

VLR-4/15/80 NRHP-11/28/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Soldier's Joy
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Route 626
CITY, TOWN
Wingina
STATE
Virginia
VICINITY OF
Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)
COUNTY
Nelson
CODE
51
125

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Wood
STREET & NUMBER
Soldier's Joy
CITY, TOWN
Wingina
STATE
Virginia 24599

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Nelson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Lovington
STATE
Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE
1957
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The dwelling house at Soldier's Joy is a large, Late-Georgian frame house. Only a substantially altered wing suggests the major rebuilding it sustained during the early 19th century, when it developed into a 5-part Palladian house. The original portion of Soldier's Joy became the central pavilion of this new composition as hyphens and wings were attached at each side. Thus, the house became part of the Virginia tradition of 3- and 5-part houses which began in the Tidewater area and spread westward into the Piedmont. Although the additions were later demolished the original section still stands intact, a substantial artifact of the ambitions and changing aesthetic ideals of the prominent Virginia family that built and enlarged it.

Exact and complete documentation of Soldier's Joy is facilitated by the existence of the original building contract between William Cabell and his builder, James Robards of Goochland County, Virginia. This valuable resource outlines in considerable detail the appearance and construction specifications of the original structure. Cabell went to great length to describe what he wanted, listing such things as the number of windows per floor, the number of lights per sash, the number of doors, the number of raised panels per door, the types of wood to be used, as well as finishing details. Cabell provided a detailed floor plan which gave dimensions, room names and location of windows and doors. In addition, he gave specifications for a kitchen, dairy and smoke-house to be located to the north of the dwelling. Little was left to Robards's discretion or imagination.

Cabell's plan called for a simply detailed, single-pile, center-passage, hall-parlor house with a chamber-ell. Soldier's Joy was transformed into a Palladian structure probably in the first decade of the 19th century as one-story hyphens and 1-1/2-story wings were attached at the east and west elevations. Photographs taken in the early 1920s which are in the possession of the current owners indicate that this expanded structure was carefully scaled and handsomely detailed. The hyphens and wings were distinguished by their exceptional Federal interiors. The west wing interior, containing a ballroom, was especially elaborate. During the early 19th-century, expansion Federal woodwork was also installed in the original portion of Soldier's Joy. The Palladian openings which comprise the center bay of each story date from this time, although the first-floor entry was substantially rebuilt during the 1920s.

When Charles Wood, Sr., acquired the property in 1924, Soldier's Joy had stood vacant for some time. While the interiors were in good repair, the structure was too large to restore. The woodwork was removed from both wings and the west hyphen and was sold; then these three rooms were demolished. The ballroom fireplace wall is now at the Cincinnati Art Museum. Other interior details have been removed to Mirador, Albemarle County, Virginia, where they have been incorporated into that interior. Depressions in the ground mark the boundaries of the former structure. The remaining east hyphen was altered for use as a bedroom.

From the floor plan attached to the building contract it is evident that William Cabell's original house still stands with only minor alterations. In addition to rebuilding the first-floor Palladian door, a rear porch was enclosed in 1976, and the original front porch, which initially sheltered only the center bay, was enlarged to encompass the middle three bays. The house was completely resheathed ca. 1924. The original rear porch has not been reconstructed, and two original windows have been closed; a third has been replaced with a door. The roof line is broken by a pediment which spans three bays. The tympanum is pierced by a bull's-eye window, and its gable

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1783-1785 Builder/Architect James Robards

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1784-85 and enlarged approximately twenty-five years later, Soldier's Joy is one of the few remaining Cabell family houses in Nelson County. The Cabells, who were prominent in Virginia society and public affairs, began amassing quantities of land in southern Nelson County in the mid-18th century. Over subsequent decades they built as many as eleven architecturally outstanding houses. Unfortunately some of the most notable ones, such as Edgewood and Union Hill, have burned or been dismantled. Although it was reduced in size in this century when the early 19th-century wings were moved, Soldier's Joy remains one of the most ambitious of the Cabells' building efforts. The Late-Georgian dwelling is distinguished by its fine proportions and interior detailing, much of which was added when the house was enlarged. The elaborate woodwork in the ballroom wing, now in the Cincinnati Art Museum, was a measure of the family's prosperity and cultivation. Adding to the house's architectural interest is its extensive early documentation including the detailed contract and specifications between William Cabell, Jr., and his builder, James Robards.

The land on which Soldier's Joy was built was probably part of one of the first patents issued in the area. It was issued to Dr. William Cabell who immigrated ca. 1724-25. Dr. Cabell, traditionally a native of Warminster, England, settled successively in Henrico, Goochland and finally in the part of Amherst County that became Nelson. He became a prominent citizen of the region, and before his death in 1774 he had acquired substantial acreage in the area of his first patent. In 1763 Dr. Cabell deeded 1,785 acres on the north side of the Fluvanna River (now James) to his son, William Cabell, Jr. This parcel plus 400 additional acres comprised the Union Hill plantation where William Cabell, Jr., had been living since 1752. He added substantially to this tract, and it was on these combined tracts that Soldier's Joy was built. William Cabell, Jr., kept very complete records, and it is from his diary that we receive much information concerning his activities in the Colonial period as well as the military and political activities of his son, Samuel Jordan Cabell, for whom Soldier's Joy was built.

Born in Amherst County on December 15, 1756, Samuel Jordan Cabell quit his legal studies at William and Mary to join the Continental Army in New Jersey in 1776. After serving as a major under Washington at Valley Forge, he was made lieutenant colonel of an infantry brigade at Charleston where he was captured by the British and imprisoned for fourteen months. Upon his release in 1781 he married Sally Syme of Hanover County and for several years represented Amherst County in the House of Delegates. Like his father, an anti-federalist delegate to the Virginia Convention of 1788, Cabell entered Congress as the Republican representative from the district in 1795. He served continuously in the House of Representatives until 1803 when he retired from active political life. "An impetuous follower of Jefferson," Cabell is best remembered for the highly partisan letters he circulated among his constituents in 1797. In one letter, for example, Cabell denounced the election of John Adams as an event "at which the patriotism of '76 and republicanism must sicken." For disseminating "unfounded calumnies against the happy government of the United States," a largely Federalist grand jury of the United States District Court in Richmond brought a presentment against Cabell in May 1797. When the Virginia legislature, prompted by Jefferson, protested the grand jury's action

9. Major Bibliographical References

Amherst County Land Tax Books 1783-1800.

Will Book C, 1786-1800.

Cunningham, Noble, ed. Circular Letters of Congressmen to Their Constituents. Vol. I. (Chapel Hill: Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Va., and University of North Carolina Press, 1978.) Introduction and Cabell letters dated March 7, 1796, and January 12, 1797.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 28 acres

Quadrangle name Howardsville, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

B

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

C

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

1	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	6	8	4	4	0
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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point 600' W of State Route 56, 3100' N of James River, 2200' NW of intersection of State Routes 647 and 56; thence extending 1450' S to N side of said route 647; thence following said side of said route about 750' W; thence extending 1500' due N; thence extending almost 800' due E to point of origin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date April 1980

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Tucker Hill*

title Tucker Hill, Executive Director date APR 15 1980
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Soldier's Joy, Nelson County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1979, 1980 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

is described by block modillions and an H-fret band. Block modillions run the length of the north and south elevations of the center block and wing and the east and west elevations of the ell.

Cabell's building contract specified very simple features for the dining room (now the living room) and hall (now the parlor); ornamental interior details date from the Federal expansion. As the entablatures, arched openings, door entablatures and wainscots are identical to those which were found in the hyphens and wings, they are probably contemporary. The Greek mantel profiles indicate that they are likely a later alteration. The entablatures which encircle the two rooms and entablatures found over each door differ between the rooms and are of special note. These details were executed by a carpenter who obviously had knowledge of the classical arrangement of an entablature and chose to interpret it in a personal style. This is especially evident in the entablature that circles the hall where the skilled gougework produces a dentil-like effect, and the frieze is composed of reeded triglyphs and flower petal metopes. The entablatures over the doors also illustrate imagination and a practiced hand, where the gougework produces dentils and fluted triglyphs. A carved vine pulls the panel together. The entablature of the dining room is conspicuous for its deep cornice and punch-and-dentil motif.

Employing less gougework than found in the hall, the entablatures over the door instead utilize a pattern in the frieze which was also used in the west wing wainscot. Also of note in this room are the arched openings. A built-in cabinet located in the transition space between the arched opening and hyphen door is an especially fine feature. The chamber-ell now functions as a kitchen; the east hyphen as a bedroom. An open-string stair with a paneled soffit fills the center passage. There are three turned balusters per tread; the handrail is molded. The ceiling medallion is not original but reputedly was reproduced from the original during the 1920s. The three second-floor rooms have maintained much of their 18th-century appearance and detail and illustrate the baseboard, chair board and fireplace treatment as specified by Cabell.

Soldier's Joy is now a large dairy farm. Several 20th-century dependencies are positioned north of the house. One structure, now utilized for storage, may be the original dairy. The house and grounds are assiduously maintained and are not threatened.

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

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

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received

date entered

Soldier's Joy, Nelson County, Virginia

Continuation sheet

#2

Item number

7,8

Page

2,1

7. DESCRIPTIONBOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated acreage for Soldier's Joy is 28 acres. While this is only a fraction of total acreage, it includes the house, all outbuildings, and the grounds immediately around the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

as inimical to the fundamental principles of free government, the controversy spilled over into Congressional debates on the sedition law. Thus, Cabell's circular letters formed a necessary sequence in producing the famous Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798.

From William Cabell's diary and the original building contract we know that Soldier's Joy was under construction from October 1783 to September 1785. Cabell's diary entry for October 1, 1785, reads, "My son Sam and his wife sent home." It was perhaps in light of his military experiences that Cabell named his home Soldier's Joy. Although Cabell lived with his family at Soldier's Joy, he did not get complete title to it until after the death of his father in 1798. Samuel J. Cabell died in 1818, and his inventory indicates a very high standard of living as well as a sizable library.

In 1825 Samuel J. Cabell, Jr., sold Soldier's Joy to Daniel Higginbotham for the substantial sum of \$19,000. At the time, the buildings at Soldier's Joy were valued at \$8,000, a sum double any other Cabell property in Nelson County. Daniel Higginbotham's brother John was married to Samuel J. Cabell's daughter, Margaret.

At the time of purchase, Daniel Higginbotham was a resident of Richmond. According to the census, he was living in Nelson County at Soldier's Joy by 1830. No other family members are listed, which is substantiated in his will of some fifteen years later when he shows no direct heirs. Higginbotham's will, dated 1843 and entered 1845, is interesting from the standpoint of attitudes in the South toward slavery. In it he specifically freed several of his house slaves, including a Rebecca Banks and several members of her family. He directed his executors to make arrangements for them to be transported to Philadelphia, where he apparently owned property, and left individual legacies to them. He also ordered that in selling the rest of his slaves, families were not to be broken up (husband from wife, children from parents) unless they wanted to be so divided because, he said, slaves were capable of making such a judgment. Higginbotham also specifically provided for formal education and clothing and the care of James O. H. Banks, presumably related to his house maid, Rebecca. He provided for the "genteel" schooling of Caroline Wise, daughter of Charles Wise, of Philadelphia. It is not clear what relation this young girl was to Higginbotham, but she received \$4,000 from his estate plus all her living expenses and education.

Following Higginbotham's death, Soldier's Joy was tied up in a civil suit for several years. Finally, the estate was sold to John London, executor of Higginbotham's estate, for \$11,000 in 1853. It is not clear whether London actually ever lived at Soldier's Joy; he was a Richmond resident at the time of Higginbotham's death. London died in 1857, and the bulk of his personal property was located in Richmond, indicating that he probably did not reside, except occasionally, in Nelson County. Undoubtedly, an overseer was hired to operate the plantation.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Soldier's Joy, Nelson County, Virginia

Continuation sheet

#3

Item number 8, 9

Page 2, 1

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received

date entered

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Following London's death, his widow put his property into trust, and eventually it was sold to Mr. Peachy Gratten of Richmond. Finally in 1894, Soldier's Joy returned to the Cabell family when a deed was recorded to Margaret, Alice and Clifford Palmer, children of Alice Winston Cabell Palmer, great-granddaughter of Colonel John Cabell, brother of Samuel J. Cabell. In 1924, Margaret Cabell Palmer sold Soldier's Joy to Charles Henry Wood, Sr. Wood's son, Charles Henry Wood, Jr., now owns the property.

MTP/MEH

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Alexander. The Cabells and Their Kin. Richmond, 1939. (Revision of 1890 edition.)
Nelson County Deed Books 5, 13, 15, 16, 26.
Land Tax Books 1809-63.
Will Books C, G, K.
U.S. Census 1790, 1810, 1824, 1830, 1850.
Richmond, Va. Virginia State Library. WPA Records, "Soldier's Joy, Nelson County," 1938.

MAPS

1863 Gilmer Map of Nelson County.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Howardsville, VA

Scale 1:24000
1968 (PR 1974)

SOLDIER'S JOY, Nelson County, VA

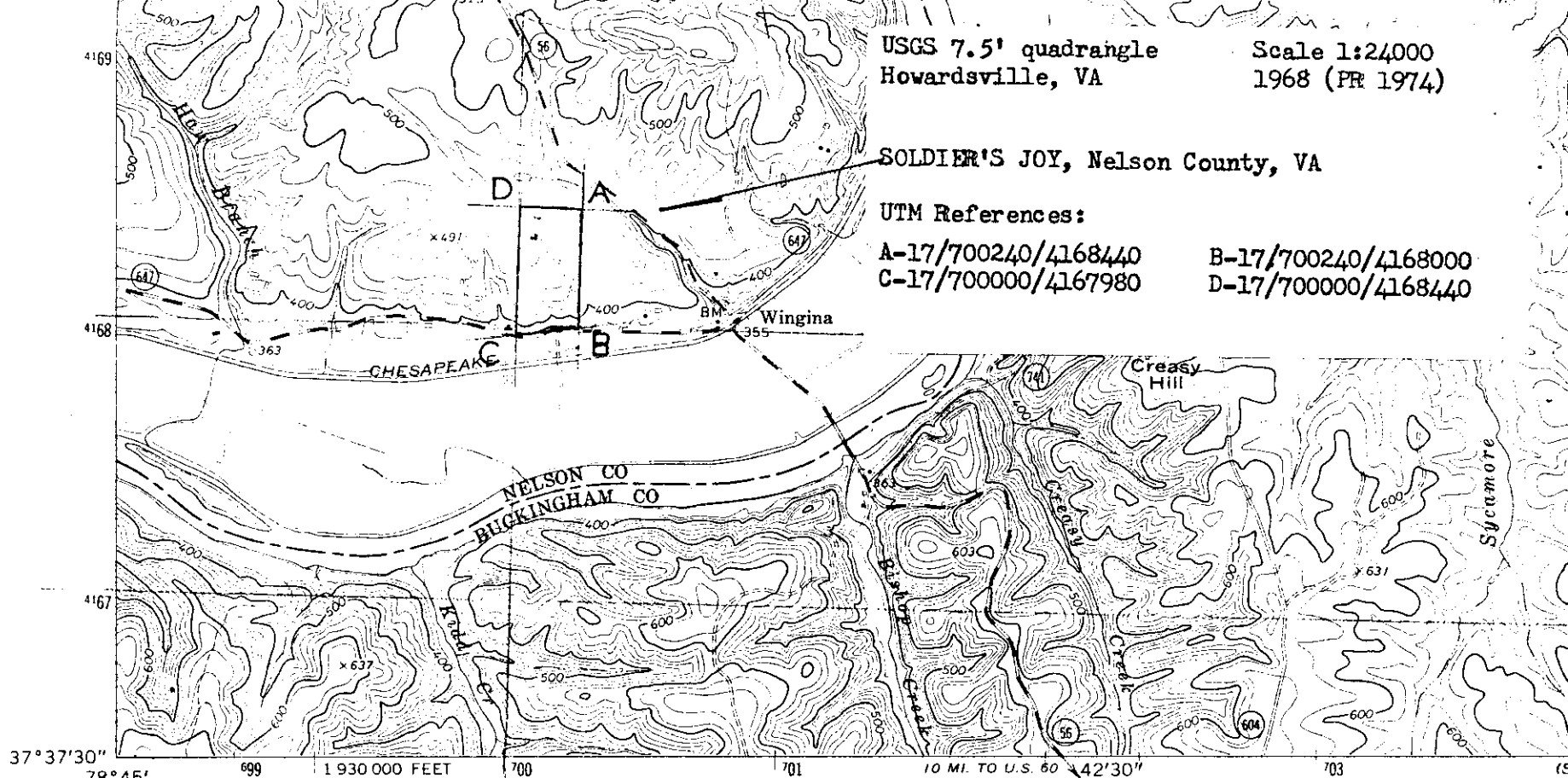
UTM References:

A-17/700240/4168440

B-17/700240/4168000

C-17/700000/4167980

D-17/700000/4168440



(GLADSTONE)
5239 III SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies

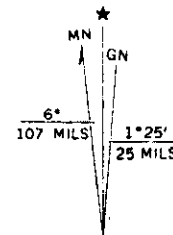
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1959. Field checked 1961. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1968

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

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

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation
with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial
photographs taken 1974. This information not
field checked



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR
NATIONAL GEODETIC

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC