

UPDATED
MAIN FORM
AND MAP
5/16/06 VLR
6/21/06 NRHP

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 The Phillips Farm
other names/site number Percy-Pitt Farm, VDHR #133-0695

2. Location

street & number 6353 Godwin Boulevard not for publication N/A
city or town Suffolk vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Independent City code 800 zip code 23432

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] May 16, 2006
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 _____

=====

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>1</u> | buildings |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u>1</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: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal

Other: Clerestory House

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

roof Wood: Shingle

walls Wood: Weatherboard

other _____

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

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance Ca. 1820

Significant Dates Ca. 1820; Ca. 1848

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

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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(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 6.5 acres

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

| Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 18 | 358816 | 2 | | | 3 | | |

____ See continuation sheet.

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.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Carolyn Bickham

organization _____ date February 5, 1998

street & number 6353 Godwin Boulevard telephone 757-255-2294

city or town Suffolk state VA zip code 23432

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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)

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

name Daryl E. and Carolyn M. Bickham

street & number 6353 Godwin Boulevard telephone 757-255-2294

city or town Suffolk state VA zip code 23432

=====

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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

Narrative Description:

The Phillips Farm House is situated on a ridge (known as the Tidewater Escarpment) north of Chuckatuck, Virginia on Route 10. The Phillips Farm House, built c. 1820, is a square, two story house on an English basement. It is a gable-roofed, wood structure, measuring thirty feet by thirty feet. The original house was thirty feet wide by seventeen feet in length: one room to south of a north hall with $\frac{1}{2}$ story above. In 1848, a thirteen by thirty feet addition was added to the west of the original structure (substantiated by dates on the chimney shoulder and beam in addition).

The current floor plan configuration is a $\frac{2}{3}$ Georgian-plan: a north hall with two rooms to south, and a back porch, west of the hall, enclosed for kitchen. The story above, built as a clerestory, is a back hall with two rooms to the south and a bath to the east. The English basement is three rooms. There is one non-contributing building that sits southwest of the house. It is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ story wood frame building.

Built on an English basement of five course American bond brick, the house sits five feet above grade. The house has two exterior brick chimneys on the south end. The brick work indicates that the original chimney containing three fireplaces has been raised. The date 1848 is etched in a brick, centered between the upper and lower chimney shoulders. The southwest chimney contains two fireplaces and appears of the same brick work as the raised portion of the old chimney. The house has a cedar shake roof installed in 1976 by a previous owner. Pictures of the house taken in the 1960s show a tin roof. Unique to the house are the nine clerestory windows which adorn the entire second story. These windows were added when the back of the house was added and the roof raised in 1848. A solid beam thirty feet in length forms the sill of the windows. Every other clerestory window slides to the south behind another window. The rear facade has a salt box roof with clerestory dormers at each end.

The facade of the house features an entrance in the north bay via a four-panel door at a one story porch on brick pillars, five feet above grade. The porch, built in 1982, replaces a Victorian porch that was added in 1940. That porch was two stories, wrapped around the entire east and south sides, and had a cupola above the porch roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

The daughter of a previous owner stated that the back porch (which is one story with tin roof) was the original front porch which was moved to the back of the house when her father added the Victorian front porch in 1941. The 1982 front porch was designed with assistance from architects from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and is believed to be more appropriate to the period of the house.

The house has eight different window styles, four different mantel designs and different style doors on each of the three floors. First story windows on the facade are original nine-over-nine sash windows. The story above has the distinctive nine pane clerestory windows that run the entire width of the house.

The south elevation features six-over-six windows on the first floor, two-over-four in the second. The west side of the house has six-over-nine sash windows on the first floor and dormer clerestory windows in the story above. The north side of the house has a nine-over-nine sash in the original hall, six-over-six in the kitchen, and four-over-four in the story above. All of the basement windows are six-over-six sash windows which are approximately one foot above grade. All panes in the house are 8x10. All windows, as are all of the structural beams in the house, are marked with Roman numerals. The windows in the original part of the house had brass push button window locks (only one entire lock exists) that allowed the windows to lock at two levels and in closed position.

The original floor plan was single room to south of side hall with the same configuration for the ½ story above. The English basement was two rooms.

