

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP-11/17/69 14-31

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

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: Buckingham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Buckingham Court House Preservation Zone

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Buckingham Court House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Buckingham CODE: 029

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work In progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Village
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
Various ownership - public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Buckingham Court House STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Buckingham County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court Square

CITY OR TOWN: Buckingham Court House STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Buckingham  
ENTRY NUMBER: 45  
DATE: 1957  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Stretched out along a ridge between Bryant Creek and the Slate River, Buckingham Court House survives as a well preserved Piedmont courthouse community with a population of approximately two hundred eighteen people. The village extends for a little more than a half mile on either side of Route 60 with the courthouse square located near the center. The court house itself is a two-story temple-form building fronted by a pedimented tetrastyle Doric portico. This court house replaces the earlier one of similar appearance, designed by Thomas Jefferson but destroyed by fire. Several of the column capitals and bases from Jefferson's court house survive on the grounds in front of the present building. On the west side of the court house is a one-story twentieth century office building, and on the east is the one-story late-nineteenth century clerk's office with later additions. Behind is the former jail house.

Unfortunately the square in front of the court house has been marred by the major highway cutting through it, but it still possesses the Confederate monument in the center and a fine collection of nineteenth century buildings on the north side. Most notable of these is the former Buckingham Tavern, an early-nineteenth century two-story brick structure with two entrances. On the west side of the square is the interesting former Buckingham Inn, a rambling early-nineteenth century brick building in the shape of an H. Lining the highway leading into the square from the east is a fine variety of nineteenth century structures including the Leach House, the Presbyterian manse, the Masonic Hall, a brick house with later Italianate decoration called West View, and a long frame house which was formerly a tavern. To the west of the court house lining the north side of the highway are several distinguished early-nineteenth century dwellings such as Rose Terrace with its especially fine Flemish bond brickwork. Opposite Rose Terrace is the Trinity Presbyterian Church, a notable Roman Revival structure built circa 1830, whose temple-form and portico obviously reflected Jefferson's court house. It is interesting that nearly every building in Buckingham is covered with the slate shingles for which the county has become so famous.

Buckingham Court House has lost several of its significant structures over the years, but enough remains to impart a convincing picture of an early-nineteenth century courthouse village. The atmosphere of the village will be greatly enhanced if the proposed by-pass is built around it, giving some relief from the heavy traffic which is currently channeled through Buckingham.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Formed in 1761 from the southern portion of Albemarle County, it is believed by some that Buckingham County was named after a tract of land in the region known by that name. More probably the county took its name directly from the English shire. The first court house, thought to have been a simple wooden building, was located on the Slate River just west of the present village. In 1818 the General Assembly established a town near the court house and gave it the name of Maysville since it was located on land belonging to Thomas May. Three years later it was decided to erect a new court house on higher ground within the village. Although it was intended that the new building be modeled after Albemarle Court House, one of the members of the building committee, Charles Yancey, wrote to Thomas Jefferson requesting a set of plans. The plans which Jefferson submitted, calling for a templeform structure with portico, were eventually adopted, and construction of the building began soon afterwards.

Completed in 1823, Jefferson's building as well as all the court records were completely destroyed by a fire set by an incendiary in 1869. The new court house, erected on the site of the first, is similar in size and general style to its predecessor. Even though Jefferson's architecturally significant court house has been lost, the present structure blends appropriately into what has survived as a well preserved, picturesque Virginia courthouse village. Now referred to as Buckingham Court House, the village retains its complex of court buildings, as well as several taverns and a number of notable early-nineteenth century dwellings. The design of the circa 1830 Trinity Presbyterian Church with its Doric portico was apparently inspired by Jefferson's court house. Both the church and the other early brick structures in the town exhibit unusually fine workmanship in their brickwork, a characteristic of both Jefferson-designed and Jefferson-inspired buildings.

During the War Between the States nearly every Buckingham family sent its men to war. The many killed in the conflict are honored by the obelisk in the courthouse square. When the fighting ended in adjacent Appomattox County, General Robert E. Lee returned to Richmond by way of Buckingham Court House. Tradition has it that Lee refused comfortable accommodations in Buckingham Court House following the surrender in order to pitch his tent for the last time among his men who were encamped just outside the town.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Gaines, William H., Jr., "Buckingham and Appomattox Courthouses," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 17, No. 4 (Spring 1968), 32-39.  
 "Keystone County," Virginia and the Virginia County, Vol. III, No. 9 (September 1949), 5-7.  
 Kimball, Fiske, Thomas Jefferson, Architect. Boston: 1916.  
Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia. Farmville, Virginia: 1935.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37°	33'	30"	78°	34'	00"			
NE	37°	33'	30"	78°	32'	16"			
SE	37°	32'	40"	78°	32'	16"			
SW	37°	32'	40"	78°	34'	00"			

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:  
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: August 25, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.      SEP 25 1969

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

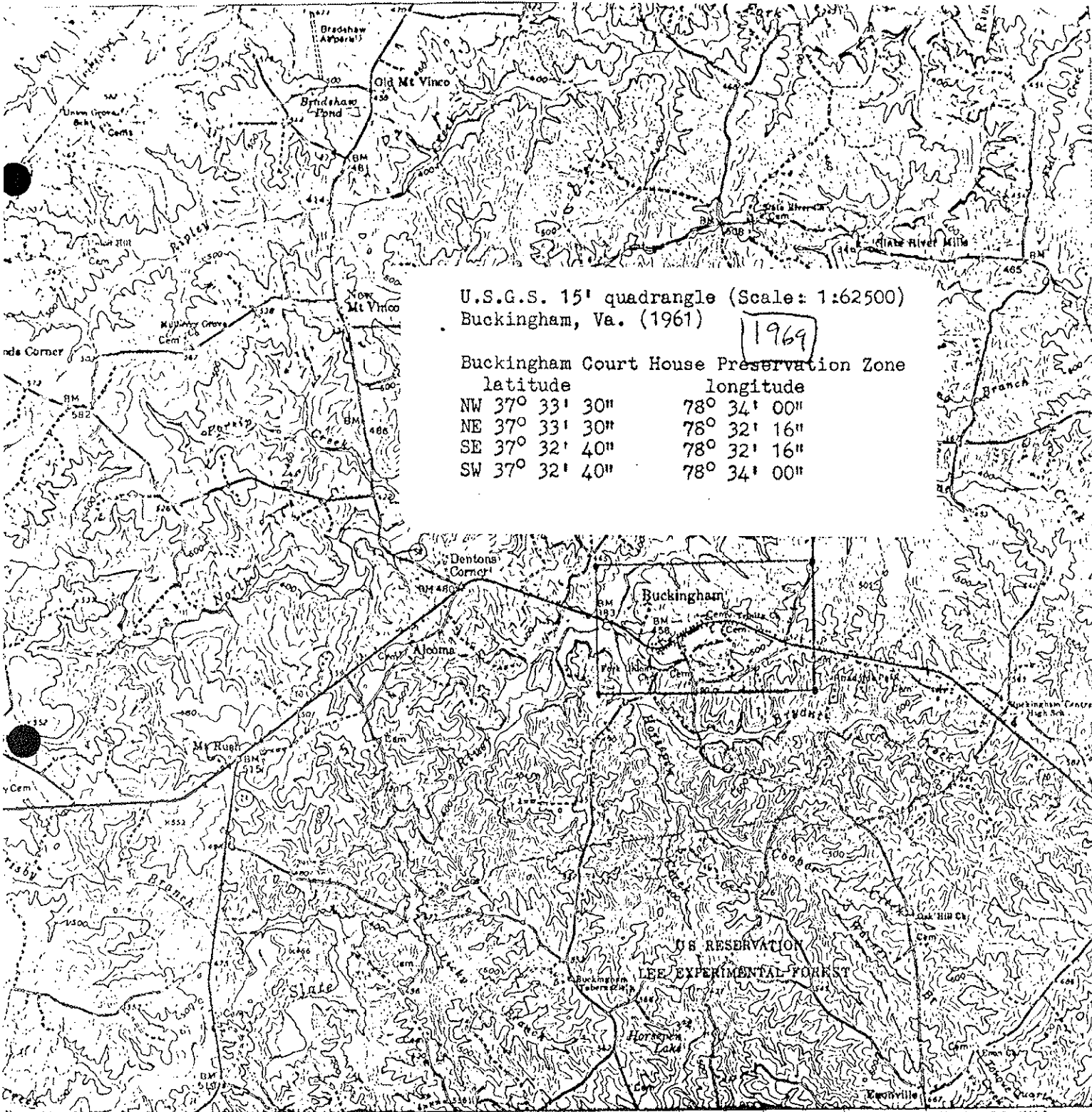
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Buckingham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #14-31  
1968 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

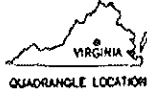
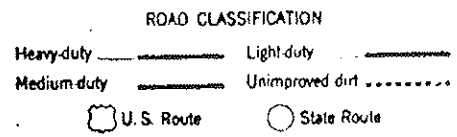
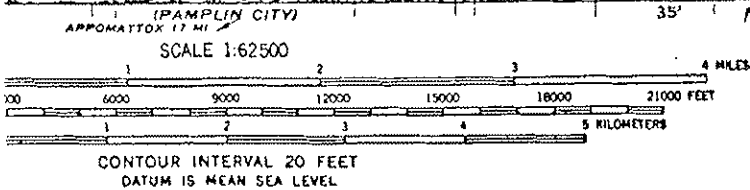


U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle (Scale: 1:62500)  
 Buckingham, Va. (1961)

1969

Buckingham Court House Preservation Zone

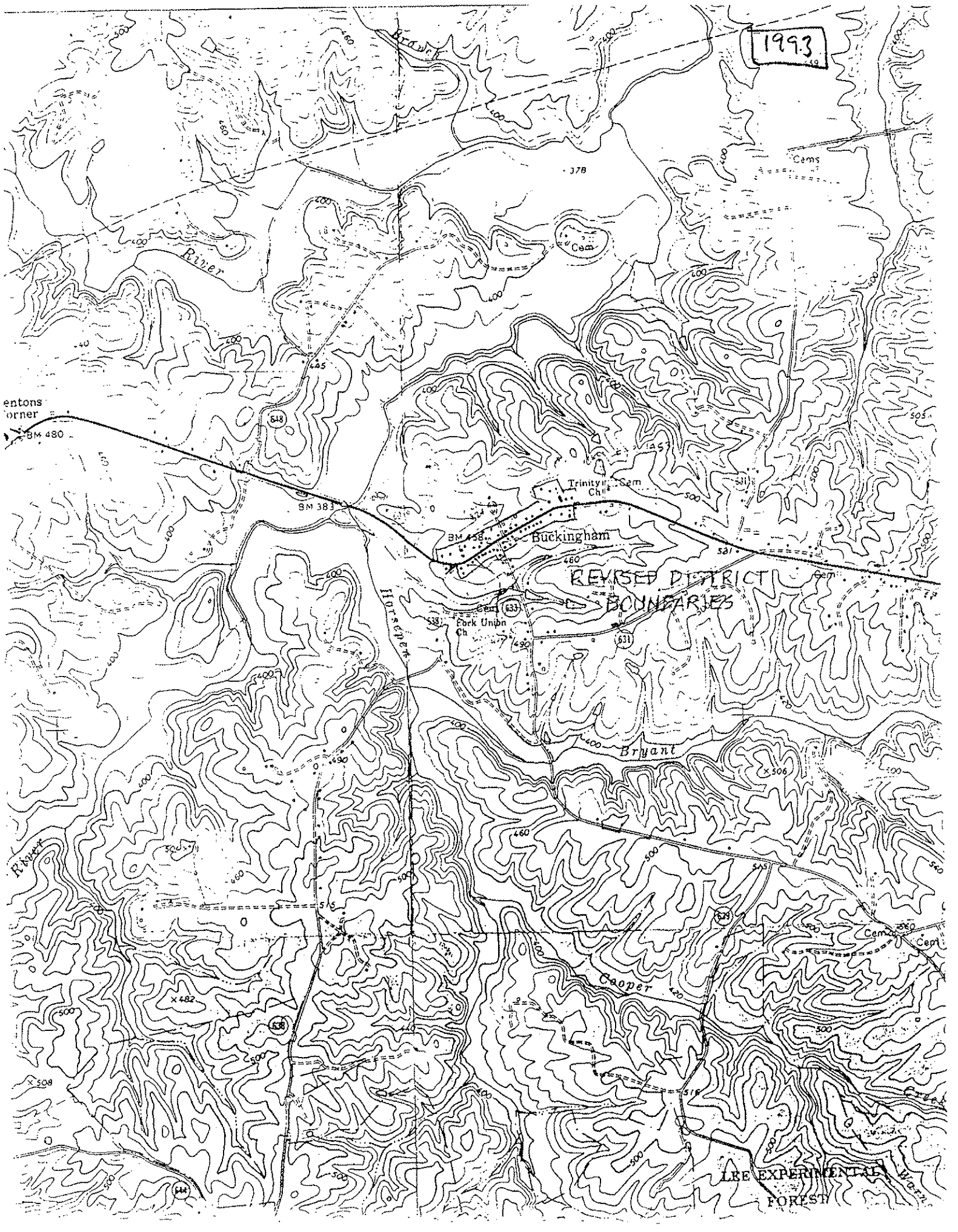
	latitude	longitude
NW	37° 33' 30"	78° 34' 00"
NE	37° 33' 30"	78° 32' 16"
SE	37° 32' 40"	78° 32' 16"
SW	37° 32' 40"	78° 34' 00"



BUCKINGHAM, VA.  
 N3730 - W7810'15

COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 ALL BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
 SCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1993



REVISED DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

LRE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST