

VCR - 3/10/74
 NKHP - 10/17/74

43-32

Form 10-300
 (Rev. 3-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Henrico
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Tree Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 5

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Third (David E. Satterfield, III)

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

COUNTY:
Henrico

CODE:
087

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Burlee, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Tree Hill, Route 5 43 OSBORNE TURNPIKE

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Henrico County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Henrico

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Begun in the late-eighteenth century as a frame two-story, side-hall-plan farmhouse, Tree Hill grew with the Selden and Roane family fortunes until by the mid-nineteenth century the original house had evolved into a double-pile, center-hall plan Greek Revival plantation seat. As it stands today, the house is an impressive two-story plantation house with early one-story wings and a modern two-story tetrastyle portico. The house commands a magnificent view of the James River bottom lands and the Richmond skyline.

Characterized by its shallow gable roof and subdued Greek Revival ornament, the exterior of Tree Hill is sheathed with beaded weatherboard. While all the windows have sliding sash with six-over-six lights, the windows in the earliest or north side of the house retain Federal period architraves while those in the Greek Revival portion of the building have flat un moulded trim typical of the mid-nineteenth century. The semi-exterior chimneys on the Greek Revival section are original; however, those on the house's earliest section have been rebuilt.

The foundations of Tree Hill reveal the structural sequence of the house from its original form to its present appearance. Begun as a side-hall plan farmhouse with English bond foundations, the house was altered and enlarged in the late-eighteenth century into a center-hall-plan structure with a one-story wing at either end. The basis for this conclusion is borne out by the shift in the masonry to a confused mixture of Flemish bond and two-and three-course American bond. Further evidence substantiating the growth of the house to this plan is found in Mutual Assurance Society policy No. 190 issued to Miles Selden in 1796 and insuring a house shown as being 42 feet by 20 feet "built of wood and covered with wood," two-stories in elevation with frame one-story wings approximately 16 feet by 20 feet. In the mid-nineteenth century the main house was expanded again, this time into a double-pile center-hall plan structure on brick foundations laid in well-executed five-course American bond. More modern additions have included the two-story portico, the expansion of the one-story wings as noted in the breaks in original foundation masonry and the extensive reworking of certain portions of the exterior brickwork on the north wall foundations.

The interiors of Tree Hill reflect a succession of nineteenth-century styles. The first floor interior trim ranges from Greek Revival mantels in the southwest and northeast rooms to a fine 1850's period marble mantel in the southeast room. The mantel in the northwest room reflects the still later mode of Georgian Revival ornament with its exaggerated mouldings and paired pilasters. The hallway possesses a fine mid-nineteenth-century stairway and a Greek Revival plaster ceiling medallion with a flower petal motif. The earliest extant woodwork in the house is a fine early-nineteenth-century cellar stair with simple rail and newel and two unturned balusters per tread. Also in the cellar are two raised-panel doors, one of which has been moved to its present location and hung upside down.

Of additional significance are the two early outbuildings in the yard at Tree Hill. The frame building to the northeast of the main house may be the quarter kitchen described on the Mutual Assurance Policy of 1796. This small one-story building with a loft originally had a one-story wing at either end although the south wing has been destroyed. The kitchen retains a number of important features including early-raised panel shutters,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Henrico	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.
interior battened doors and a comparatively late jerkin head or clipped gable roof. In the northwest corner of the yard is a fine early smokehouse. Although the original piers for the smokehouse have been replaced with later brick footings and the exterior has been largely reweatherboarded, some of the original weatherboard remains just under the simple box cornice. Of particular note is the smokehouse's exceptionally well-executed diagonally battened door, heavily studded with clenched rose head nails and hung on a set of three wrought iron strap hinges. To the immediate south of the smokehouse are the remains of a large brick lined ice cistern.

B.H.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tree Hill served as the home of two prominent Henrico County families - the Seldons and the Roanes - and figured in the preliminary surrender of Richmond to the Union Army. Through a series of additions, the rambling dwelling house grew from a modest building to one of Henrico's most impressive plantation seats. Situated on a commanding bluff overlooking the fertile bottom lands of the James River and the Richmond skyline in the distance, Tree Hill affords the most panoramic view available of the capital city.

Tree Hill was purchased in 1778 by Miles Seldon, who served variously as Clerk for Henrico County, a member of the Council in 1785, County Magistrate, and Delegate to the Virginia Assembly. There was a race track at Tree Hill during Seldon's time, the scene of a well-publicized race in October 1824, attended by the Marquis de Lafayette.

The plantation passed to Patsy, daughter of Miles Seldon, and her husband William Roane in 1837. Roane, who would serve in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, was the son of the noted Jeffersonian jurist Spencer Roane and grandson of Patrick Henry. Franklin Stearns, a prominent Main Street merchant, bought Tree Hill from the Roanes in 1855.

The War of 1865 generally spared Tree Hill, although the plantation lands were used for grazing the livestock belonging to the vast Chimborazo Hospital, and were, in April, 1865, a camp ground for the Union troops soon to occupy Richmond. Chimborazo was the largest military hospital in the world, accomodating 76,000 patients during the war years.

Richmond was briefly an open city following the evacuation of the Petersburg line and the terrible fire that began with the destruction of the Virginia State Armory. At this juncture, the city's mayor wrote to the "General Commanding the Union Army in front of Richmond":

General

The Army of the Confederate Government having abandoned the City of Richmond I respectfully request that you will take possession of it with an organized force to preserve order and protect women and children and property.

Respectfully
Joseph Mayo, Mayor

The Burlee family purchased Tree Hill from the Stearns family in 1910. They maintain the place as a working farm.

B.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, James H., Henrico Home Front, 1861-1865, Richmond, 1965.

Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Homes Along the James, New York: Bonanza Books, 1957.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 30' 22"	77° 25' 22"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 30' 22"	77° 24' 12"				
SE	37° 29' 10"	77° 24' 12"				
SW	37° 29' 10"	77° 25' 22"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 320 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: April, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title: _____

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DREWRY'S BLUFF QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW 1/4 BERMUDA HUNDRED 15' QUADRANGLE

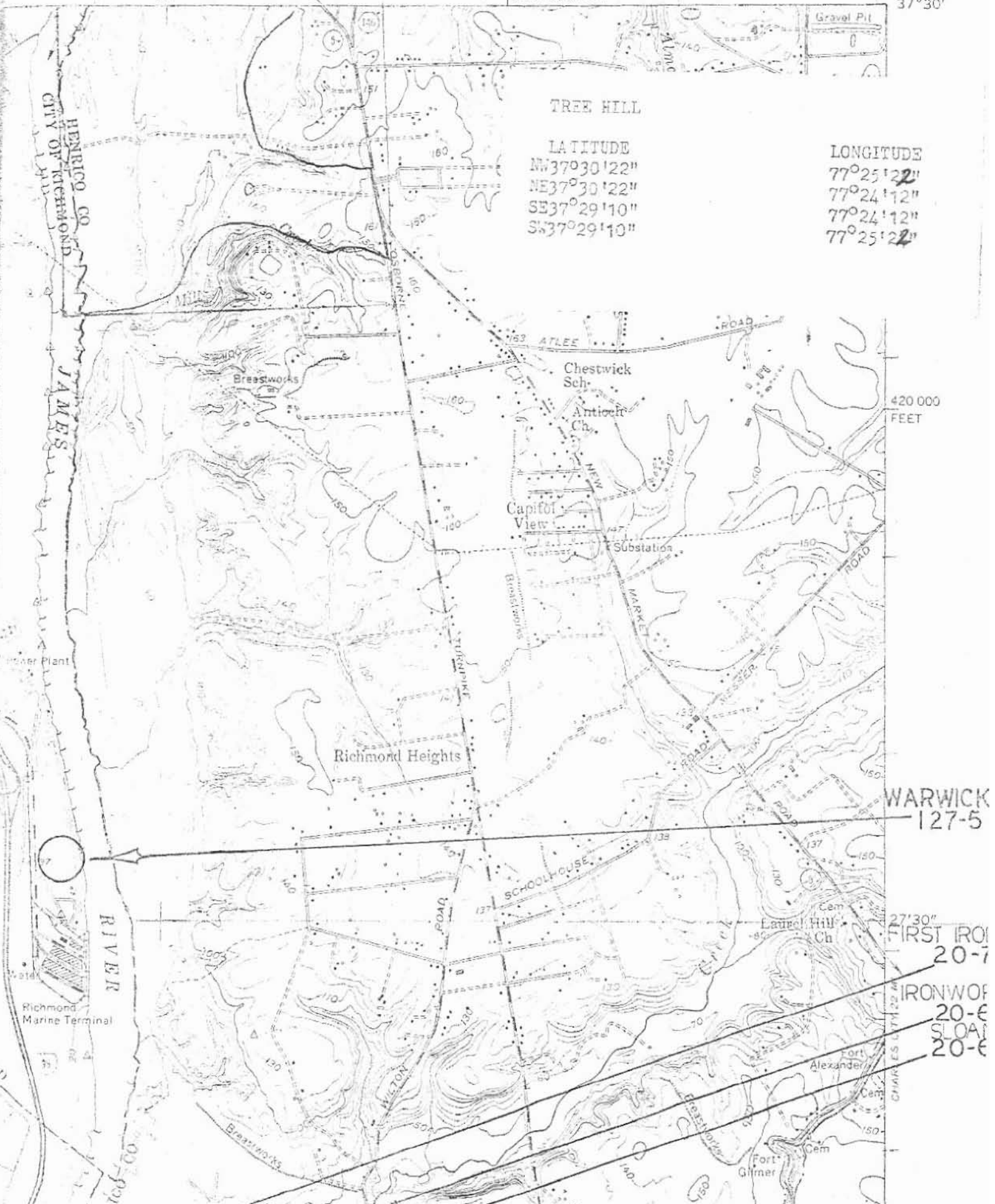
(SEVEN PAGES)

10 INTERSECTION 25'

RICHMOND JUNG U.S. 60. 2.3 MI.

2 320 000 FEET

77°22'30" 37°30'



TREE HILL

LATITUDE
 NW 37°30'22"
 NE 37°30'22"
 SE 37°29'10"
 SW 37°29'10"

LONGITUDE
 77°25'22"
 77°24'12"
 77°24'12"
 77°25'22"

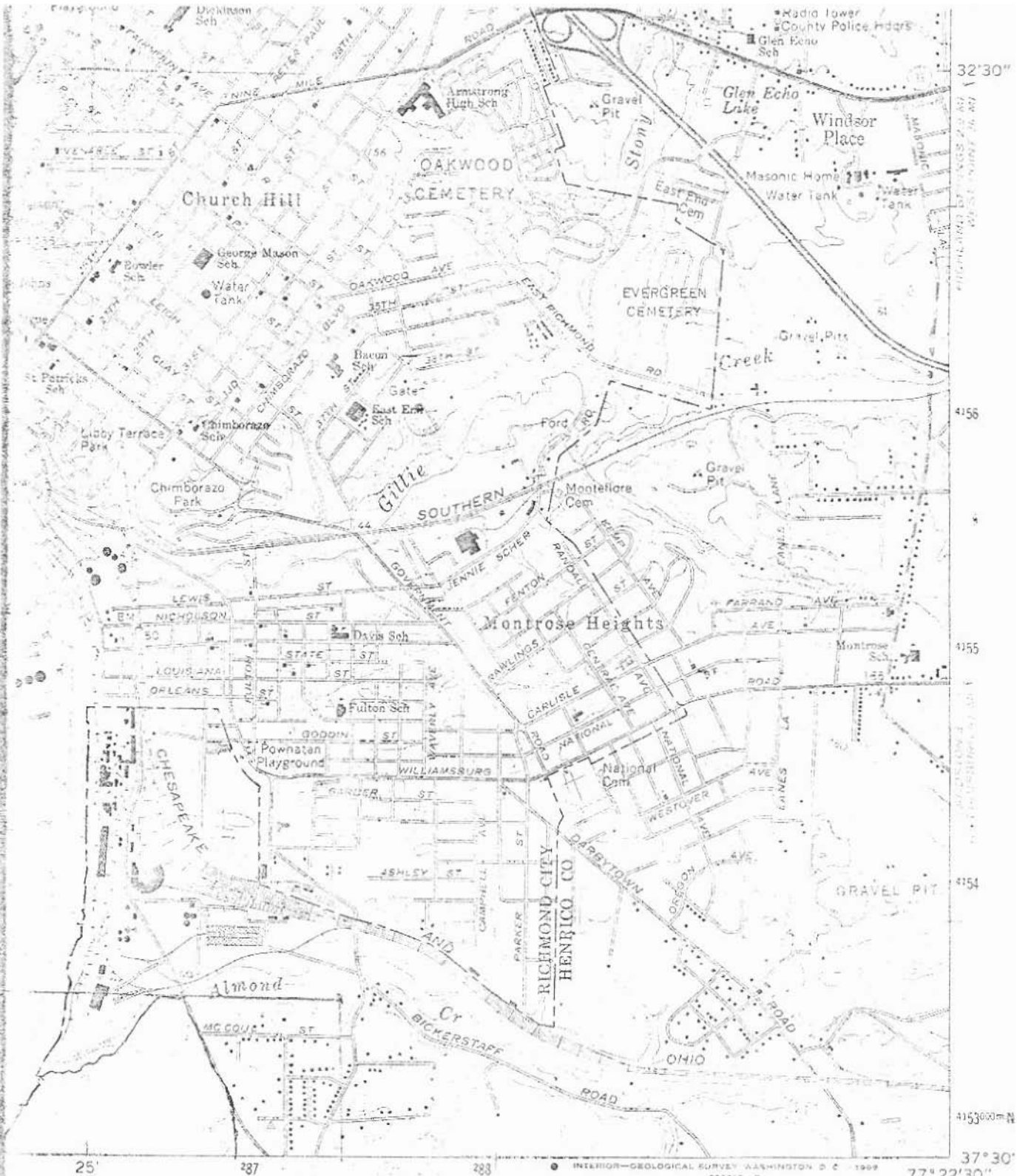
420 000 FEET

WARWICK 127-5

27'30" FIRST IRON 20-7

IRONWORK 20-6 SLOAN 20-6

CHANGES LY 22 MI



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U S Route
	State Route



RICHMOND, VA.
N3730—W7722.5/7.5

1964
PHOTOPIEVED 1968
AMS 5559 I-J S.+SERIES V834

Tree Hill Sheet

(DUTCH GAP)
595B IV NE