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Virginia Historical Inventory: CATALOG CARD

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RECORD NO.	VHIR/22/0644
REPORTER	Morton, Susan R.
TITLE	The Jonathan Chapman home site : survey report, 1937 June 28 / research made by Susan R. Morton.
	4 leaves.
NOTE	Map location number: PW38
NOTE	Class: Home
NOTE	Building date: ca. 1757
NOTE	Building plan: Rectangular
NOTE	Building material: Stone
NOTE	Location: 5 miles north of Haymarket on Rt. 55.
NOTE	Primary owners: Jonathan Chapman family, George Blight
NOTE	The house was the center of a large plantation village with sawmills, gristmill, tanneries, slaughter house, store, saloon and slave quarters for the 150 slaves. Several trenches remain that once were graves of Civil War soldiers, since removed. The Chapman graveyard is also nearby. Many of the outbuildings were burned during the war.
NOTE	Includes reminiscence of a former slave about life on the farm.
NOTE	Includes information from tombstone inscriptions.
NOTE	Includes description of the house and site. The large icehouse still stands.
NOTE	Includes abstracts of title.
OTHER FORMAT	Also available on microfilm.
ISSUING BODY	This write-up is a part of the Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History.
REPRODUCTION	Computer file. Richmond, Va. : Library of Virginia, 1998. 4 image files.
SUBJECT	Dwellings -- Virginia -- Prince William County.
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SUBJECT	Surveys. aat.

SUBJECT	Reminiscences. aat.
SUBJECT	Abstracts of title -- Virginia -- Prince William County. aat.
SUBJECT	Room-by-room inventories. aat.
SUBJECT	Floor plans. aat.
SUBJECT	Genealogies -- Virginia -- Prince William County. aat.
ADDED ENTRY	Blight, George C., informant.
ADDED ENTRY	Beverley, William, informant.
ADDED ENTRY	Ford, Joe, informant.
ADDED ENTRY	Powell, Adoniram, informant.
ADDED ENTRY	Virginia Historical Inventory Project.
ADDED ENTRY	Virginia Conservation Commission. Division of History.
ADDED ENTRY	United States. Works Progress Administration.
LINK FIELD	http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/VHI/html/22/0644.html -- ReportHome Page



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VIRGINIA HISTORICAL INVENTORY

The Jonathan Chapman home site

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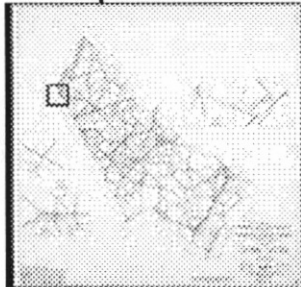
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(Prince William County - Dwellings)

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	<input type="radio"/> 3
	<input type="radio"/> 4
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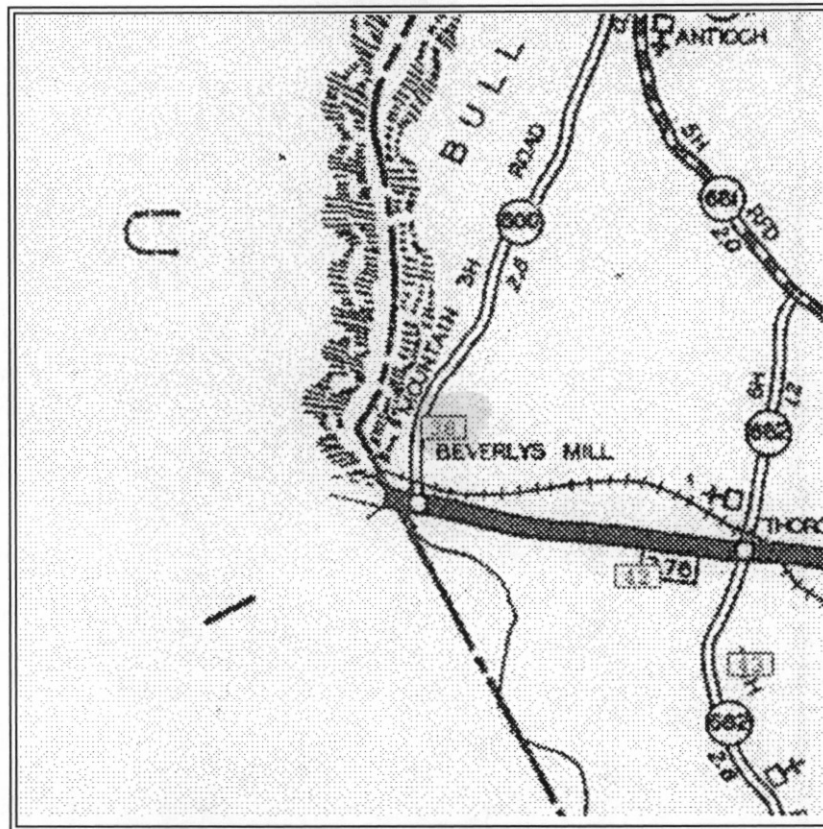
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38. The Jonathan Chapman home site

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HISTORICAL INVENTORY

38

COUNTY: Prince William

CLASS : Home

THE JONATHAN CHAPMAN HOME SITE

This write-up is a part of the Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History. Credit to both the Commission and W. P. A. is requested for publication, in whole or in part. Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.

Research made by
Susan R. Morton,
Haymarket, Virginia.

June 28, 1937.

1. SUBJECT:

The Jonathan Chapman Home Site.

2. LOCATION:

Five miles north of Haymarket, Virginia, north side of Route #55.

3. DATE:

Exact date not known, but likely about the same time as "Chapman's Mill", 1757.

4. OWNERS:

This land was a grant from Lord Fairfax to Jonathan Chapman, and has never been out of the family, although there have been small parcels sold from time to time. In 1876, when there was a division among some of the heirs, there was seven hundred twenty-four acres. It is now the property of Mr. George Chapman Blight and his brother, Samuel Blight, having come to them by inheritance.

5. DESCRIPTION:

The house was destroyed by fire many years ago, and there are only the side walls and a part of one chimney standing today. However, I have had a general description of it from "Uncle" Joe Ford, who was a water boy at the old mansion. The house was of stone, rectangular in plan, contained seven very large rooms, and also a large outer kitchen. There was a porch across the entire front, with stone pillars. I am told that the interior was very fine, with hand carved mantels etc., having been brought from England.

About forty feet to the north of the house can be seen the ivy covered roof of the huge ice house, this is the only one of the out buildings that remain, but until about three years ago, there was one of the old cabins a short distance to the east. There are a few of the fine old trees left that once sheltered the house, but many of them are dead; the once terraced garden is a tangle of undergrowth and vines, and trees and ground to the west, are a mass of English Ivy.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This plantation was one of the most important places in the community in the later half of the eighteenth century, and the early part of the nineteenth. Here were located saw mills, grist mills, tannery, (across

the run from the site of the present mill) slaughter house, store and saloom, large slave quarters and numerous cabins, all of which made it a small village.

The Chapmans had about a hundred and fifty slaves, there being about the same number at "Blantyre", less than a mile away, and also at "Cloverland", a mile distant. There was a constant intercourse between the slaves on the three plantations, and one ex-slave, whose boyhood was spent here, said that the nights were filled with an undertone of mystery and adventure for him, the visits from one plantation to another, (their Masters were all considered most kind and considerate) the songs and the ghost stories that filled the children with such terror that they dreaded to venture out. Many of the young negroes were taught trades, there being ample opportunity with the varied industries carried on on the place.

There was a constant tide of travel through the Gap, and the mills and store a natural stopping place. It is said that the Chapman Mansion was always the seat of much hospitality.

During the War Between the States, the scene changed, the then uncompleted mill was used as a storage house for the meat that was killed in a slaughter house, (not the one that was a part of the old plantation) which was erected close to the run, several hundred feet to the southeast of the mill. These were all burned in 1862, and thousands of pounds of meat destroyed, as well as many other buildings.

To the east of the old house is still to be seen the long trench where there were thirty or more soldiers buried, later to be removed, and it is said that it was not uncommon for some years after the war, to suddenly come upon a hastily made and often forgotten soldier's grave in the adjoining woods and fields.

On the side of the mountain, almost hidden by vines and trees, two hundred feet or more from the ruins of the old house, is the Chapman burying ground, enclosed by a fine stone wall and carpeted with white-flowered periwinkle. There are many graves that have no inscription whatever, but the fact that large trees are growing directly over them, proves they are old. On many of the others, Time has so obliterated the inscription that it was impossible to read it. On the largest and most pretentious stone is the following: "GEORGE CHAPMAN, by his wife".
"To the dear Memory of our Mother, SUSAN PEARSON, consort of George Chapman, born May 2, 1780, died April 14, 1856. Under the shadow of Thy wing I take my rest and sleep".

7. ART:

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informants: Mr. George C. Blight, Haymarket, Virginia.
Mr. Adomiram Powell, Manassas, Virginia, the late
Mr. William Beverley, of Broad Run, Virginia, and
"Uncle" Joe Ford, Broad Run, Virginia.

Prince William County Court Records.