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PHASE II ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION OF STRUCTURE 88-27, BUNKER HILL ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROUTE 608 PROJECT SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

PROJECT: 0608-088-225, C501

VDHR File No. 92-1074-F

Prepared for

Virginia Department of Transportation

March 1993

SP 35

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PROJECT: 0608-088-225, C501

VDHR File No. 92-1074-F

Submitted to:

The Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Submitted by:

The William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research
Department of Anthropology
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March 2, 1993

SP-035

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Hugh C. Miller, Director

Department of Historic Resources
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Richmond, Virginia 23219

TDD: (804) 786-1934
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April 29, 1993

Mr. E. T. Robb
Division Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: 0608-088-225, C501
Spotsylvania County
VDHR file No. 92-1074-F

Dear Mr. Robb:

Thank you for submitting the phase II evaluation for Bunker Hill (88-27). The report was prepared in March 1993 by the William and Mary Archaeological Project Center and was written by Scott M. Hudlow and Charles M. Downing.

The report provides a description of the project's goals, methodology, fieldwork, results and recommendations. The level of effort and resulting report are consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716 - 44742). We agree with your consultant's recommendation that Bunker Hill does not meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we concur with your determination that the project will have no effect on historic properties.

We have received an inquiry from the owner of Bunker Hill and from the Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation, Inc. concerning the impact to the gates at Bunker Hill. Although not eligible, we encourage VDOT to take their concerns into consideration and shift the alignment slightly to avoid taking the gate, fence, and trees. We hope you will give this serious consideration.

Please contact Elizabeth Hoge if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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April 29, 1993

L. Kimball Payne, III
Spotsylvania County Administrator
P. O. Box 99
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

RE: Route 608 Improvements, Spotsylvania County
VDHR File No. 92-1074-F

Dear Mr. Payne:

Our agency has recently considered the significance of Bunker Hill on Route 608 in Spotsylvania County according to criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places. This "significance evaluation" was made as part of the review of a federally funded project, the proposed improvements to the Route 608 by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Our review of highway improvements is done in accordance with federal legislation outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act and in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.

Based on a report provided by VDOT's consultant, we do not believe that Bunker Hill meets the criteria for listing on the National Register. Attached is a map illustrating its location.

We understand the owner of Bunker Hill and the Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation have requested that VDOT shift the proposed alignment slightly to avoid taking the gate, fence, and trees in front of Bunker Hill. Although we do not believe Bunker Hill is eligible, we have encouraged VDOT to take their request into consideration.

If you would like information on how to participate in decisions made concerning the project, please contact Elizabeth Hoge of our staff.

Sincerely,

H. Bryan Mitchell
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In January 1993, a Phase II architectural evaluation of Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill was completed in conjunction with the proposed Route 608 Project in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. The purpose of this study was to evaluate Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, previously identified by David Edwards of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, in terms of eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and to identify the effects of the proposed project on the property.

Bunker Hill is a large two-story I-house rebuilt in 1874 by R. W. Colbert. The original 1840 Bunker Hill burned in 1874, prompting R. W. Colbert to completely rebuild the original house. Bunker Hill is the first structure to be built on this land, previously part of several other plantations and farmsteads. In 1915, after R. W. Colbert died, the third major building phase occurred. A kitchen extension on the ell and a room extension on the west half of the main section of the house were built and the entrance gates and a cow fence were erected. Minor repairs have occurred since 1915.

Bunker Hill is **not eligible** for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Bunker Hill is a typical late nineteenth-century middle class farmstead for this area and period; it does not represent the work of a particular architect or builder and it is not an outstanding example of a building style or technology.

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

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CHAPTER 1:
Introduction

In January 1993, staff from the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) conducted a Phase II architectural evaluation of Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, associated with the proposed Route 608 Project in Spotsylvania County, Virginia (Figures 1 and 2). The work was conducted by Architectural Historian Scott M. Hudlow under the supervision of Project Directors Donald W. Linebaugh and Dennis B. Blanton. Charles M. Downing served as Project Historian, and Anne S. Beckett prepared the final graphics for the report.

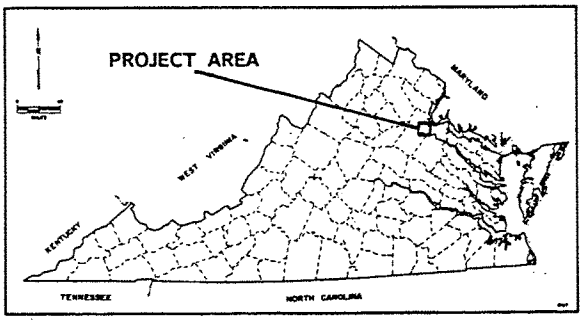

Figure 1. Project area location.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, previously identified by David Edwards of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, in terms of eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and to identify the effects of the proposed project on the property. The property was photographed, impact assessed, measured drawings prepared, and potential National Register of Historic Places boundaries defined.

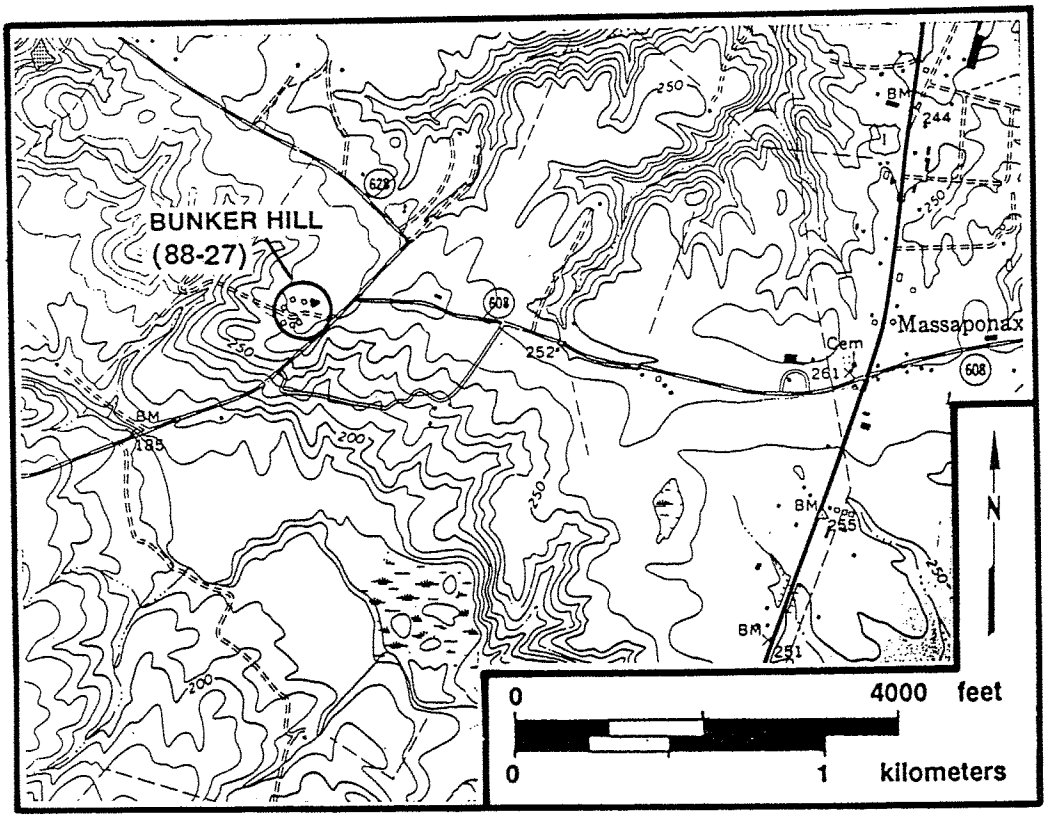

Figure 2. Project area and environs (U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute Spotsylvania quadrangle).

CHAPTER 2:
Historical Background of Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill

Historical Methodology

Historical research for the Route 608 Phase II project centered on an evaluation of the Bunker Hill Farm property. The research was conducted at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Spotsylvania, Virginia and at the Virginia State Library & Archives and the Virginia Historical Society. Bunker Hill Farm dates from the middle of the nineteenth century and was owned by four generations of the Colbert family before the land was subdivided, developed, and sold over the last two decades.

The current owners of the Bunker Hill farm house, Otis and Rebecca Light, are in the process of renovating the building. Mrs. Light was contacted during the research for this project and generously provided access to the large collection of Colbert family papers, account books, and financial records which she found in the attic of the house. Mrs. Light is currently organizing the collection. Primarily, these records document the business and financial dealings of Richard W. Colbert (1833-1893) and his son, Lucian R. Colbert (1871-1944). In 1863, Richard W. Colbert purchased and named the Bunker Hill property and both he and his son were highly successful farmers and entrepreneurs who played important roles in the economic life of Spotsylvania County for over three-quarters of a century. The history of the Bunker Hill property has been organized by the "time periods" established by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Settlement to Society (1607 to 1750)

The land which eventually became Bunker Hill farm first came within the realm of English settlement in the late seventeenth century. In 1672, Augustine Warner I received a 10,000-acre patent located on both sides of what is now the Ni River (Felder 1982:2,205). The Bunker Hill property once extended to the north bank of the Ni River. Augustine Warner II inherited the immense tract from his father and eventually divided it among his three daughters. Warner bequeathed one third of his land to his daughter Elizabeth, who married John Lewis. (Throughout the eighteenth and well into the nineteenth century, the Ni River was called the "Lewis River"). Another of the daughters, Mary Warner, married John Smith of Gloucester County. The Bunker Hill property is located on what was the 3,333-acre "Smith portion" of the Warner patent (Felder 1982:205).

John and Mary Warner Smith's grandson, also called John Smith eventually inherited the property. A number of early deaths within the family resulted in the latter John Smith bequeathing a life interest in the property to his maternal grandmother, Anna Alexander in 1735, with the remainder going to his half-brothers, Henry and John Willis. Henry Willis died without issue and the 3,333-acre property devolved to John Willis (Spotsylvania County Records [hereinafter SCR] Deed Book G:130 and Felder 1982:206).

Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

In the 1760s, Willis's daughter, Mary, and her husband William Daingerfield inherited the 3,333-acre estate. It was during the Daingerfield's ownership that the property came to be known as Coventry plantation. According to one local historian, Coventry plantation was "founded" in 1763. The original home stood until 1835, when it was destroyed by fire. A subsequent house on the site burned in 1894, and a "modern home" constructed in 1968 now stands on the site (Mansfield 1977:162). The Coventry plantation houses stood about 1.5 miles northwest of Bunker Hill.

In 1780, William Daingerfield drew up his last will and testament. This document provides some details regarding the plantation. Daingerfield left his wife, Mary, a life interest in the estate. At her death, the land was to be divided between his sons, William and Henry. The house and the "improvements" on

the estate were located on a 1,000-acre parcel at the "upper end of the parcel" apparently indicating that no buildings, save the mill, stood in the vicinity of what would later become Bunker Hill Farm (SCR Will Book E:409).

A "water grist mill" served the plantation and was likely situated along the Ni River (SCR Will Book E:409). Nineteenth-century maps consulted during the research for this project depict the location of a mill on the river within the bounds of the plantation and will be discussed in turn. The eighteenth-century Coventry plantation mill may have been situated in the same location as the later structures.

Daingerfield also owned several African-American slaves, but no total number is given. In his will he ordered that the slaves be apportioned among his five children (SCR Will Book E:409). By 1783, African-Americans in Spotsylvania County outnumbered whites (Fitzgerald 1979:6). The reference to the grist mill on the plantation indicates that grain production had likely replaced tobacco cultivation at Coventry. Many of the slaves were likely employed at the mill. William Daingerfield died in 1789 (SCR Land Book 1790-B).

Early National Period (1789 to 1830)

Mary Willis Daingerfield outlived her two eldest sons and at her death in 1818, Coventry plantation was passed on to her grandson, Lewis Willis Daingerfield. Like most large Virginia landholdings in the decades following the American Revolution, Coventry plantation's acreage was gradually reduced through land sales. By the time Lewis W. Daingerfield inherited the property, Coventry consisted of 2,300 acres (SCR Deed Book BB:495).

During the 1820s, Lewis W. Daingerfield may have suffered severe financial losses associated with a dramatic downturn in Virginia's agricultural economy. The Napoleonic Wars had created a high demand for American wheat and grain in Europe. In 1815, when peace was declared, this demand for American grain fell significantly. In addition, the Hessian wheat fly plagued local wheat production. The Panic of 1819 further exacerbated the already unfavorable agricultural conditions (Brown and Bragdon 1986:199).

In 1820, John Wood produced a map of Spotsylvania County which shows the location of Daingerfield's Mill along the Ni River. The Coventry plantation house is not shown. No roads or structures are depicted within the Route 608 project area (Wood 1820) (Figure 3). Massaponax Church, which is shown on the 1820 map, currently lies approximately 1.25 miles east of Bunker Hill Farm. It should be noted that the court house location shown on the 1820 map was changed in 1839, when the facility was moved to its present site (Coleman and Trice 1934:26).

In the early 1820s, Daingerfield took out two mortgages on Coventry plantation. On January 1, 1825, when the notes came due, he was unable to meet the payments and his trustee foreclosed (SCR Deed Book Z:212). The plantation was conveyed by yet another trustee, Thomas Samuel, under whose name it was carried on the county land books for three years (SCR Land Books 1826B-1829B). In the early 1820s, the buildings on Coventry plantation possessed a value of $3,070 (SCR Land Books 1821B-1826B).

In 1827, Thomas Samuel sold a 400-acre parcel of Coventry with $500 in buildings to Richard Normant (SCR Land Book 1827B). In August 1828, the remaining 1,900 acres (which included $2,570 in buildings) were sold at public auction to Rice C. Ballard and Samuel Alsop for $4,274 (SCR Deed Book BB:495). In 1832, Samuel Alsop purchased Ballard's interest in the 1,900-acre property and became the sole owner (SCR Deed Book EE:50).

Antebellum Period (1830 to 1860)

During the second quarter of the nineteenth century, Samuel Alsop was one of the wealthiest men in Spotsylvania County. In the 1830s, Alsop owned fifteen tracts of land totalling over 4,500 acres of land and seventy-four slaves over the age of twelve (SCR Land Books 1832B-1838B and Personal Property Tax Books 1832-1838). In 1834, he added $630 in improvements to his 1,900-acre Coventry tract before deeding a large portion of it to his daughter and son-in-law (SCR Land Books 1834-1835). In July 1834, Alsop conveyed the property, perhaps as a wedding gift, to his daughter Jane and her husband, Thomas W. Anderson. The Anderson's new farm comprised 1,479 acres and included the mill and all of the improvements from the 1,900-acre tract (SCR Deed

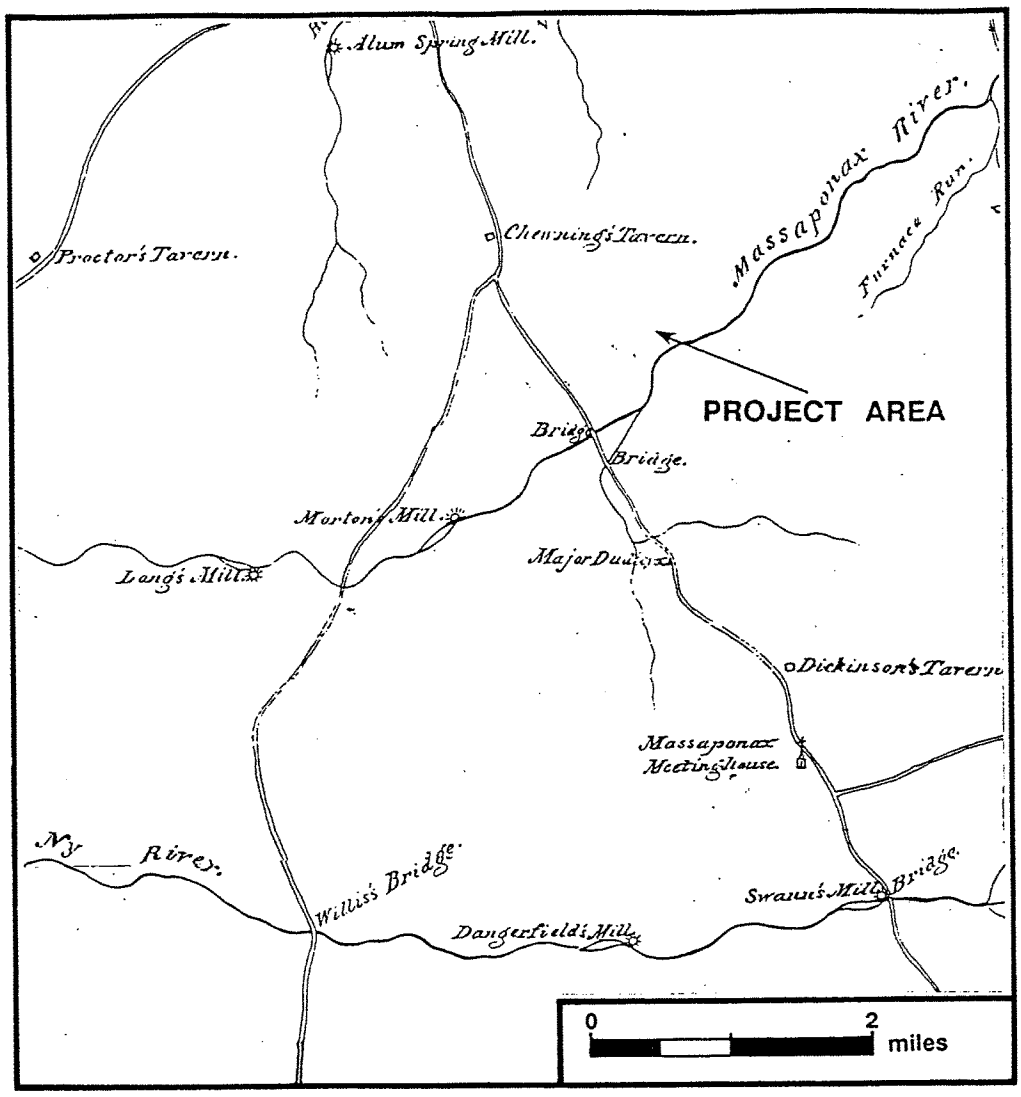

Figure 3. Map of Spotsylvania County (Wood 1820).

Book FF:403). By 1840, Thomas W. Anderson owned twenty slaves and paid taxes on eight horses (SCR Personal Property Book 1840).

In 1839, Anderson sold a 450-acre parcel of his farm to John Abbott for $1,800. The sale did *not* include the mill, but the southwestern boundary of Abbott's tract was formed by the Ni River. Abbott did a considerable amount of construction on his property during the first year he owned it. Thomas Anderson also added to the improvements on his land during the same year. In 1839, Anderson's 1,479 acres contained $3,190 in improvements (SCR Land Book 1839B). In 1840, the first year the sale to Abbott was registered in the county land tax book, Anderson's acreage was reduced to 1,029, but the value of his buildings increased to $4,000. The buildings on Abbott's 450-acre tract were assessed at $1,000 and would remain at that level until 1870, a decade after the property had passed out of the Abbott family (SCR Land Book 1840B).

The 1840 improvements noted on John Abbott's property constitute the first documented construction within the present project area. The 1840 house was apparently situated on the current site of the Bunker Hill farm house. A Civil War period map indicates that two outbuildings which would have been included in the $1,000 assessment stood behind the house (Michler 1867) (Figure 4). At the time the 1867 Michler map was drawn, the farm was apparently leased to a family named Chewning.

Tax records from the two decades preceding the Civil War indicate that John Abbott was a prosperous middling farmer. Prior to his purchasing the 450-acre tract from Anderson, Abbott paid taxes on two slaves and three horses (SCR Personal Property Book 1838). Beginning in 1841 and continuing until his death in 1859, Abbott held eight African-American slaves (SCR Personal Property Book 1841-1859). Abbott probably raised wheat, corn and perhaps other cereal grains. A major convenience for Abbott would have been the proximity of his neighbor Thomas Anderson's mill, which stood on the Ni River just beyond his western boundary line. Abbott also raised livestock. In the 1853 personal property tax book, he owned an aggregate of 45 animals under the heading "cattle, sheep, and hogs." His household and kitchen furniture was valued at $171, a modest but not unsubstantial sum.

John Abbott died in late 1859 or early 1860. By his last will and testament, he left his son, Edwin "350 acres of land...to be laid off so as to include all the buildings on the tract and to embrace the part from the river to the back line" (SCR Will Book W:259). The remaining 100 acres of unimproved land Abbott left to his married daughter, Betsy Beazley (SCR Will Book W:259 and Land Books 1860-1861). Edwin Abbott also inherited most of his father's slaves, namely "Sophia and her six children" as well as "Winny, Braddock, Ben, and Maria and her son, Andrew" (SCR Will Book W:259). In addition, Edwin Abbott was to receive "two beds and furniture, 25 barrels of corn to be taken from the house or field as may be most convenient, 200 pounds of bacon or pork, and all the vegetables in the garden" (SCR Will Book W:259).

By the end of 1860, Edwin Abbott was sufficiently outfitted to pursue the quiet life of a middle-class farmer. However, over the next four years Spotsylvania County would become one of the major battlegrounds of the Civil War. Three of the war's most costly battles were fought within a few miles of Abbott's home: Fredericksburg (December 1862), Chancellorsville (May 1863), and Spotsylvania Court House (May 1864).

Civil War (1861-1865)

In November of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln relieved General George McClellan of the command of the Army of the Potomac and replaced him with General Ambrose Burnside. In December 1862, Burnside sought to break through the Confederate line of defense by attempting to cross the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg (Boatner 1959:310,313). The city is situated on the south bank of the river. The Abbott farm was located approximately seven miles behind the Confederate lines.

On December 11, Union engineers began construction of five pontoon bridges. On December 13, the first Union troops attempted the crossing only to be hampered by Confederate sharpshooters posted along the waterfront. A furious Union artillery

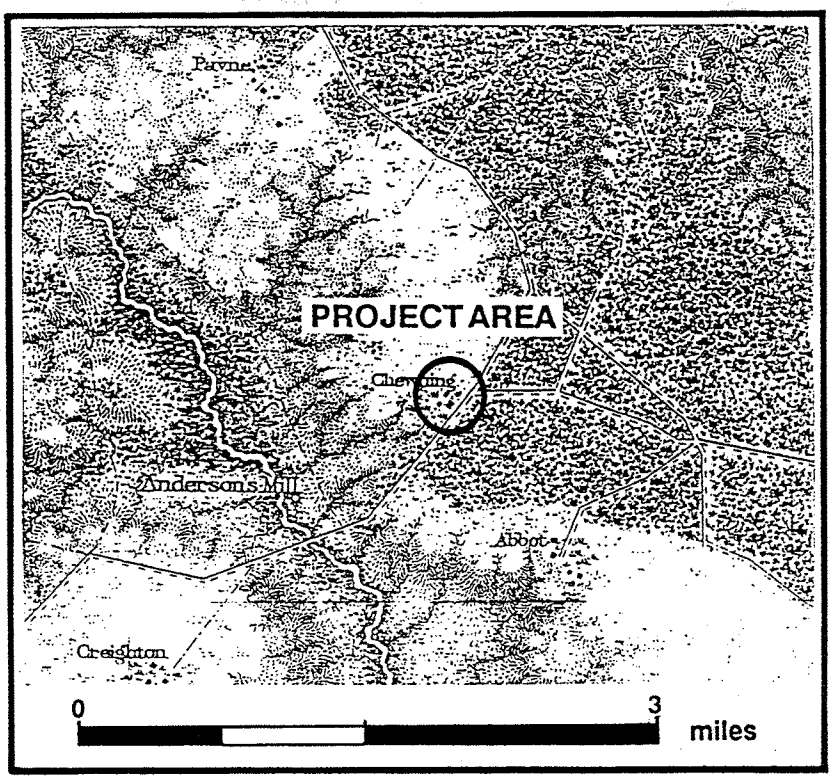

Figure 4. Map of Spotsylvania County (Michler 1867).

bombardment failed to dislodge the Southern riflemen. A series of almost suicidal Union assaults were repulsed from the Confederate lines along the heights behind the city. Burnside's force withdrew on December 15. The city of Fredericksburg had sustained a significant amount of damage (Boatner 1959:313).

During the spring following the Battle of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County again became the focal point of the eastern theater of the war. In January 1863, General Joseph Hooker assumed command of the Army of the Potomac. In the spring of 1863, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia maintained a strong defensive position at Fredericksburg. By April 1863, Hooker had led his Union force on a wide flanking maneuver around Lee's left crossing both the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers. As Hooker attempted to flank Lee, General John Sedgwick led one third of the Union force in a diversionary attack across the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg. The two armies clashed at Chancellorsville between May 1-4 (Boatner 1959:136-137).

As the Union and Confederate armies maneuvered into place, Edwin Abbott was in the process of selling his 340-acre farm. In April 1863, Abbott paid for a survey of the boundary line between his farm and the land his father had left his sister, Betsey Beazley. The remainder of the ensuing plat was taken from an 1839 survey of the original 450 acres purchased by John Abbott (SCR Deed Book RR:475) (Figure 5). The 1839 plat has not survived. The 1863 rendering does not show any of the buildings known to have been standing on Abbott's farm. The plat does show the course of the Ni River as well as a segment of the Massaponax Church Road which now constitutes Route 608. The plat indicates that the unimproved 100-acre tract which John Abbott had left his daughter was situated adjacent to the northwest boundary line of Edwin Abbott's farm. On the 1863 plat, the line between points "C" and "D" marks the boundary between the Beazley and Abbott tracts (see Figure 5).

On May 2, 1863, Stonewall Jackson executed his celebrated flanking maneuver around Hooker's right flank at Chancellorsville. Jackson struck the

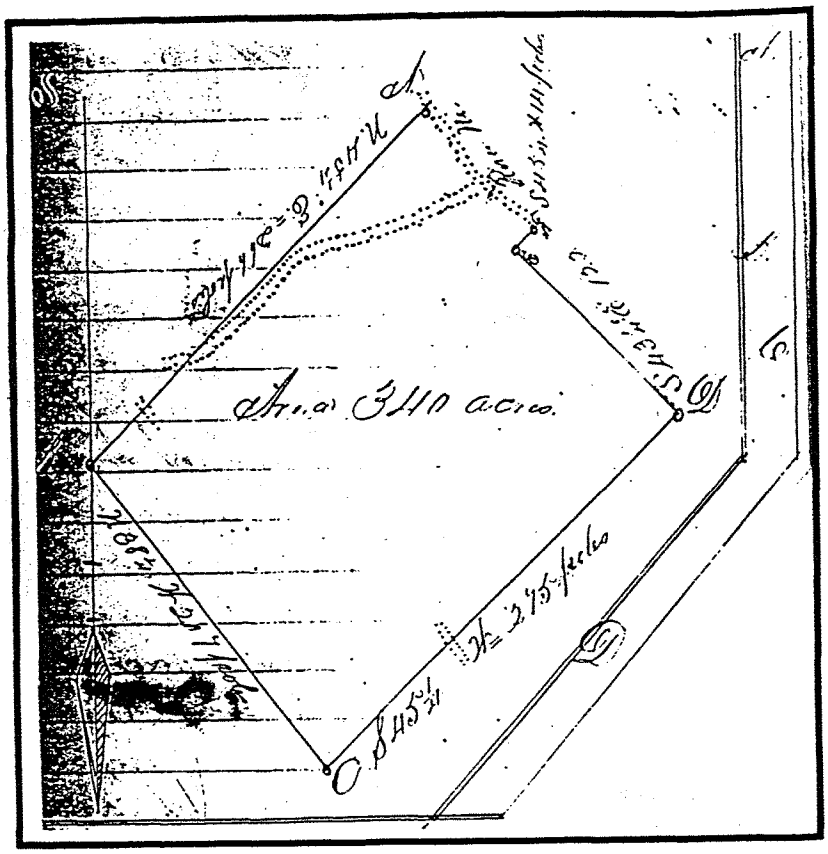

Figure 5. Plat of Abbott's Farm (1863).

rear of Hooker's unsuspecting XI Corps and drove the Union flank back inflicting heavy losses. Chancellorsville constituted Lee and Jackson's most stunning victory of the war. That evening, Jackson and a reconnaissance party were fired on by a group of confused Confederate sentries. Jackson was seriously wounded. Ten days later, he would die of complications resulting from the accidental shooting. Although the most conclusive portion of the Chancellorsville campaign was fought on May 2, the fighting continued between Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg until Hooker withdrew north of the Rappahannock on May 6 (Boatner 1959:137-138).

On May 4, amidst a background of what must have been clearly audible artillery and musket fire, Edwin Abbott came to terms with Richard W. Colbert on the sale of his 340-acre farm. Colbert paid $3,500 for the property (SCR Deed Book RR:374). There is no way of knowing for sure why Abbott sold his property. Perhaps he was undergoing financial difficulties as a result of the disrupting effects of the war on the local economy. Given the location of the military campaigns of late 1862 and early 1863, Abbott may have decided that the war had come too close to home and that his family was in danger. Richard W. Colbert may have had the military activity around his new farm in mind when he named the property "Bunker Hill."

As noted above, Mrs. Rebecca Light, the present owner of Bunker Hill, is currently in possession of a large assortment of the Colbert family papers. Among this collection of documents is a receipt for household items that Colbert purchased at an April 1863 auction held at Abbott's. Apparently, Edwin Abbott not only sold his house and farm, but most of his personal property as well (Colbert Papers 1863).

From the Colbert papers, Mrs. Light has pieced together a plausible account of Richard W. Colbert's activities. Some of the correspondence in the collection of papers indicates that the Colbert brothers were originally from the village of Morrisville near Warrenton in Fauquier County and that their family had business interests there. Perhaps as early as the mid-1850s, Richard W.

Colbert and his older brother, James T. Colbert, had been involved in a general merchandise store in Thornburg. One document indicates that in 1852-53, James T. Colbert was Thornburg's postmaster (Colbert Papers 1853). However, neither Richard nor James Colbert were listed in Spotsylvania County land tax and personal property tax books prior to 1861. The tax records from 1862 and 1863 have been lost (SCR Land Books and Personal Property Books 1820-1861). Thus, it is possible that the Colberts rented the building from which they operated their Thornburg store. They may have lived there as well.

Only one of the contemporary Civil War maps of the area designated the current Bunker Hill house as the Colbert property. The Confederate engineer, J.F. Gilmer, produced two maps depicting Spotsylvania County in 1863. The first, a "Map of Caroline and Surrounding Counties" is not as detailed as the second. The first map did show such local landmarks as Massaponax Church and the Thomas W. Anderson house, but neither Anderson's mill nor the Bunker Hill house are shown (Gilmer 1863a) (Figure 6). The second map which Gilmer produced of the area that year was specifically a "Map of Spotsylvania County." On it, the Bunker Hill house is identified as the "R.Colbert" residence (Gilmer 1863b) (Figure 7).

Two Union maps of the area were made to document the May 1864 battle fought at Spotsylvania Court House. Both maps were made under the supervision of Union topographical engineer Nathaniel Michler. Both maps identify the Bunker Hill property as the "Chewning" residence and show that there were three standing structures on the property (Michler 1867 and Michler 1978) (Figure 8; see Figure 2). Clearly, Colbert had rented the property to Mr. Chewning. Title research conducted for this project clearly indicates that the Bunker Hill property was owned by the Colbert family from 1863 until 1987. No one named Chewning ever held title to the property. Richard W. Colbert may have rented the farm to a succession of tenants before occupying the house himself. Mrs. Rebecca Light, the current owner of the property, has in her possession a copy of a Civil War memoir written by Spotsylvania resident George W. Clark. In the document, Mr. Clarke stated that he leased the Bunker Hill farm during the year 1865 (Light 1993).

In May 1864, the war returned to the vicinity of Bunker Hill farm. General Ulysses S. Grant had by this time taken personal command of the Army of the Potomac and had begun a new campaign against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. On May 5-6, the armies of Lee and Grant had fought a major, but largely inconclusive engagement at the Wilderness. After the intense fighting at the Wilderness, Grant aggressively ordered his forces southward attempting to move around Lee's right flank. After two days of sporadic skirmishing, Grant found that Lee had blocked the path of his advance by throwing up earthworks at Spotsylvania Court House, two miles west of Bunker Hill (Boatner 1959:784).

On the morning of May 12, some of the heaviest fighting of the Civil War took place just north of Spotsylvania Court House. Grant ordered General Winfield S. Hancock and his II Corps to storm the Confederate "salient" or "mule shoe" that formed the center of the Confederate lines. Hancock's troops pushed the Confederate position back, but at such a cost that the engagement is often referred to as the "Bloody Angle" (Boatner 1959:788).

Bunker Hill was spared during the battle and no fighting seems to have occurred on the property. However, troops appear to have travelled past the house along the Massaponax Church Road and at one point a Union Corps occupied the property while being held in reserve. Given the ferocity and the closeness of the fighting, it seems logical that whoever occupied the house at this point (ie. Colbert or his tenant, Chewning) had taken refuge elsewhere. The National Park Service (NPS) has produced a series of maps which trace troop movements during the Spotsylvania Campaign of May 7-20, 1864. Source materials used in this series appear to be contemporary maps as well as reports and correspondence from the Official Records. The Bunker Hill house is identified with the names Colbert and Chewning (Happel n.d.:Sheet 1) (Figure 9).

The map depicting movements for May 9 shows that General W.C. Wickham's brigade of Confederate cavalry passed the Bunker Hill house on Massaponax Church Road (Happel n.d.:Sheet 2) (Figure 10). On the morning of May 9, General J.E.B. Stuart warned Lee that Federal cavalry were

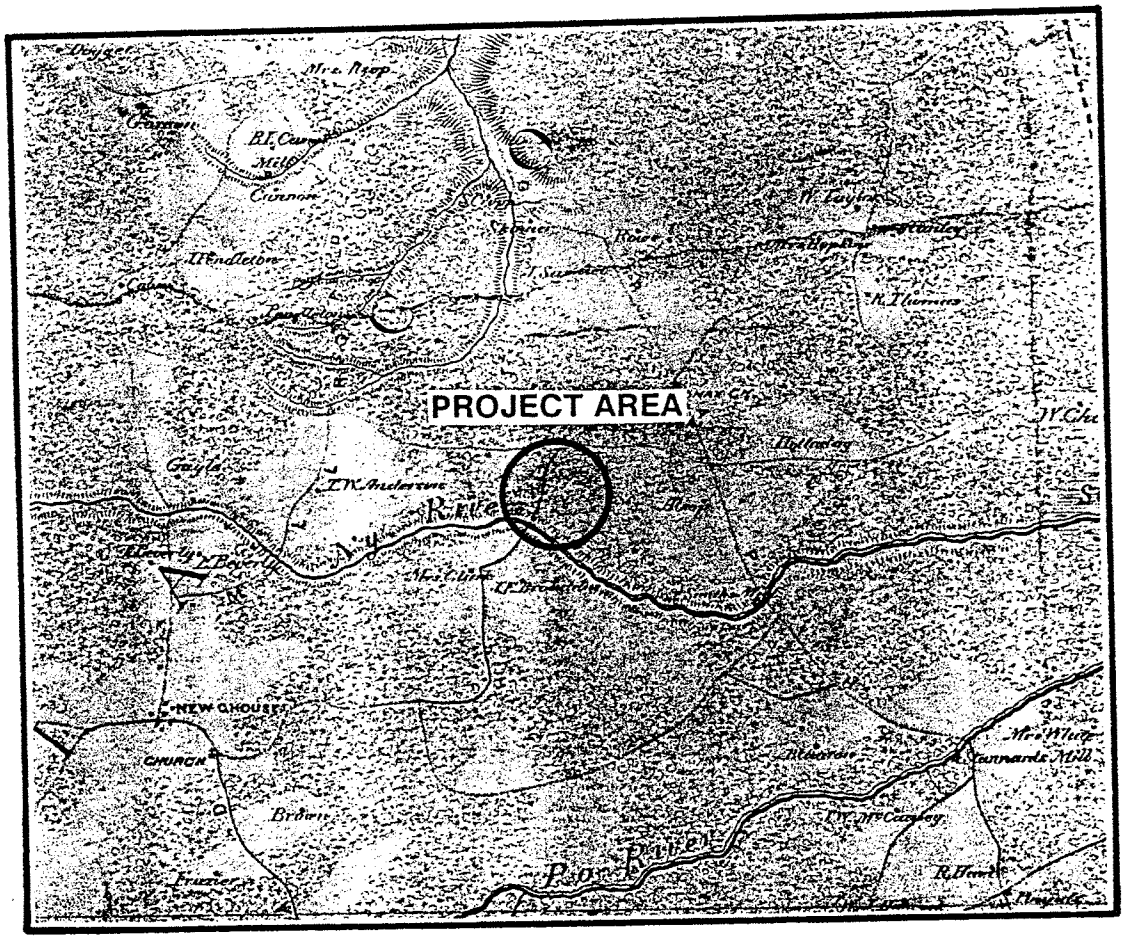

Figure 6. Map of Caroline and surrounding counties, not showing Bunker Hill (Gilmer 1863).

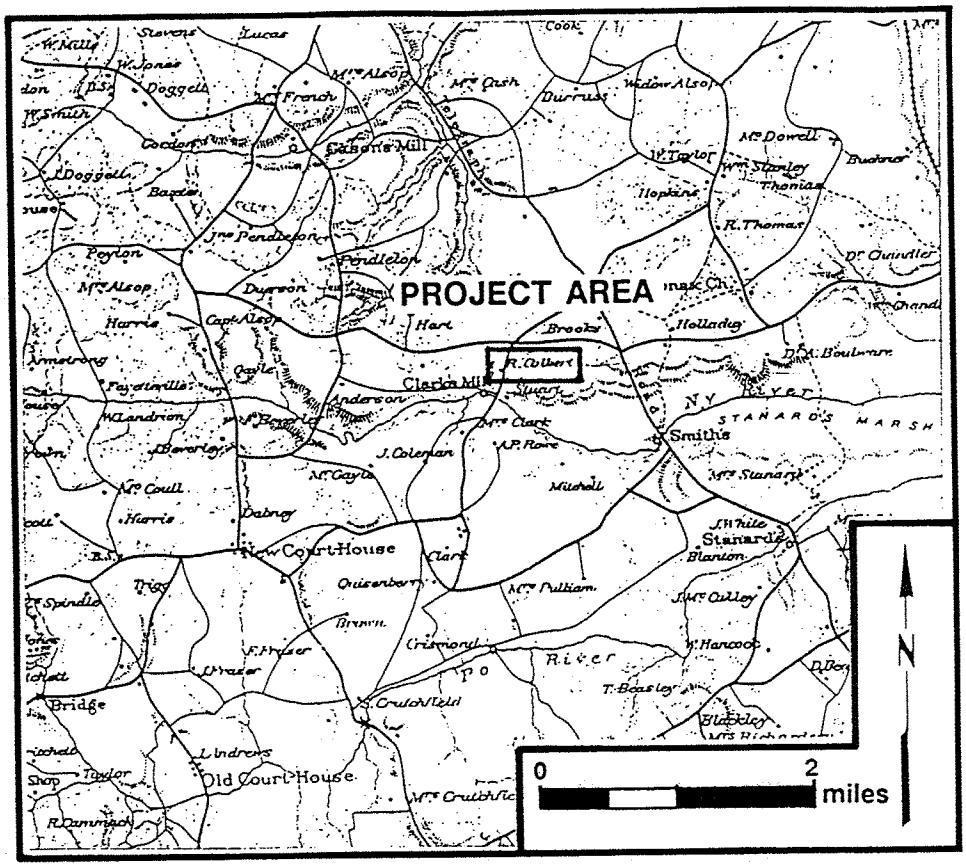

Figure 7. Map of Spotsylvania County, showing Bunker Hill (Gilmer 1863).

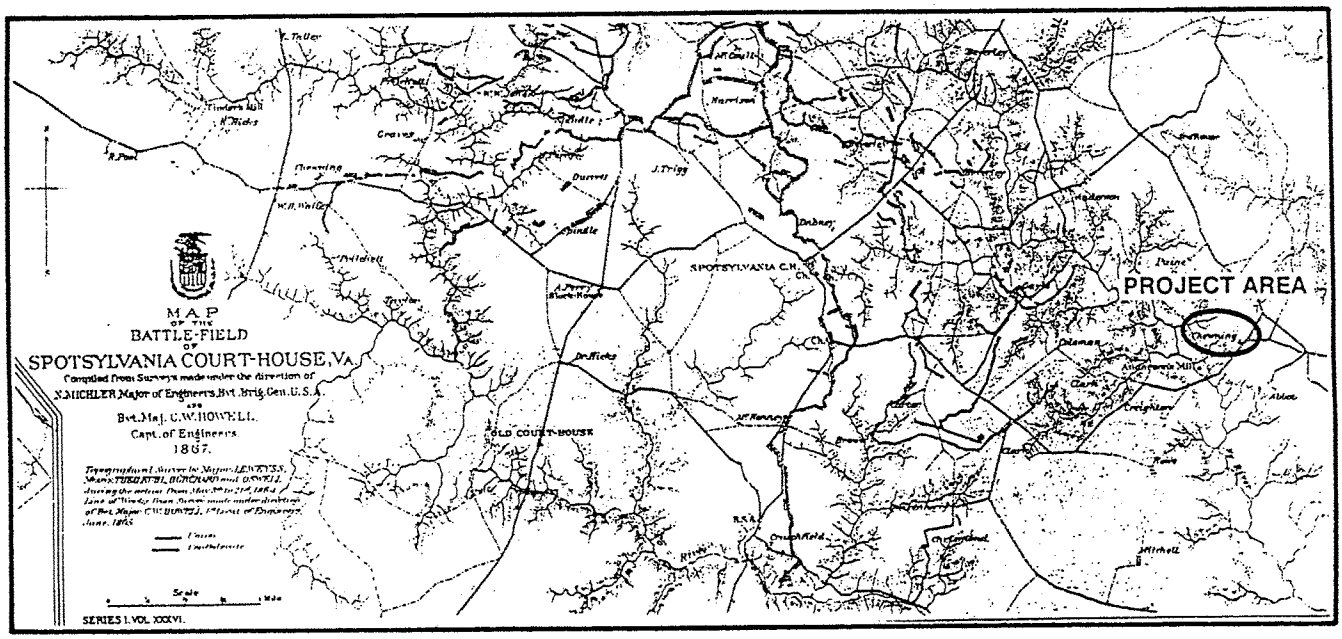

Figure 8. Map of the Battlefield of Spotsylvania Courthouse (Micheler 1978).

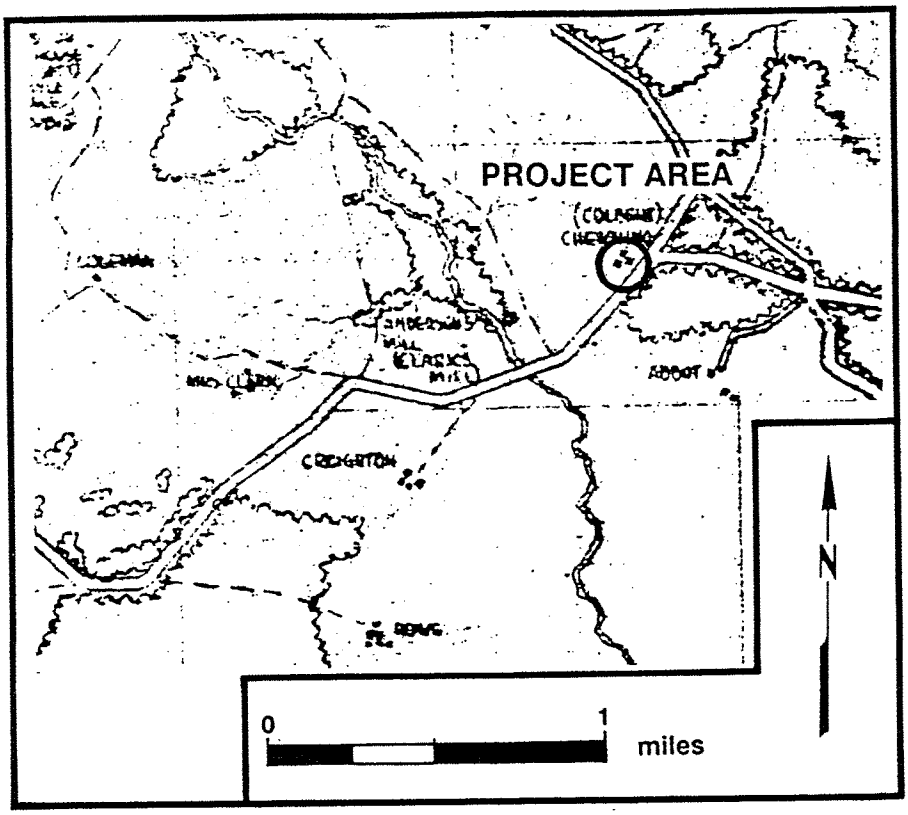

Figure 9. Troop movements at Spotsylvania Courthouse, daybreak to noon, May 8, 1864 (Happel n.d.).

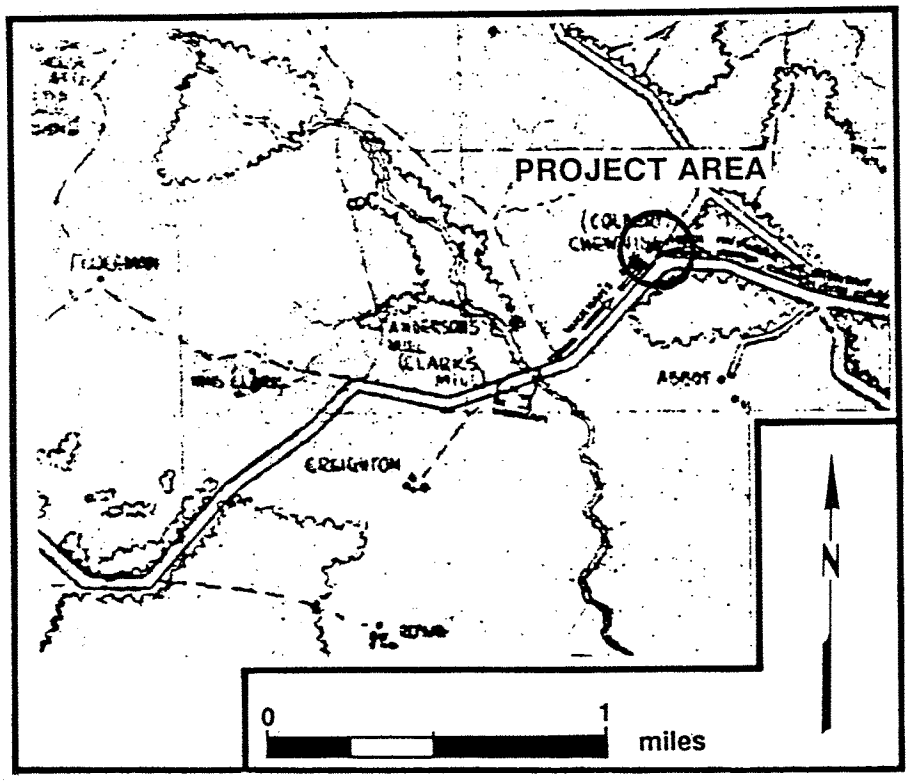

Figure 10. Troop movements at Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 9, 1864 (Happel n.d.).

present in force on the Spotsylvania-Fredericksburg Road. Stuart then gathered as many Confederate horsemen as he could and moved in pursuit (Trudeau 1989:145 and Matter 1988:300). Wickham's movement on the map is likely associated with Stuart's reconnaissance of the Union cavalry.

On May 17, Union artillery commander Colonel John C. Tidball was dispatched to the vicinity of Anderson's mill. Tidball's artillery was attached to General Hancock's II Corps. The Union command had entertained the idea of yet another assault on the Confederate works and Tidball's gunners had been sent to support the attack. The orders were eventually changed, but the Union artillerymen would have spent the better part of the day preparing gun emplacements in the immediate vicinity of Bunker Hill farm (Matter 1988:306). The route taken by Tidball's brigade of artillery is traced on an NPS series map (Happel n.d.:Sheet 10) (Figure 11). On the evening of May 18, three entire divisions from Hancock's II Corps camped in the immediate vicinity of Anderson's mill and Bunker Hill (Matter 1988:315). Their location is shown on an NPS map (Happel n.d.:Sheet 12) (Figure 12). At this juncture, Grant's army was on the move, continuing his strategy of moving to the south and east in attempt to outflank Lee. Ahead for the two armies lay battles at North Anna, Totopotomoy Creek, and Cold Harbor before Grant undertook the siege of Petersburg in late June (Trudeau 1989:341).

Reconstruction and Growth (1865 to 1914)

Bunker Hill farm emerged from the Civil War virtually unscathed. The $1,000 in buildings survived the war and the assessment on Colbert's land actually increased from $10.00 to $10.64 per acre between 1859 and 1866 (SCR Land Books 1859-1866). It was during the decade following the Civil War that Richard and James Colbert began to prosper as local merchants. As noted above, the Colberts probably began operating a store at Thornburg before the war. An 1874 handbill identifies the store as "R.W. Colbert and Brother" and indicates that it was a dry goods and general merchandise establishment that accepted payment in both cash and produce from customers (Colbert Papers 1874) (Figure 13).

By 1870 or perhaps earlier, the Colbert brothers seem to have opened a second store at Guinea Station in Caroline County. An 1880 insurance policy on this property describes a "dwelling and storehouse" (Colbert Papers 1880). If Richard W. Colbert owned and lived on this Caroline County property before the Civil War, it would explain the absence of his name from the Spotsylvania County tax records prior to 1864.

Many of Colbert's business receipts are contained in the collection of family papers. The Colbert brothers stocked their stores with dry goods purchased from wholesale businesses in Baltimore. They purchased many of their grocery items in Fredericksburg. The number of receipts and correspondence would indicate that the Colberts maintained close commercial ties with a number of Baltimore merchants and that Richard Colbert frequently travelled there on business. Freight bills show that much of the merchandise the Colberts purchased in Baltimore reached the Thornburg store via the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad (Colbert Papers).

Richard W. Colbert's success in business seems to be reflected in the increase in the building assessment on his property between 1870 and 1871. During those years the value of Bunker Hill's buildings increased from $1,000 to $1,400 (SCR Land Books 1870-1871). At least one documented fire and perhaps some additional mishaps resulted in a period of rebuilding. Between 1871 and 1872, Colbert's Bunker Hill buildings fell in value from $1,400 to $750 (SCR Land Books 1871-1872). This decrease may be at least partially explained by changes in the overall assessment of land in the county. At the same time that the building assessment decreased, the value of the land at Bunker Hill was reduced from ten to six dollars per acre (SCR Land Books 1871-1872).

In August 1874, a serious fire destroyed much of the Bunker Hill house. The building assessment fell from $750 to $250 (SCR Land Books 1874-1875). In his "House Accounts" book for 1865-1875, Richard Colbert made mention of the blaze. During the following months, Colbert purchased 1,513 feet of "flooring," twenty-two loads of brick, locks, screws, shingles, and paint. He also noted that he made use of 7,000 feet of lumber "furnished out of my own woods" (Colbert Papers). By 1880, the building assessment at Bunker Hill had risen to $600 and remained at that figure until the end of the century (SCR Land Books 1880-1900).

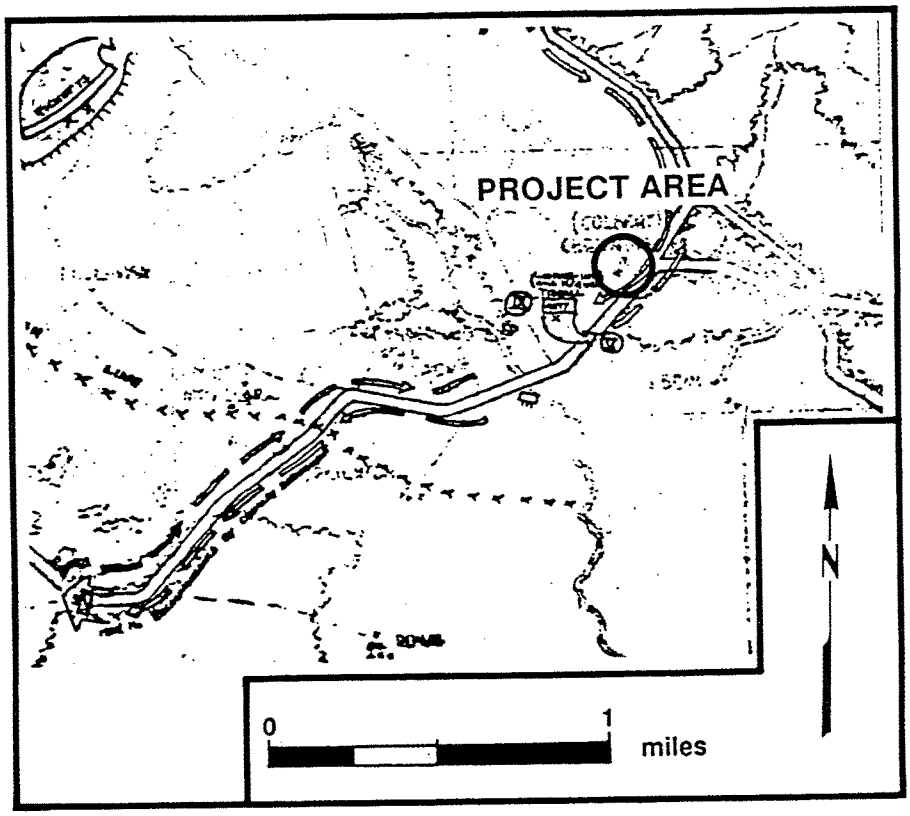

Figure 11. Troop movements at Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 17, 1864 (Happel n.d.).

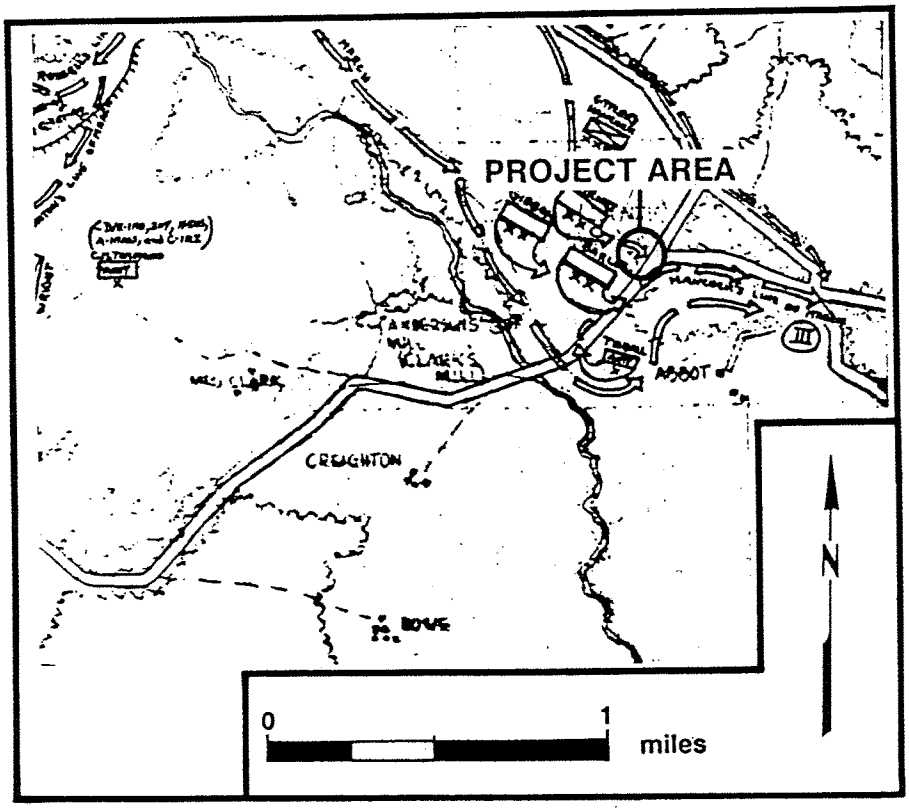

Figure 12. Troop movements at Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 17, 1864 (Happel n.d.).

HERE THEY COME!!

NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS!

FOR CASH AND PRODUCE ONLY.

OUR MOTTO IS QUICK SALES AND SMALL PROFITS!

The undersigned would most respectfully announce to the Citizens of Thornsburg, Va. and surrounding Country, that they have just returned from Baltimore, and are now receiving a Large and Desirable Stock of NEW GOODS, and can offer Superior Inducements to their customers. Our Stock is complete and purchased with an eye to the wants of this section, consisting of Dry Goods, a large stock of Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Groceries, Salt, Notions, Cutlery, Glassware, Queensware, Lamps, &c., &c.

Together with many other articles too numerous to mention, all of which have been bought at the very lowest market prices. We respectfully solicit a call, believing that we can make it to your interest to buy of us. We are determined to sell Goods at short profits for Cash.

Give us a call before purchasing elsewhere. Country Produce of all kinds taken in Exchange for Goods.

Thornsburg, Spottsylvania Co., Va., Fall 1874. R. W. COLBERT & BRO.

Hanzsche & Co., Printers, Light and Baltimore Streets, Baltimore, Md.

Figure 13. Handbill from R. W. Colbert's Store in Thornburg, Virginia (1874).

While Richard Colbert seems to have directed most of the business enterprises involving the family partnership, his brother James devoted his energies to the local political scene. In the early 1870s, James T. Colbert served as the supervisor of Berkley Township in Spotsylvania County. He was also a local leader in the conservative Democratic party that came into prominence in Virginia after Reconstruction. James T. Colbert fell seriously ill sometime in the early to mid-1870s. His brother's personal account book shows that he journeyed to Richmond and consulted the eminent physician, Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire. In the summer of 1876, apparently in despair over his deteriorating health, James T. Colbert took his own life while visiting relatives in Stafford County. A newspaper article, clipped from a Fredericksburg journal and included among Richard W. Colbert's papers, gives a detailed and rather grisly account of the tragedy (Colbert Papers).

After rebuilding the house at Bunker Hill, Richard Colbert began insuring his property. The earliest policy found among his papers dates from 1876 and was issued by the Richmond Banking and Insurance Company. Colbert insured his home for $1,200. In the 1876 policy, the house as Bunker Hill was described as a "two-story frame dwelling house, 44 feet by 18 feet" with a story and a half addition measuring "26 by 16 feet" (Colbert Papers).

Beginning in 1879, Colbert also insured two barns which stood on the property. The larger of the two barns measured 44 by 64 feet and stood 150 yards from the house. Colbert insured the building for $500. A smaller barn, apparently closer to the house, measured 20 by 26 feet "with sheds on the west and south." This building was insured for $300 (Colbert Papers). Thus, the insured value of the buildings at Bunker Hill ($2,000) was more than three times the assessed value given in the county land tax books ($600), indicating that the latter was not a reliable indicator of market value. In his account books, Colbert made mention of a blacksmith shop on the property. It seems likely that the shop may have been housed in one of the sheds attached to the small barn. Colbert continued to update the policies on his house and barns throughout his lifetime and frequently changed insurance carriers. At various times he owned policies written by the Niagara Insurance Company of New York, the Georgia Home Insurance Company, and the City Fire Insurance Company of Richmond (Colbert Papers).

By 1884, Colbert owned a total of three stores. Among his papers there are insurance policies for two of them. In addition to the store at Thornburg, Colbert operated establishments at Guinea Station and Bethany Church (sometimes called Germantown or Goodloe Post Office). The Bethany Church store stood at what is now the intersection of Routes 603 and 605. In 1880, he insured the Guinea Station store (which included a dwelling as noted above) for $1,000. An 1884 policy for his Bethany Church business described the building as a "New Store" which was insured for $400 (Colbert Papers). Colbert kept detailed account books for each of his businesses in which he carefully recorded the goods that were purchased, and the prices paid. Echoing the racial attitudes of the late nineteenth century, he also kept a series of what he called "Negro Books." These ledgers were used to keep track of the purchases and accounts of his African-American customers (Colbert Papers).

According to his own records, Richard W. Colbert owned over 1,500 acres of land in 1883-1884 (Colbert Papers). Only about half of his real estate was situated in Spotsylvania County (SCR Land Books 1880-1890). In 1879, he was forced by his creditors to obtain a mortgage on his real estate. In a rather unusual incident, Colbert was legally blocked by his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Beazley, from including the family home at Bunker Hill in the deed of trust necessitated by the mortgage. At Mrs. Colbert's express insistence, the Bunker Hill tract was transferred to her name (SCR Deed Book WW:265).

In 1887, Richard W. Colbert was named Treasurer of Spotsylvania County. Before assuming the post, he was required to post a bond for $30,000. He transferred much of his real estate in trust to what apparently were his political associates (SCR Deed Book ZZ:502). Colbert held the position of county treasurer until his death in 1893. He was survived by his widow, Mary Elizabeth Colbert and at least four children (SCR Deed Book A-F:159).

In June 1894, Lucian R. Colbert purchased his father's Bunker Hill farm from his mother, two brothers, and sister (SCR Deed Book A-F:195). Lucian R. Colbert clearly inherited his father's aptitude for business and soon after he acquired Bunker Hill he began investing in real estate. By 1897, he owned five tracts of land totalling nearly 800 acres in addition to the Bunker Hill property (SCR

Land Book 1897). Much of this real estate may have been used to supply his lumber business. Colbert also owned a contracting business and was responsible for the construction of many of the improved roads in the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania area in the early twentieth century (Colbert Papers).

In 1900, Colbert oversaw some minor improvements to the Bunker Hill property as the building assessment increased from its long-standing valuation of $600 to $800 (SCR Land Books 1899-1900). In 1911, the assessment increased again, this time to $1,020 (SCR Land Book 1911). In 1915, the most significant period of construction during Lucian R. Colbert's ownership took place. The 1916 county land tax book indicates that the building assessment more than doubled, from $1,020 to $2,500, within a single year (SCR Land Books 1915-1916). In 1921 it increased to $3,000 (SCR Land Book 1921).

World War I to Present (1914-Present)

The improvements made on Bunker Hill farm during the period, 1916-1921 may reflect Colbert's success in the automobile business. In 1913, Colbert purchased a commercial lot on Princess Anne Street in Fredericksburg that had formerly been the site of the Southern Foundry and Machine Works (SCR Fiduciary Book J:187). It was apparently on this site that he opened the Fredericksburg Motor Company, one of the earliest automobile dealerships in the region (Colbert Papers). In the 1930s, Colbert acquired additional commercial real estate in Fredericksburg. In 1931, he purchased a large retail store on Caroline Street "known as the Woolworth Building" which he rented to the F.W. Woolworth Company. In 1934, he purchased another building a few doors down the street which he leased to the W.T. Grant Company, another large retail chain (SCR Fiduciary Book J:187).

Throughout his career, Lucian R. Colbert continued to purchase real estate in Spotsylvania County. At the time of his death in 1944, he owned nineteen individual tracts of land in the county totalling 3,344 acres (SCR Fiduciary Book J:185). Colbert raised horses on his 300-acre Strawberry Hill tract. In 1944, when his estate was appraised, there were twenty-seven "blooded" horses on the property (SCR Fiduciary Book J:175,184).

In addition to his numerous business interests, Colbert also oversaw the activities at Bunker Hill, which appears to have been a highly productive farm during his lifetime. In 1922, Colbert's building assessment was increased owing to "machinery and other fixtures attached to the real estate" which were valued at $250 (SCR Land Book 1922). In 1927, the value of the Bunker Hill buildings increased to $4,000 (SCR Land Book 1927). Colbert appears to have hired a farm manager at some point and this increase may indicate that an additional house had been built on the property. A 1948 deed makes reference to a "house and buildings" that had been granted to one W.G. Davenport for life (SCR Deed Book 143:129). In the 1944 appraisement of Colbert's personal property a large amount of farm equipment was included in the inventory including tractors, corn planters, binders, and a hay baler. Colbert also raised livestock at Bunker Hill. In 1944, twenty-five head of cattle, one bull, and three mules were presented at an auction sale (SCR Fiduciary Book J:174-175).

Lucian R. Colbert was survived for only three years by his wife, Daisy Bullock Colbert. Mrs. Colbert died in 1947 at which time the Bunker Hill property devolved to the Colbert's daughter, Marguerite C. Rawlings and her husband, George C. Rawlings (SCR Will Book FF:262 and Deed Book 143:129). In 1948, the building assessment on the property increased from $4,000 to $6,300. This almost certainly reflects the construction of the house on the south side of Route 608 near the property's Ni River boundary. A 1951 plat of the Bunker Hill property shows that the new house was standing at that time (SCR Plat Book 10:85) (Figure 14). In 1957, Marguerite C. Rawlings conveyed the new house on the south side of Route 608 and 10.437 acres of land to her son, Richard C. Rawlings (SCR Deed Book 179:430). After the sale of this house and 10 acres, the building assessment on Bunker Hill was lowered to $4,300 nearly the level it had been prior to 1948 (SCR Land Books 1947-1958).

In 1972, Marguerite C. Rawlings died. In her will she left her husband, George C. Rawlings, a life interest in the Bunker Hill farm property. A few tracts of land had been sold from the original 340-acre farm. At her husband's death, her son Richard C. Rawlings was to inherit "the portion of my homeplace known as Bunker Hill Farm, including the

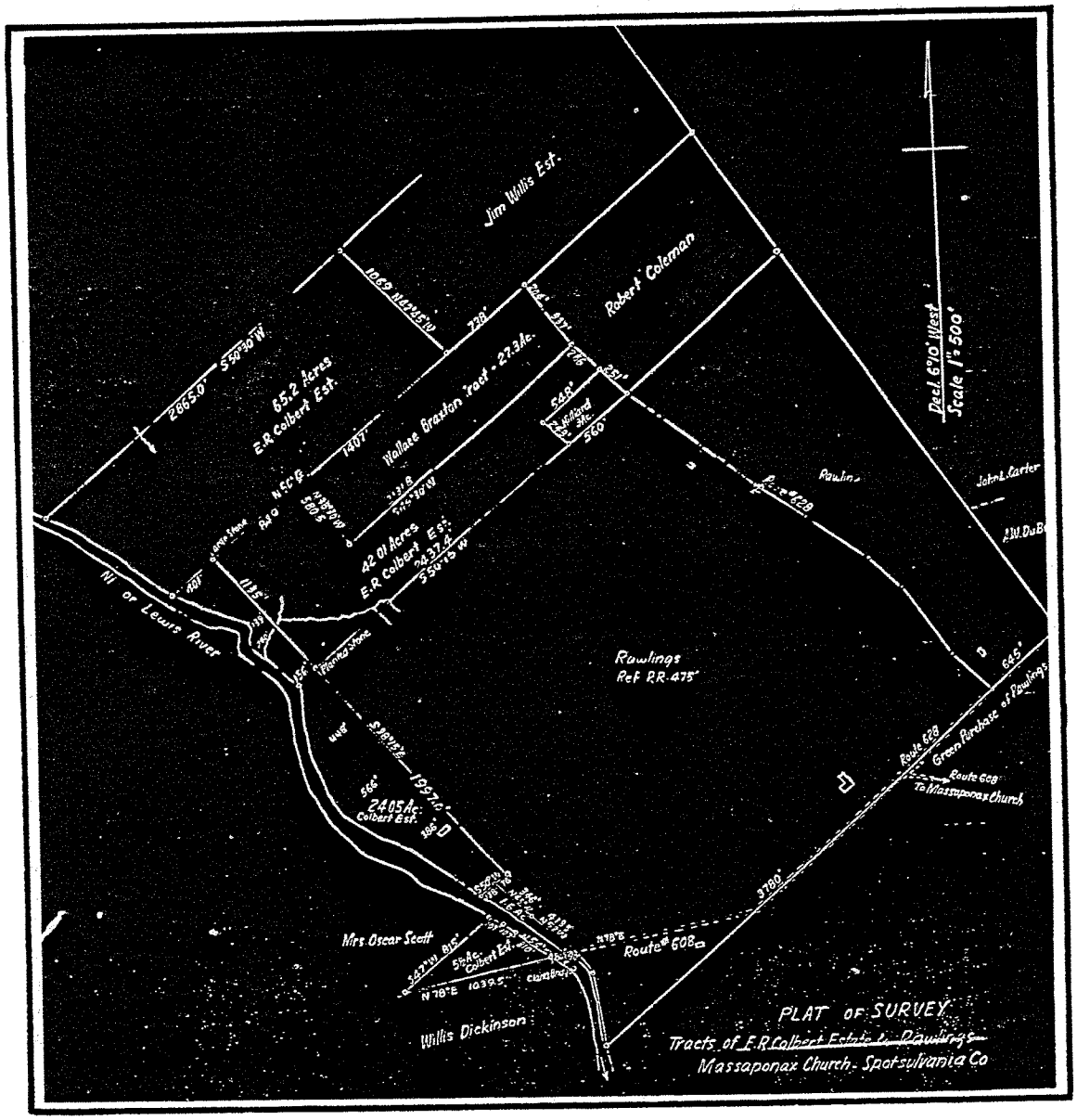

Figure 14. Plat of Bunker Hill (1951).

dwelling house whereon I reside, together with outbuildings and about 30 acres, more or less" (SCR Will Book MM:331). The remaining 280 acres of Bunker Hill were left to her son, George C. Rawlings, Jr (SCR Will Book MM:331).

In 1975, Richard C. Rawlings and his brother, George C. Rawlings recorded a "Boundary Line Agreement" in the county records. The document finalized the apportionment of the property stipulated in the will of Marguerite C. Rawlings (SCR Deed Book 374:281). A survey of the division and newly established boundary lines of the property was conducted, but the plat has yet to be entered into the county records and is consequently not available for inclusion of this report. George C. Rawlings, Jr. developed his portion of the property and the subdivision is now called "Bunker Hill Estates." Although the 1974 plat is missing from the records, the current Spotsylvania County tax plat of the area provides an illustration of how the Bunker Hill Farm was subdivided. The Bunker Hill house is currently located on the parcel designated "24B" (Spotsylvania County 1992) (Figure 15).

In 1987, Richard C. Rawlings sold an eight-acre parcel of the old farm to Otis and Rebecca Light. The parcel included the Bunker Hill farm house and nearby outbuildings (SCR Deed Book 748:58). A plat was prepared of the Light's property showing the location of the buildings on the newly-created eight-acre parcel (SCR Deed Book 748:60) (Figure 16). Since acquiring the property, the Lights have been actively restoring the house.

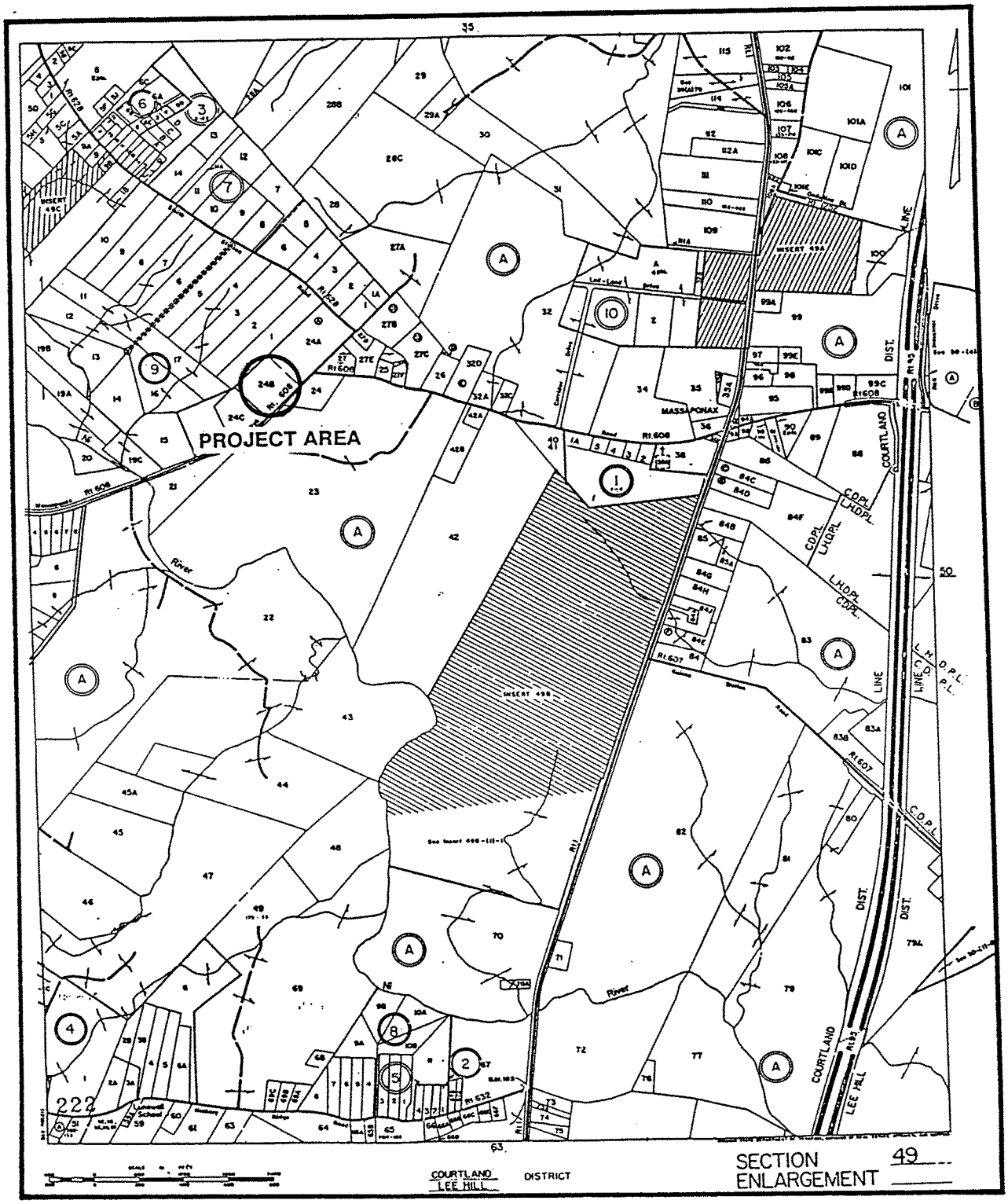

Figure 15. Spotsylvania County tax plat (1992).

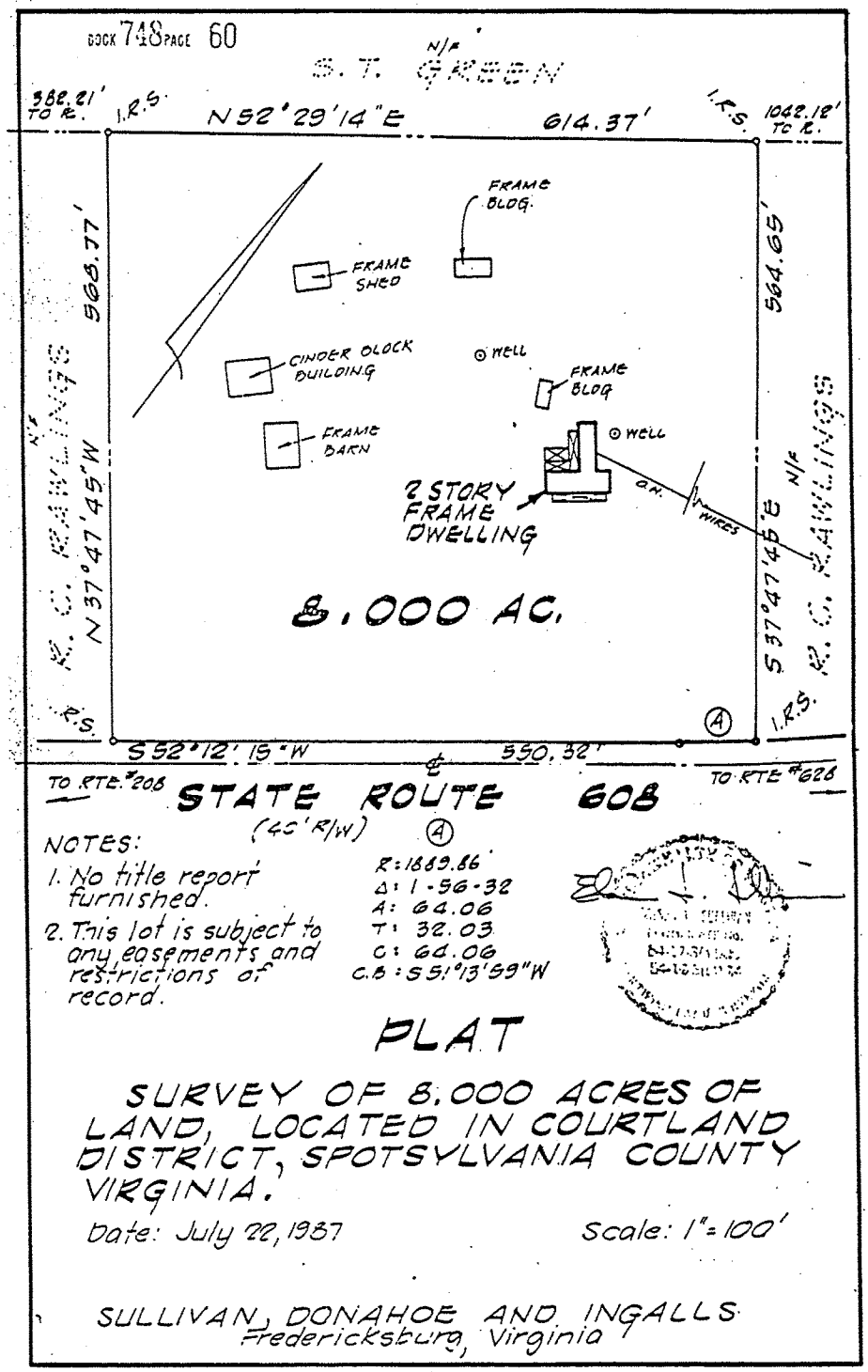

Figure 16. Plat of Light parcel (1987).

CHAPTER 3:
Architectural Evaluation of Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill

Architectural Evaluation

Bunker Hill is a typical nineteenth-century building form, an I-house. The house was initially built in 1840, and was the homeplace of the Colbert family from 1863 to 1987. R. W. Colbert, the family patriarch, ran a store in Thornburg after the Civil War. Bunker Hill retains most of its outbuildings, except for a barn which has fallen down. Except for the barn, the farmstead is intact. The Colbert family cemetery is now disconnected from the house and is located on a separate piece of property.

The I-house is a vernacular structure derived from the Georgian house plan that revolutionized eighteenth-century domestic architecture in North America. The I-house became a nineteenth-century architectural statement of agrarian success in the eastern United States. The I-house's cultural power and importance lies in the fact that these houses were culturally accepted over a large geographical area, and the house form remained largely unchanged. The sheer number of I-houses is testament to an incredibly important cultural process. The I-house is a common middle-class architectural form. R. W. Colbert was a small shop owner and member of the rural middle-class. The I-house is a nineteenth-century architectural and cultural symbol of agrarian prosperity that demonstrated R. W. Colbert's position in the community.

The I-house, a highly codified form, is composed of several key architectural elements (Figure 17). The hallmarks of the form are two-story height, single pile depth, center passage, and gable-end chimneys. These architectural elements are no longer clearly visible at Bunker Hill, having been altered through an accretionary building process (Figures 18 and 19). Although Bunker Hill's original floor plan consisted of two rooms flanking a center passage, this has been transformed by modern alterations and two additional building phases (see Figure 17). Bunker Hill is a two-story, single pile farmhouse, with original dimensions of 44 by 18 feet. Bunker Hill underwent three building phases, including initial construction in 1840. The second building phase entailed the complete reconstruction of Bunker Hill after a devastating fire in 1874 and the construction of a one-and-one-half-story ell located on the east half of the north elevation (Figure 20). The last building phase included a kitchen extension on the ell, the raising of the complete ell to two stories, and a room extension on the main portion of the house (see Figure 20). A Colonial Revival broken pediment decorates the primary entrance on the south elevation (Figure 21).

The original primary entrance on the south elevation is through a center passage that connected to two flanking rooms (Figure 22). The primary second floor stairs ascends from the center passage (Figure 23)(see Figure 17). The passage is back lit by a fixed four-pane transom and three-pane sidelights flanking the entrance. Mark Wenger asserts that passages not only functioned as an "instrument of control," but also as a living space (Wenger 1986). To promote the active use of the space, windows were placed opposite the doors to create an active and pleasant flow of air through the passage, staying cool in Virginia's stifling heat is particularly important in the summer months. As such, a door was located directly across from the primary entrance that now enters the kitchen ell (see Figure 17). The two rooms on the first floor are public spaces, while the private spaces are on the second floor.

The primary public room flanks the passage to the east. Rooms and interior spaces are finished in a hierarchial fashion, which indicates social importance and primacy. The east room has Bunker Hill's finest finish, even though the baseboard is plain and undecorated and no chair rail existed. This is most likely Bunker Hill's formal living room or, in eighteenth-century terms, the parlor (Figure 24). It has direct access to the passage via the largest doorway in the house. The entrance to the west room is tucked behind the stairs and cannot be seen

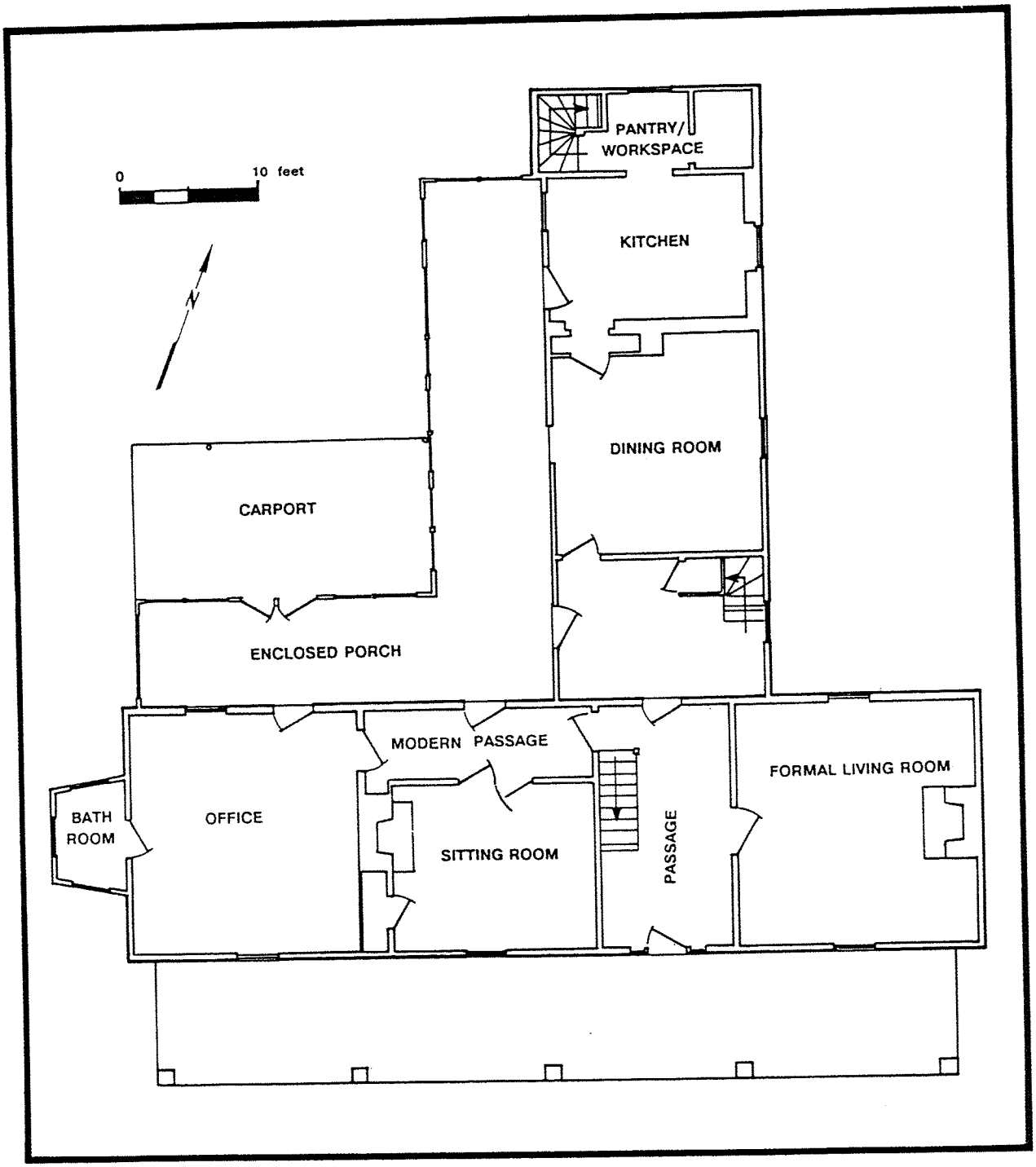

Figure 17. Floor plan of Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill.

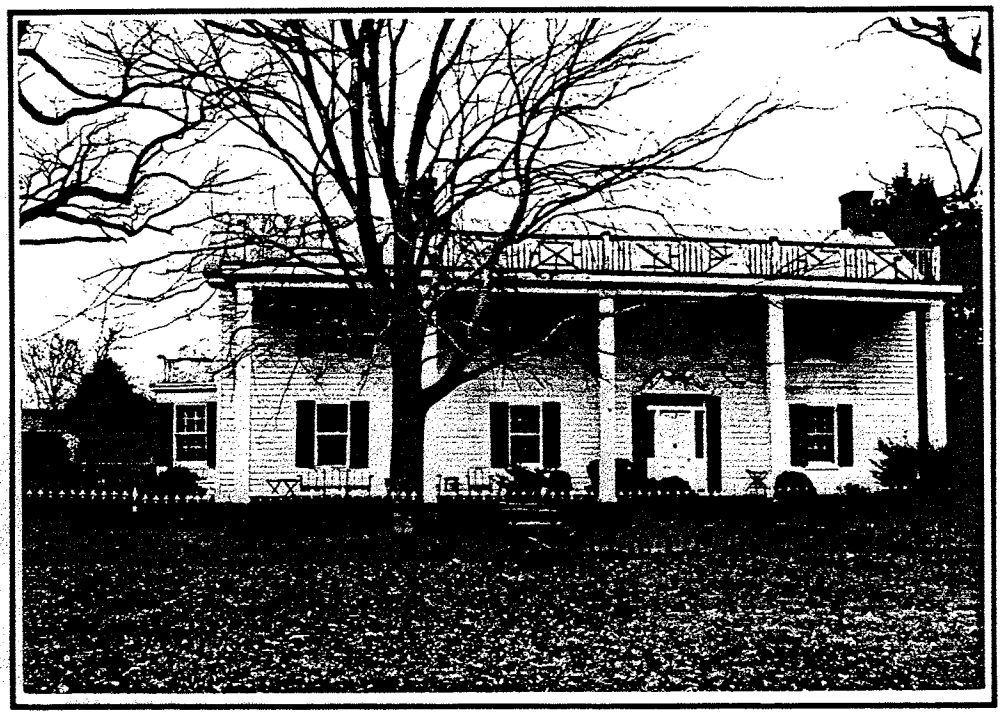

Figure 18. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, south elevation.

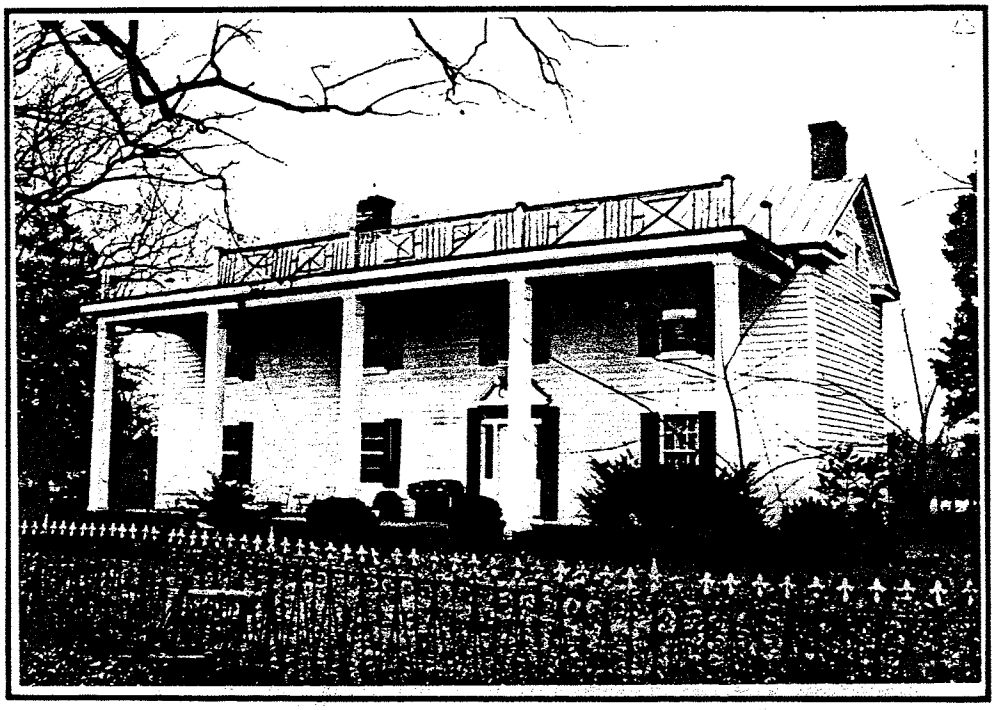

Figure 19. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, south and east elevations.

Figure 20. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, north and west elevations.

Figure 21. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, broken pediment over front door on the south elevation.

Figure 22. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, center passage.

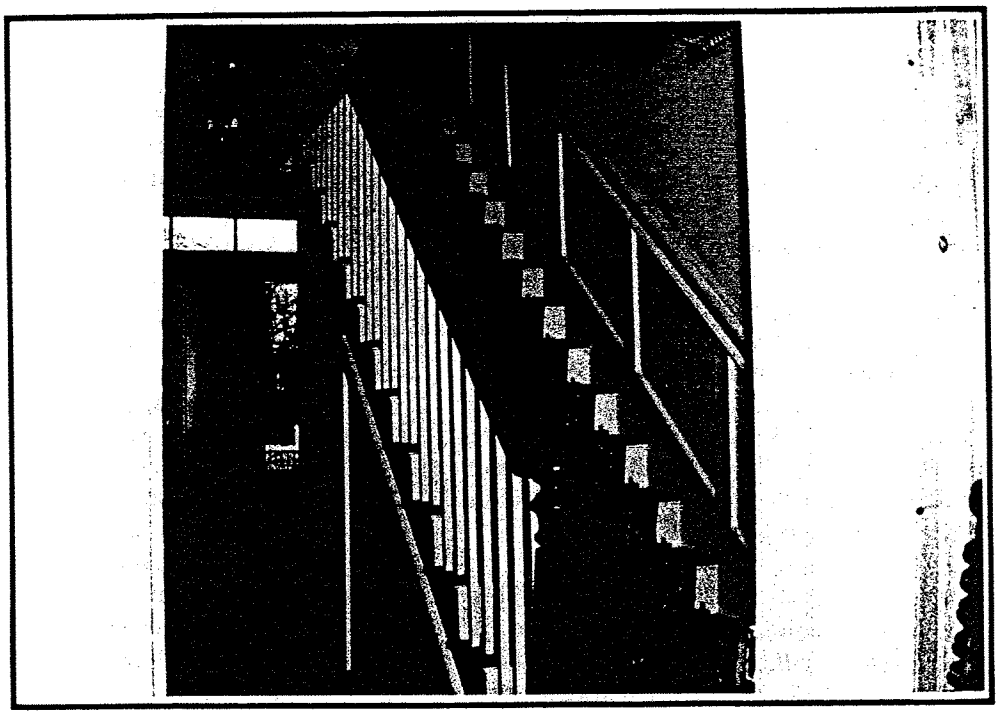

Figure 23. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, stairs in center passage.

Figure 24. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, formal living room with modern shelves.

from the entrance to the house. The west room is a less accessible space that would be used for more intimate friends and family.

The mantle in the east room is plain and austere. It is decorated with tapered columns that supports a plain frieze board and mantle shelf. The room is analogous to the hall. The current owner, a noted carpenter has cut a new passage from the west room for efficiency sake (Figure 25) (see Figure 17). This passage allows movement from the ell to the west half of the house. An early nineteenth-century architectural element survives in the west room. A late federal period mantle, possibly dating to the original construction of Bunker Hill, decorates the fireplace (Figure 26). A closet was cut into the space between the fireplace and the south elevation, probably during the 1915 building phase.

When R. W. Colbert rebuilt Bunker Hill in 1874, a one-and-one-half-story ell was added to the north elevation (see Figure 17). The ell was raised to a full two stories in 1915. The ell originally consisted of a dining room and an interior room housing an additional second floor stair (Figure 27). Gable-end returns on the east and west elevations were probably built in 1874. The second floor spaces have been tremendously altered through the addition of bathrooms and a secondary kitchen; however, evidence survives suggesting that the ell was originally one and one-half story. An uneven joint between the main house and the ell demonstrates architecturally that the ell was raised to two stories after its initial construction (Figure 28). The first floor dining room is decorated with a chair rail, and contains a stove flue on the north elevation (Figure 29). The door lock between the dining room and the interior room is dated 1872.

The last building phase in 1915 resulted in the addition of a kitchen extension on the ell, a room extension on the west end of the main section, raising the ell to a full two stories, and the erection of the entrance gate and cow fence. The room extension on the west end of the main section of Bunker Hill has a big bay window that has been transformed into a bathroom. It was probably originally conceived as a small sitting room; bay windows are a staple of middle-class Victorian architectural design (Clark 1986). The room extension also has a Victorian false fireplace mantle, similar to the one found at Hickory Thicket in Richmond County (Hudlow et al. 1992)

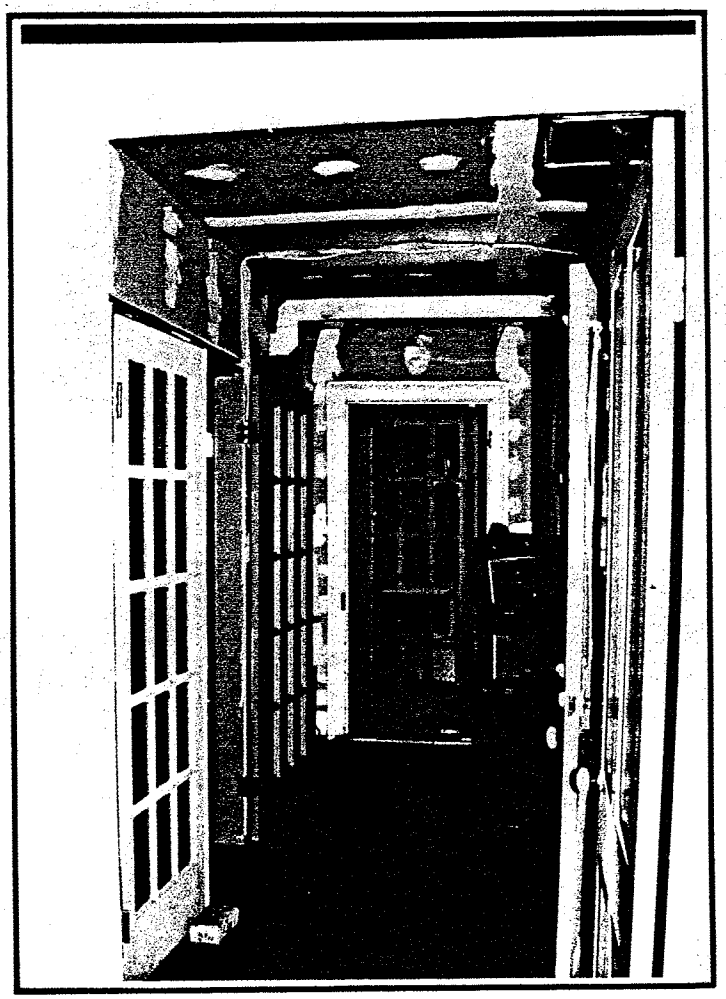

Figure 25. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, modern passage in the west room.

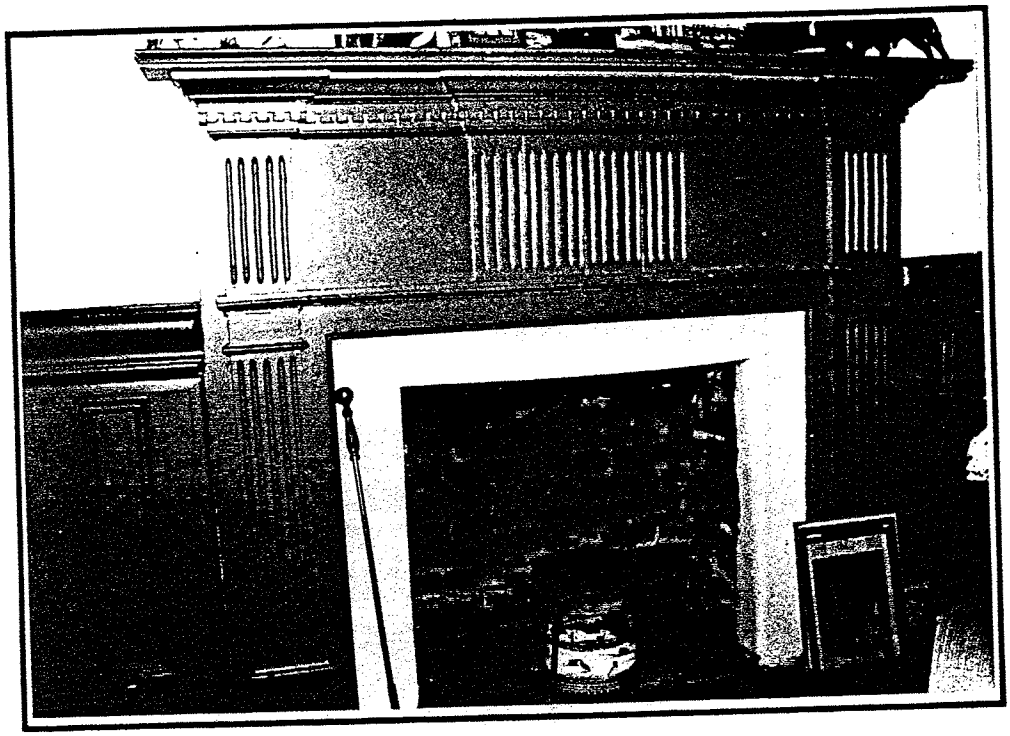

Figure 26. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, Federal-period mantle in the west room.

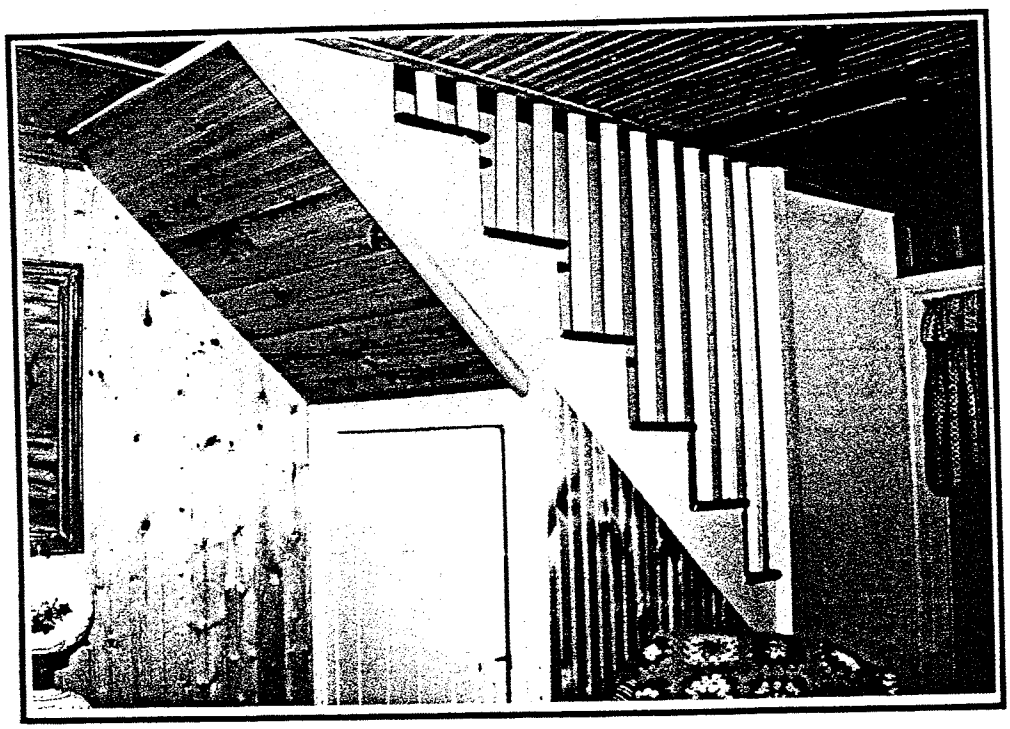

Figure 27. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, second floor stairs in the ell.

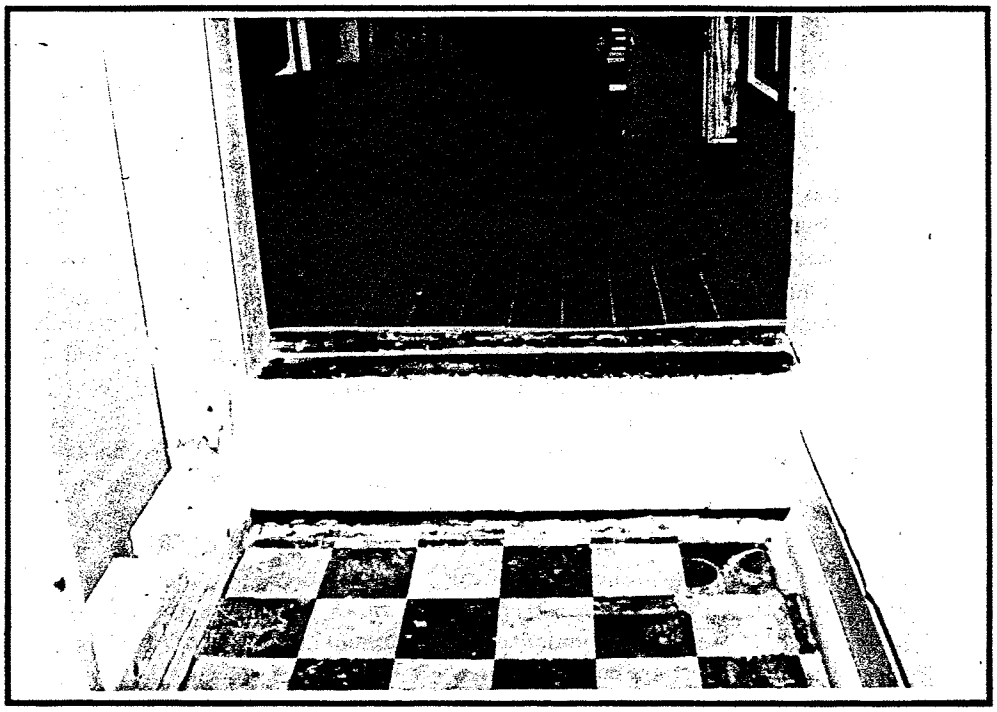

Figure 28. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, uneven second floor joint between the original house and the ell.

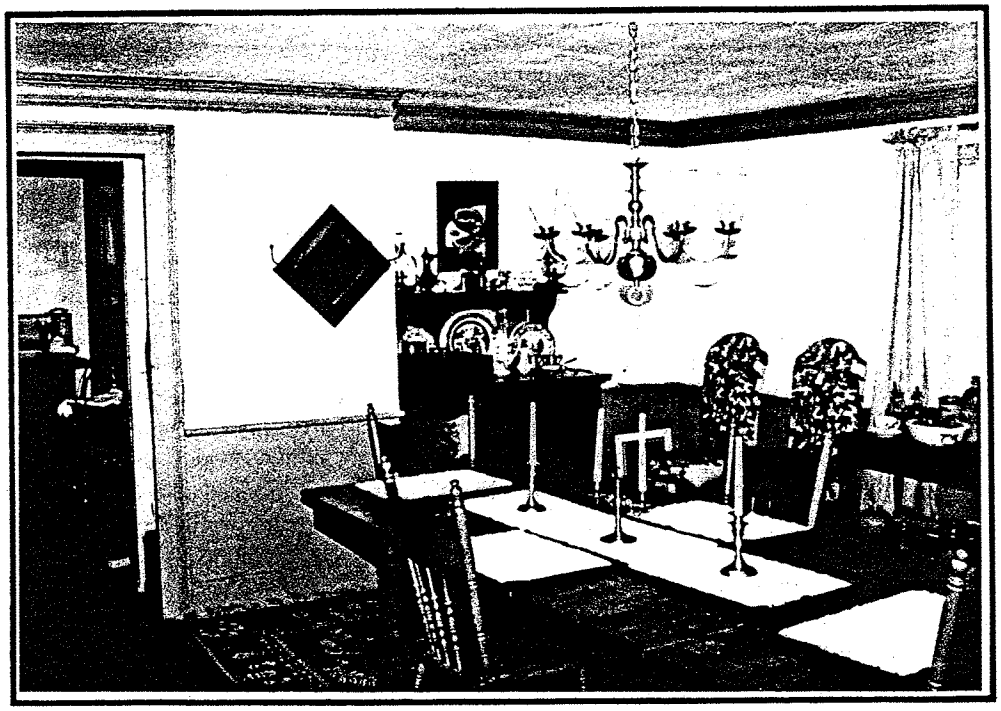

Figure 29. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, historic dining room in the ell.

(Figure 30). Interestingly, the wall behind the false fireplace mantle has been pierced and bricks have been placed where the firebox would be located to give the appearance of a working fireplace (see Figure 17).

A kitchen was attached to the end of the ell during this same building phase. The kitchen is composed of two parts; the kitchen and a pantry. A constricted service stair that accessed the servant's quarters on the second floor is located in the pantry (see Figure 17). The kitchen was modernized approximately five years ago by the current owners. The kitchen walls have a double thickness because new materials were laid directly over the original walls (Figure 31).

The large four-bay porch with two-story columns and a Chinese roof balustrade dates to the 1940s (Wenger and Downing 1992). The 1940s porch unifies the entire south elevation; the older porch probably did not resemble the current porch. Evidence survives that suggests a one-story porch supported by Tuscan columns and Ionic capitals decorated with volutes (Figure 32). In addition to the column in the second floor bedroom, an identical capital was found on the property.

The current owners, Otis and Rebecca Light, have initiated a new phase of construction during the last six years. Bunker Hill was in need of general repairs when the Lights purchased the house. Otis Light, a noted carpenter in Alexandria, Virginia, has begun a general remodelling of Bunker Hill. Most of the trim is modern and has been constructed by Mr. Light; it is particularly noticeable in the passage (Figure 33). The book cases in the east room were also built by Mr. Light (see Figure 24). The wrap-around porch on the north and west elevations was enclosed by Mr. Light, who also cut the passage from the west room (Figure 34) (see Figure 25). The secondary kitchen and the two bathrooms on the second floor were also constructed by Mr. Light (Figures 35 and 36).

The second floor is a collection of bed chambers and service spaces. The second floor plan mirrors the first floor. A secondary kitchen has been installed in the second floor passage, and the two rooms west of the passage were combined to create a large master suite (see Figure 32). The east room over the parlor is still intact, and contains an identical mantle (Figure 37). The spaces over the ell also have not been remodelled. The room over the kitchen was formerly a servant's quarters.

Bunker Hill was a 340-acre working farm in the late-nineteenth century. R. W. Colbert ran three stores and probably had resident laborers working the farm. Historical evidence suggests Colbert did not live at Bunker Hill until after 1874. The farmstead retains most of its outbuildings, except a barn and shed which have collapsed in recent years. The farmstead consists of several outbuildings including a corncrib, a detached kitchen, a capped well, a laborer's dwelling, and a concrete block farm building (Figure 38). The corncrib has a pair of attached drive-through sheds (Figure 39). The detached one-story kitchen is decorated with a gingerbread vergeboard; a small shed has been attached to the north elevation (Figures 40 and 41). The concrete block farm structure is the only non-contributing element at Bunker Hill (Figure 42).

The final outbuilding is an 1874 laborer's house that dates to the main building phase (Figures 43, 44, and 45). It is a two-story, two-room plan dwelling raised on brick piers; a two-family dwelling that shares a central chimney. The structure's dimensions are 32 by 18 feet. It resembles a slave dwelling; however, the building materials and construction techniques suggest a post Civil War construction date. This house would have been used as a two-family slave dwelling if it had been constructed before the Civil War. This laborer's dwelling suggests that social conditions for free labor were not extremely different from those for bound labor. It also suggests that Bunker Hill's freed slaves may have continued on at the farm after emancipation (Litwack 1979).

The rooms are identical; large unobstructed spaces with constrictive stairs to the attic, a closet, and a fireplace (Figures 46 and 47). The attic space is equally divided between the two units, which possibly housed two families (Figure 48). The attic appears to have been heated by stoves. The roof and rafters reveal the most detailed information about the structure's age. The rafters are attached by a ridge board, a post-Civil War construction technique, and the materials can be plainly seen to have been circular sawn (Figures 49 and 50).

A heavily overgrown family cemetery is currently located on an adjacent piece of property

Figure 30. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, Victorian false fireplace in the first floor addition.

Figure 31. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, modern first floor kitchen.

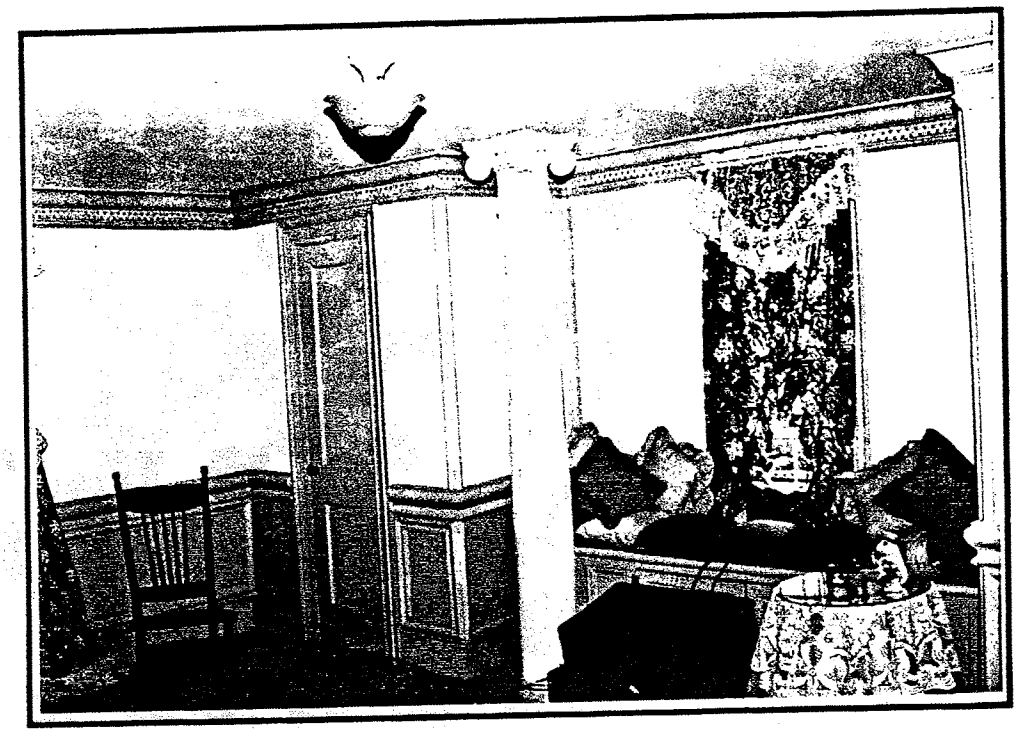

Figure 32. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, second floor bedroom in the addition (note the decorative use of a Tuscan porch support in the bedroom).

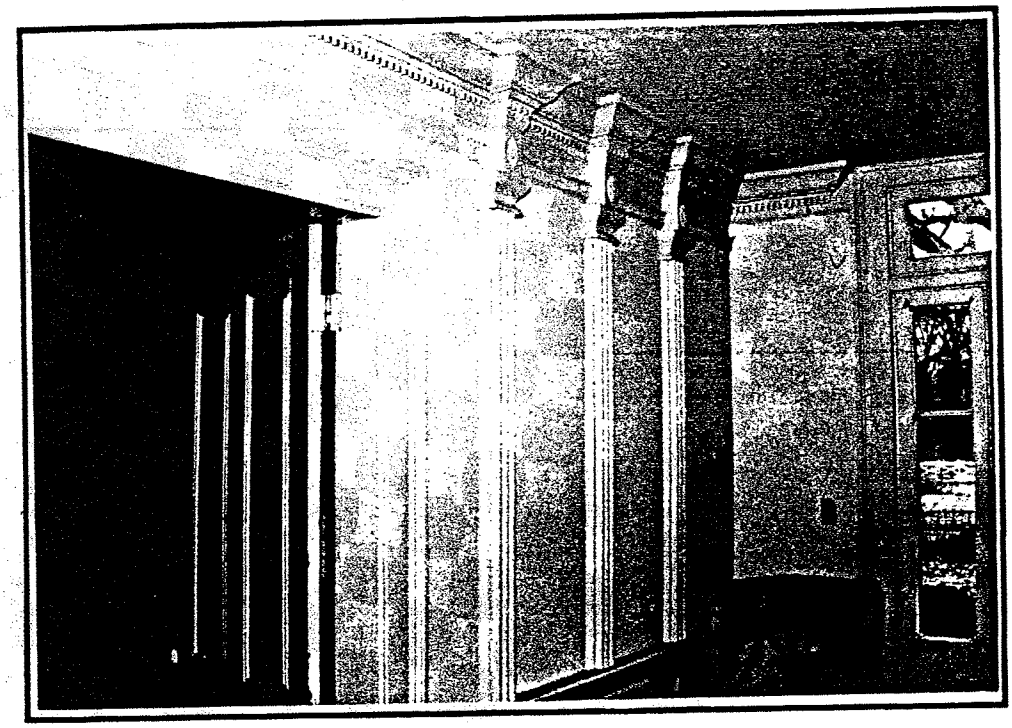

Figure 33. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, modern detailing and decorative trim in center passage.

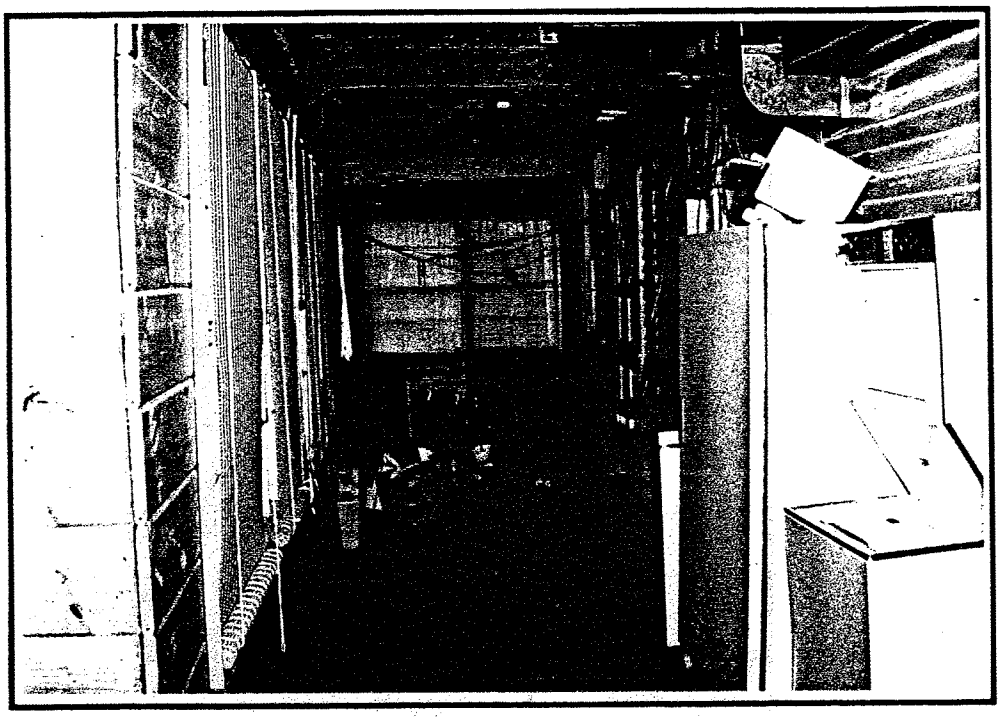

Figure 34. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, enclosed porch on north and east elevations.

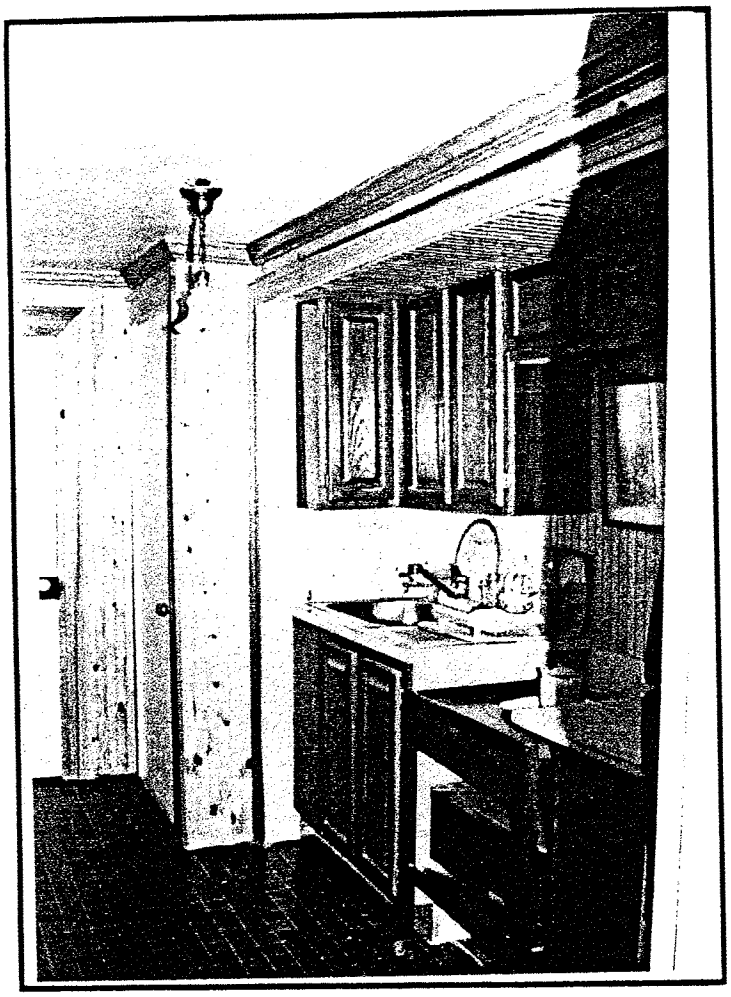

Figure 35. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, second floor kitchen in center passage.

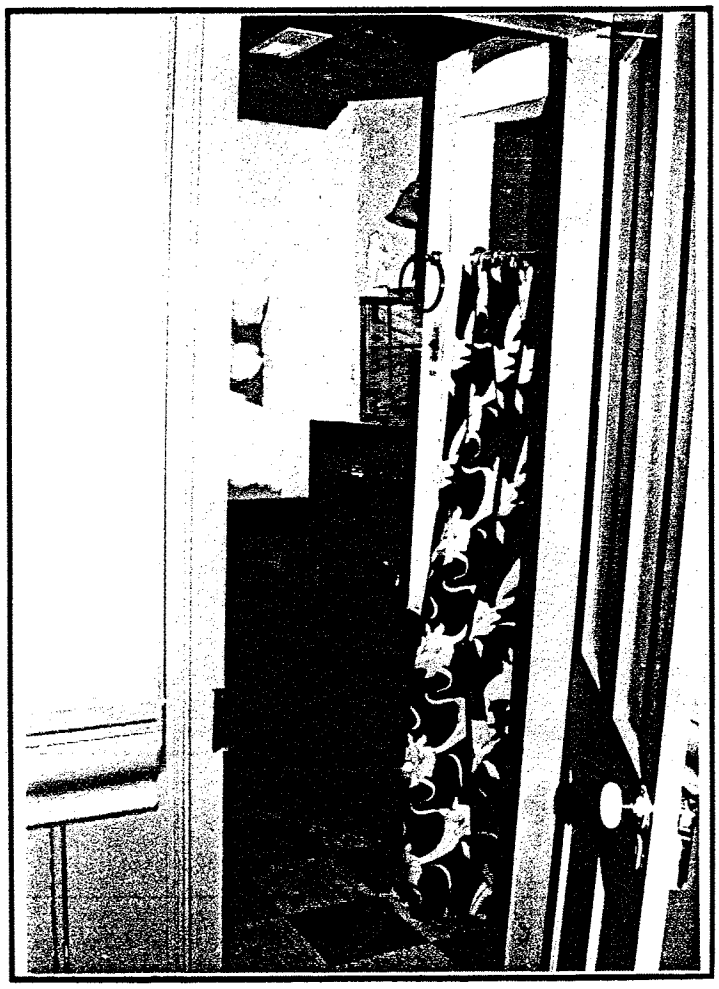

Figure 36. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, second floor bathroom.

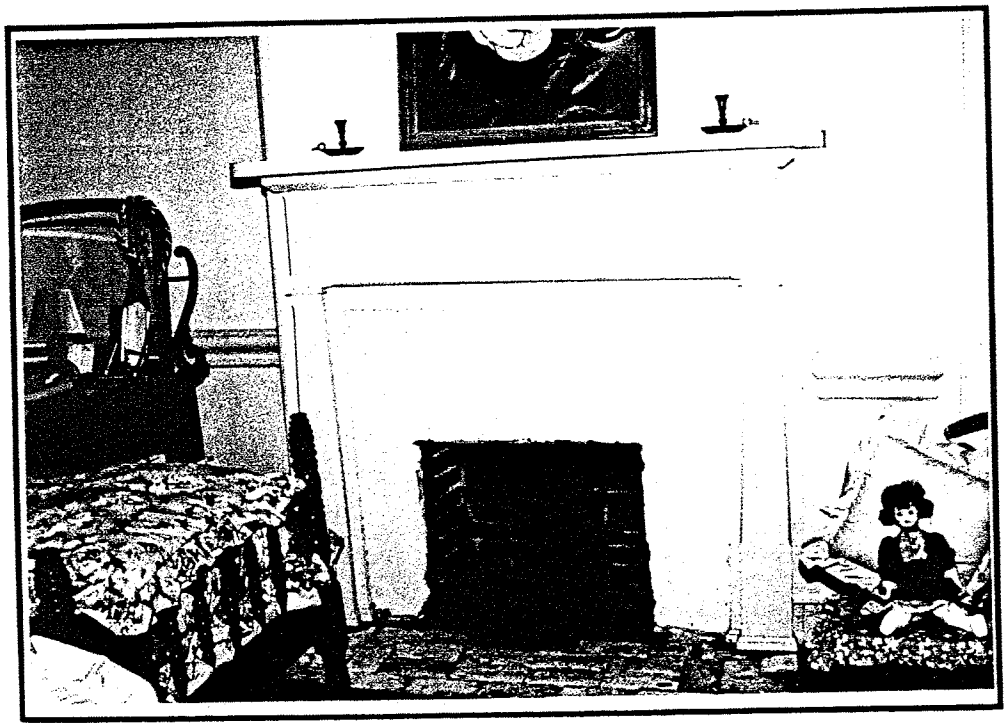

Figure 37. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, original mantle in a second floor bedroom.

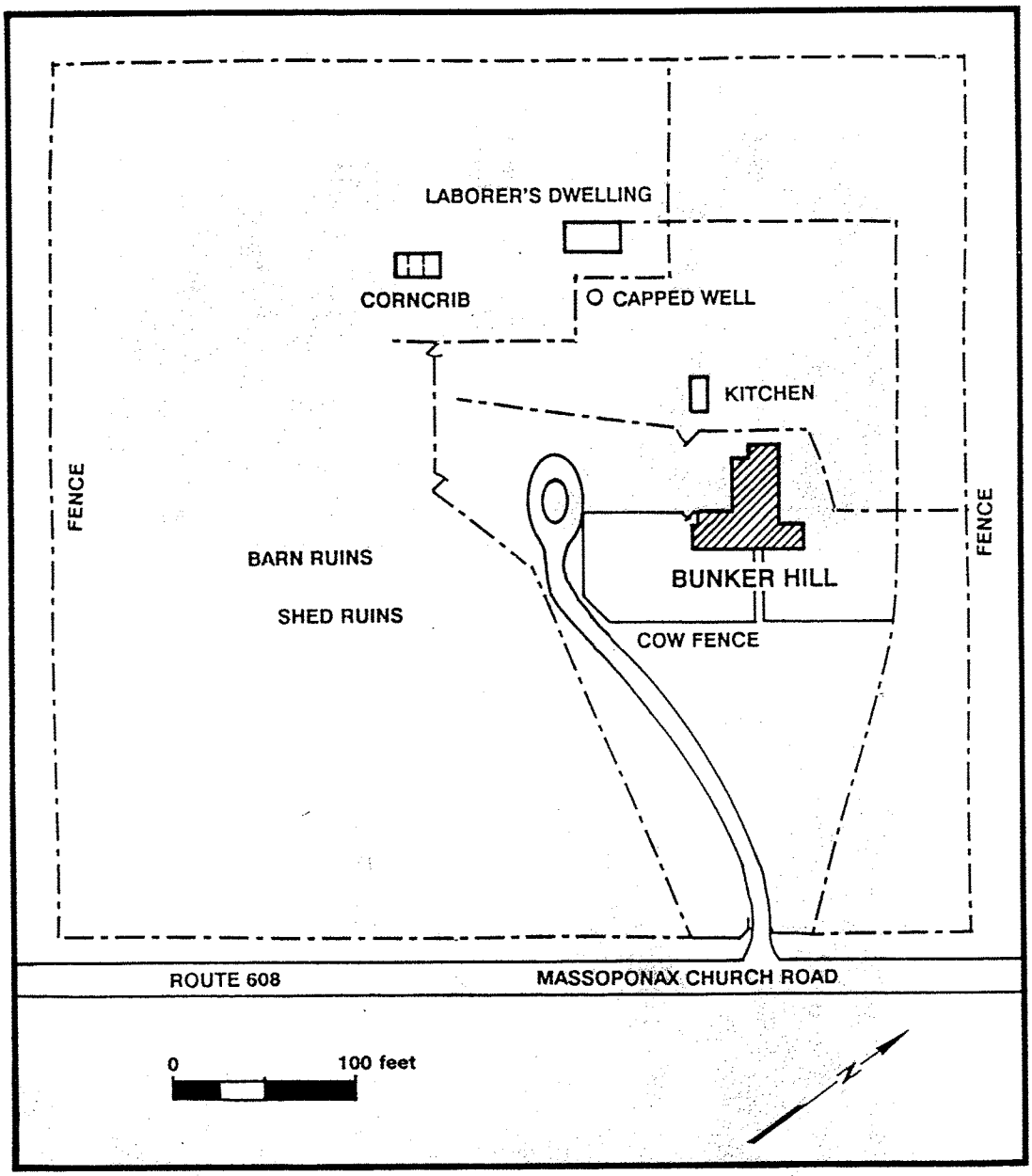

Figure 38. Farmstead Plan of Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill.

Figure 39. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, corn crib with attached drive-through sheds.

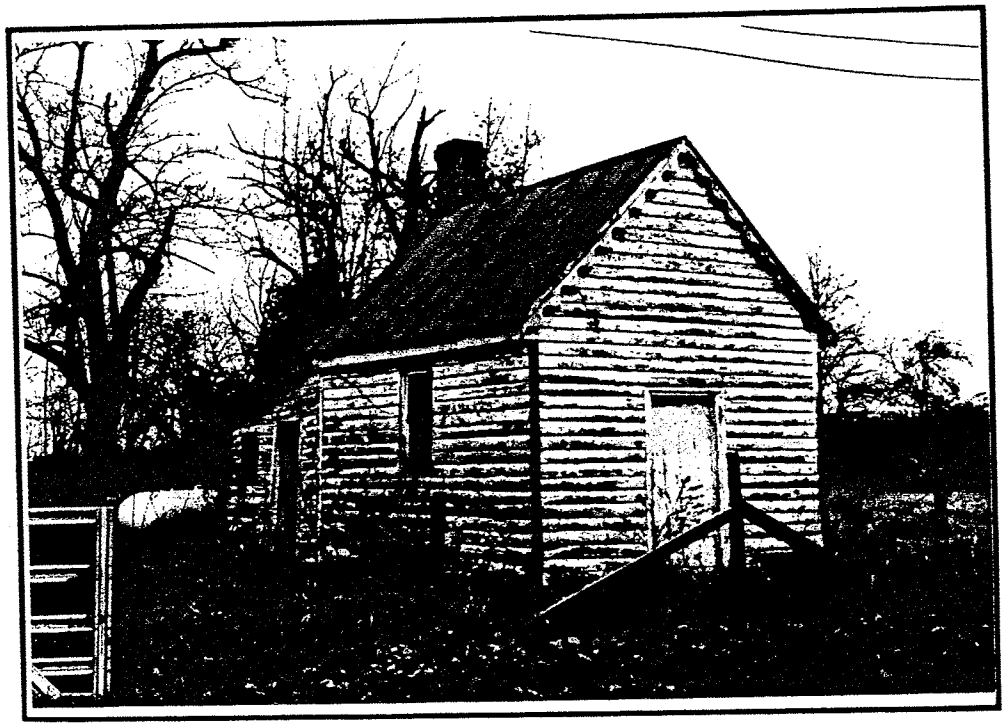

Figure 40. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, kitchen, south and west elevations.

Figure 41. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, kitchen and Bunker Hill from the northwest.

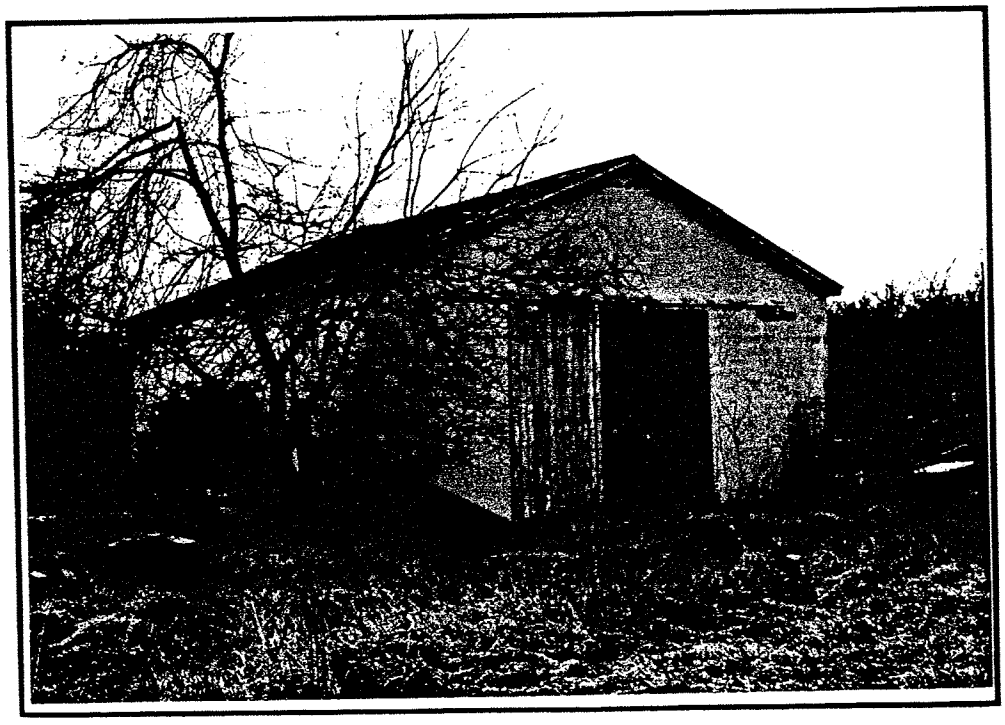

Figure 42. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, non-contributing concrete block farm structure.

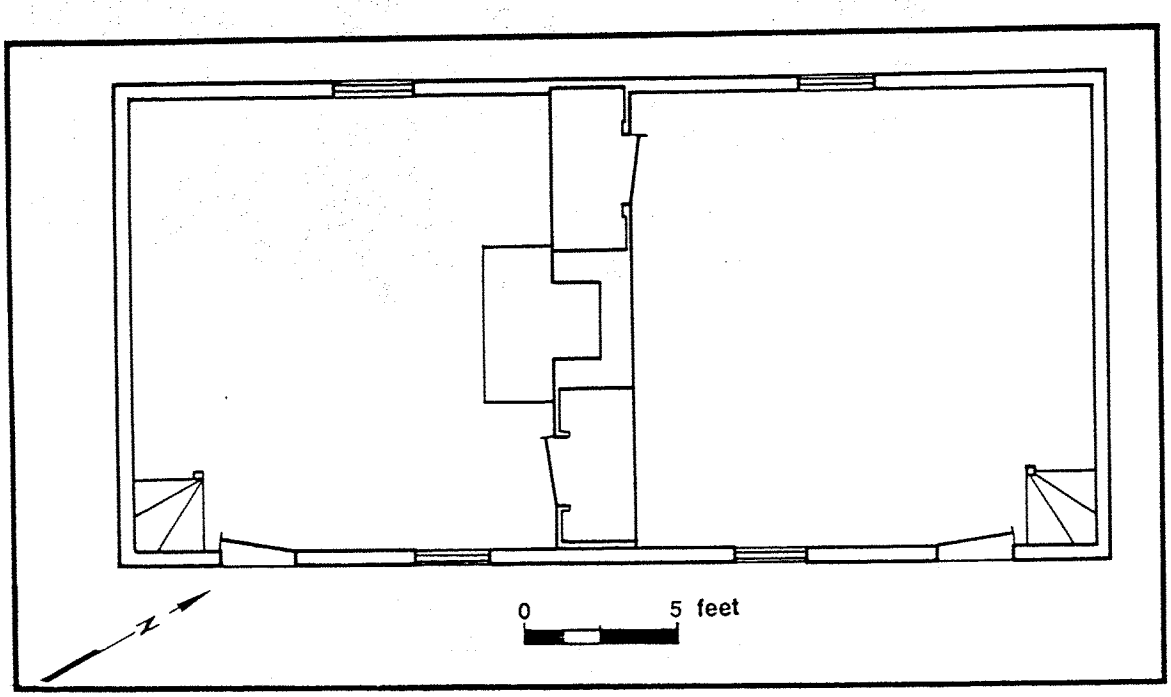

Figure 43. Floor plan of laborer's dwelling at Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill.

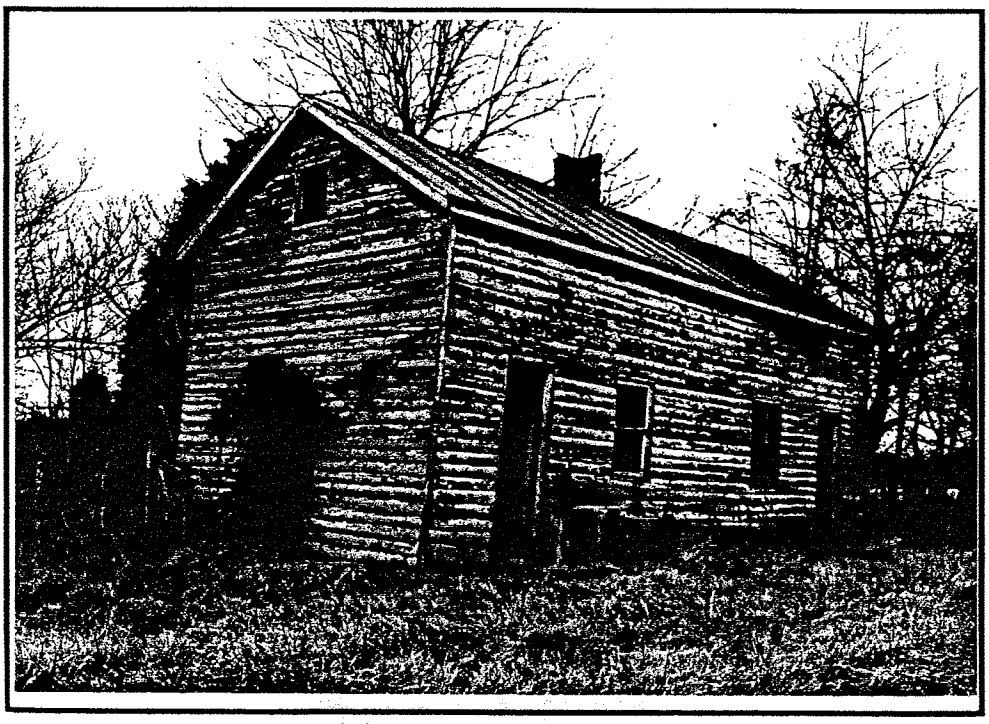

Figure 44. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, laborer's dwelling, south and west elevations.

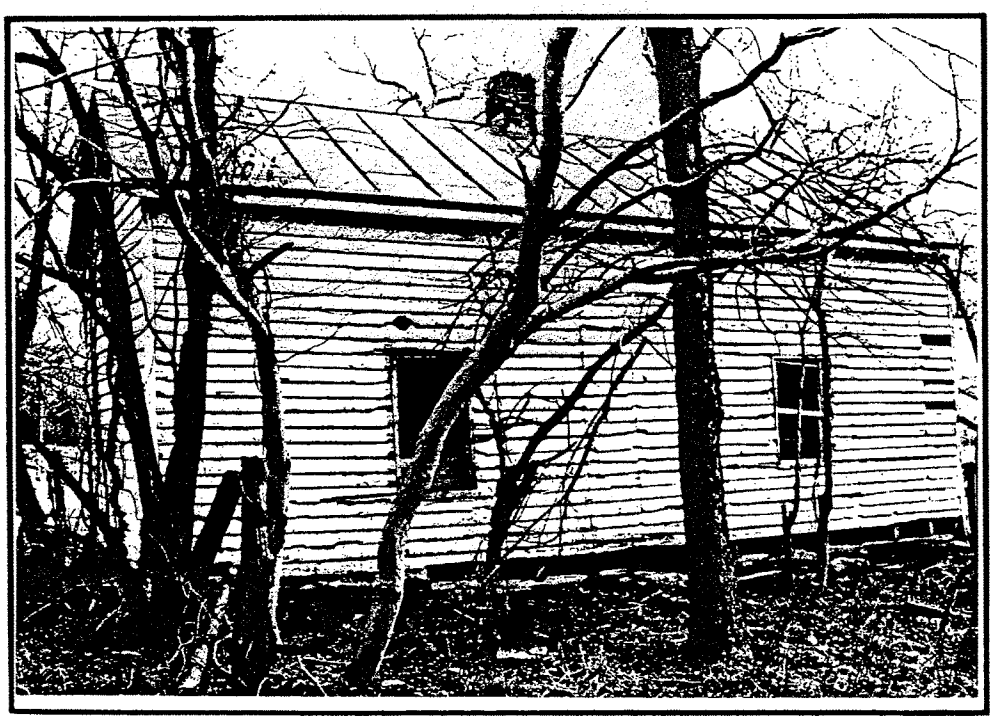

Figure 45. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, laborer's dwelling, north and east elevations.

Figure 46. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, laborer's dwelling, stairs to the attic.

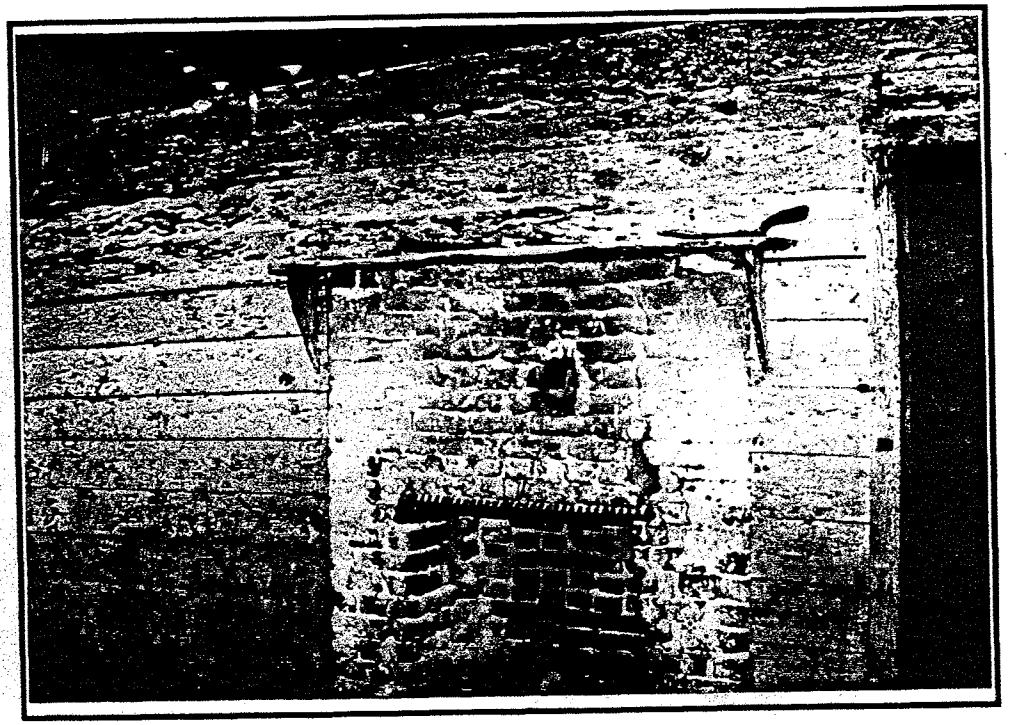

Figure 47. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, laborer's dwelling, fireplace.

Figure 48. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, laborer's dwelling, attic space.

Figure 49. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, laborer's dwelling, ridge board and rafters.

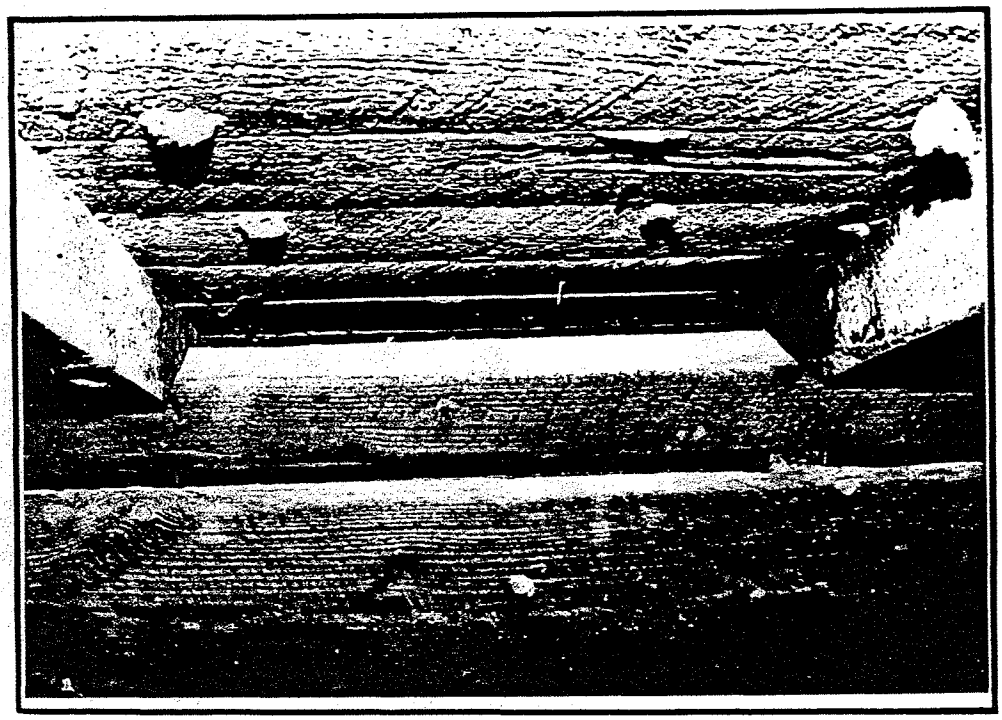

Figure 50. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, laborer's dwelling, detail of rafters cut to fit over the plate (note circular sawn rafters, plate, and roofing).

north of Bunker Hill's modern property boundaries. The cemetery is surrounded by a low concrete wall; the cemetery gate was constructed by the Cincinnati Iron Fence Company (Figures 51 and 52). The cemetery includes the grave of R. W. Colbert (Figure 53).

In addition to the construction of Bunker Hill's two additions in 1915, entrance gates and a cow fence were erected (Figures 54, 55 and 56). Bunker Hill's cast iron entrance gates are executed in an elaborate high Victorian style. Large bulbous finials cap each of the entrance gates. The cast iron gates do not appear to have been moved. The cow fence and gate are decorated with fleur-de-lis and lyre motifs. The gates and cow fence were built by the Stewart Iron Works Company of Cincinnati, Ohio (Figure 57). The Stewart Iron Works Company was founded in 1886. A 1906 advertisement stated, "We have the largest Iron Fence factory in the world" (Sweet's Catalogue 1906:319). The Stewart Iron Works Company were "Manufacturers of Iron and Steel Fence, Entrance Gates, Cemetery Arches, Iron Reservoir Vases, Lawn and Park Settees, Lawn and Drinking Fountains, Tree Guards, Hitching Posts, Wire and Iron Office and Balcony Railings, Window Guards, Cast-Iron Cresting, Stable Fittings, Cemetery Vault Gates, [and] Wrought Iron Grilles" (Sweet's Catalogue 1906:319). Fittingly, the Stewart Iron Works considered entrance gates a specialty.

Potential Impact

The proposed Route 608 Project entails the straightening of several curves along Route 608, Massaponax Church Road between Route 628, Smith Station Road and U.S. 1. The current paved surface of Massaponax Church Road is 240 feet south of Bunker Hill, and is barely visible from Bunker Hill's front porch (Figure 58). The proposed right-of-way is to be increased a variable distance between three and thirty-three feet, where Bunker Hill's driveway meets Massaponax Church Road, the right-of-way is to be increased twenty-five feet. Route 608's proposed new paved surface, however, is to be moved south away from the Bunker Hill property to ease the curve at the intersection of Massaponax Church Road and Smith Station Road.

The project impacts the Bunker Hill property and requires the removal of the entrance gates protecting the approach to Bunker Hill. The entrance gates were executed in a high Victorian style by the Stewart Iron Works Company in 1915, during the last major building phase (Sweet's Catalogue 1906:319).

Architectural Summary and Recommendations

Bunker Hill is a large two-story I-house rebuilt in 1874 by R. W. Colbert. The original 1840 Bunker Hill burned in 1874, prompting R. W. Colbert to completely rebuild the original house. Bunker Hill is the first structure to be built on this land, previously part of several other plantations and farmsteads. In 1915, after R. W. Colbert died, the third major building phase occurred. A kitchen extension on the ell and a room extension on the west half of the main section of the house were built and the entrance gates and a cow fence were erected. Minor repairs have occurred since 1915.

Bunker Hill is **not eligible** for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Bunker Hill is a typical late nineteenth-century middle class farmstead for this area and period; it does not represent the work of a particular architect or builder and it is not an outstanding example of a building style or technology.

Figure 51. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, concrete wall surrounding family cemetery.

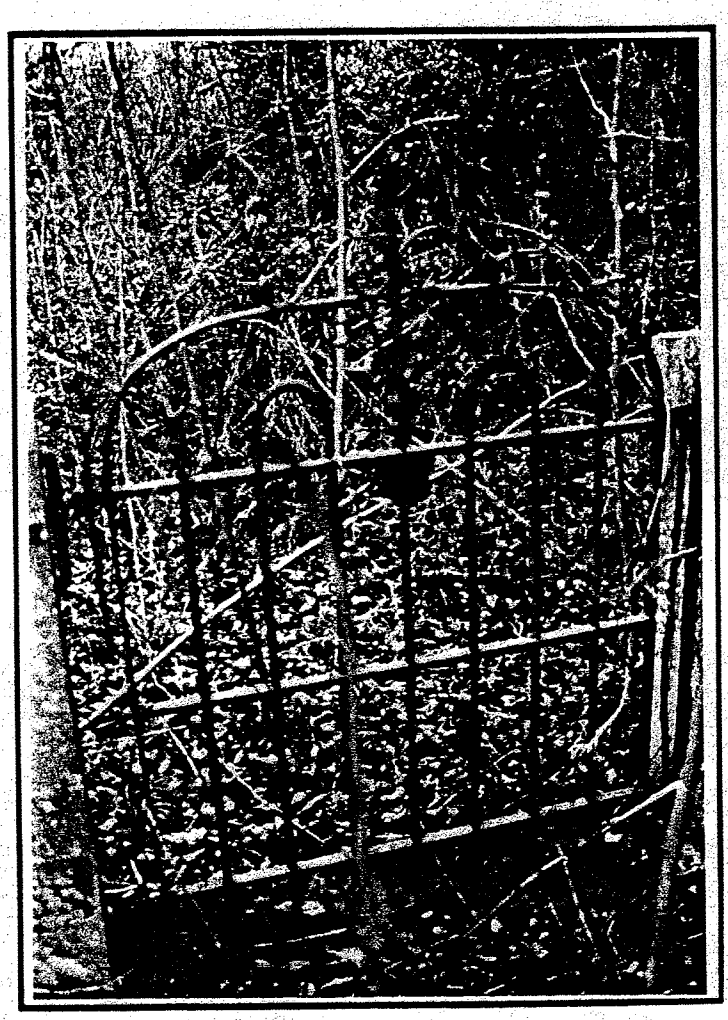

Figure 52. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, cemetery gate.

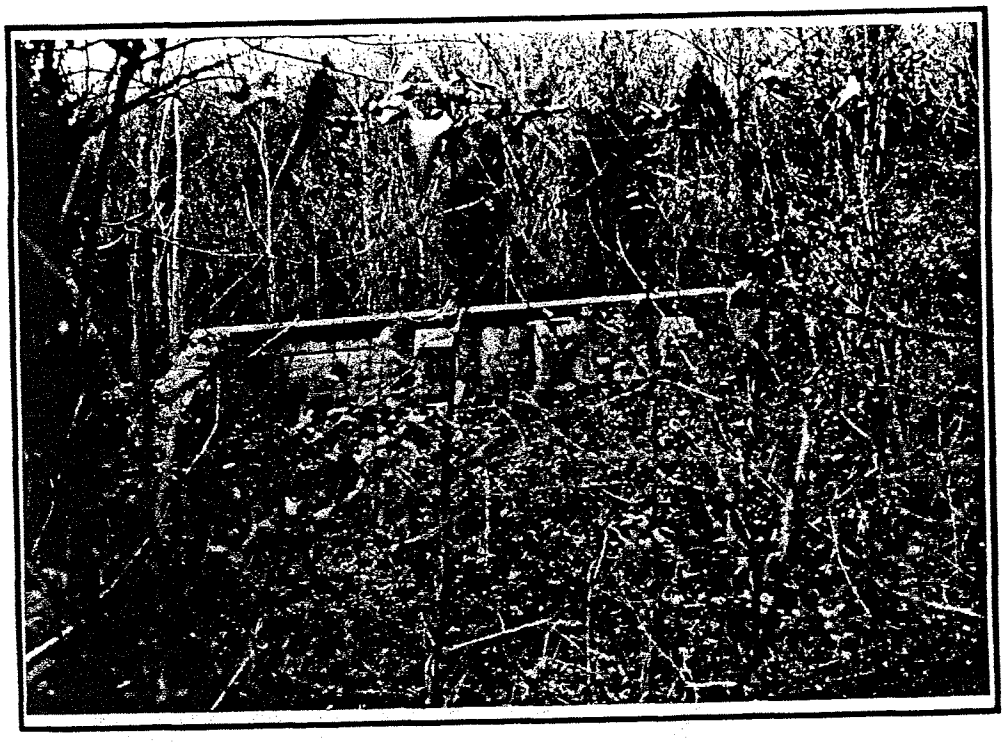

Figure 53. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, family cemetery.

Figure 54. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, front gate, looking north.

Figure 55. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, gate post.

Figure 56. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, cow gate, looking north.

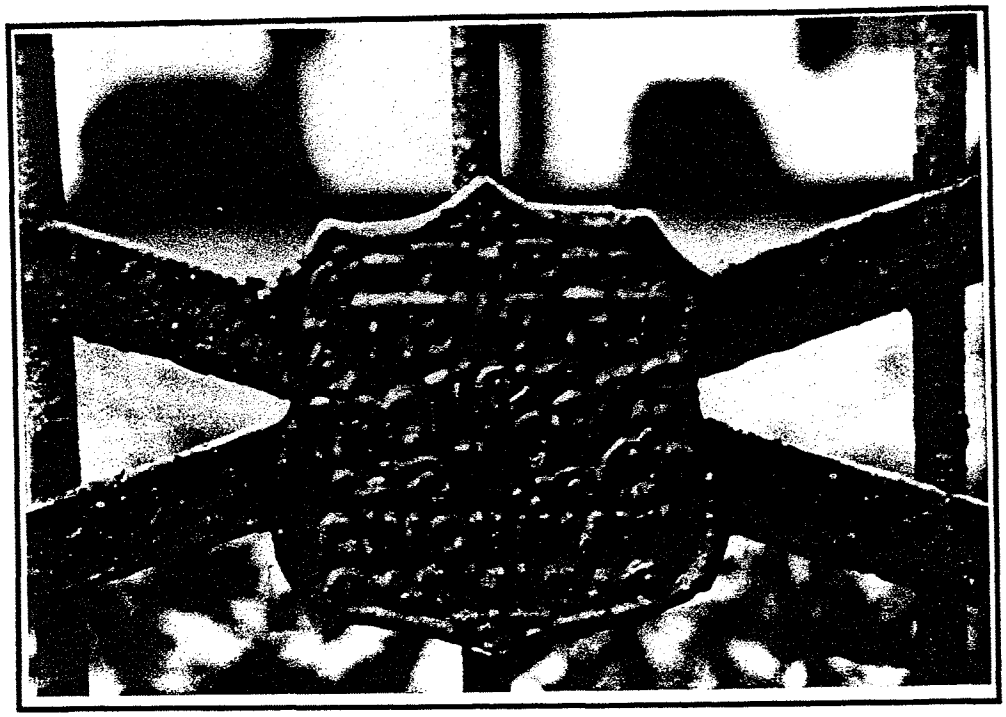

Figure 57. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, Stewart Iron Works medallion on cow gate.

Figure 58. Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill, view from Bunker Hill's porch towards Massaponax Church Road, Route 608.

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APPENDIX A

Title Chain for Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill

Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill

1)Date:1672
Grantor:Virginia Land Office
Grantee:Augustine Warner I
Instrument:Land patent for 10,000 acres
Reference:Felder 1982:205

2)Date:after 1672
Grantor:Augustine Warner I
Grantee:Augustine Warner II
Instrument:Will(?) 10,000 acres
Reference:Felder 1982:205

3)Date:after 1672
Grantor:Augustine Warner II
Grantee:John Smith and Mary Warner Smith
Instrument:Will(?) 3,333 acres
Reference:Felder 1982:205

4)Date:c.1735
Grantor:John Smith III
Grantee:John Willis
Instrument:Will, 3,333 acres
Reference:DB G:130

5)Date:before 1767
Grantor:John Willis
Grantee:William and Mary Willis Daingerfield
Instrument:Will,3,333 acres
Reference:DB G:130

6)Date:Oct. 17, 1780
Grantor:William Daingerfield
Grantee:William Daingerfield, Jr.
Instrument:Will, 2,300 acres
Reference:WB E:409

7)Date:before 1825
Grantor:William Daingerfield, Jr.
Grantee:Lewis Willis Daingerfield
Instrument:Will, 2,300 acres
Reference:DB Z:212

8)Date:January 1, 1825
Grantor:Lewis Willis Daingerfield
Grantee:Richard L. Stevenson and Robert Crutchfield
Instrument:Deed of Trust, 1,900 acres
Reference: DB Z:212

9)Date:August 8, 1828
Grantor:Stevenson and Crutchfield
Grantee:Rice C. Ballard and Samuel Alsop
Instrument:Deed for 1,900 acres
Reference: DB BB:495

10)Date:December 1832
Grantor:Rice C. Ballard
Grantee:Samuel Alsop
Instrument:Deed for moiety of 1,900 acres
Reference:DB EE:50

11)Date:July 21, 1834
Grantor:Samuel Alsop
Grantee:Thomas W. and Jane Alsop Anderson
Instrument:Deed for 1,479 acres
Reference:DB FF:403

12)Date:July 31, 1839
Grantor:Thomas W. and Jane Alsop Anderson
Grantee:John Abbott
Instrument:Deed for 450 acres
Reference:DB HH:244

13)Date:Oct. 29, 1859
Grantor:John Abbott
Grantee:Edwin Abbott
Instrument:Will, 340 acres
Reference: WB W:259

14)Date:May 4, 1863
Grantor:Edwin Abbott
Grantee:Richard W. Colbert
Instrument:Deed for 340 acres
Reference:DB RR:474

15)Date:June 2, 1894
Grantor:heirs of Richard W. Colbert
Grantee:Lucian R. Colbert
Instrument: Deed for 340 acres
Reference:DB A-F:195

16)Date:June 30, 1944
Grantor:Lucian R. Colbert
Grantee:Daisy M. Colbert
Instrument:Will, 340 acres
Reference:WB FF:262

17)Date:March 1, 1948
Grantor:Marguerite Colbert Rawlings, as executrix for Daisy M. Colbert
Grantee:Marguerite Colbert Rawlings
Instrument:Deed for 340 acres
Reference:DB 143:129

18)Date:1972
Grantor:Marguerite Colbert Rawlings
Grantee:Richard C. Rawlings
Instrument: Will, 30 acres
Reference:WB MM:331

19)Date:July 8, 1987
Grantor:Richard C. Rawlings
Grantee:Otis and Rebecca Light
Instrument:Deed for 8 acres
Reference: DB 748:58

Title Chain for Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill

Structure 88-27, Bunker Hill

1)Date:1672
Grantor:Virginia Land Office
Grantee:Augustine Warner I
Instrument:Land patent for 10,000 acres
Reference:Felder 1982:205

2)Date:after 1672
Grantor:Augustine Warner I
Grantee:Augustine Warner II
Instrument:Will(?) 10,000 acres
Reference:Felder 1982:205

3)Date:after 1672
Grantor:Augustine Warner II
Grantee:John Smith and Mary Warner Smith
Instrument:Will(?) 3,333 acres
Reference:Felder 1982:205

4)Date:c.1735
Grantor:John Smith III
Grantee:John Willis
Instrument:Will, 3,333 acres
Reference:DB G:130

5)Date:before 1767
Grantor:John Willis
Grantee:William and Mary Willis Daingerfield
Instrument:Will,3,333 acres
Reference:DB G:130

6)Date:Oct. 17, 1780
Grantor:William Daingerfield
Grantee:William Daingerfield, Jr.
Instrument:Will, 2,300 acres
Reference:WB E:409

7)Date:before 1825
Grantor:William Daingerfield, Jr.
Grantee:Lewis Willis Daingerfield
Instrument:Will, 2,300 acres
Reference:DB Z:212

8)Date:January 1, 1825
Grantor:Lewis Willis Daingerfield
Grantee:Richard L. Stevenson and Robert Crutchfield
Instrument:Deed of Trust, 1,900 acres
Reference: DB Z:212

9)Date:August 8, 1828
Grantor:Stevenson and Crutchfield
Grantee:Rice C. Ballard and Samuel Alsop
Instrument:Deed for 1,900 acres
Reference: DB BB:495

10)Date:December 1832
Grantor:Rice C. Ballard
Grantee:Samuel Alsop
Instrument:Deed for moiety of 1,900 acres
Reference:DB EE:50

11)Date:July 21, 1834
Grantor:Samuel Alsop
Grantee:Thomas W. and Jane Alsop Anderson
Instrument:Deed for 1,479 acres
Reference:DB FF:403

12)Date:July 31, 1839
Grantor:Thomas W. and Jane Alsop Anderson
Grantee:John Abbott
Instrument:Deed for 450 acres
Reference:DB HH:244

13)Date:Oct. 29, 1859
Grantor:John Abbott
Grantee:Edwin Abbott
Instrument:Will, 340 acres
Reference: WB W:259

14)Date:May 4, 1863
Grantor:Edwin Abbott
Grantee:Richard W. Colbert
Instrument:Deed for 340 acres
Reference:DB RR:474

15)Date:June 2, 1894
Grantor:heirs of Richard W. Colbert
Grantee:Lucian R. Colbert
Instrument: Deed for 340 acres
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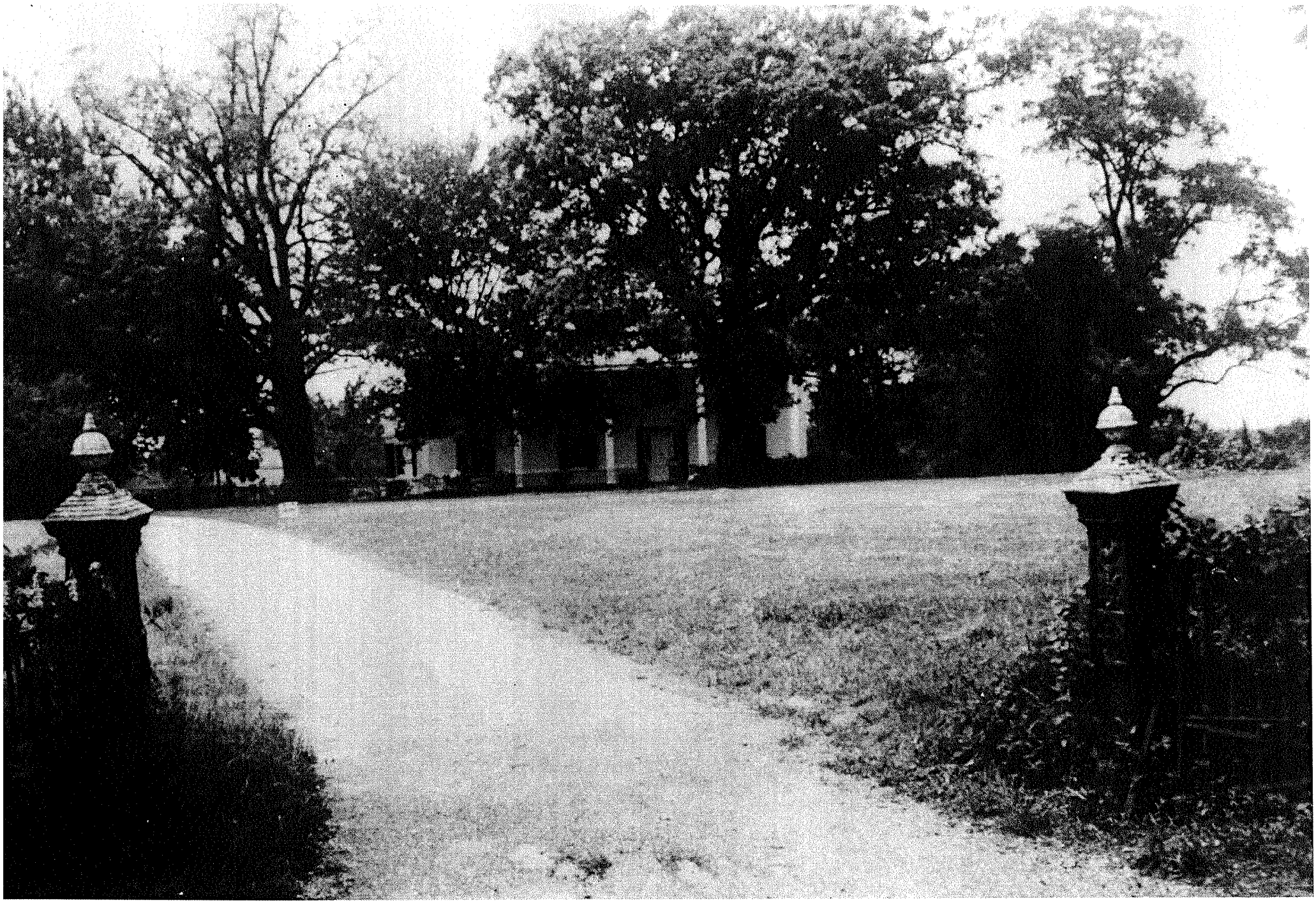
19)Date:July 8, 1987
Grantor:Richard C. Rawlings
Grantee:Otis and Rebecca Light
Instrument:Deed for 8 acres
Reference: DB 748:58



Iron Gate - Bunker Hill

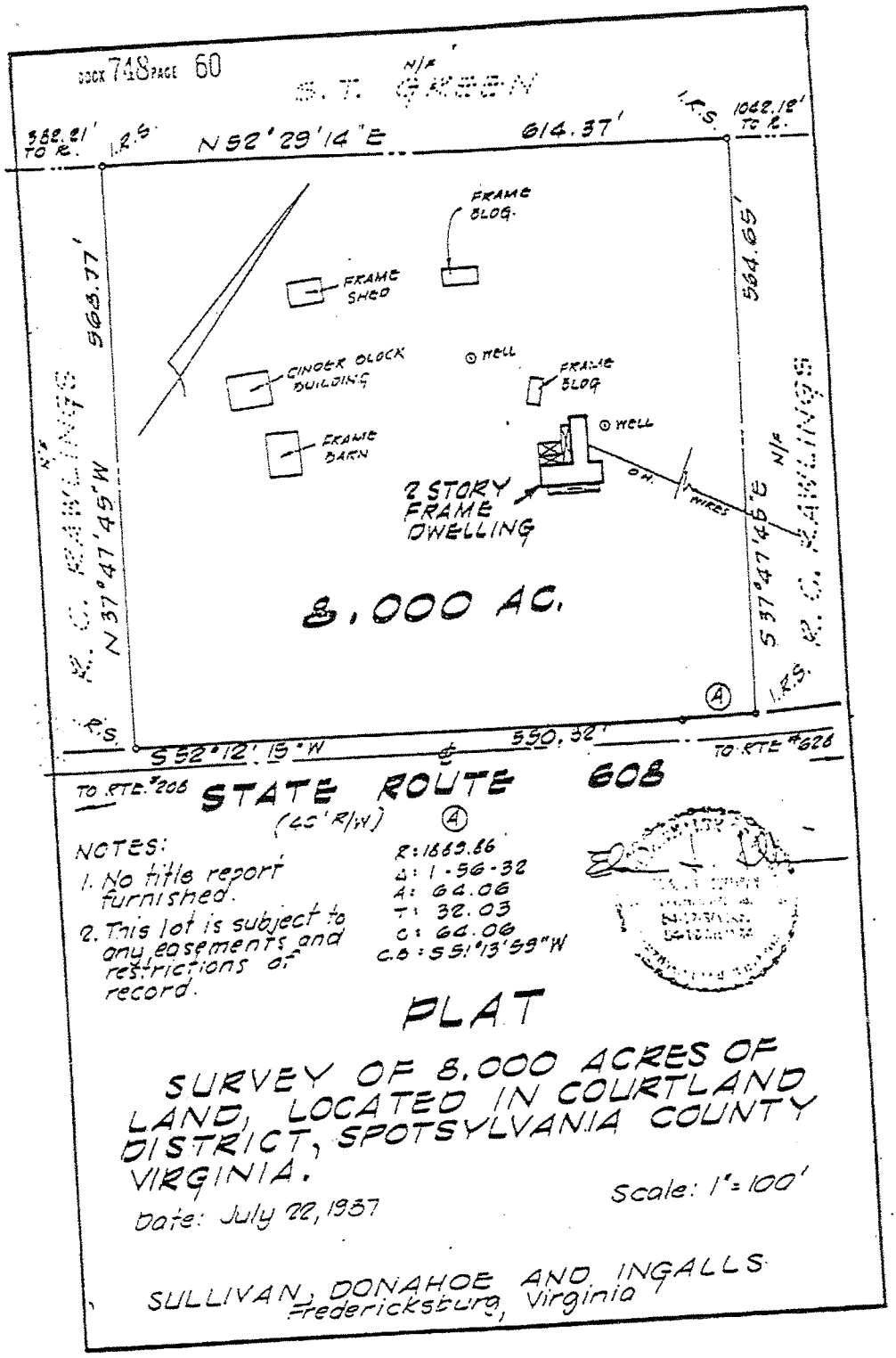


Figure 16. Plat of Light parcel (1987).

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P. O. BOX 808
FREDERICKSBURG, 22404

RAY D. PETHTEL
COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

April 22, 1993

Route : 608
Project: 0608-088-225,C501
County : Spotsylvania

Ms. Rebecca Light
P. O. Box 7812
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Dear Ms. Light:

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Phase II report for Bunker Hill prepared by William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research; Department of Anthropology; The College of William and Mary as you requested. The report is currently under review by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR).

If I can be of further assistance, please give me a call at (703) 899-4230.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Woody II
Environmental Specialist Senior

Attachment
pc: Mr. A. Myruski
Mr. H. W. Lee