The current floor plan of the house is typical of the early to mid-nineteenth century period (floor plan attached) double pile configuration on an English basement. Structural evidence suggest that the entrance hall stairway originally ascended on the south wall of the hall to a north turn landing, crossed the back of the hall and ascended to the second story at a right turn. The current stairway ascends thirteen steps on the north side of the hall straight to the second floor (speculation is that this change was made in 1848 with the west addition.) The stairway has a round pine handrail with a balustrade consisting of square balusters and square newels with square caps. The passage hall features thirty-six inch high wainscoting with molded baseboard and top rail. Doors that are thirty-six inches wide with four panels have survived on the first floor with original Carpenter lock on the east entrance door. Wood NPS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

graining was found on the doors.

The first floor southeast room features six inch tongue-in-groove pine floor boards. The wainscoting is original, thirty-six inches high consisting of twenty-four inch pine plank seventeen feet long with chair rail and baseboard. The window and door trim is hand planed and is of the same design as the mantel. The mantel is original with side pilasters, molded central tablet and molded narrow shelf. Ceiling height is nine and one-half feet.

The southwest room, added in 1848, has six inch tongue-in-groove pine flooring, twenty-eight and one half inch high chair railing and baseboards with beaded edge. The mantel is original with side pilaster, molded central tablet and molded narrow shelf. Ceiling height is eight feet.

The kitchen, originally the west porch, was enclosed in the early twentieth century. It was renovated and modernized by the current owners in 1982. The deteriorated three inch tongue-in-groove flooring was replaced with eight inch pine tongue-in-groove flooring. The window and door trim is molded matching that of the south west room.

The second story (floor plan attached) is accessed by a thirteen-tread stairway that rises from the north side of the first floor side hall to a small hall. There is one clerestory dormer facing west in the west wall of the hall. Flooring is tongue-in-groove pine. Trim in this hall consists of six inch pine baseboards. All doors on the second story were missing and have been replaced with five panel doors.

The northeast room was converted to a bathroom and has the same tongue-in-groove pine flooring as the rest of the house. All woodwork in the bath is simple six inch baseboards. Three of the nine clerestory windows are in this room.

The southeast room has random width tongue-in-groove pine floor boards ranging from eight inches in the center of the room to twelve inches. The east wall slopes from the top of the clerestory windows. Six of the nine clerestory windows on the facade are in this room. The mantel is a reproduction of the original mantel, burned in a chimney fire in 1994. It features side pilasters, flat central tablet and narrow shelf. Trim around windows and doors in this room is new flat six inch pine, as are the baseboards. Trim under clerestory windows

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

is original six inch pine with beaded edge.

The second story southwest room has the same trim as the southeast room with one clerestory dormer facing west. The ceiling slopes from a thirty-inch knee wall. Unique to this room is the tiny fireplace that abuts the west wall. The mantel is a copy, made in 1982, of the original in the front east room.

The English basement is accessed by a stairway directly under the stairway on the first floor. Structural evidence (a cut beam with patch work) suggests that it was not an original access to the basement. The pine treads are very worn and suggest an age greater than that of the first floor treads. The handrail is oval and the steps are a double-run open string with a balustrade of round turned balusters and a heavy turned newel with a cannonball pattern. Doors in the basement are four panel cross pattern. The southeast room matches the width and depth of the original house. Brick work indicates that it was two rooms originally. There is a south fireplace with cypress pilasters and shelf built in 1982. A door leads to the exterior on the southwest side of the fireplace. The wall and ceiling are plaster like that of the first and second story. The floor is poured, scored concrete of no particular pattern of blocks dated 1911. Windows are six-over-six sash set into three brick deep foundation.

The southwest room in the basement contains the open brick chimney foundation and features like that of the southeast room. There are two windows with a six-over-six sash. The north wall to this room is three brick thick and opens to a northwest room that had a dirt floor and window on the north side. This room has been converted to a modern bath and utility room.

The only remaining outbuilding is a 1 1/2 story wood frame building located southwest of the house. It was originally located about 200 feet from the house but was moved to its current location when the property was sold and subdivided in the 1970s. The date of construction is unknown but it has the same lathing and plaster as the dwelling. It has been recently gutted for restoration and placed on a new brick foundation. Intact is a stairway leading to the second story. Evidence suggests that it was used for a dwelling at one time.

Phillips Farm House was completely restored in 1982-84 leaving intact all original trim, floors and doors. The structural integrity and floor plan of the house was not altered. This house had been vacant and open to the elements for

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

approximately ten years. The property currently contains six and one half acres of the original 189 acre farm.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 6

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

The significance of the Phillips Farm house is that it is one of a few regional examples of a building commonly called a clerestory house or a clerestory dormer house. The clerestory house is indicated by continuous windows, in a second story, with sills located approximately two feet from the floor offering a one-and-a-half story dwelling. The Phillips Farm is one of 14 (12 still standing) clerestory buildings in Southeast Virginia.

Clerestory window features distinguishes the clerestory house from other vernacular domestic dwellings in Virginia and possibly the United States. In the 14 clerestory buildings in Southeast Virginia, the clerestory was fabricated in one of two ways. The most prevalent, with nine examples, is the clerestory dormer which consists of an extended shed dormer with consecutive windows. The other, with five examples, is the clerestory house in which the half story is constructed as a clerestory. Clerestory design, while it is not a full two story design, allows for all the benefits of a full second story with full head room and light capacity. Although the exterior appearance indicates one large room in the clerestory, there are usually two rooms separated by a partition wall that intersects one of the windows. All of the clerestory houses have a definitive side profile (see attachment). Clerestory houses (or clerestory dormer houses) are found in a four-county region in southeastern Virginia between the James and the Blackwater Rivers. These dwellings appear to have been built C. 1820 through C. 1850. There are fourteen (nine clerestory dormer houses and five clerestory houses) recorded examples of this house type in the counties of Surry, Isle of Wight, Nansemond (now city of Suffolk), and Southampton. The earliest and of a grander scale is the Beale house in Southampton County. There are four in Surry County, eight in Isle of Wight County and one in the City of Suffolk, The Phillips Farm House. Two of the houses have been demolished. To date, research has indicated the clerestory dwelling is confined to these counties. Most of these structures were recorded in the late 1970s, either by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission or in local history or pictorial books.

Clerestory dwellings, (as researched by Elizabeth P. Hoge, Graduate Student in Planning, University of Virginia), were probably built by one or two builders who lived in the area. Speculation suggests that the one or two builders may have lived in central Isle of Wight County ranging into Suffolk, Surry and Southampton County. They may have presented the concept of the NPS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 7

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

clerestory house to clients and then allowed them to modify to meet individual needs and design. The use of clerestory building design may have originated in New England cotton textile mills where clerestory design was used for lighting in large stone or wood buildings built to accommodate long rows of textile machines. During this same period cotton was a major crop of Virginia and was shipped to New England textile mills. It is noted that none of the clerestory dwellings predate or postdate cotton production of this region in Virginia.

It is one of two houses that exhibit the highest level of craftsmanship of the fourteen recorded dwellings. It was originally a one-story single pile house built on a raised brick basement c. 1820. In 1848 it was raised to a clerestory with a 2/3 Georgian-plan. The front facade is a full clerestory and the rear facade has a salt box roof with a clerestory dormer at each end. It is the largest of the fourteen, with three rooms on the second floor which works as full second story.

Phillips Farm House is the best preserved example of the five documented clerestory house. It is located on Route 10, ten miles north of Suffolk, Virginia. It is the farmhouse for an original 189 acre farm(140 acres were in Nansemond County and 49 acres were in Isle of Wight County) owned in 1826 by John T. Phillips according to land tax records. The heirs of John T. And Elizabeth Phillips sold the estate in 1868. (Due to the burning of Suffolk in 1865 deed records are not available prior to that date). It is known that John and Mary Phillips were married in Isle of Wight County in 1820. He was the Headmaster of a school for young ladies in Chuckatuck (Nansemond County). In 1868, four Phillips children were listed as the heirs selling the property. This was the first of seventeen recorded sales of this house prior to purchase by the current owners.

The Chuckatuck citizens either call the house, The Percy-Pitt house, as the Pitts owned the house off and on from 1888-1926 or the Brown Farm for two bachelor brothers who owned the house from 1943-1971. It is local lore that Percy lost the house and farm because he sat on the front porch talking to anyone who came by instead of attending to managing the farm.

The Phillips Farm House was restored through a two-year project by the current owners in 1982-84. Unoccupied for ten years and open to the elements, it was in a grave state of disrepair. The historical integrity of the house

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 8

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

has not been compromised in the restoration. An enclosed west porch was converted to a modern kitchen.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 2 Page 2

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10

Page 10

The Phillips Farm
Suffolk, Virginia

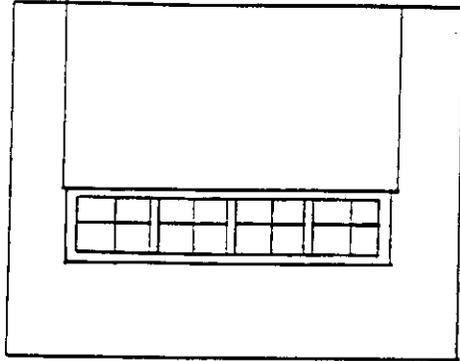
Verbal Boundary Description: SEE PLAT PLAN ATTACHED.

The boundary of the Phillips Farm is indicated in the accompanying plat labelled "Plat of the property of Carolyn A. Keen and Carroll E. Keen, Sr. and Grace J. Keen parcel of land containing 6.501 acres, City of Suffolk, Va."

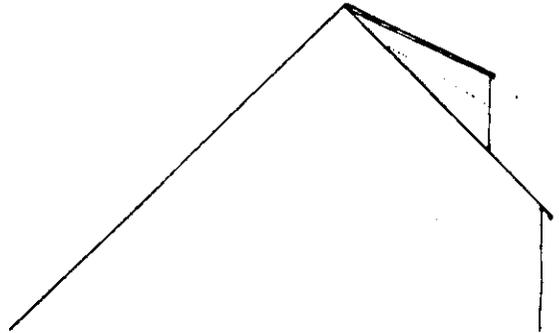
Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuilding, and 6.5 acres that historically have been part of Phillips Farm and that maintain historic integrity. Those parcels of the original farm north, west and south of the property have been excluded because they have been subdivided and developed into residential houses.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
PHILLIPS HOUSE
SUFFOLE, VA

