



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-139
Negative no(s). 4348, 4359
Steno 4

SURVEY FORM

Historic name **Florance- Dunbar House** Common name _____
County/Town/City **Prince William County**
Street address or route number **14200 Lee Highway, Gainesville, Va.**

USGS Quad **Gainesville** Date or period **c1880's; some part may be older. Moved**
Original owner **John A. Dunbar? James A. Pattie?** Architect/builder/craftsmen **once, and remodeled 1950.**
Original use **Residence**

Present owner **Henry Atcheson Florance** Source of name _____
Present owner address **Florance Realty** Source of date **Architectural evidence, tradition.**
2201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. Stories **2 1/2**
Present use **Residence** Foundation and wall const'n **Concrete foundation, frame**
Acreage **c500 acres, including another** walls.
house & barns. Roof type **Metal-covered gable roof.**

State condition of structure and environs **House, though presently occupied, is in poor condition, as**
are grounds and nearby barns.

State potential threats to structure **Commercial development, vandalism, arson.**
Note any archaeological interest **Civil War artifacts found around house, which is said to have been**
used as a hospital during the war.

Should be investigated for possible register potential? **yes** ___ **no** ___

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

Log joists in back el. Heavy timbers in joists of part of main house.

House was moved about 250 feet from highway about 20 years ago and placed upon a new foundation. Probably remodeled then, with addition of new kitchen. Has some nice carved woodwork. **William Patram performed the move.**

House directly west of this one owned by same family but built much later, although similar in plan and appearance.

Several dilapidated 20th century barns behind house. Small tenant house or servants quarters to east.

Cemetery along fence describing southern boundary of property, but informant unable to read inscriptions on stones.

Interior inspected? **Yes.**

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

This house was purchased by Robert Henry Florance, who operated a large dairy farm here in the early 1900's. (See below)

Tradition has it that the el on the rear of the house served as a hospital during the Civil War. The presence of log joists in this portion of the house suggests that this may be true, however, the door and window trim and other dating evidence has been removed, so it is difficult to say whether the el has been rebuilt upon earlier supports.

In 1903 Robert H. Florance purchased from the heirs of (John A.?) Dunbar the 43 acres upon which this researcher believes the house presently sits. (See metes and bounds described in D.B. 51 pp. 452-53.) Dunbar had acquired the land in 1895 from James A. Pattie. The present owner inherited the farm with his sister, Irene, from their mother and subsequently (1946) purchased the share of the farm belonging to his sister.

Gainesville began as an unnamed stagecoach stop where the old Shenandoah-Dumfries Road crossed the Warrenton-Alexandria Road (later turnpike). Gainesville was named after a Welsh property owner, Robert Gaines, who sold a right of way to the Manassas Gap Railroad Co. (chartered 1850), with the condition that all passenger trains stop here.

The Battle of Gainesville was fought here 28 August 1862 when Gen. T. J. Jackson's corps, aided by divisions of Ewell and Taliaferro, attacked Gibbon's and Doubleday's brigades.

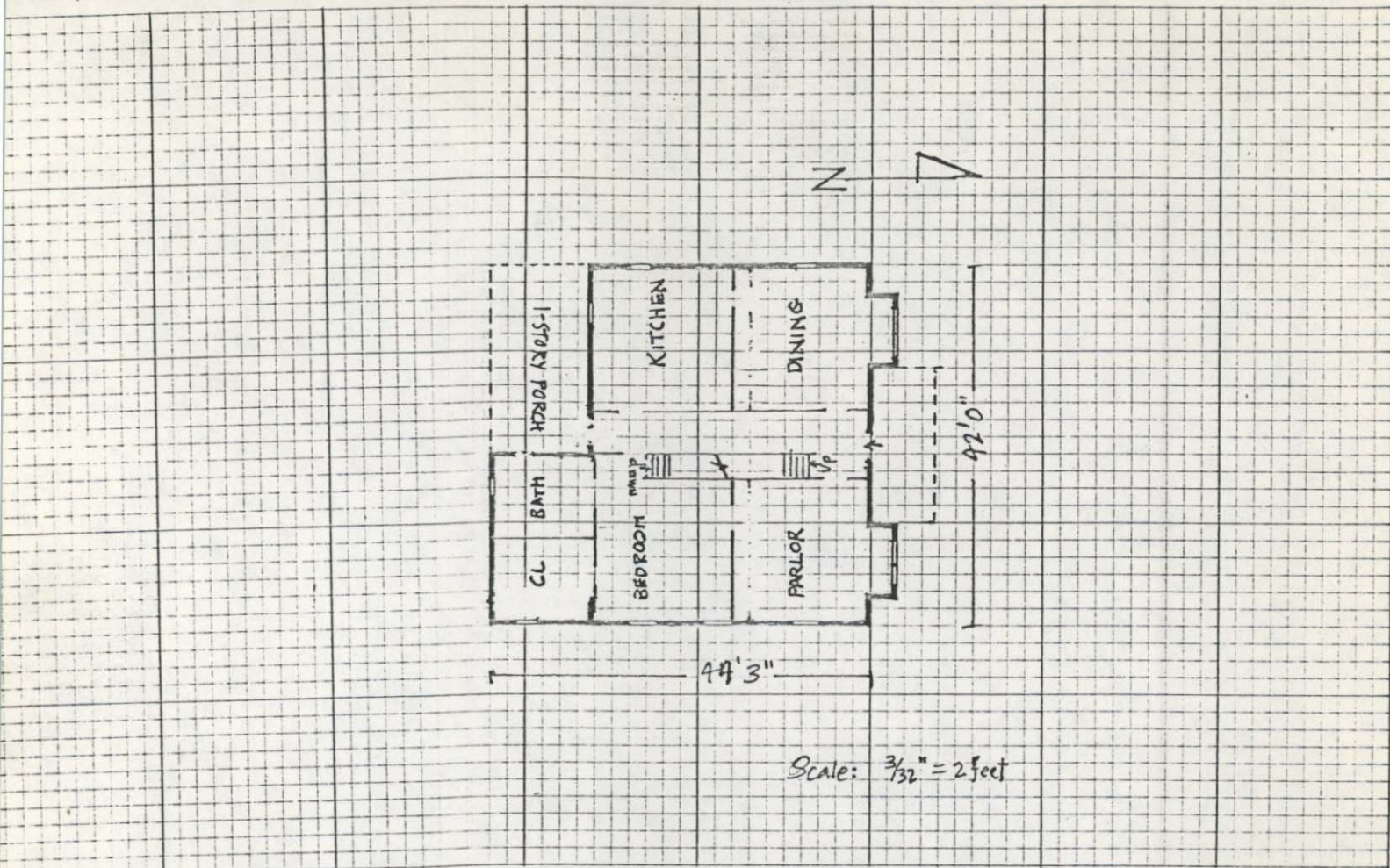
Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc. with bibliographic data.) Writers' Project, W.P.A., Prince William; the Story of Its People and Its Places (1941, 1961), p. 167-169. (On Gainesville)

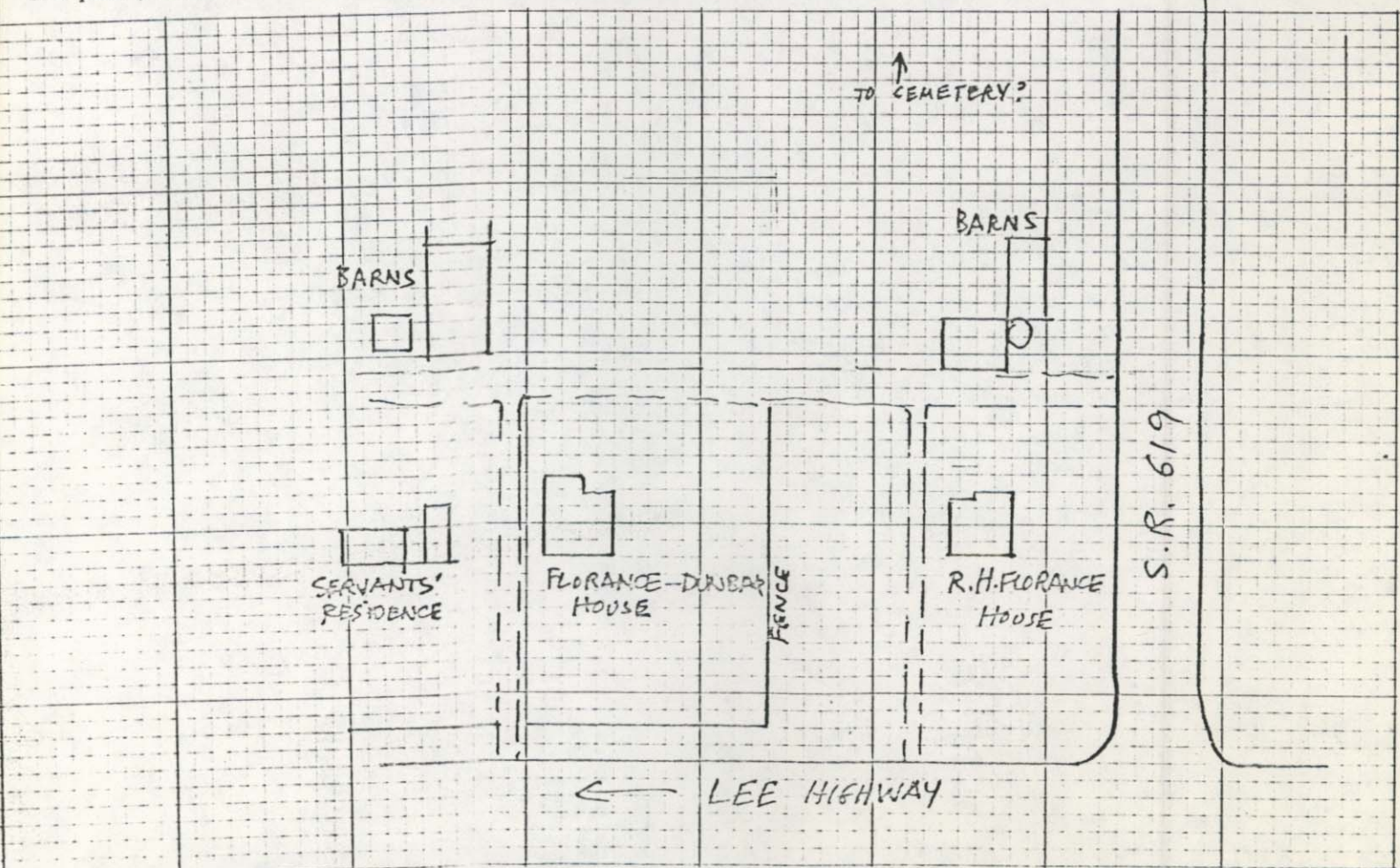
Primary sources (Manuscript documents; literary or graphic materials; give location.)
Deed Books, Prince William County Courthouse.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed R.H. Florance, 7227 Timber Lane, Falls Church, Va. 22046;
Tom Drake, Gainesville, Va. (Tenant);
Mrs. Ann Florance, 2201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va.

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural Historian - Surveyor, NVPDC

Date MAY 1979

L. B. PA...
HOUSE
76-135

PATTIE
CEMETERY
76-166

HONEYWOOD 76-138

PAGELAND FARM
76-137

BRAWNER
FARM 76-168

MANADIER SANATORIUM 76-152

Swoit Cemetery
GAINESVILLE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH 76-201

HOUSE 76-202

HILLFEST FARM 76-193
FRANKY HARRISON HOUSE 76-196

FLORANCE-DUNBAR HOUSE 76-139

P. H. Florance House
76-140

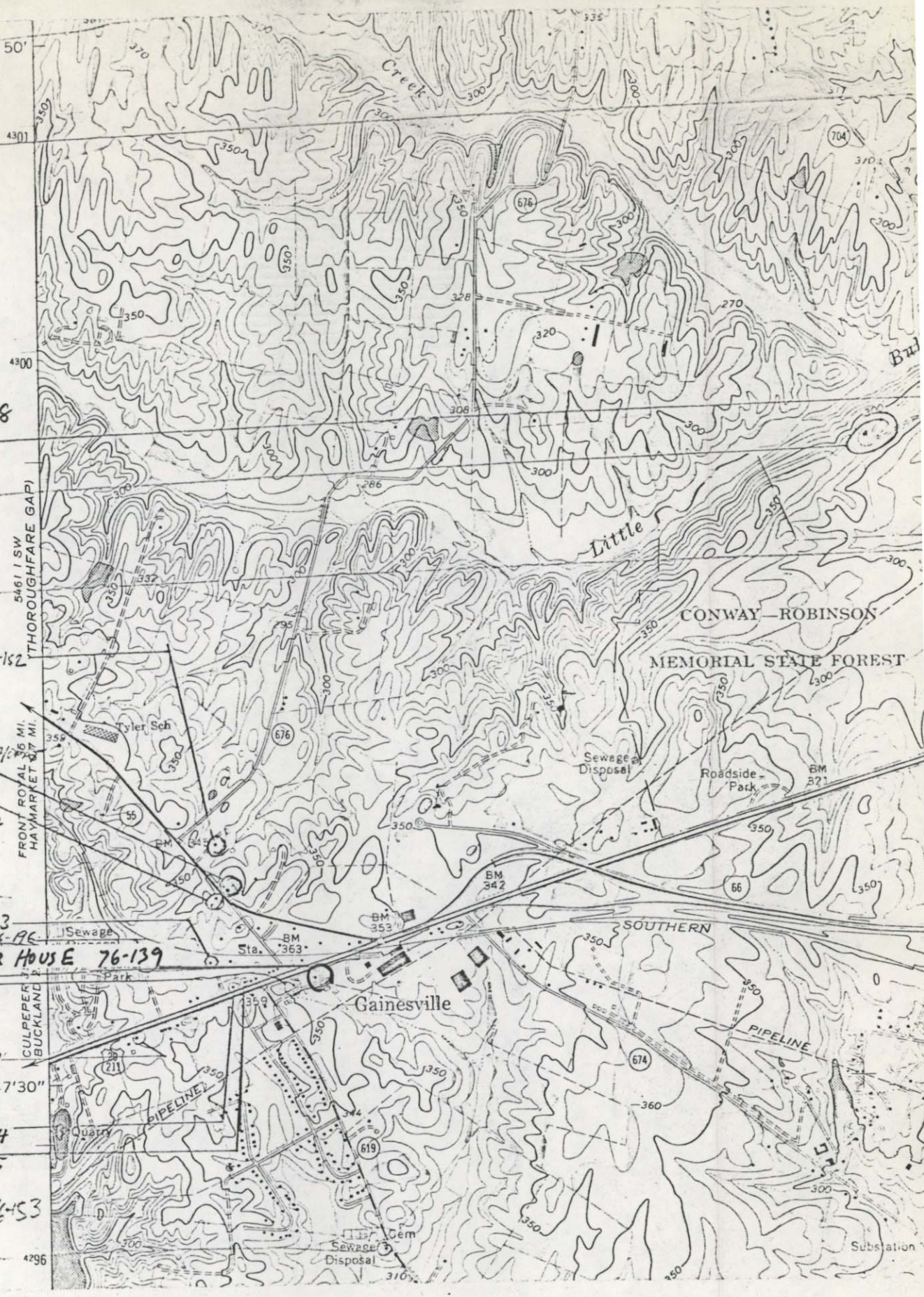
ERA 1 HOUSE 76-203

METHODIST PARSONAGE
IN GAINESVILLE 76-194

DAVIS HOUSE 76-195

Brook Cemetery 76-153

G-1
ext. 1



GAINESVILLE Q