

VLR - 4/18/89  
NRHP - 12/27/90

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 The Cedars  
other names/site number Cocke's Tavern(?), The Casino (DHR 02-86)

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 250 West  not for publication  
city, town Greenwood  vicinity  
state Virginia code Va county Albemarle code 003 zip code 22943

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>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</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.  
Debra C. Miller 9/22/89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Director, VA 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.  
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

Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century-Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Metal/Tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Cedars is located on a ten-acre parcel in an area of farms and estates in Greenwood, Albemarle County. The main residence, built circa 1850-1860, is a large, two-story, five-bay, hipped-roof brick house with a full grade-level basement, paired gable end chimneys and prominent front and back porches and is in good condition. Built in the Greek Revival style, the house retains nearly all of its original exterior and interior trim. The two porches, particularly the two-story front porch with its striking pediment, are among the most prominent features of this house. The interior features a double pile center-hall plan and has retained its original Greek Revival mantels and woodwork. The basement, originally open throughout, has been divided into four rooms. To the east of the house is an original two-story brick kitchen/servants quarter.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Cedars is located on the north side of U.S. Route 250 in the Greenwood area of western Albemarle County, approximately fifteen miles west of Charlottesville. The surrounding landscape is characterized by gently rolling hills and is made up of many large farms and estates. The ten acre property rises steeply from its southern boundary along Route 250. The main house is approached by a long circular drive and is framed by old boxwood gardens and cedar trees.

The Cedars is a large two-story, five-bay, hipped-roof brick house with a full grade-level basement, paired gable end chimneys and prominent front and back porches. Its main(south) facade is laid in stretcher bond, while the sides and rear are laid in five-course American bond. All brick mortar joints on the south and north facades are highlighted in white penciling. There is some later brickwork present on the east facade where a door and window were filled in in the early twentieth century. The house is virtually unaltered on the exterior and is in good condition.

Built in the Greek Revival style circa 1850-1860, the house retains nearly all of its period exterior detailing. The large six-over-six sash windows are trimmed with simple wooden architraves with bevel-edged elements. The windows on the main floor have Greek style ramped lintels with plain rectangular corner blocks. The center doors on each story of the main

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

001

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

Period of Significance  
1850's- 1860

Significant Dates  
NA

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Cedars is significant as one of the most architecturally distinguished ante-bellum houses in Western Albemarle County. Built in the 1850's by Colonel John S. Cocke, the Cedars is a pristine and unrestored example of the Greek Revival style. Its massing, clean lines and crisp exterior detailing epitomize the classical simplicity of this style. Also present is evidence of the lingering influence of Thomas Jefferson's distinctive Roman classical style. The house has had a long and colorful history and has served as a residence, a boys' school, Civil War hospital, tanyard business and gambling casino, as well as (possibly) a tavern. The nearby kitchen/servants quarter is significant as a rare extant example of an early domestic building.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Cedars is significant as one of the most architecturally distinguished ante-bellum houses in western Albemarle County. Built in the early 1850's by Colonel John S. Cocke, the Cedars is a pristine and unrestored example of the Greek Revival style, which also exhibits elements of the Jeffersonian classicism which lingered on in the county until the Civil War. Because of its size, its imposing two-story front portico and its close proximity to the highway, the Cedars has long been a prominent Albemarle County landmark.

The house stands on the site of a mill, tavern and distillery owned and operated by the Yancey family in the early nineteenth century. The tavern was also known as Mays Tavern. The original Yancey's Mill post office was on this property as well; later it moved to the village of Hillsboro (renamed Yanceys Mill) two miles to the east.

In 1827 the land was sold to Colonel John S. Cocke, a locally prominent politician, and magistrate and relative of General John Hartwell Cocke of Bremo in Fluvanna County.<sup>2</sup> He continued to operate a tavern from this or a nearby location, but no evidence of the original Yancey tavern remains.

Architectural evidence indicates that the two-story brick house with high basement built by Cocke dates from the early 1850's. It is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style in Albemarle County. Its symmetrical massing, clean lines and crisp exterior detailing epitomize the classical simplicity of this style. Such refinements as the pencilled mortar joints, well executed interior woodwork and the octagonal columns on the rear porch distinguish

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Albemarle County Land Records, Chancery Orders and Will Records, Charlottesville, Va. Head, Ronald, ed. "The Student Diary of Charles Ellis, Jr. March 10- June 25, 1835" The Magazine of Albemarle County History, Volume 35, page 43, 1977.
- Lay, K. Edward, Architectural Patterns Associated with Virginia Road Traces - Rockfish Gap Turnpike, Virginia Road Traces (University of Virginia School of Architecture) Volume II, Fall 1986.
- Moore, John Hammond, Albemarle--Jefferson's County, (Charlottesville, Va: Albemarle County Historical Society) 1976.
- Rawlings, Mary, Ante-Bellum Albemarle, (Albemarle County, Va.: People's National Bank), 1935.
- Stevens, William T. Virginia House Tour, (Charlottesville, Va.: Stevenspost Publications), 1963.
- Woods, Reverend Edgar, Albemarle County in Virginia, Bridgewater, Va.: no publisher) 1941.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

VA Dept. of Historic Resources  
Richmond, VA 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 10.06 acres

UTM References

A 1 7 6 9 8 4 9 0 4 2 1 2 6 8 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1 7 6 9 8 5 1 0 4 2 1 2 4 6 0

B 1 7 6 9 8 5 1 0 4 2 1 2 5 2 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 1 7 6 9 8 3 0 0 4 2 1 2 6 7 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Cedars property are shown by the solid black line on the enclosed plat drawn on Sept. 11, 1956 and contained in deed book 326, page 488, Albemarle County Courthouse, Charlottesville, Virginia.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The present boundaries of the Cedars include the historic resources associated with its original owner John S. Cocke and retain its historic relationship with U.S. Route 250.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Geoffrey Henry date \_\_\_\_\_

organization \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 1515 Rutledge Avenue city or town Charlottesville state Virginia zip code 22903

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### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

facade are flanked by sidelights and a three-pane transom. Access to the raised basement is provided by four doors, two each on the north and south facades.

The porches are two of the most architecturally significant features of this house. The large three-story front porch is a single bay wide. Supported by paired square columns and pilasters with recessed panels and simple stepped capitals, it is topped by a strongly defined pediment. A handsome Chippendale style lattice railing encloses the porch on the first and second floors. A porch on the basement level has been enclosed, possibly in the early twentieth century. The entire porch is visually tied to the main facade by the broad and sharply defined cornice encircling the house. This cornice is a strong architectural link to the Jeffersonian inspired classicism which lingered on in Albemarle County up until the Civil War.

The two-story porch on the rear facade is wider and is supported by unusual octagonal section columns and features Chippendale style lattice work as well. The porch is flanked on the east by a small frame room and on the west by a late nineteenth century addition.

The interior consists of a double pile/center hall floor plan with a wide curving stairway which rises from the rear of the hall. The interior detailing is in a simple, even austere form of the Greek Revival style. Door and window openings are surrounded by Greek architrave trim. There are panelled dados beneath many of the windows on the first floor. Each of the four mantels on this floor feature paired semi-octagonal colonettes, a broad plain frieze with elliptical arched soffit and plain shelf with simple moldings. The mantels on thesecond and basement floors are simpler and lack the colonettes.

Alterations to the interior include the addition of baths and closets on each floor and the insertion of a panelled dado and cornices in several rooms. All floors, baseboards, and window trim are otherwise original. Old photographs indicate there was once a balustrade widows walk in the center of the roof. Its removal in the early twentieth century is the only significant alteration to the exterior.

The basement is presently partitioned into four major rooms: a kitchen, dining room, study, and utility room. Originally much, if not all of the ground floor space was open; the floor above was supported on octagonal section columns like those on the back porch. Some of these columns are still visible in the southeast room. This open floor plan and the numerous outside entrances lend some credence to the theory that this floor was once used as a tavern or public dining hall.

To the east of the main house is a two-story kitchen/servants brick quarter, the only original outbuilding on the property. It features a symmetrical four bay facade, gable-end chimneys and a two room plan on each floor. There are below grade windows and doors on the front facade. There are also two doors on the upper story, opening out onto a two-story verandah. Like the main house, it features a wide cornice, projecting eaves and Greek Revival exterior detailing, indicating that the two structures were probably built at the same time. The interior trim is simple and also original. Domestic buildings surviving from this period are rare in Albemarle County.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

the Cedars from more vernacular examples of this style. In addition, the bold even oversized exterior cornice and the deep pediment above the porch point to the lingering influence of Thomas Jefferson's Roman classicism in Albemarle County. Other houses from this period in the county exhibiting these features and possessing the same general floor plan and high basement include Ellerslie (circa 1842) near Simeon, Enniscorthy (circa 1853) and Locust Grove (1844) in Charlottesville.<sup>3</sup> Even more closely related is Maple Hall, built in the 1850's near Lexington in Rockbridge County. Both houses share an unusually high basement, imposing two-story pedimented portico and simple Greek Revival mouldings.

One of the most intriguing features of this house is the basement, which originally consisted of one large room. This, and the number of doors leading to the basement lend some credence to the theory that this room served as a tavern or public dining hall, with all cooking being done in the adjacent kitchen building.

It is known that Colonel Cocke did operate a tavern until shortly before the Civil War. According to one history, Cocke's Tavern was "widely celebrated for its admirable fare among the throngs journeying to the Virginia Springs!"<sup>4</sup> Among his more famous guests was Claudius Crozet, the engineer for the construction of the railroad over the Blue Ridge. This route, originally known as the Rockfish Gap Turnpike, was once served by numerous inns and taverns housing travellers brought by stagecoach (Cocke operated his tavern or inn the Farish Stagecoach Company).<sup>5</sup> Most likely, however, Cocke operated his tavern or inn in the two-story frame building with double front porch (now known as the Long House) owned by him across the road. Guests may have stayed in the frame building and crossed the road for meals in the basement of the Cedars. In fact, a broadside from 1879 announcing the auction sale of the Cedars described a twelve room brick house located "opposite Cocke's Old Tavern".<sup>6</sup>

Despite the many owners and occupants of the Cedars since Cocke's time, there have been virtually no alterations to the house other than the addition of closets and bathrooms. During the Civil War the Cedars is said to have been used as a hospital by Dr. Hunter McGuire for Confederate troops wounded during Stonewall Jackson's Valley campaign. After the war, Cocke operated a boy's preparatory boarding school here for several years.<sup>7</sup> Students were housed in the former tavern with the Cedars housing the faculty and classrooms.

After Cocke's death in 1877, much of his land was sold to settle numerous debts and in 1879 his widow sold the Cedars and the last forty six acres of her dowery.<sup>8</sup> In the 1880's an extensive tanbark business was operated on the property by its owner John Blackburn. A file containing Blackburn's bills and business correspondence still remains in the attic. In 1902, the house was bought by Chiswell D. Langhorne, father of the Gibson Girls and Lady Astor who lived at nearby Mirador. He established gaming rooms in the basement and for many years the house was known locally as the Casino. The house passed through a number of owners in the twentieth century until it was bought by the present owners in 1981.

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FOOTNOTES --

- 1 Woods, Albemarle County, p. 171.
- 2 Albemarle County Land Records. Elijah Mays to John S. Cocke. Liber 48, Folio 172
- 3 Stevens, Virginia House Tour, p. 277.
- 4 Woods, Albemarle County, p. 171.
- 5 Lay, Road Traces, p. 3. The route of the Rockfish Road dates from 1748, while the Turnpike, which roughly followed the route of this road dates from 1827.
- 6 Chancery Orders, Albemarle County, Book 13, pages 563-564.
- 7 Cockes' Tavern(as it was still known) also housed students suspended from the University of Virginia who were sent here to "rusticate" or serve out their period of suspension. See Head, "The Student Diaries...", page 43.
- 8 Chancery Orders, Albemarle County, Book 13, pages 563-564 and Deed Book 75, page 309.

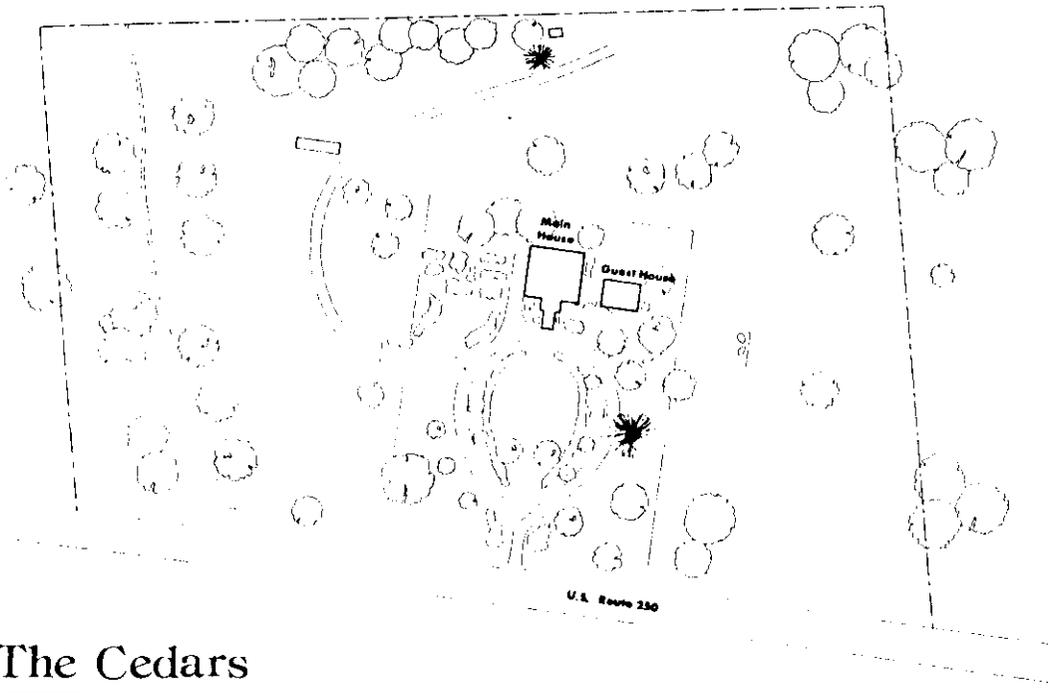
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OCT 3 1967

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## The Cedars

Site plan of the Cedars, Greenwood, Virginia  
Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thornwall  
Courtesy Appalachian Real Estate, Charlottesville, Virginia

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Deedbook 326, p. 488

Albemarle County Courthouse, Charlottesville, VA

STATE OF VIRGINIA

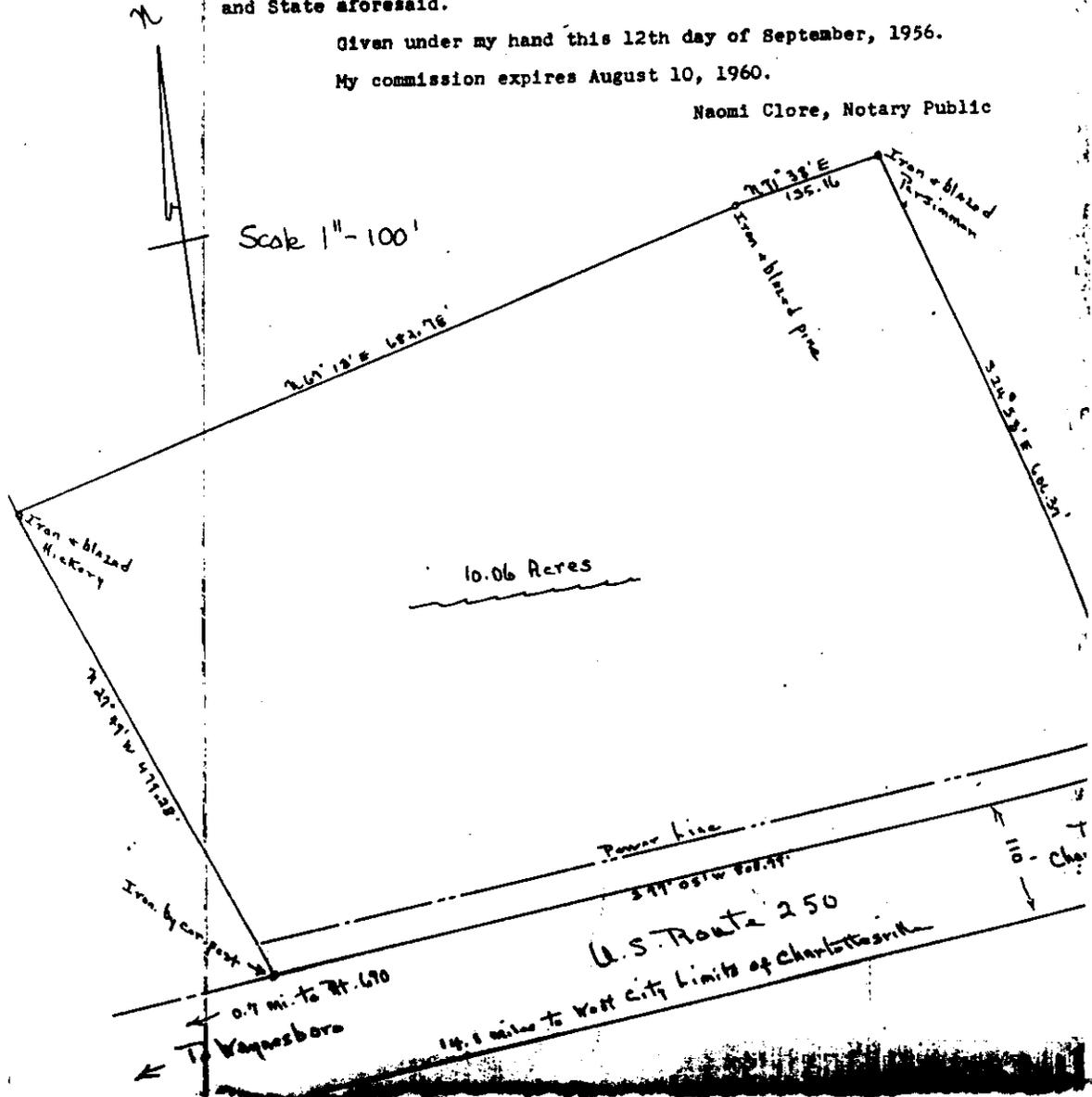
COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE, to-wit:

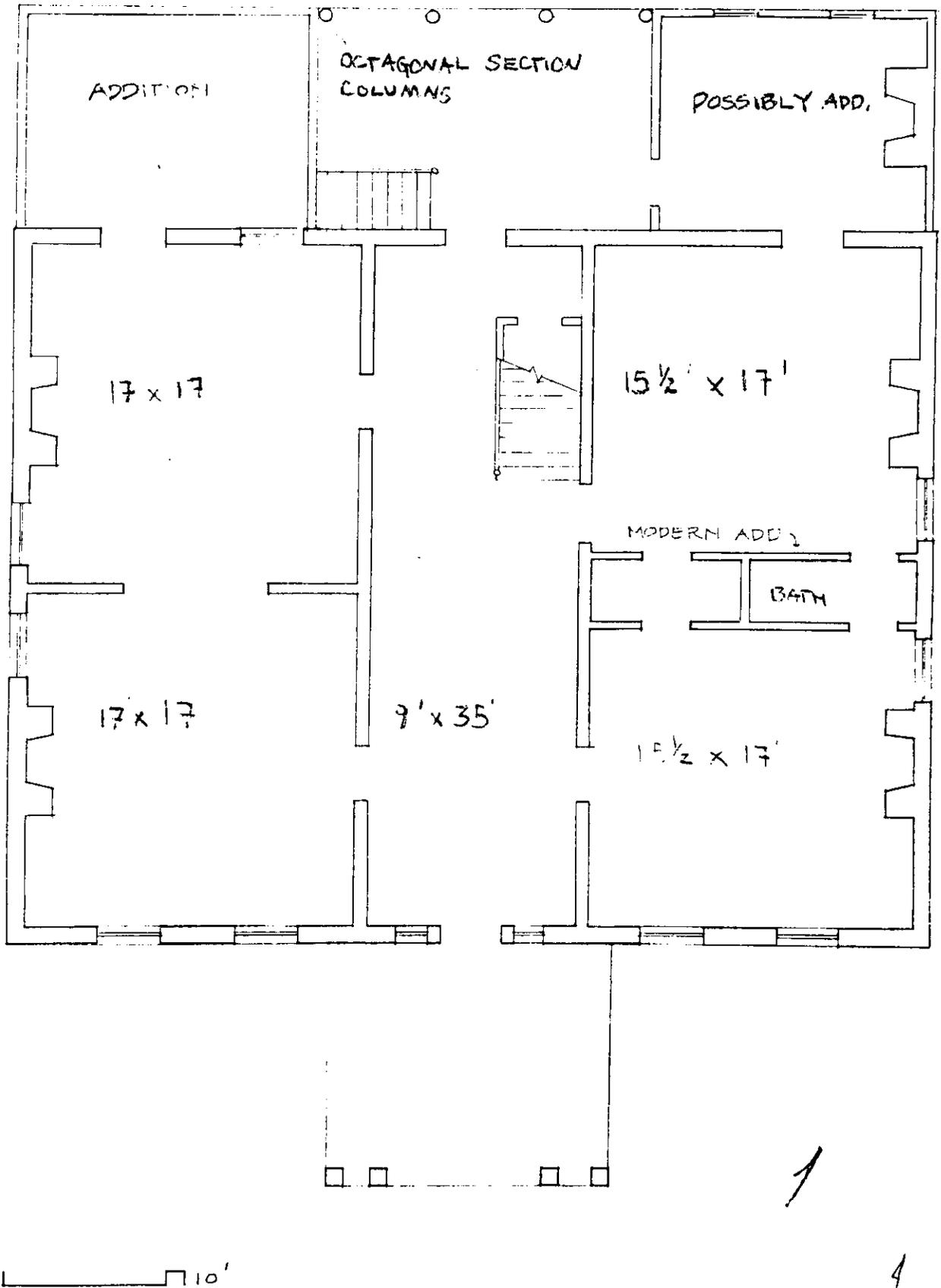
I, Naomi Clore, a Notary Public for the County aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that <sup>Mary</sup> Carrington Waite and Harrison Waite II whose names are signed to the foregoing writing bearing date on the 11th day of September, 1956, have acknowledged the same before me in my County and State aforesaid.

Given under my hand this 12th day of September, 1956.

My commission expires August 10, 1960.

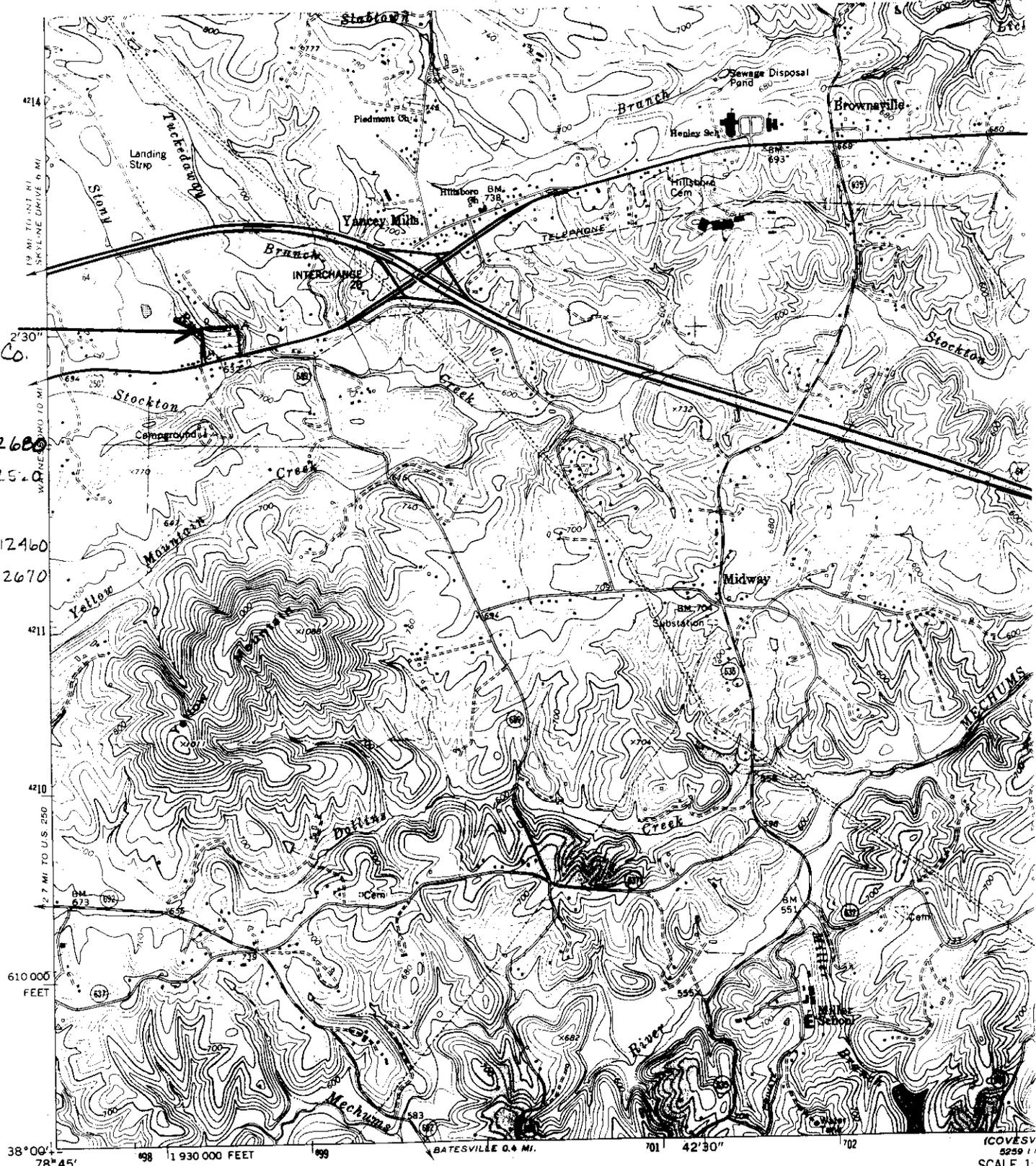
Naomi Clore, Notary Public





First Floor Plan -- The Cedars, Greenwood, Virginia  
Source: K. Edward Lay, Architectural Pattern Associated with Virginia Road  
Traces -- The Rockfish Gap Turnpike (Virginia Road  
Traces, University of Virginia School of Architecture, 1986)

CEDARS  
 EMARLE CO.  
 INIA  
 1  
 3490/4212600  
 395510/4212520  
 CT, 3 1989  
 398300/4212460  
 398300/4212670



(GREENFIELD)  
 5259 1/1 NE

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. Revised from aerial  
 photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973  
 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 17,  
 shown in blue  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
 move the projection lines 9 meters south and  
 23 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unclassified

SCALE 1:  
 0  
 1000 0 1000 2000 3000  
 1 5 0  
 CONTOUR INTER  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERT  
 6" MN GN  
 143 MILS 1"26  
 25 MILS  
 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 CENTER OF SHEET  
 THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATION  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER,  
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOUR  
 A FOLDER INCLUDING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS A