frieze

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beneath the landing is ornamented by a thin applied board cut to a wave-form profile. Other refinements in the front passage include double-leaf front doors, and a plaster ceiling medallion formed of concentric circles.

The second floor originally had a plan similar to that of the main floor, but in the late nineteenth century a narrow third room was inserted between the passage and east chamber. The detailing on this floor resembles that on the main floor, but tends to be somewhat simpler. The matching mantels were to have been modeled, according to the building contract, "after the order of those in John H. Marchant's sitting room." They feature plain pilasters and frieze, with entablature blocks supporting a molded shelf. From the upstairs passage, an enclosed winder stair rises to an unfinished attic.

On both main and second floors, most woodwork retains its original late-nineteenth century graining. In the east parlor, the gilt and silvered picture molding also dates from the 1890s remodeling. (According to family tradition the curtain rods in this room date to the nineteenth century; they may have complemented the elaborate gilt window cornices that were installed by the original owner after the Civil War and that are now stored in the attic.)

The basement of the main block housed the original dining room, located under the present east chamber. Unlike the rest of the basement, which had bare brick walls and dirt floors, this room had plastered walls and wooden floors (the wooden floor have since rotted out). The dining room is also equipped with a fireplace, and its woodwork is similar to that on the main floor. The rest of the basement was probably used in the nineteenth century principally for food storage. The small brick-walled room at the south end of the basement passage is undoubtedly the "lock room" referred to in the building contract. Measuring about eight feet square and plastered on the interior, it was probably used to store liquor and similar valuable provisions. While this room and the dining room remain basically unaltered, the west room of the basement was partially modernized in the early 1960s.

The main block, erected by Martin and Ward in 1842-43, was greatly expanded a half-century later under the ownership of planter and politician John Richard Wingfield, nephew of the original owner. Probably about this same time the old, pre-1840 house was demolished; some of its materials may have been recycled for use in the new rear wing. Erected in one building campaign, this wing forms, in plan, the leg of a T in relation to the main block. At the south end is a two-story, one-room-plan brick unit; this is connected to the main block by a long, two-story frame unit. The main floor of the brick unit contains a

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kitchen, while the frame section contains a dining room, pantry and passage. A continuous two-story veranda fronts the east side of the wing, wrapping around the back of the main block as well, and a single-story veranda--now partly enclosed--runs across the wing's west facade.

The passage in the rear wing, which contains a plain dogleg stair to the second floor, communicates directly with the central passage of the main block. These two connecting passages originally provided independent access to most of the rooms at both floor levels; all other rooms could be reached by exterior doors opening onto the verandas. Significantly, the room above the kitchen, which was designed as lodgings for the cook, had its own exterior stair sheltered by the east veranda. This dogleg stair, protected from wind and rain by its weatherboarded south end, provided sole access to the servants' room. (There was no interior stair connecting this room to the kitchen below). The separate stair and entry ensured that the family's living space remained separate from that of the house servants. To effect complete segregation, a board partition was erected across the veranda at second-floor level, providing separate porch space for the cook. (This vertical-board partition was removed in the early 1960s, but its shadow against the brick wall and porch ceiling is still visible.)

The exterior detailing of the wing--especially the brickwork--is generally inferior in quality to that of the main block. The basement level of the kitchen unit is built of rubblestone, and the walls above it are of reused brick laid in five-course American bond. (Originally an exterior door opened at the south end of this unit, but this was replaced by a window in the mid-twentieth century.) Little attempt was made to give the wing symmetrical facades. Instead, the five lower-level and six upper-level openings on the east facade are arranged to create symmetry within the rooms they serve. Nonetheless, the verandas wrapping around both the east and west sides of the wing lend their respective facades a greater degree of unity and balance.

Since its erection in the 1890s the east veranda, with its wide set of wooden steps, has served as the house's main point of ingress and egress. When built, it offered the most direct communication to the outbuildings in the east and south yards, as well as to the farm buildings south of the house. The porch itself offered independent access to the kitchen, the dining room, several bedroom, and the rear passage. In contrast, the front door of the main block was reserved for formal occasions, although it also provided access to the front veranda, which served as an alternative living space during the summer months.

The utilitarian function of the east and west verandas is reflected in their lack of decoration. Each is supported by plain square boxed posts;



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railings consist of a heavy handrail and square-section balusters. This contrasts with the former stylish front veranda erected at the same time, which featured thin, turned posts and spindle-screen friezes.

Interior detailing in the 1890s wing varies among the different rooms. The cross passage at its north end has rather plain woodwork, in keeping with its role as a service space providing communication between the front and back of the house and the first and second floors of the wing. The dining room, in the center of the wing, is both the largest room and the most stylishly outfitted. This room, dressed with vertical-matchboard wainscot, features a mantel embellished with carved rosettes. The room is entered from either the passage or through one of four symmetrically disposed French doors--two of which open onto either veranda. French doors are seldom seen in rural Virginia houses of the period. At Woodlands they are practical as well as elegant, providing extra light and pulling summer breezes through the room. A wide opening to the passage also promotes air flow: here matching sets of folding, paneled doors connect the dining room and passage.

The last addition to the house, made around 1920, is the one-story east wing. Joined to the gable end of the main block, this wing--which once had its own exterior door--contains an extra bedroom and bathroom. The bedroom's most interesting feature is its fanciful Craftsman-style mantel, with multiple shelves framed by decorative brackets and turned spindles. Unlike the other mantels in the house, this may be a stock piece ordered from a catalog.

### Domestic Outbuildings

About 25 yards southeast of the main house stands a 1 1/2-story frame, stuccoed cottage. Built in the early 1920s to serve as a two-car garage, it was converted into a dwelling in 1946. Between the cottage and the main house stands a small one-story, gable-roofed frame pumphouse. Built in the 1940s, this structure replaced an earlier pumphouse on the same site.

Unfortunately, no early domestic outbuildings remain at Woodlands. The original detached kitchen, which probably stood on the east or southeast side of the house, was probably demolished in the 1890s when the rear wing was built--if not before. A frame smokehouse stood just north of the present pumphouse before burning in the 1940s. To the rear of the house, about fifteen yards south of the back wing, a large depression marks the site of a combined carriagehouse and icehouse. This building was still standing in the early part of this century. Another building of unknown function stood a few yards further west. A number of other

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buildings no doubt once stood in the yard, but they had all disappeared by 1920.

### Antebellum Barn

Located about 120 yards southeast of the main house, the antebellum barn stands on the edge of a low ridge bordered on the north and east by open pastures. A rectangular frame structure with rubblestone foundations and steep gable roof, it measures 63' x 22'. When viewed from most directions the barn appears to be a single-story structure, but its western half is actually two stories. The building has never been enlarged, and it has suffered virtually no significant alterations.

Other than the original section of the main house, this barn is the oldest structure on the property. Architectural evidence indicates it was built--in a single campaign--before 1860, and possibly as early as the 1842-43 plantation house. It was probably the only large barn on the property until the present stone horse barn was built at the end of the nineteenth century.

One of only eight or ten antebellum barns surviving in Albemarle, the Woodlands barn is unique among them. Relatively little is known about early barns in central Virginia, and the barn at Woodlands helps fill a significant gap in our knowledge of the area's farm buildings and its agricultural practices in the mid-nineteenth century. The barn is to date the earliest mixed-use barn recorded in the region. Originally designed to house livestock as well as grain, it exemplifies the transition from the single-purpose grain-storage barns of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to the larger, multipurpose barns of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The barn occupies a level site at the edge of a slight ridge, and is oriented to the four compass points, with the main wagon door facing south. Openings are minimal. There are only two original entries: one marked by the pair of eaves-high doors opening onto the wagon run, and the other by a standard-size door opening into the stable area at the other end of the same facade. The north and east facades have no openings at all, but the west gable end has three pairs of small openings (averaging 1'-4" x 2'-6") typical of those found in eastern Virginia barns of the period. At main-floor level, where horses were stabled, the barn is lighted by a matching pair of windows about four feet above floor level (these are visible in photographs 14 and 15). Directly below them, at floor level, are two identical-sized openings probably used for shoveling muck and straw out of the building. In the gable, at loft level, are another pair of matching openings, here equipped with louvers

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and serving as loft vents. None of the openings were ever equipped with glass or exterior shutters, though some may have had sliding interior shutters.

The barn's original functions are suggested by its floorplan. The western half of the building was divided into three bays (two rows of stalls flank a narrow aisle), and housed livestock; the eastern half was also divided into three bays (two grain bins flank a wagon drive), and housed grain as well as accommodated the farm vehicles used to unload hay, corn and grain. A large loft for storing hay extends over both major sections of the barn, but the heights of the two sections, and thus their available storage space, vary markedly. The ceiling over the livestock area is relatively low: only about eight feet above floor level. In contrast, the grain bins in the eastern half of the barn rise over thirteen feet above the floor. The eastern or grain-storage half of the barn lacks a ceiling of fixed floorboards like that over the stable section; instead it is open to the roof, with loose boards laid across the grain bins and across the wagon run on special joists set three feet below the tie beams. When necessary, these boards could be removed to facilitate loading the bins; later, they could be replaced to accommodate bumper harvests of hay.

Standing on continuous, original dry-laid rubblestone foundations, the barn rises to a height of roughly 28 feet above the sills (16'-4" at the eaves). The 45-degree pitched roof, originally sheathed with wooden shingles, is now covered with corrugated sheetmetal. The walls are sheathed entirely with original horizontal shiplap siding (i.e. flush-board siding with beveled edges). Unlike standard weatherboards of the period, which measure ten to fifteen feet or more and usually vary in length, all sheathing covering the Woodlands barn is cut to the length of the individual structural bay, which varies from roughly eight feet to eighteen feet. The striped visual effect of these single-length boards is most apparent on the north facade, which lacks openings. Here the board lengths run, from east to west: 8', 8', 12', 8', 8', 18'. Stopping and starting at each post, the boards are attached by their original cut nails.

The Woodlands barn employs a standard early Virginia heavy-timber box frame. Nearly all timbers are of pine, being vertical-sawn or finished with an adze. Posts are 10" square, common studs 3" x 5"; principal studs 4" x 6"; rafters 3" x 4.5"; joists 4" x 8", and tie beams, plates and girts 6" x 8". Each plate is formed of three or more timbers joined by pinned scarf joints, and the rafters are joined at the ridge by a standard mortice-and-tenon joint. Rafter feet are nailed to a 2" x 8" false plate which rides out past the true plate, forming the

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characteristic Virginia eaves overhang. The barn's roof is stabilized by two sets of collar beams and by thin, diagonal windbraces.

While standard Virginia construction techniques prevail, the barn employs one rather unusual feature: sets of "hanging joists" that cross the building well below the level of the plate and tie beams, providing lower seating for the loft flooring. The level of the loft floor differs between the two major sections of the barn, as discussed above; the low ceiling over the stable area allowed more room above for crop storage; it also helped conserve the animals' body heat during the winter. In order to create this low ceiling, joists were half-lapped into the studs or posts and nailed into place. (The same technique was used occasionally in the late antebellum period to create dwellings with true half-story upper floors; in these cases the "hanging joists" created floors two or three feet below the eaves, providing additional upstairs headroom.)

The opening to the wagon run is closed by a pair of giant vertical-board doors swinging on wrought-iron strap hinges. Unlike many later barns, which allowed vehicles to pass from one side of the building to the other, the wagon drive of the barn at Woodlands opens at one end only. About 21 feet wide and equally deep, the runway provided enough room for two wagons; after harvest it could be used for corn shucking and as a threshing floor. Thick, solid, worn pine boards form the floor of the wagon run. J. R. Wingfield, the present owner, says this floor is so strong that in recent years it supported a truck loaded with seven tons of lime. (This floor has neither been repaired nor reinforced within Wingfield's lifetime.)

On either side of the wagon run are identical grain bins seven feet wide and 21 feet deep. Reaching up to just three feet below the plate and tie beams, they are sheathed with flush boards spaced about one-half inch apart to promote ventilation. A three-foot-wide opening provides access to each bin, which could be loaded from the top if necessary. These openings have no door; rather, boards were inserted into slots flanking the inside of the opening; by stacking one board atop another the opening could be closed off while the bin was gradually filled with corn, wheat, or other grains.

No interior access exists between the east and west sections of the barn. The western half, designed for livestock, is entered through a standard-size batten door. A wood-floored aisle runs the depth of the building, leading to dirt-floored stalls or pens on either side. Not surprisingly, the present stalls are replacements. One can only guess at the configuration of the originals, or at the species of animals quartered there originally. It would seem likely that the space was occupied by

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horses, milk cows or pregnant animals. Curiously the Woodlands barn, unlike most Virginia barns, was never expanded by lean-tos.

Certain specific aspects of the barn's original use remain a matter of conjecture, and the subject clearly demands further research. Nevertheless, oral history accounts provide a definite record of how the barn was used in this century. Before the large dairy barn was erected at Woodlands in 1916, the present owner's father and grandfather kept milk cows in the western half of the antebellum barn, and the eastern half was used to store corn. Although J. R. Wingfield II was considered a progressive farmer in his day because of his good husbandry and soil conservation techniques, much of the farm's routine work continued to be done manually until the 1950s, well after other farms in the area had become heavily mechanized. Until the mid-1950s, corn at Woodlands was still shucked by hand. Wagons pulled by horse teams and loaded with unshucked corn would be backed into the wagon run of the old barn, where the corn was dumped in a pile. During the winter months when Wingfield's hired farm workers were free from other chores, they would spend entire days shucking corn by hand in the wagon run, tossing the ears into the bins on either side. At that time, most of the corn at Woodlands was used to feed the farm's animals.

The barn continued to serve farm-related functions until the mid-1960s. For several years the present owner stored small grains--mostly barley--in the bins; he also used the wagon drive to grind and mix feed for hogs. Today the building serves as a catch-all storage space.

The barn has undergone remarkably few changes in its 150-year history. A south door was added at second-floor level some time in the late nineteenth century; this door was approached by an exterior stair that has since disappeared. A few individual elements have been changed or replaced, such as the weatherboards on the south facade, or the livestock pens. By and large, however, the building retains not only its general form but its original detailing as well.

Although structurally sound, the barn has suffered some termite damage along the north wall, and much of the original siding is in poor condition. However, as long as termite damage is kept in check and the roof sheathing is maintained, the building should last indefinitely. The barn at Woodlands is an important example of vernacular architecture. Special care should be taken to ensure its preservation, as it has much to say about changing agricultural practices in mid-nineteenth-century Virginia.

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### Dairy Barn, Silo and Horse Barn

Located about thirty yards south of the antebellum barn, the dairy barn is a long, low, one-story frame structure covered with vertical-board siding. Built by John R. Wingfield II in 1916 to house about thirty milk cows, the building was modeled in part on designs provided by Virginia Tech through the local farm extension office. The building is of modified balloon construction, measuring roughly 35' x 80'. Poured concrete forms the foundations and part of the flooring. The shallow gable roof is covered with metal sheathing and is pierced by two standard-issue metal vents.

A cylindrical silo constructed of brown-glazed terra-cotta block rises just northeast of the dairy barn. Built in the 1920s, it was designed to store fodder for the farm's dairy cattle. The faceted hipped roof is sheathed with painted sheetmetal. This silo is typical of the earliest ones common to Albemarle. Silos represented a significant advance over the former method of barn-loft storage: they provided greater capacity than many barns; their airtight construction prevented rot, and their durable materials required less maintenance.

The horse barn is located south of the dairy barn, about 200 yards from the main house. Originally erected in the nineteenth century, the barn burned during World War I, leaving only the first-floor stone walls. The roughly 47' x 72' barn was rebuilt around 1919 under the direction of J. R. Wingfield II.

The building is a rectangular stone structure covered with a voluminous triple-pitched gambrel roof. This roof form, designed to permit maximum hay storage and economize on lumber, is a type advocated by popular agricultural literature of the period. The barn at Woodlands is one of the earliest surviving examples of this type in Albemarle. J. R. Wingfield II states that his father, who was adept at mathematics, designed the roof, which was the first of its type in the area.

Similar designs were being popularized at the time by books like Louden Barn Plans, published in 1917 by by Louden Machinery Company of Fairfield, Iowa. Using a relatively sophisticated form of braced rafter construction, the barn's roof was supported without the intervening cross members necessary in traditional post-and-beam barns; it thus provided a vast, uninterrupted space for loading and stacking hay and straw. The triple-pitched slopes on either side of the roof create an almost rounded profile resembling that of an arch. Indeed, the construction principle employed was similar to that of the arch, with vertical thrust being transferred to the masonry walls below.

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It is unclear to what extent the original walls may have been rebuilt after the fire. Constructed of local brown rubblestone, they stand about eleven feet high and are two feet thick. Built to accommodate horses on the ground floor, the barn has a central aisle entered at either gable end and running the full length of the building. Floored with dirt, as is the rest of the barn, this aisle is flanked by framed horse pens and stalls. The thirteen-foot-wide central aisle was used to load and unload hay. An innovative feature for its time in Albemarle was the large central opening in the ceiling, directly over the driveway. A wagon could park beneath it while men pitched loose or baled hay into the loft. This method of loading was a significant improvement over the traditional method of loading from outside, at a barn's gable end. Carts, hay and workers were sheltered from the weather, and the central loading point decreased the distance hay needed to be moved, resulting in more efficient use of labor.

The long, wide aisle was also used for the temporary storage of carts and wagons. Additional shelter for farm vehicles and equipment was available under the open lean-to erected some time later along the barn's south longitudinal facade.

Farming at Woodlands relied on draft-horses until the early 1950s, and the horse barn continued in regular use until then. Since then, the barn has stored hay for the farm's cattle operation.

The horse barn, dairy barn, and antebellum barn are all in need of repairs, but they appear to be structurally sound and are protected by reasonably intact metal roofs. All three contribute to form an outstanding agricultural complex illustrating the evolution of farm buildings in the county over the course of nearly a century.

JMO

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a high degree of integrity as an antebellum and late-nineteenth-century farm complex that evolved over the years.

Contributing buildings on the property include a brick I house erected in 1842-1843 and doubled in size about 1895 by the addition of a rear wing; a frame, antebellum mixed-use barn; a frame 1916 dairy barn, and a stone-and-frame horse barn partially rebuilt about 1919. There is one contributing structure, a brown-glazed, hollow-tile silo associated with the cow barn; one noncontributing building, a 1920s garage converted to a cottage in 1946; and one noncontributing structure, a 1943 pumphouse. There are three noncontributing sites comprising the foundations of three former domestic outbuildings.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Woodlands, which is located in Albemarle County, was constructed in 1842-1843 for Richard Woods Wingfield. He was a prosperous farmer who in 1860 owned twenty-seven slaves, a large number for Albemarle County. He owned a few horses and cattle, but the farm produced mostly tobacco (19,000 pounds) and corn (2,000 bushels). Wheat, peas, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes also were grown.<sup>2</sup> Wingfield died without children about 1875 and willed the property to his nephew John Richard Wingfield.

John Richard Wingfield was born on 14 December 1845 on a farm adjoining Woodlands, in Albemarle County. Largely educated at home by private tutors, he entered the Virginia Military Institute in July 1863 but left in March 1864 to serve in the Second Virginia Cavalry. He was wounded on 7 May 1864 during the Battle of the Wilderness and did not rejoin his unit until February 1865.

In October 1865 Wingfield entered the University of Virginia, from which he graduated in June 1869. He entered the University's law school in October 1871 and received his degree in June 1872. He practiced law for about five years before poor health compelled him to retire to his newly acquired farm, Woodlands.

Wingfield's farming practices differed little from those of his uncle. In 1880, as in 1860, the basic crops were tobacco (20,000 pounds) and corn (1,500 bushels), as well as wheat, oats, sweet potatoes, and apples.<sup>3</sup> Apparently the full-time management of Woodlands restored Wingfield's health, for in May 1881 he was elected a member of the Albemarle County board of supervisors. He entered state politics in November 1881 when he was elected to represent Albemarle and Greene counties in the Senate of Virginia. Wingfield served in the Senate during its sessions between 1881 and 1886, when he resigned.



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While Wingfield was a senator he played a significant role in state politics, during the Funder-Readjuster battles of the 1870s and 1880s. The Funders, who generally were urban merchants and conservative planters, advocated full payment by Virginia of the state's antebellum debt, while the Readjusters, who usually were less prosperous than their opponents, sought to shift more of the burden of the repayment to West Virginia, which had benefited from Virginia's heavy antebellum expenditures for internal improvements. From 1879 to 1883 a coalition, composed of blacks and Readjusters and led by General William Mahone, controlled the General Assembly and the Governor's Mansion. The conservative--largely Democratic--Funders began in 1882 to plot their strategy for defeating their foes.

Wingfield was a key figure in the planning sessions, according to Henry T. Wickham, a fellow politician. Wickham wrote that

no sketch of the Hon. J. Richard Wingfield would, in my judgment, be complete without a detailed reference to the great service he rendered the State of Virginia at the time the coalition power was broken. . . . At the close of the special session [of 1882] Mr. Wingfield organized a conference, at which the conclusion was reached that the contest in the legislature of 1881-82 was only a preliminary skirmish, and that it was necessary to formulate and carry out a program to present to the people of the State for their determination in the great contest of 1883. At this conference it was deemed wise to suggest Mr. [John E.] Massey as a candidate for the State at large upon the Democratic ticket. The work of enlisting the co-operation of the great Democratic leaders at that time devolved upon Mr. Wingfield, and though Mr. Massey himself was defeated, the Democrats carried the State and won the battle in the congressional election of 1882, which led up to the great contest in the fall of 1883, resulting in the complete control of the legislature by the Democratic party, and also to the victory of 1885, by which, in addition to electing the general assembly, the Democrats also elected the governor, thereby regaining complete control of the State.

After Wingfield left the Senate, President Grover Cleveland appointed him consul to Costa Rica, in which position he served from July 1886 to November 1889. Cleveland was a conservative Democrat, as was Wingfield;

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perhaps the president was rewarding him for his assistance in returning Virginia to the Democratic camp.

Following his resignation as consul in 1889, Wingfield returned to Woodlands. He contented himself with local office, serving as treasurer of Albemarle County until 1903. Although he did not hold a statewide office at the time, however, he fought hard for the election of his friend Thomas S. Martin to the United States Senate in 1893.<sup>5</sup> From his base in the Senate Martin ran his political machine, the first successful statewide machine in Virginia. The Martin machine controlled Democratic Party politics in Virginia until his death in 1919. His machine was succeeded by Harry F. Byrd's "organization," which effectively dominated state government from the 1920s to the 1960s.

In March 1910 Wingfield was appointed to the State Corporation Commission by Governor William H. Mann to fill an unexpired term. He was confirmed by the General Assembly and elected to subsequent terms until his resignation on 21 January 1918.

Wingfield once again retired to Woodlands. There he presided over the operation of his farm, which was actually conducted by his son, John Richard Wingfield II. The younger Wingfield was a progressive agriculturist who built the silo, dairy, and horse barns that remain prominent features of the farm. His father died on 16 March 1931. The property has remained in the hands of his descendants ever since.

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### ENDNOTES

1. United States Census, Slave Schedules, 1860, Albemarle County, microfilm, Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va. (VSL&A).
2. United States Census, Agriculture, 1860, Albemarle County, microfilm, VSL&A.
3. United States Census, Agriculture, 1880, Albemarle county, microfilm, VSL&A.
4. Makers of America (Washington, D.C.: B. F. Johnson, 1915), 1:106-107.
5. Ibid., 108.

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Makers of America. 3 vols. Washington, D.C.: B. F. Johnson, 1915-1917.

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Tugwell, Rexford G. Grover Cleveland. New York: Macmillan Co., 1968.

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**UTM REFERENCES**

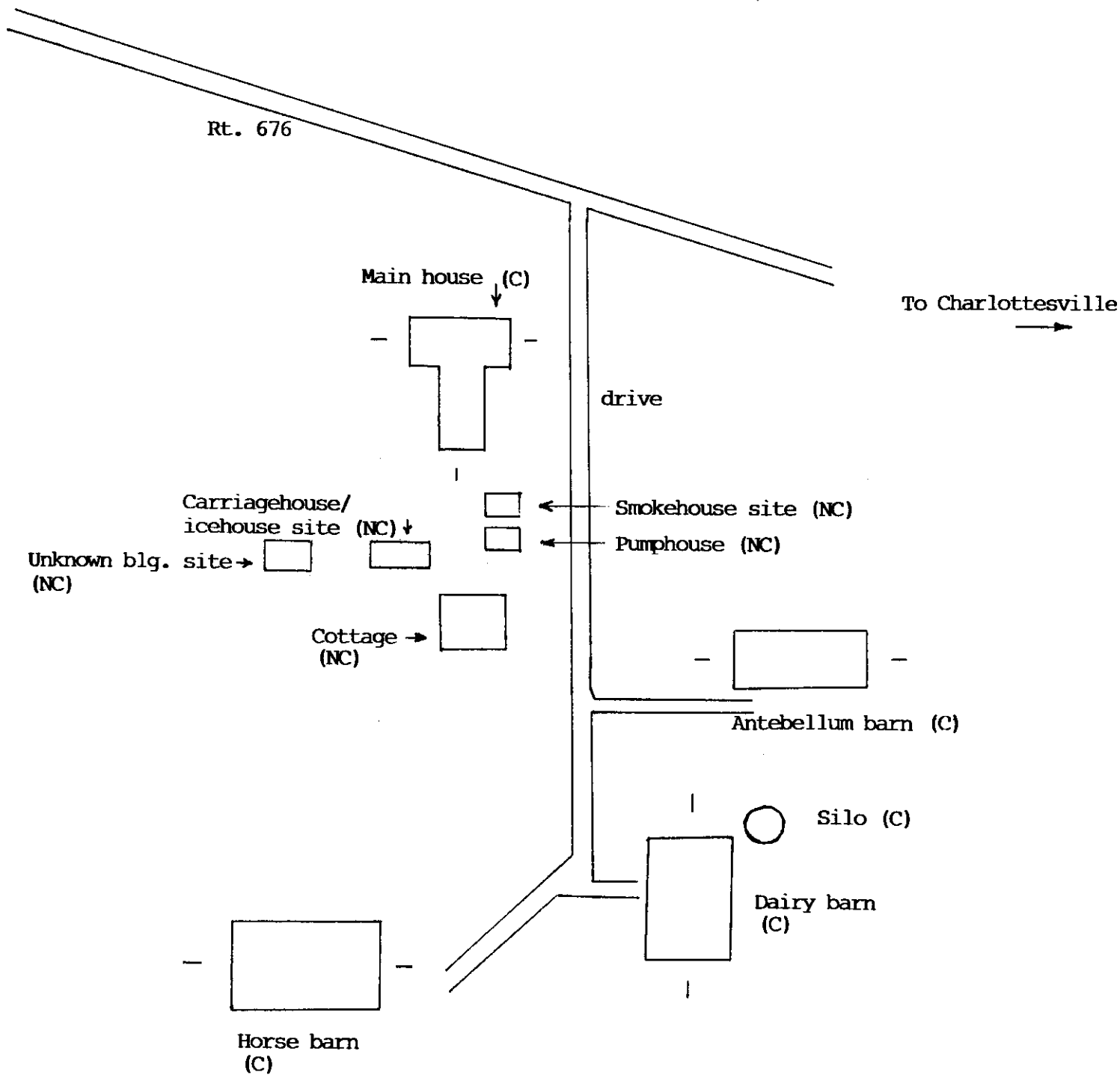
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- B 17/719350/4219360
- C 17/718930/4219470
- D 17/718640/4219280
- E 17/718280/4219640
- F 17/718670/4220380
- G 17/718600/4220320
- H 17/718720/4220300
- I 17/718860/4220420

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at the intersection of county road 676 and an unimproved dirt road delineated by UTM reference point 17/719510/4220060, proceed south 2200 feet to a point on the north bank of Ivy Creek delineated UTM reference point 17/719350/4219360. Then proceed northwest 1000 feet along the north bank of Ivy Creek to a point delineated by UTM reference point 17/718930/4219470. Then proceed 1400 feet southwest to a point delineated by UTM reference point 17/718640/4219280. Then proceed northwest 1600 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference point 17/718280/4219640. Then proceed northerly 2600 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference point 17/718670/4220380. Then proceed south-east 300 feet to the head of a tributary to Jumping Branch. Then proceed east 400 feet to a point on a natural gas transmission line right-of-way delineated by UTM reference point 17/718720/4220300. Then proceed north about 400 feet to the intersection of county road 676 and an unimproved dirt road. Then proceed east along county road 676 to the point of origin.

Woodlands  
Albemarle County, VA  
Site plan sketch (not to scale)  
1989

North



UNION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DIVISION OF MI  
JAMES L. CALVE

78° 30'  
38° 07' 30"

720 000 m E

21

27° 30' 23

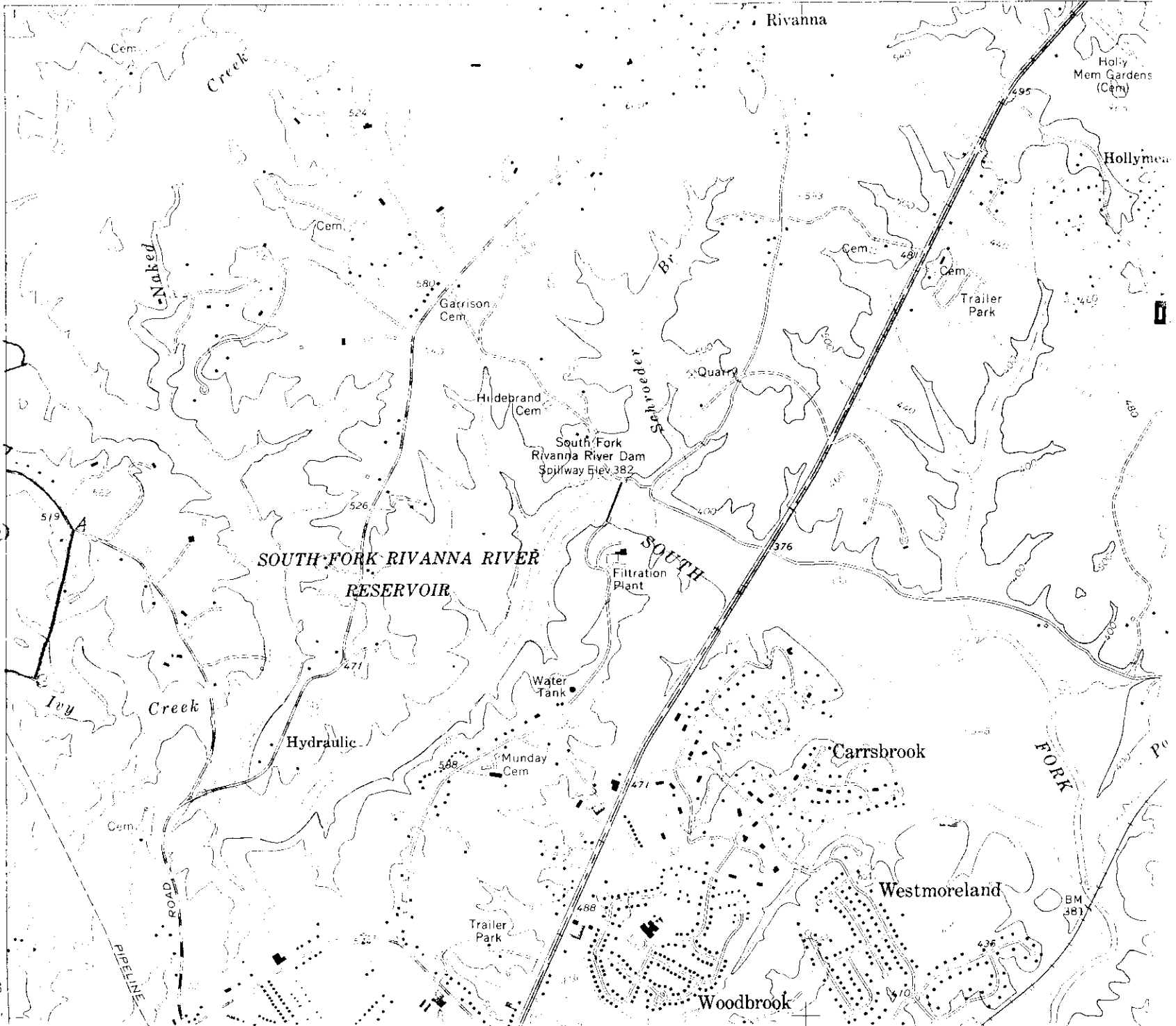
EA

4220 000 m N

4221

4219

4218



Handwritten notes: 42130000, 42143600

Vertical text on the left side: A, PIPELINE, ROAD

SOUTH FORK RIVANNA RIVER  
RESERVOIR

SOUTH  
Filtration Plant

South Fork  
Rivanna River Dam  
Spillway Elev. 382

Carrsbrook

Westmoreland

Woodbrook

FORK

BM  
381

Holy  
Mem Gardens  
(Cem)

Hollymea

Trailer  
Park

Water  
Tank

Munday  
Cem

Trailer  
Park

Hydraulic

Cem.

Cem.

Garrison  
Cem

Hidebrand  
Cem

Quarry

Cem.

Cem

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524

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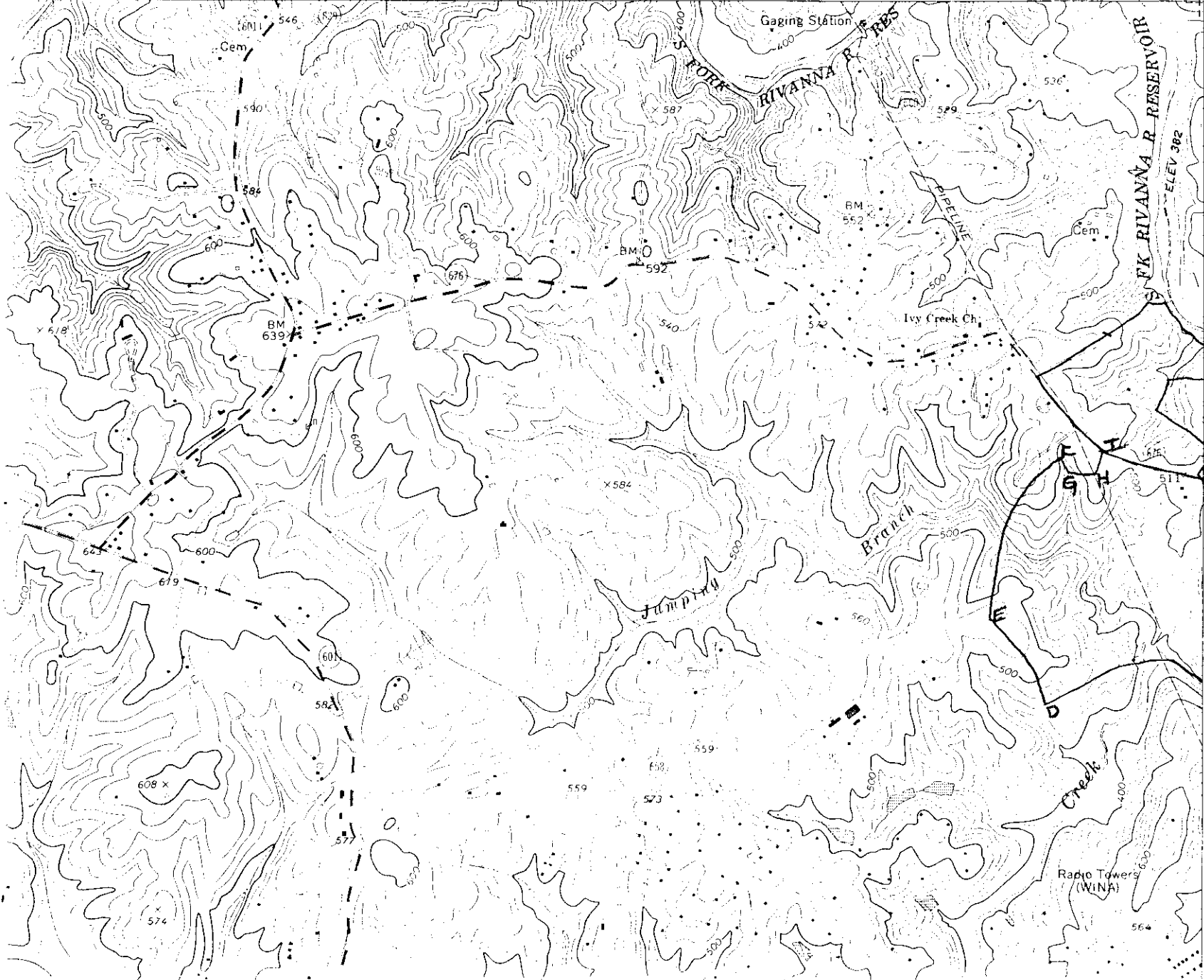
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5'

CHARLOTTESVILLE WEST QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5360 III NW  
(EARLYSVILLE)

E 714 715 716 717 718 719 78° 30' 38° 07' 30"



4222  
650 000  
FEET

WOODLANDS  
ALBERTA CO., VT  
UNIT'S  
4221  
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D 17/718 640/4219 280  
E 17/718 280/4219 280  
F 17/718 640/4220 280  
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I 17/718 640/4220 280

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