CLERESTORY DORMER

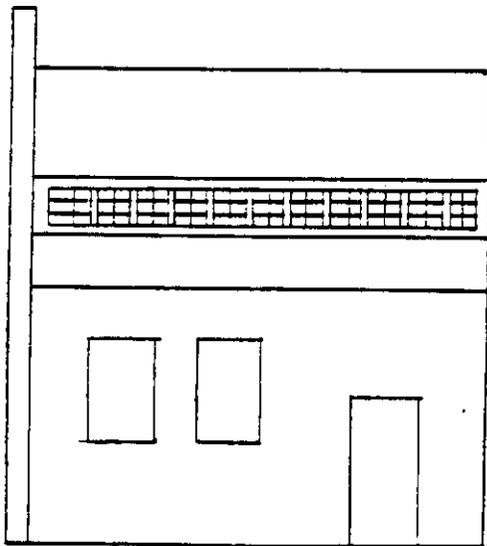


Front

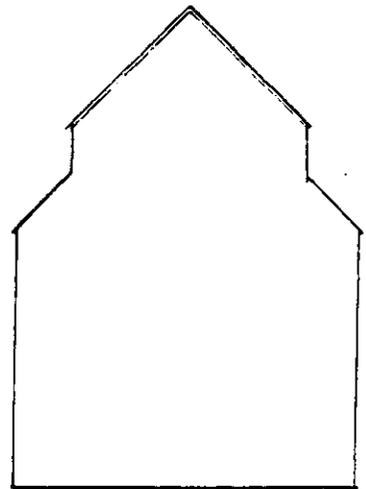


Side

CLERESTORY HOUSE

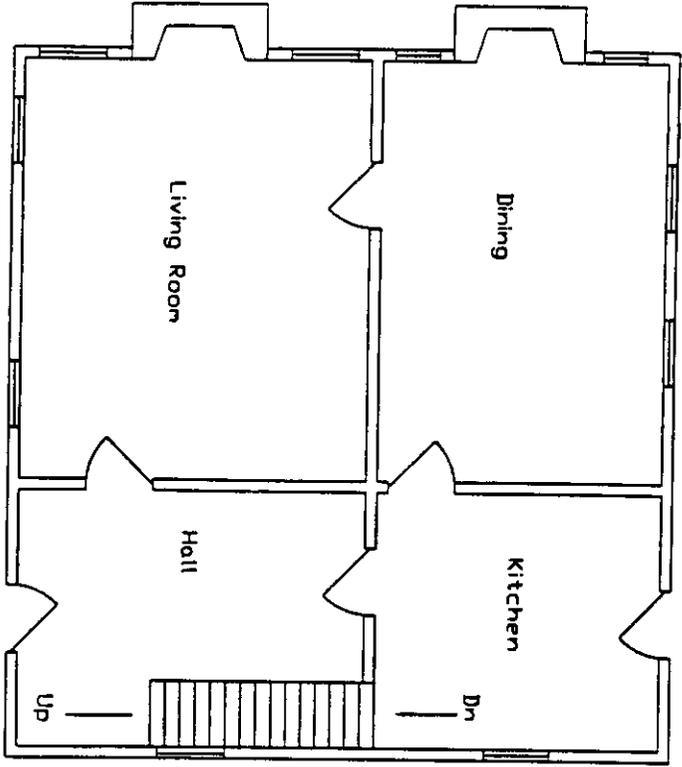


Front

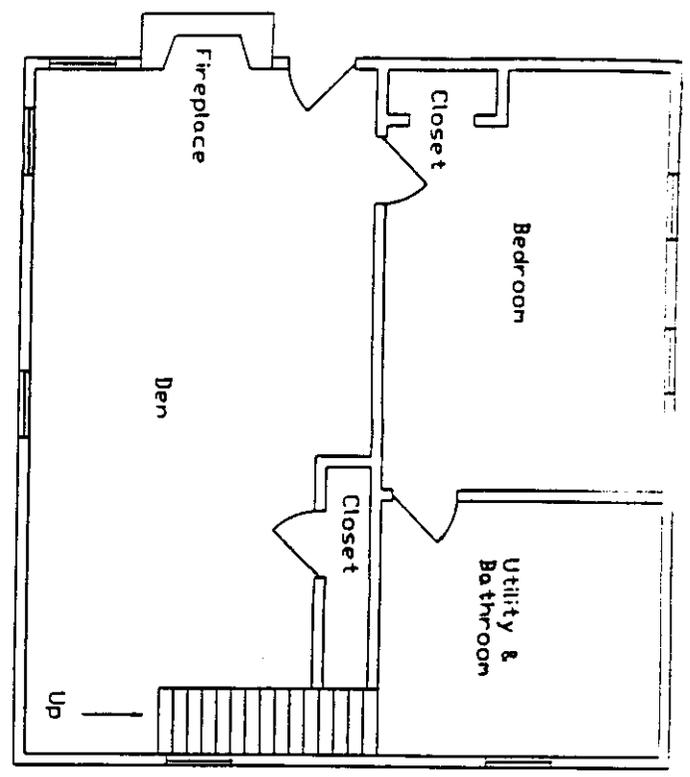


Side

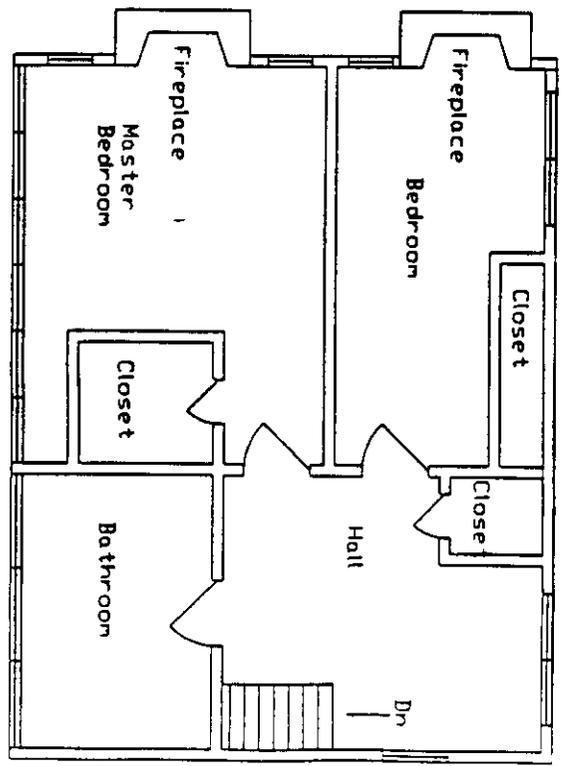
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
PHILLIPS HOUSE
SUFFOLK, VA



First Level

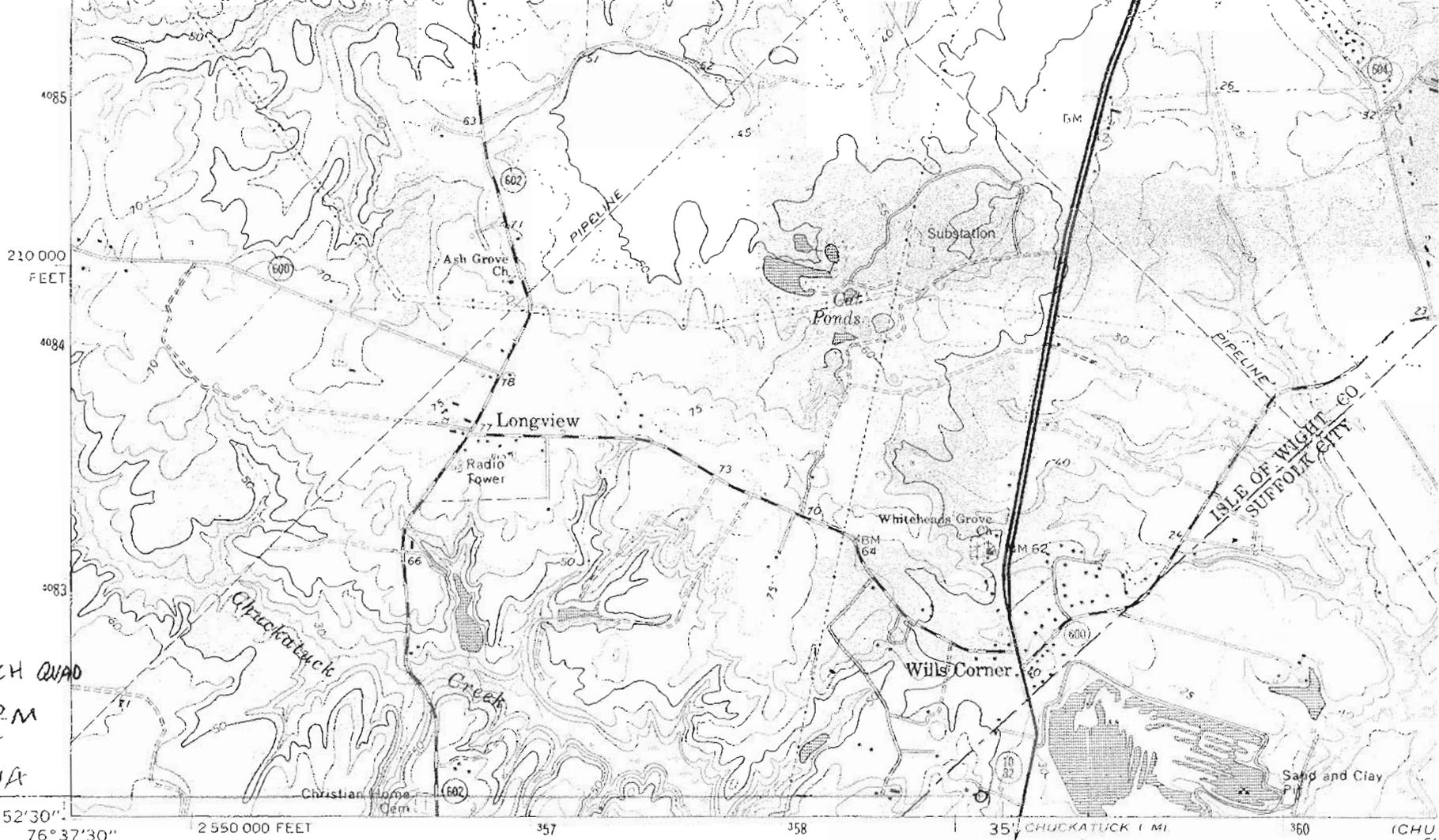


English Basement



Second Floor



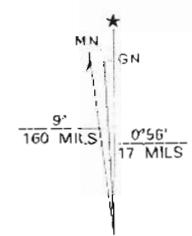


BENNS CHURCH QUAD
 PHILLIPS FARM
 #133-0695
 SUFFOLK, VA

UTMS
 ZONE 18
 350816E
 4082279N
 (WINDSOR)
 56571 SW

36° 52' 30" 76° 37' 30" 2 550 000 FEET 357 358 359 360 (CHU 50)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
 Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1957
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 529 (1965)
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 11 meters south and 30 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks



UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR LINES REPRESENT
 NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
 SHORLINES SHOWN REPRESENTS THE
 MEAN RANGE OF TIDE
 THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS