



SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Mill Creek Farm	Common name	AKA Forsythe Farm; The Homestead
County/Town/City	Prince William County		
Street address or route number	3705 Mill Creek Road, Haymarket, VA 22069		
USGS Quad	Thoroughfare Gap	Date or period	c1800; c1870; 1954
Original owner	Unknown	Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use	Residence	Source of name	
Present owner	Mr. & Mrs. Carl A. Shem	Source of date	Architectural evidence
Present owner address	3705 Mill Creek Road Haymarket, VA 22069	Stories	1 1/2 stories
Present use	Residence	Foundation and wall const'n	Stone foundation; frame walls.
Acreage	24 acres	Roof type	Metal and asphalt shingle-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs Structure and environs are in good condition.

State potential threats to structure  
Note any archaeological interest

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.)

The house at Mill Creek Farm was likely built in three stages: the first, a 1 1/2-story frame cottage having two rooms down and two rooms up, built sometime between the late 1700's and the first half of the 19th century. In the 1860's or 1870's, an addition was made to the house's east end, containing a single room on the first floor and a bedroom above, reached by a winding staircase separate from the main house's stair. In 1954, an addition was made to the house's north side containing a kitchen with a bedroom above. This addition also provided a passage on the first floor between the other two sections.

The oldest part of the house is a small, two-room, hewn timber, braced-frame structure with an exterior stone chimney at each end. The house's front, which faces south, has twin entrances. Each exterior wall of the house is covered with a different kind of wood siding: on the front, or south side, there are wide, beaded clapboards. The west side is clad in weatherboards to simulate the beaded siding on the front. The rear of the old section is covered with channeled, or German, siding, as is the whole of the late 19th century addition, and the 1954-built wing. Across the front of the old section is a one-story, shed-roofed porch supported by square posts. It is supposed that this porch was built (or rebuilt) at the time of the late 19th century addition. The metal-covered roof on the front is pierced by two gable-roofed dormer windows. The trim around the 6/6 sliding sash windows and 6-panel doors in the oldest section is architrave moulding, though it has been covered over in places with plain box trim.

The foundation and large stone chimneys are constructed of roughly-shaped (and probably locally-quarried) gray and bluish-colored stone, possibly quartzite. This stone, a sedimentary rock which splits and shapes well, can be seen in many other old buildings in this part of

(Continued)

Interior inspected? yes.

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

Located between Evergreen plantation on the west and Piedmont plantation on the east, Mill Creek Farm, also known as Oak Shade and the Forsythe Place, probably originated in the late 18th or early 19th century as a tenant farm on Evergreen Plantation. Evergreen is contained within Carter Burwell's portion of Robert "King" Carter's Bull Run Tract. Evergreen descended to Col. Edmund Berkeley, one of the plantation's most illustrious owners who resided at Evergreen during the Civil War and served in the 8th Virginia Infantry.

In 1868, James Forsythe [or Forsyth] purchased 13 acres and 43 perches from Edmund Berkeley, presumably a part of what is now known as Mill Creek Farm. Forsythe eventually enlarged his farm by purchasing 11 acres adjoining it.

It is supposed that a section of the present house on the property existed at the time of Forsythe's purchase, and that he enlarged the house by the addition of a two-story wing on the east end, containing one room up and one room down. Forsythe, though he was 64 years old in 1868, may also have built a barn which previously existed on the property.

Forsythe, who died in 1886, is buried in the family cemetery northwest of the house, along with his wife, Cecelia, who died at 80 in 1890, and Jane C. Forsythe, who was born in 1841 and died in 1906. There are other burials in the 1/4-acre cemetery; beside the Forsythe plot there are two graves marked only by fieldstones.

The present owners purchased Mill Creek Farm in early 1980 from Harry L. Tennant, who had owned the property for about 25 years.

MILL CREEK FARM  
(Cont.)

Western Prince William County, including Beverley Mill. The stone is mortared with a lime-sand mixture and repaired in places with portland cement. The west chimney measures 2'8" deep by 5'5" wide. It appears to have a fireplace at both the first and second floors. There is a 9"-deep water table. The chimney, which shoulders at about 3 feet below the roof ridge, has a corbelled capstone. The chimney on the east end is larger, measuring about 6 feet by 6 feet, and has two fireplaces at the first floor level. One hearth serves the living room, or east room of the older section, while the other fireplace serves the present dining room, or addition made in the late 19th century. There is also a fireplace at the second floor level in this addition.

The roof of the older section is a common rafter roof constructed of smoothed-off poles joined in a half-lap or mortise and tenon joint. Collar beams, out of poles, are present, as is additional trussing to strengthen the roof. The roof of the addition is constructed of circular-sawn common rafters.

The interior of the older, main section of the house consists of two rooms on the first floor, divided by a partition and two rooms on the second floor. The enclosed, winding box stair rises in the present living room, along the partition separating the two rooms and opposite one of the front entrances. On the first floor of this section of the house is a living room (the larger of the two rooms) and a study or library. There are two mantels - both very plain and carpenter-built. Each has a plain shelf, an arched, rectangular opening surrounded by plain jambs, undecorated except for a simple, cut-out design atop the jambs. A simple moulding supports the shelf. The door and window trim is plain, has mitered corners and an angled profile. Both rooms have flush or ship lap constructed wainscoting and a simple moulded chair rail. Riven lath is present. The floors are moderately wide, pine planks which have been repaired in places. This part of the house rests on a c3-feet-high foundation and the floor joists are large logs, roughly shaped and flattened on their top surfaces. The sills are c7"x10" hewn oak members. This part of the house measures approximately 17'3"x26'1". The living room's dimensions are almost square, c15'x16', and the study is about 9'6" x16'. The walls in this part of the house are about 6" thick.

The late 19th century addition contains a dining room with a bedroom above, reached by an enclosed winding stair which rises along the fireplace wall. This addition has a symmetrical facade, with a central door flanked by a small window on either side. The interior trim is wide, fluted trim joined with mitered corners. The trim continues around the lower edge of the windows, which are narrow, 4/4 sliding sash. The ceiling in this room is rather high. The hewn beams are exposed and seem to have been re-used, in part, if not entirely, from another structure. They are placed about 35" apart, center-to-center. The floors are narrow board pine. The fireplace has no mantel. The opening is 46" wide. There is a crane in the fireplace, from which pots are hung. There is a small closet to the left of the fireplace, and to the right is a board and batten door opening to the winding staircase.

The 1954 addition, constructed by previous owner Harry L. Tennant, provides a passageway at the first floor between the two earlier sections of the house. Previously, there was communication between the two earlier sections only at the second floor level. The 1954 addition was designed to conform in style to the earlier house and is covered with German siding. Its roof pitch is similar to that of the older house. The addition contains a kitchen, utility room and bath, and has an entry into the dining room and, via a small stairway, to the living room. A new doorway to the oldest section of the house was cut at the time of the addition's construction, and a window was created on the oldest section's north side where formerly there was a door. Off the kitchen wing is a c8-foot square frame constructed pent-roofed tool shed built recently on the foundation of an old stone root cellar. There was previously a frame barn on the property, southeast of the house, according to one source. North of the house are a modern animal shelter and a recently-built guest house.

There is a cemetery northwest of the house, containing three marked graves of members of the farm's 19th century owners, the Forsythes, in addition to two other graves marked only with field stones.

Old boxwood bushes, oak and walnut trees, and other landscape features, including some terracing, surround the house. Traces of an earlier road or driveway leading to the house can be seen near the house's south approach.

Sources and bibliography

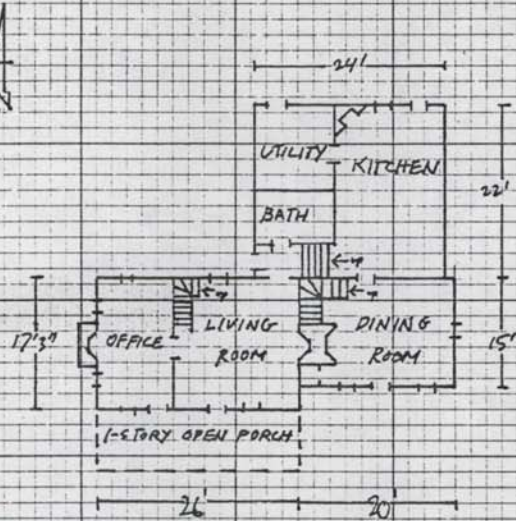
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

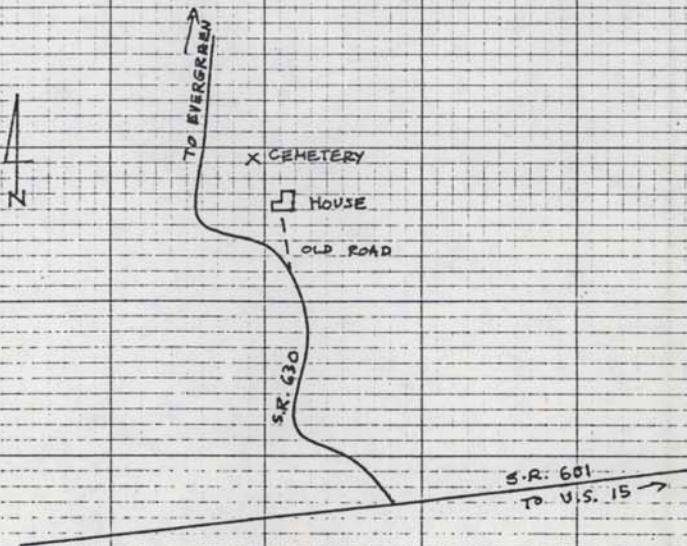
Deeds, Prince William County Courthouse.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Shem (owners).

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



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



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS  
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REAR VIEW  
Horseshoe N. Fork  
76-128  
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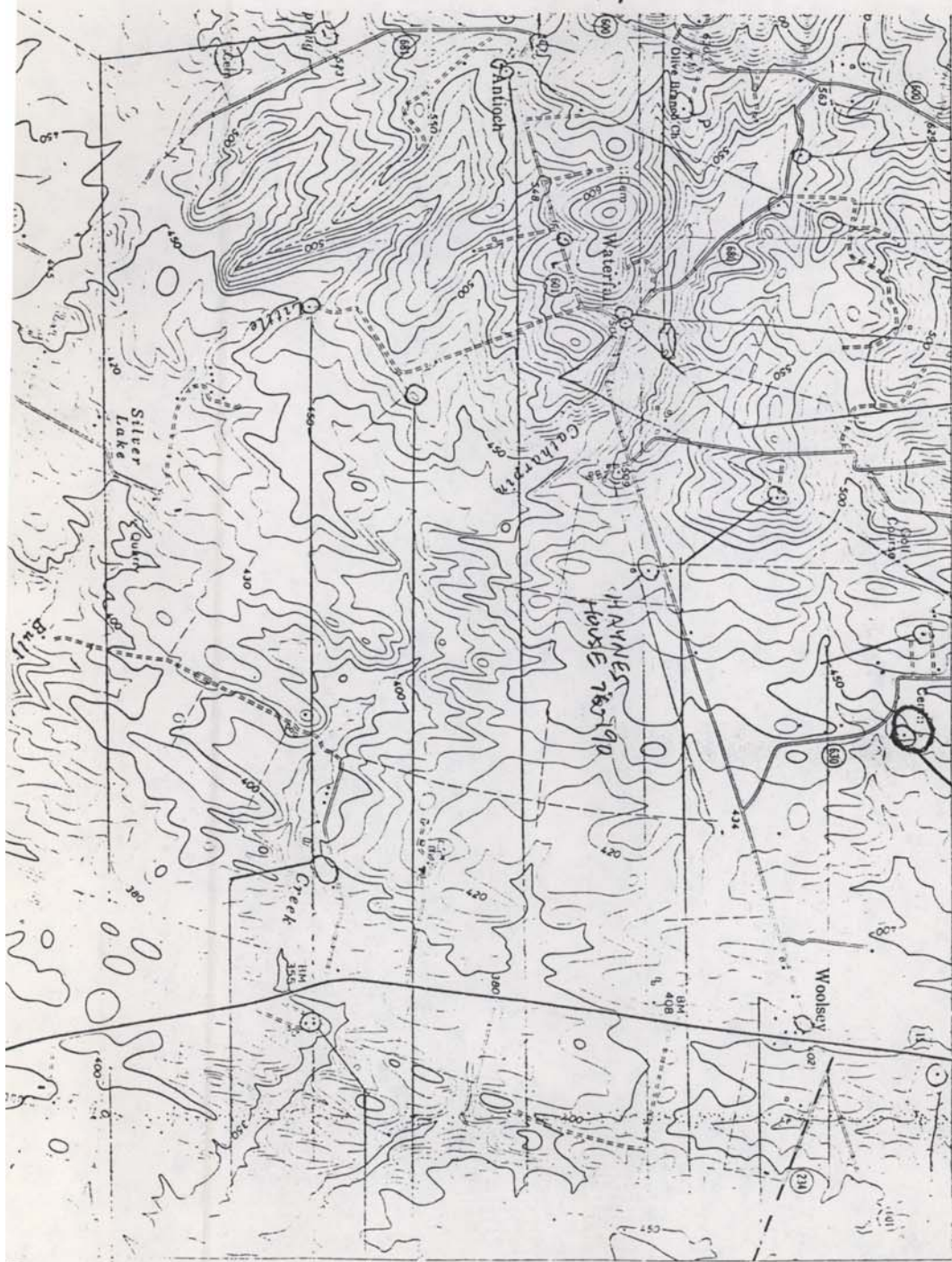
WATERFALL STORE &  
POST OFFICE 76-38  
10452 at W.F. 76-39

76-128

MILL CREEK FARM 76-111

THOROUGHFARE GAP QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

LESSBURG 19 MI 77° 31' 30"  
1/2 MI. TO U.S. 50 38° 52' 30"



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