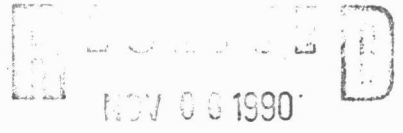


1841

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Locust Level
other names/site number (VDHR site no. 9-18)

2. Location

street & number U. S. Rt. 460 (PO Box 83) N/A not for publication
city, town Montvale N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Bedford code 019 zip code 24122

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>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> objects
		<u>9</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.

John C. Miller 29 Oct 1990
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:)

Patrick Andrews 12/21/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)DOMESTIC: single dwellingDOMESTIC: innFUNERARY: cemeteryAGRICULTURE: processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)DOMESTIC: single dwellingFUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification**(enter categories from instructions)**COLONIAL: GeorgianEARLY REPUBLIC: FederalMID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)**foundation** BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE**walls** BRICK, WOOD, ASBESTOS

roof METAL**other**

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Locust Level is an early-nineteenth-century house with associated buildings and features situated at the eastern approaches to Buford's Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western Bedford County, Virginia. Passing in front of the northward facing house is U. S. 460, which follows the course of the eighteenth-century road that linked Southwest Virginia to Lynchburg and Richmond by way of Buford's Gap. To the south of the house is the south fork of Goose Creek; to the east is the late-nineteenth-century town of Montvale, located in the midst of one of the largest extents of level ground in mountainous western Bedford County. The Montvale vicinity is now the location of large oil storage tanks visible from Locust Level.

Locust Level is a two-story, brick, central-passage-plan I house with fine exterior and interior Federal-style detailing. The house has a gable roof sheathed in standing seam metal. Across the front the house measures 52 1/2'; the gable ends measure approximately 20' across. The five-bay principal facade is laid in Flemish bond; the gable ends and back are laid in four-course American bond. Mortar joints are penciled. The two gable-end chimneys project only a few inches from the wall surface. In both gables are semi-circular vents (The west vents are bricked up; the east vents have wooden louvers.). The nine-over-nine sash windows of the front first story have stuccoed lintels. Both the nine-over-nine sash windows and the six-over-six sash windows of the second story have apparently original louvered wooden shutters divided into three panels. The top panels have louvers that run vertically and they are smaller than the lower two panels so that when closed the shutters evoke six-panel cross-and-bible doors. The shutters are held open by decorative wrought iron stops.

Under the eaves of the front elevation runs a finely crafted cornice with mutule-like block modillions, punch-and-gouge dentils, and a cable molding. At the ends of both the front cornice and the less ornate rear elevation cornice are decorative stop boards. The central front entry to the house is flanked by fluted colonnette pilasters with punch-and-gouge capitals. Springing from the capitals is an elliptical arch containing a decorative fanlight. The arch is rimmed by a machicolation molding and has a reeded soffit.

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Attached to the rear of Locust Level, separated from the house by an enclosed breezeway, is a two-story mortise-and-tenon frame wing known variously as the Hall or the Dance Hall, originally a separate guesthouse that stood to the east of the main house. According to Buford family descendant Mrs. Buford Henderson Kilmer, writing in the Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society (v. 4 n. 1, Summer 1967), the Hall was built during the late eighteenth century and was joined to Locust Level in the early 1920s; however, the simple exterior and interior Greek Revival detailing of the wing probably dates to the mid-nineteenth century. The wing is sheathed in green asbestos shingles over weatherboard siding. Across the west elevation is a modern one-story porch that replaces an earlier porch; across the east elevation are one-story shed rooms set on brick piers with concrete infill; and on the south gable end is a gabled bulkhead and a modern brick furnace flue. The bulkhead provides access to a stone and concrete basement where the large hewn sills and log floor joists of the Hall are revealed.

At present, Locust Level has no front porch. A one-story hip-roofed porch that probably dated to the 1920s was recently removed. This porch had replaced an original and smaller porch that had a gable sheathed in flush boards, decorative fascia boards, and attenuated tapered wood posts.

The refined Federal detailing on the interior of Locust Level is virtually unaltered. Walls and ceilings are plaster and lath and molded chair rails, picture rails, door and window trim, and six-panel doors are found in most rooms. In the central passage is a suspended three-run stair with slender turned newels and balusters and tendril-like step-end scrolls. The chair rail rising with the stair has a double cable molding. The interior fanlight surround over the front entry has cable and machicolation moldings. At the back of the passage is a double door with three-panel leaves forming when closed a six-panel cross-and-bible configuration.

In the four principal rooms of the house are Federal mantels with molded pilasters and shelves supported by multiple layered moldings. The mantel in the west first-floor room has a central frieze tablet and cable moldings under the shelf that the other mantels lack. Flanking the mantels in every room are presses that have upper and lower cabinets separated by a molding at chair rail height. The surviving press in the west first floor room has three-panel upper cabinet doors with a small top panel;

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in the other presses the small panel is located in between the other two panels. Each press has a molded surround and turned corner blocks. The moldings of the surrounds vary from room to room but are identical to the moldings in the mantel pilasters in each particular room. The east first-floor room has splayed window embrasures with pockets that receive bifold louvered interior shutters. The second-floor window surrounds may be subtly battered. The second-floor ceiling joists are up-and-down-sawn and the attic is sheathed in plywood. The only significant interior alteration is the insertion of a water closet in place of a press in the west first-floor room.

As noted above, the rear wing known as the Hall has simple Greek Revival interior door and window trim. The Hall has a one-room plan on the first and second floors. The south end of the first-floor room is taken up by an enclosed stair that is entered from the porch on the west side. On the second floor the stair well is bordered by a simple railing and rises out from under a vertical-board-sheathed closet with a raised four-panel door.

A number of contributing and noncontributing buildings and features are associated with Locust Level. Located on the high ground near the house at the north end of the property are a detached kitchen and dining room (classified in the resource count as a contributing building), a free-standing chimney (contributing structure), a meat house (contributing structure) and an adjacent chicken house (noncontributing structure), a garage (noncontributing structure), and three mounting blocks (contributing objects). On the low ground beside Goose Creek (which bisects the property) is a modern trailer (noncontributing object). On the south side of the creek are a springhouse (contributing structure) and two spring and/or pump houses (noncontributing structures). At the southeast corner of the property is a family cemetery (a contributing site).

The detached kitchen and dining room off the southwest corner of the main house predates Locust Level. The mortise-and-tenon frame building formerly stood as the rear wing of the late-eighteenth-century house of Henry Buford. The stone basement of the kitchen and dining room (which has barred vents on three sides and a south end entrance) served as the kitchen, the one-room main floor served as the dining room, and the garret is said to have served as slave lodgings. Rising on the south gable end of the building is a massive double-shouldered, Flemish-bond brick chimney with prism mortar joints, a detached stack, and a

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large basement cooking fireplace with iron pot hooks. This chimney measures 3 1/2' deep by nearly 9' wide. The kitchen and dining room building is sided in beaded weatherboards and has a gable roof sheathed in corrugated metal. Across the front is a hip-roofed porch supported by round columns that were once connected by railings. These columns were reused from the front porch of the former Henry Buford House. On the front (north) gable end is a large six-over-six sash window next to a batten door. On the east side is a somewhat smaller six-over-six sash window next to a batten door. On the south gable end is another smaller six-over-six sash window. In the north and south gables are pairs of small four-pane windows. On the west side of the kitchen and dining room is an early mortise-and-tenon frame addition set on brick piers. The first-floor interior of the kitchen and dining room has plaster and lath wall and ceiling finishes with a beaded flush board wainscot, molded chair rails and door and window trim, a simple Georgian architrave mantel, and a corner stair with winders and a vertical beaded board enclosure.

To the southeast of the main house is an unchinked v-notched log outbuilding that probably served originally as a meat house. This outbuilding has a ladder stair leading to a loft, an up-and-down-sawn batten door, and door jambs pegged to the log ends - features that suggest a date of construction during the first half of the nineteenth century. Adjoining the meat house on the rear is a twentieth-century chicken house of circular-sawn frame construction with vertical board siding and crude stone footers. To the south and downslope from the main house is a massive limestone chimney (measuring 5' by 11' at the base) with a brick fireback. This chimney is the only above-ground remnant of an early-nineteenth-century detached kitchen that was probably of log construction. To the west of the main house and the kitchen and dining room near the western property line is a mid-twentieth-century garage with poured concrete walls and a corrugated metal roof with asbestos shingle gables.

Clustered at a spring on the south side of Goose Creek near the west property line are a springhouse and two spring and/or pump houses. The springhouse is of v-notched log construction and rests on a stone and concrete foundation. Propped against the springhouse is the roof which was blown off in a storm. The roof is of hewn and circular-sawn construction and has corrugated metal sheathing and novelty weatherboarded gables. Next to the springhouse are a small concrete block spring or pump house with

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a standing seam metal roof with asphalt shingle gables and another small spring or pump house of poured concrete construction with a standing seam metal gable roof. Scattered around these structures are numerous hand-made bricks.

At the southeast corner of the property and at the base of a wooded knoll is a cemetery containing many nineteenth-century markers. The outer perimeter of the cemetery is fenced with barbed wire. At the center of the cemetery is the Buford family plot enclosed in a decorative cast iron fence with a gate bearing the inscriptions "M. L. BUFORD" and "CHAMPION IRON FENCE CO. NEWTON OHIO." In the outer part of the cemetery is a small obelisk marking the grave of Henry (1751-1814) and Mildred Blackburn Buford (1753-1802), the larger obelisk of Walter P. Otey (1847-1881), the gravestone of Madison Wise Mitchell (1859-1878), a simple marble headstone bearing the inscription "MAMMY PATTY GORDON 'AUNT DINAH' DIED 1854," and the stone of William Dodd (1802-1887), originally of Lincolnshire, England, which bears a depiction in relief of a milk cow. In the family plot are three obelisks in a row marking the graves of Paschal G. Buford (1791-1875), Frances A. Buford (1798-1882), and Margaret Buford Cobbs (1835-1920). Paschal's obelisk depicts crossed cannons and the date 1812. Frances's obelisk depicts a dove and the motto "REST IN PEACE." In addition to the obelisks the graves of Paschal and Frances are marked by stone tables and foot stones. Paschal's foot stone reads "ERECTED TO MY FATHER BY M. L. BUFORD" and depicts a sheaf of wheat and corn. Frances's foot stone was also erected by M. L. Buford and depicts a basket and keys. The obelisk of Margaret Cobbs is shorter than the other two and bears a depiction of the Confederate flag. At the north end of the family plot is a rectangular granite block bearing the inscription "PEAKS OF OTTER." Two basins are carved into the top of the block, which is said to have been hewn from a boulder taken from the top of the Peaks of Otter during the 1850s. Scattered throughout the cemetery are fieldstone markers and fragments of dressed marble markers. Plantings in the cemetery include periwinkle, yucca, cedar, and yew. Cutting through the southwest corner of the cemetery and passing up the east side of the knoll is a depression that appears to be the bed of an old road.

A number of landscaping features survive adjacent to the main house at Locust Level. In front of the house lining the road are three rectangular granite mounting blocks said to have come from the Peaks of Otter boulder. Off the northeast and northwest

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corners of the house are circular planting beds. Running past the west gable is a limestone flag walk. Linking the southwest corner of the Hall and the east side of the kitchen and dining room is a limestone retaining wall built by the present owner. The raised terrace behind this retaining wall covers a cistern. Near the house are several twentieth-century board fences. In the yard are boxwoods, large deciduous trees, and a magnolia.

Much can be inferred about the nineteenth-century appearance and functional layout of the property from the considerable documentary and pictorial evidence that exists. Among the most helpful sources is an oil and watercolor painting of Locust Level that dates to the mid-nineteenth century. The painting clearly shows the main house with its original gabled front porch. To the right of the house (The view is taken from the north.) is a building with a front porch that is probably the late-eighteenth-century house of Henry Buford that stood in front of the surviving kitchen and dining room. A turn-of-the-century photograph shows the Henry Buford House to have been a gabled 1 1/2-story dwelling with a one-story front porch with upper balcony, a gabled roof dormer, at least one gable-end chimney, and possibly rear shed rooms. Shown in the painting as standing to the left of the main house, separated from it by a yard, is a two-story building with one-story west side porch and projecting southwest wing that is probably the Hall (later attached to the rear of the main house). Running in front of the house is a white picket (?) fence with three walks leading up to it from the road. The walks are represented as being blue in color, probably indicative of limestone flags. To the northwest of the main house across the road is depicted a group of log or unpainted weatherboarded frame outbuildings that may have been the quarter, farm buildings, or possibly stables and lodgings for use by guests (One of the buildings is shown as being larger than the others and may represent a hay barn.). The painting also depicts a one-story frame or log dwelling in a distant mountain clearing to the southwest of Locust Level.

Buford family tradition concerning former outbuildings associated with Locust Level was recorded by Nora A. Carter for the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s. According to Carter, a brick milk and butter house "about the size and shape of a large dog kennel" still stood in the 1930s on "a small rivulet running off from Goose Creek" (The pile of bricks near the log springhouse may be the remains of this dairy.). A 1 1/2-story log house stood on a ridge 300 yards southwest of the house that was

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Continuation Sheet

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said to have belonged to Patty Gordon (aka. Aunt Dinah). This house has apparently been replaced by the mid-twentieth-century 1 1/2-story frame house that presently stands on the spot (and on a separate property). Other structures that were no longer extant in the 1930s included a smokehouse and an ice house.

According to Mr. James Howell, the present owner of Locust Level, a log dwelling known as the Brown House formerly stood across the road from Locust Level. Traditionally, this was where the male guests stayed while the females were lodged in Locust Level itself. Also, the Buford sons were said to have lived in the log house as adolescents. Mrs. Buford Henderson Kilmer wrote in the Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society that "a dozen or so small log houses, the slave quarters," stood in a semicircle near the former early-nineteenth-century kitchen. In the general vicinity of Locust Level are a number of resources that are historically associated with the property. A quarter mile to the northwest of the house on Goose Creek is the Graham Mill (VDHR site no. 9-84), a metal-sided frame mill probably constructed during the early twentieth century on a much earlier one-story limestone basement. This basement belonged to Paschal Buford's mid-nineteenth-century mill. Located on the hill a third of a mile to the southwest of the house is an abandoned two-story weatherboarded dwelling and adjacent log outbuilding that probably represents a tenant house associated with Locust Level. To the northeast of Locust Level is the modern community of Montvale, descended from Buford's Station on the Virginia and Tennessee line.

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LOCUST LEVEL

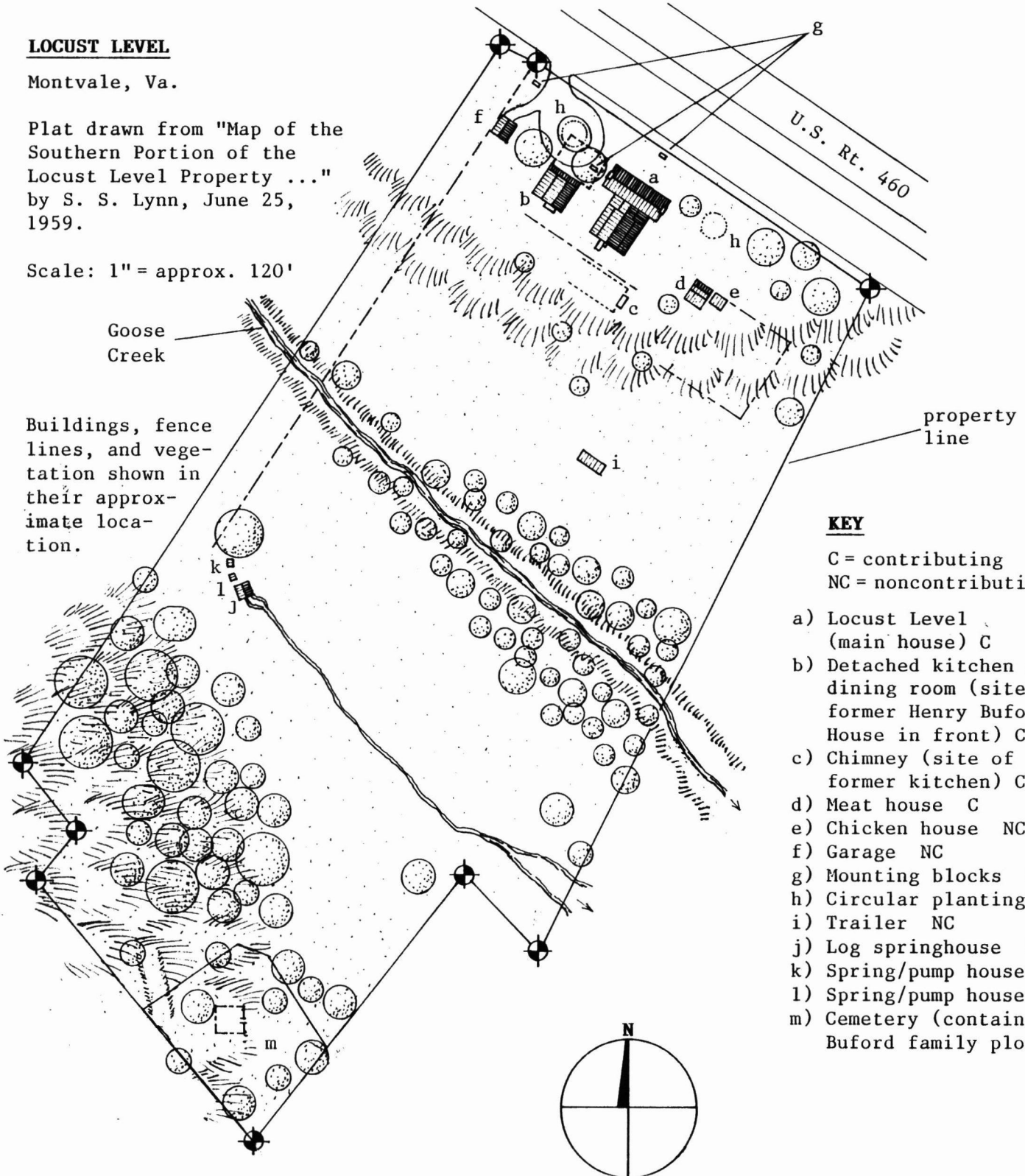
Montvale, Va.

Plat drawn from "Map of the Southern Portion of the Locust Level Property ..." by S. S. Lynn, June 25, 1959.

Scale: 1" = approx. 120'

Goose Creek

Buildings, fence lines, and vegetation shown in their approximate location.



KEY

C = contributing
NC = noncontributing

- a) Locust Level (main house) C
- b) Detached kitchen and dining room (site of former Henry Buford House in front) C
- c) Chimney (site of former kitchen) C
- d) Meat house C
- e) Chicken house NC
- f) Garage NC
- g) Mounting blocks C
- h) Circular planting beds
- i) Trailer NC
- j) Log springhouse C
- k) Spring/pump house NC
- l) Spring/pump house NC
- m) Cemetery (containing Buford family plot) C

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

TRANSPORTATION

Significant Person

Buford, Paschal G.

Period of Significance

late 18th c. - 1882

Significant Dates

1820s

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately 8.1 acres

UTM References

A

1	7
---	---

6	1	1	5	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	3	8	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

1	7
---	---

6	1	1	5	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	3	8	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

1	7
---	---

6	1	1	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	3	8	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D

1	7
---	---

6	1	1	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	3	8	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are portrayed on the accompanying plat, page 7,9.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries correspond to the present property lines of the nominated property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. John Kern, Daniel Pezzoni, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office

organization Va. Dept. of Historic Resources date _____

street & number 1030 Penmar Avenue, SE telephone (703) 857-7585

city or town Roanoke state Virginia zip code 24013

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 28. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Locust Level is one of the finest, most intact Federal-style houses in Bedford County, Virginia. The two-story brick I house was built in the 1820s and has sophisticated Federal-style exterior and interior detailing. Associated with the house are a two-story frame ell of mid-nineteenth century or earlier date that was originally a separate guesthouse, the frame kitchen and dining room of the late-eighteenth-century Henry Buford House, nineteenth-century outbuildings and landscape features, and a cemetery. The architectural refinement of the main house and associated buildings and features renders the property locally significant under Criterion C of the National Register. Both the use of the main house and its formerly separate ell as guest lodgings and the situation of the property at the approaches to Buford's Gap on a historically important route connecting Southwest Virginia with the Virginia Piedmont and Tidewater qualify the property for listing under the Criterion A Transportation area of significance. Locust Level was built by Paschal G. Buford (1791-1875), one of Bedford County's largest landowners and leading agronomists and developers during the nineteenth century. The property is therefore also eligible for listing under Criterion B for its association with the locally significant Paschal G. Buford.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Paschal Buford built Locust Level in the early 1820s on land acquired by the Buford family during the American Revolution. Born on the Rapidan River, Paschal's father Henry and Henry's three brothers, John Thomas, James, and William, moved to Bedford County where all four commanded troops during the Revolutionary era decade of the 1770s. When the oldest brother, John Thomas, was killed at the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, he left an 800-acre estate in western Bedford County which Paschal eventually acquired in 1829. When James left Bedford County in 1792 to join William who had already moved to Kentucky, James sold his youngest brother Henry "225 acres on both sides of Wilson Fork of Goose Creek." There Paschal's father built the 1 1/2-story frame dwelling, a portion of which apparently survives as the detached kitchen and dining room discussed in the architectural description of this nomination. After Henry's death in 1814, his estate "both real and personal including lands, slaves, and everything else" was purchased by Paschal for \$1,000 in 1820.

After serving as a Captain in the War of 1812, Paschal Buford married Frances Ann Otey in 1820, constructed Locust Level shortly thereafter, and was soon well on his way to becoming an influential Bedford County landholder, public official, and entrepreneur. The 1830 census recorded him as the head of a household of twelve whites and thirty-one slaves. The 1840 Bedford County Land Tax Books valued Paschal's real estate of 2,300 acres at \$28,500 which made him the wealthiest justice of the Bedford County Court, and Paschal continued to serve as one of the county's wealthiest justices through the 1850s.

The 1850 census listed Paschal Buford as the head of a household of six whites and forty-three slaves; he owned real estate valued at \$49,000, the highest evaluation in Bedford County. In that year his 1,100 acres of improved land produced 8,000 bushels of corn and 3,600 bushels of oats and wheat. The 1860 census recorded that Buford's thirty-seven slaves lived in ten slave houses.

Paschal Buford also owned mills which processed the crops and timber grown on his plantation and elsewhere in Bedford County. The 1860 industrial census showed him as the owner of milling operations in which he had invested \$21,000 of capital, mills which ground 30,000 bushels of wheat to produce 6,000 bushels of flour valued at \$39,000, and which ground 12,000 bushels of corn

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to produce 12,000 bushels of corn meal valued at \$13,000. No other mill in Bedford County produced as much flour or corn meal, and only one saw mill in the county surpassed Paschal Buford's production of lumber valued at \$4,000.

While operating Bedford County's most productive flour and grist mills, Paschal Buford also engaged in transportation-related entrepreneurial activities. In the early 1850s he kept a "large and neat ordinary at Buford's Station," now known as Montvale. The tavern at Buford's Station served travelers on the east-west road from Lynchburg to Salem.¹ By 1855 Buford's tavern also served travelers destined for points north when the Buford's Gap and Buchanan Turnpike Company, with Paschal Buford as president and principal stockholder, completed the 14-mile road across the Blue Ridge from Buford's Station to the James River at Buchanan. Paschal operated a stage coach along that road and received a \$300 federal contract to deliver mail along the route. During those same years of the early 1850s, Paschal also donated land to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company to assure that the railway from Lynchburg to Bristol would pass through Buford's Station where a depot was established. Two of Paschal's sons, James Hervey and John Q. A., later became respectively the resident engineer and a contractor for the Norfolk and Western Railroad, the successor of the Virginia and Tennessee.

In addition to serving as a county justice, and a wealthy planter and entrepreneur, Paschal Buford found time to participate in civic activities. He headed the Bedford County expedition which obtained blocks of granite from Sharp Top Mountain for use in construction of the Washington Monument and for a state monument in Richmond. The stones were dedicated at the Bedford County seat in 1851, and Buford was named to chair a committee to raise additional funds for construction of "the monument to Virginia's noblest son." One of the granite blocks obtained in the course of these memorial efforts, inscribed "PEAKS OF OTTER," remained at Locust Level where it now rests in the family cemetery.²

Paschal Buford's attention to his prosperous plantation and his hospitality were well remembered. He served as one of the vice presidents of the Lynchburg Agricultural and Mechanical Society in 1858, the year his Devonshire cattle won the prize for best of breed in the Society's annual fair.³ During the Civil War General Robert E. Lee's wife and two daughters, Mary and Agnes, boarded at Locust Level in the late summer and early fall of 1863, service for which Buford "sternly refused" payment. In

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Continuation Sheet**

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1867 Lee and daughter Mildred visited Locust Level where their host took pride in showing them his "rich fields and well filled barns." Shortly after their stay, Captain Buford sent Mildred "a fine Jersey cow."⁴

In 1870 Paschal Buford headed a household of four whites and four black domestic servants. Another household of eight blacks apparently lived on his property as tenants. His real estate was appraised at \$50,000 in the 1870 census, and he continued to operate two flour and grist mills, though their output had dropped to half the level of production recorded in 1860. When Paschal Buford died at the age of 84 in 1875, his wife Frances purchased from the estate three bedsteads, three sofas, a sideboard, and six mahogany chairs, some of which furnishings still remain in possession of Buford family heirs. Locust Level continued as the home of Buford family descendants until its purchase in 1965 by the present owner, Mr. James Howell.

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Continuation Sheet**

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FOOTNOTES

1. A Virginia legend maintains that a valuable deposit of gold, silver, and jewels known as the Beale Treasure is buried about four miles from Buford's tavern. The legend is based on an 1885 publication entitled "The Beale Papers, Containing Authentic Statements Regarding the Treasure Buried in 1819 and 1821, Near Bufords, in Bedford County, Virginia, and Which Has Never Been Recovered." Recent scholarly research has challenged the authenticity of the Beale Papers; see Joe Nickell, "Discovered: The Secret of Beale's Treasure," The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 90, July 1982, 310-324. Nevertheless many undeterred enthusiasts continue to search for the legendary Beale Treasure near Bufords which, to be sure, has never been recovered.
2. The Washington Monument was finally completed in 1884. The granite block from Sharp Top Mountain can be seen in the west wall at the twelfth stairway landing. The three granite mounting blocks mentioned in the architectural description of this nomination also came from the Sharp Top boulders.
3. Certificates from the Lynchburg Agricultural and Mechanical Society for 1858 are still in the possession of Buford family heirs.
4. The accounts of the Lee family visits to Locust Level as taken from Robert E. Lee [Jr.], Recollections & Letters, 270-273.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bedford County Deed Books. Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia.

Buford Family Papers. Cataloged by Frank Smith; in possession of Mrs. Kitty Pendleton, Roanoke, Virginia.

Daniel, W. Harrison. Bedford County, Virginia, 1840-1860: The History of an Upper Piedmont County in the Late Antebellum Era. Bedford, Virginia: The Print Shop, 1985.

Lee, Robert E. Captain. Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee by his Son Captain Robert E. Lee. Garden City, New York: Garden City Publishing, 1904, 1924.

Minter, Mildred Buford. History and Genealogy of the Buford Family in America. La Belle, Missouri, 1924.

Nickell, Joe. "Discovered: The Secret of Beale's Treasure," The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 90, July 1982, 310-324.

Smith, Frank. Original typescript on Locust Level based on the author's compilation of the Buford Family Papers, Moneta, Virginia.

U.S. Census Manuscripts, Agriculture.

1850. Seventh Census, manuscript schedule, Bedford County, Virginia. Microfilm.

U.S. Census Manuscripts, Industry.

1860. Eighth Census, manuscript schedule, Bedford County, Virginia. Microfilm.

1870. Ninth Census, manuscript schedule, Bedford County, Virginia. Microfilm.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

U.S. Census Manuscripts, Population.

1830. Fifth Census, manuscript schedule, Bedford County, Virginia. Microfilm.

1850. Seventh Census, manuscript schedule, Bedford County, Virginia. Microfilm.

1870. Ninth Census, manuscript schedule, Bedford County, Virginia. Microfilm.

U.S. Census Manuscripts, Slave Population.

1850. Seventh Census, manuscript schedule, Bedford County, Virginia. Microfilm.

1860. Eighth Census, manuscript schedule, Bedford County, Virginia. Microfilm.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photo Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

1. 1) Locust Level.
2) Montvale, Bedford Co., Virginia (same for all entries).
3) Daniel Pezzoni, photographer.
4) April 1990.
5) Virginia State Library, Richmond (same for all entries).
6) View from north of front elevation of main house with meat house on left, kitchen and dining room on right, and a mounting block in the foreground.
7) The photograph number appears at the beginning of each entry.
2. 1) Locust Level.
3) Daniel Pezzoni.
4) April 1990.
6) View from north of front gable end of the kitchen and dining room of the former Henry Buford House.
3. 1) Locust Level.
3) Cabell Crowther.
4) October 1989.
6) Angle view from northwest of the main house and ell (the Hall).
4. 1) Locust Level.
3) Cabell Crowther.
4) October 1989.
6) Angle view from southeast of ell of main house (the Hall) and the kitchen and dining room.
5. 1) Locust Level.
3) Cabell Crowther.
4) October 1989.
6) View of cornice on front elevation of main house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photo Page 2

6. 1) Locust Level.
3) Daniel Pezzoni.
4) April 1990.
6) View of foot of stair in central passage of main house.

7. 1) Locust Level.
3) Daniel Pezzoni.
4) April 1990.
6) View of mantel and presses in west second-floor room of main house.

8. 1) Locust Level.
3) Daniel Pezzoni.
4) April 1990.
6) View from south of (from left to right) kitchen and dining room, main house, chimney of former kitchen, and meat house.

9. 1) Locust Level.
3) Daniel Pezzoni.
4) April 1990.
6) Angle view from east of Buford family plot in cemetery.

- 10.1) Locust Level.
3) Daniel Pezzoni.
4) April 1990.
6) Detail of the foot stone at the grave of Frances A. Otey in the cemetery.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Locust Level
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Bedford

DATE RECEIVED: 11/06/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/20/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/06/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/21/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001841

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/21/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically & architecturally significant late 18th century dwelling with
1820s main house in Federal style.*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A & c
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus
DISCIPLINE historian
DATE 12/21/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

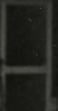
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



1. 1) Locust Level
- 2) Montvale, Bedford Co., Va.
- 3) Daniel Pezzoni, Photographer
- 4) April 1990.
- 5) Va. State Library, Richmond
- 6) View fr. N of front elev. of house with meat house on left, kitchen and dining room on right, and a mounting block in the foreground.



Bedford

2. 1) Locust Level

3) D. Pezzoni

4) 4/1990

6) View fr N of front gable end of the kitchen and dining room of the former Henry Buford House.



Beaford

3. 1) Locust Level
- 3) C. Crowther
- 4) 10/1989
- 6) Angle view from NW of the main house and ell (the Hall).



4. 1) Locust Level

3) C. Crowther

4) 10/1989

6) Angle views fr SE of ell of main house (the Hall) and the kitchen and dining room.



- 5.
- 1) Louist Level
 - 3) C. Cranther
 - 4) 10/1989
 - 6) View of cornice on front elev. of main house.



Bedford

6. 1) Locust + Level

3) D. Pezzoni

4) 4) 1990

6) View of foot of stair in center hall
of main house.



Bedford CE

7. 1) Locust Level

3) D. Pezzoni

4) 4/1990

6) View of mantel and presses in W 2nd-floor
room of main house.



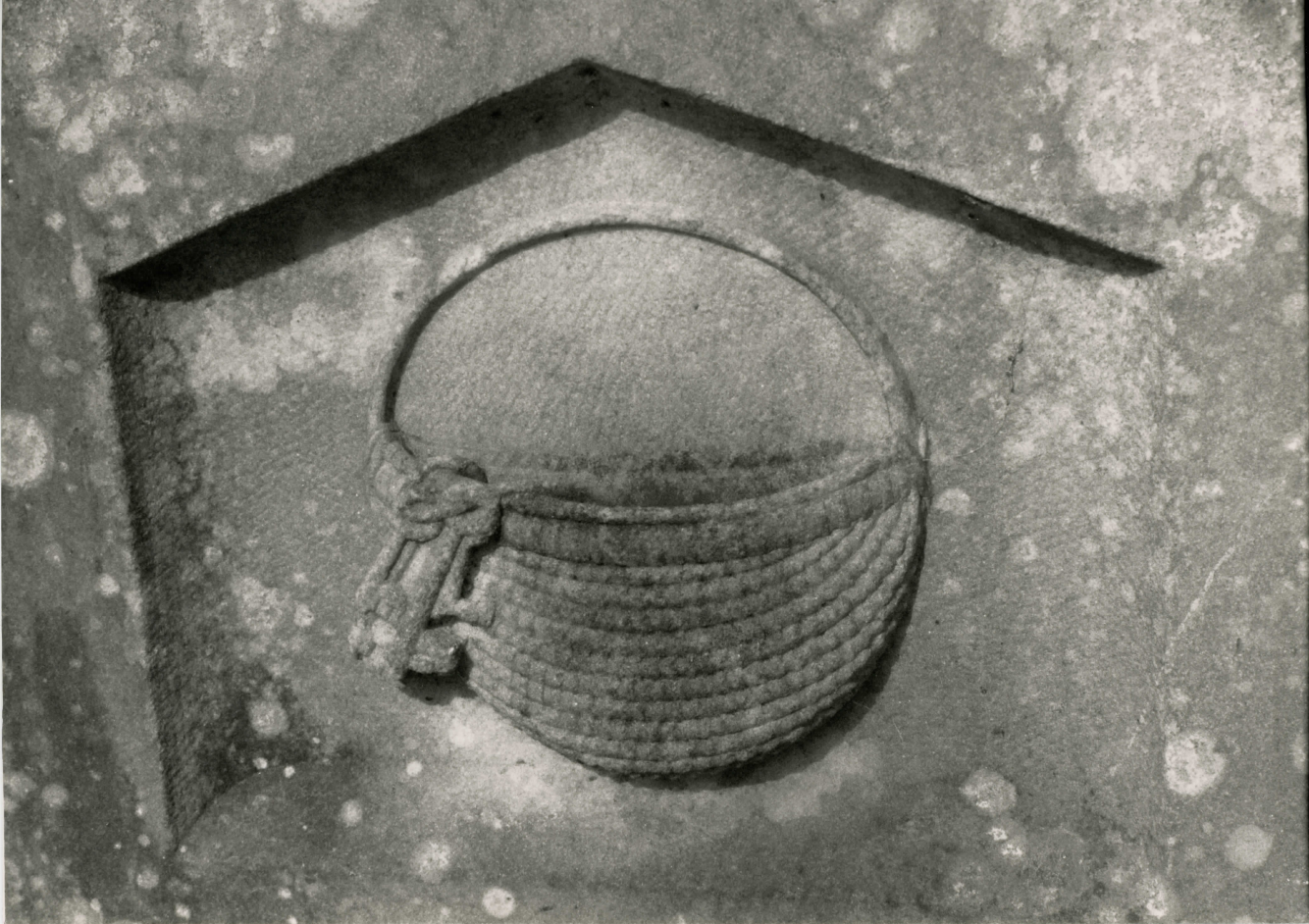
Bedford

- 8,
- 1) Locust Level
 - 3) D. Perzoni
 - 4) 4/1990
 - 6) View from S of (from left to right)
kitchen and dining room, main house,
chimney of former kitchen, and
meat house.



Bedford

9. 1) Locust level
- 3) D. Pezzoni
- 4) 4/1990
- 6) Angle view from E of Buford Family plot in cemetery.

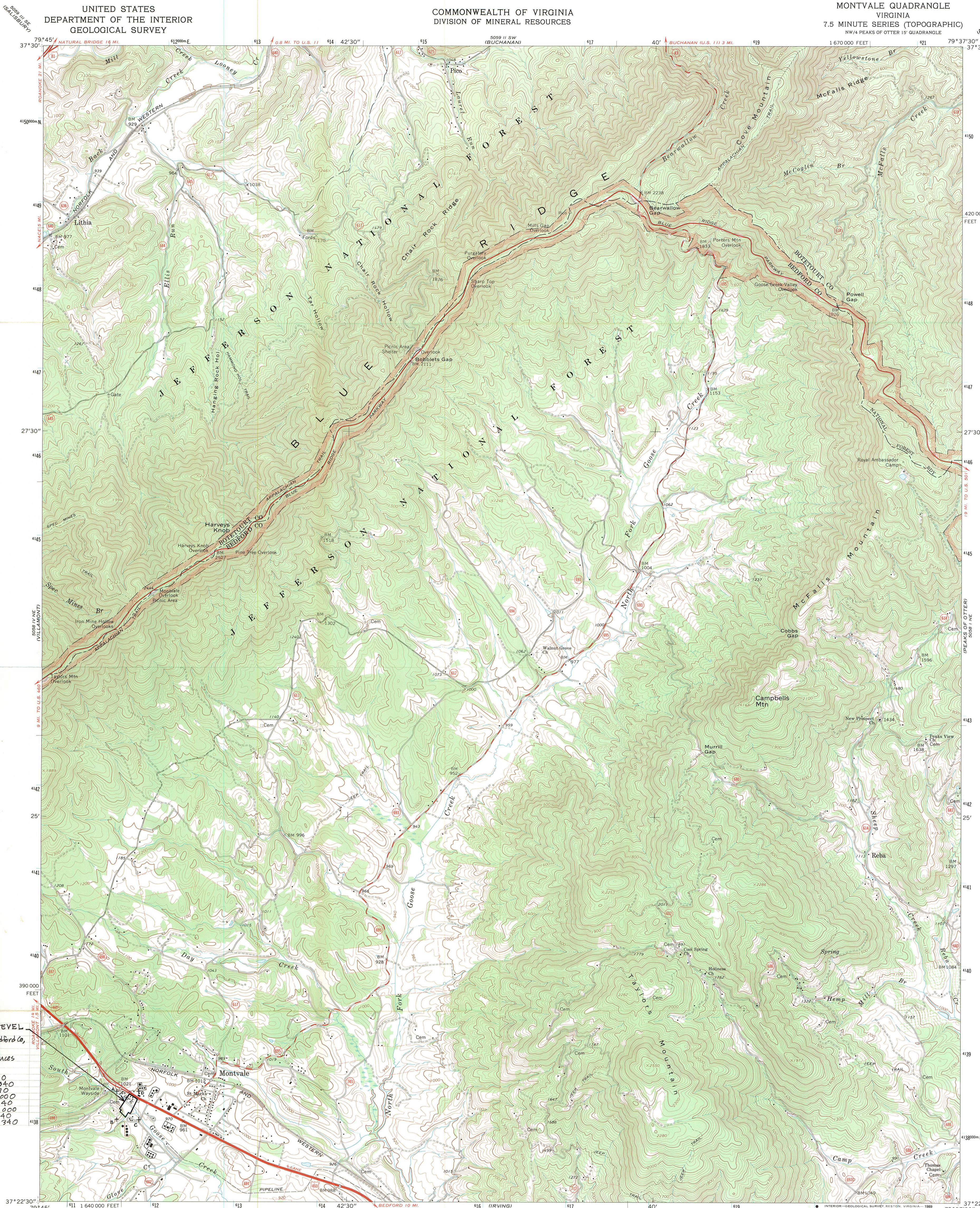


10. 1) Locust Level.

Bedford

3) D. Pezzoni

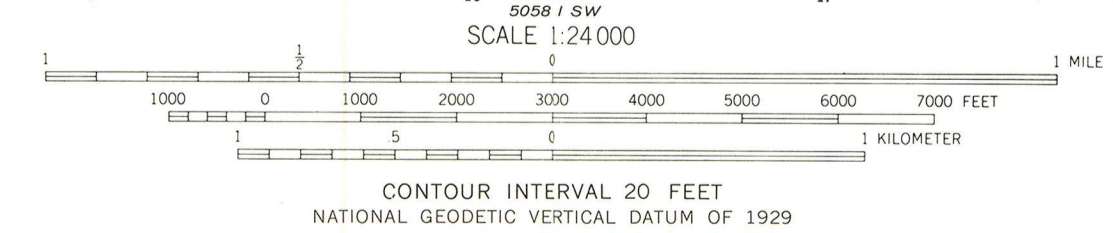
4) Detail of the foot stone at the grave of Frances A. Bedford in the cemetery.



LOCUST LEVEL
Montvale, Bedford Co,
Virginia
UTM references
(zone 17):
A. E 611570
4138240
B. 611570
4138000
C. 611840
4138000
D. 611840
4138340

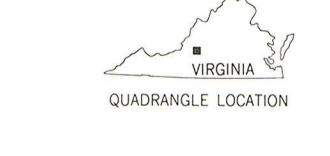
Mapped, edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 10 meters south and
20 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 unchecked
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
Map photoinspected 1977
No major culture or drainage changes observed



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



MONTVALE, VA.
NW/4 PEAKS OF OTTER 15' QUADRANGLE
37079-D6-TF-024
1967
PHOTOINSPECTED 1977
DMA 9058 I NW—SERIES V834



RECEIVED
NOV 06 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Hugh C. Miller, Director

Department of Historic Resources

221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

TDD: (804) 786-1934
Telephone (804) 786-3143
FAX: (804) 225-4261

29 October 1990

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register
National Park Service
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Locust Level, Bedford County

Dear Ms. Shull:

The enclosed nomination, Locust Level, Bedford County, Virginia, is submitted for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

This nomination was considered by the State Review Board at its August meeting. No objection letters have been received.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Vosmik".

Julie Vosmik
Survey and Register Programs Manager

Enclosure