

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR 3/20/8  
NRHP 5/29/8

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rosemont  
other names/site number Taylor's Seat; Hardscrabble DHR File # 072-0169

2. Location

street & number 4747 Cosby Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Powhatan vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Powhatan code 145 zip code 23139

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government  
4/12/08  
Date

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
   entered in the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.  
   determined eligible for the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.  
   determined not eligible for the National Register  
   removed from the National Register  
   other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
secondary structure (stable)
FUNERARY family cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
secondary structure (stable/storage)
NOT IN USE historic cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne-Eastlake

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick with scored stucco
roof asphalt shingles
walls wood siding
other stained glass in several of the windows

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture

**Period of Significance** 1898

**Significant Dates** 1898

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Dodd, C. L.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other: Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreage of Property** approximately 20 acres  
**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing  
1) 18 236713 4166017    2) 18 237006 4166049    3) 18 237033 4165873    4) 18 236800 4165800

     See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)  
**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title G. Swift Williams, Jr. organization \_\_\_\_\_  
date October 18, 2007 Street & number 201 Banbury Road  
telephone 804-353-1373  
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

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**Additional Documentation**  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
**Property Owner**  
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name G. Swift Williams, Jr.  
street & number 201 Banbury Road telephone 804-353-1373  
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

=====  
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Rosemont  
Powhatan County, Virginia**

**Section   7   Page   1**

**Summary Description:**

Rosemont, a two-and-a-one-half-story frame house, is a unique example of the Queen Anne-Eastlake architectural style in Virginia. It was built about 1898 by the architect C. L. Dodd, Jr., to be used for his own residence while he oversaw the construction of the nearby St. Francis de Sales High School, a residential school for African American girls. Dodd employed an unusual plan with no central hall. The house features Gothic Revival detailing, varying window types, stained glass, wainscoting and a plethora of fireplaces. The lack of a hall and the placing of small corner fireplaces in each room are unusual in Virginia houses and may reflect the architect's northern background, although little is known about him. A hyphen connects the main house to a former kitchen building. The original frame stable sits downhill to the rear of the house.

**Detailed Description:**

Exterior

The dwelling at Rosemont sits on about fifty-six acres of rolling farmland including both fields and woods. The only structures are the dwelling and the stable. The frame house (which faces west) has a high brick basement covered with scored stucco. The house has two full stories with a finished attic under the roof. A two-story kitchen building with a pyramidal roof is located directly behind the house and is connected to it by a covered porch. The house no longer has a slate roof and is covered with asphalt shingles. An original slate roof covers the stable. This slate probably came from the nearby slate mines in Buckingham County. The house is covered with wood siding and features a one-story porch across the front with a small center gable in its roof. There are simple wood posts, square in section, and simple horizontal railings. The center gable of the porch roof projects over the front steps. Its posts rest on metal capped brick piers which seem to be original. The unadorned porch posts and railing are later replacements of ones that probably were more decorative.

The entrance consists of double doors paneled in the Eastlake style under a rectangular stained-glass transom. On the second-floor level, over the porch roof, are three windows. The center one is of a type seldom encountered in Virginia---a projecting bay (triangular in plan) on the porch roof, where the upper half of each side is a wooden panel with diagonal sheathing. The lower halves are glazed. The two flanking windows are of the familiar two-over-two type typical of the period. Above the main façade is a large triangular roof dormer rising to the full height of the tall roof. It is faced with round-ended wooden shingles and features a round-headed, four-paned window in the center.

The north and south sides of the house rise to a full width triangular gable. Both have tympanums finished with rounded wooden shingles. Each has a pair of small vertical windows; those on the north side have curved heads; while those on the south side are rectangles with small wooden triangles imposed over the shingles. Each side features a tall center flat chimney that projects only slightly from the wall plane. It is paneled with one full-height vertical panel. The brick stops at the bottom of the triangular gable and the chimney stack appears above the apex of the roof.

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**Rosemont  
Powhatan County, Virginia**

**Section   7   Page   2**

The fenestration of the side walls vary. To the left of the chimney, on the ground floor of the south side is a single, two-over-two window, and to the right is a projecting, two-sided bay window with two-over-two sash. On the upper level is another two-over-two window to the right of the chimney and a double window with each half having four-over-four sash on the left (these sash may be a later replacement). The north side features a paneled chimney in the center identical to that on the south side, but the window placement varies. On the first floor there are a double window with two-over-two sash on the west side and a projecting two-sided bay window on the east side. At the second floor there are single windows with four-over-four sash on either side of the chimney.

On the back of the main block are two first-floor windows with single-pane lower sashes and upper sashes featuring stained-glass borders surrounding single large panes of clear glass. On the second floor are three different window types: a four-over-four modern window, a nine-over-one window and a two-over-two.

Behind the main block a hyphen connects the main house with the kitchen. The hyphen is one story and is open on the south side and enclosed with glass windows on the north. Steps are placed on the open side and there are doors into the main house and the kitchen. The kitchen is a square frame building two stories high capped with a pyramidal roof and set on a raised basement with its own outside access. A door in the high basement gives access to a cool storage area.

Interior

Originally there were four square rooms on each floor of the house. Each room had a corner fireplace on either side of the central partition dividing the floor plan from north to south. The east-west dividing wall still stands, but at some time the central north-south wall was taken out. This leaves two long rooms with a pair of corner fireplaces adjacent to each other in the center of each long outside wall—something that seems not to have been planned from the beginning. If it was, it certainly would be unusual if not unique.

From the front porch door one enters the northwest room which houses a handsome stair. It has tapering chamfered posts, a heavy molded handrail and delicate turned balusters. The Eastlake style is found in the turned balusters, heavily molded handrail and the chamfered posts of the stair. Adjacent to the stair is a door in its door case that has been turned into a bookcase. When the center wall existed, this door gave access to the rear rooms. The stair faces one of the fireplaces with a simple mantel composed of pilasters and a molded shelf. The fireplace itself is surrounded with small rectangular colored tiles that vary in color. The remaining fireplaces in the house are similar; except for one upstairs which is a marble one that may have been a later introduction. Some have stone hearths and some have tile. The use of colored tiles and stained glass windows are also Eastlake/Art and Crafts motifs. The northeast room has been recently renovated as a modern kitchen. In some rooms inconspicuous closets have been put in corners.

The kitchen has much of its original utilitarian woodwork including doors and simple mantel. The fireplace is intact, but the chimney stack no longer rises from the roof. There is a second floor storage room reached by a winding stair.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Rosemont  
Powhatan County, Virginia**

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Stable

Downhill, east of the house is the stable, a large rectangular frame building with a massive jerkin-head roof. The roof is covered with its original slate, assumed to have been obtained from the nearby slate mines in Buckingham County. At ground level the stable features a garage opening for vehicles, a door flanked by two windows opening into a central room and a door at the south corner giving access to the stalls for animals. The second floor has a central door to the loft used to store feed. There are rectangular louvered vents in each gable. It is amusing to note that the stable has a mixture of window and door shapes that echoes the variety and asymmetry found in the dwelling.

Cemetery

South of the house is a cemetery enclosed with an Anchor metal fence. Tombstones mark the six graves of members of the Meacham family who are the only individuals buried here. They are Dr. Edwin T. Meacham (1839-1912) and his wife, Olive J. Meacham (1844-1921) who were the second owners of Rosemont, and their four children, Bret Heber Meacham (1870-1940), Millicent E. Meacham (1874-1959), Winifred Meacham Whitfield (1877-1961) and Lloyd C. Meacham (1880-1961).

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Rosemont  
Powhatan County, Virginia**

**Section   8   Page   4**

**Summary Statement of Significance**

For more than one hundred years, “Rosemont” has served as a residence, standing tall at the intersection of state routes 621 and 684 in Powhatan County, Virginia. The house was built ca. 1898 by C. L. Dodd, the architect employed in 1895 to erect a school at St. Francis de Sales Institute, a residential Catholic school for African American girls in Powhatan County by Mother M. Katharine (formerly Catherine M. Drexel of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), who founded the Catholic Order of the Blessed Sacrament. Rosemont’s unusual form distinguishes it from many of Powhatan’s historic resources and its association with the St. Francis de Sales Institute is conveyed not only by its location but also in its use of materials and architectural treatments which are similar to those used at the school.

Historical Background

Little is know about architect C. L. Dodd. In the agreement he signed with Mother Katharine in March of 1895 to build a school, she refers to him as “C. L. Dodd, Jr., of Virginia.” He signed the agreement “C. L. Dodd,” without the Junior. That agreement with Mother Katharine called for Dodd to “use his best skill and judgment in prosecuting faithfully and vigorously the work committed to his care...in connection with the building of a school at Mount Pleasant, Virginia and such other buildings at that place as the said Mother Katherine may direct.” For his services at Mount Pleasant – the property on which St. Francis de Sales school was built – Dodd was paid thirty dollars a week plus thirty-five dollars a week for his living expenses, travel costs and other expenses connected with his work at Mount Pleasant. For another five dollars per month Dodd also agreed to furnish board to Mother Katharine or her representatives when they visited Mount Pleasant on business connected with the work in progress.

Rosemont was built on property located across the road (SR 621-Cosby Road) from the entrance to St. Francis de Sales School. While the various buildings at St. Francis were under construction, Mr. Dodd and his wife, Rosezilla, (or Rosezilda?) made their home at Rosemont.

Dodd’s plan for Rosemont is unusual. There is no central hall. The lack of a hall and the placing of small corner fireplaces in each room are unusual in Virginia houses and may reflect the architect’s northern background.

Many of the same architectural ideas used at St. Francis were carried out in Dodd’s house including use of a slate roof, stained glass windows and ornately carved, double front doors and interior wainscoting. The house features an interesting vertical-paneled chimney treatment which is seen in a larger scale on some of the chimneys at the school. It is believed that some of the surplus materials from St. Francis were used in the construction of Rosemont and may explain the variety of window styles used throughout the house.

Each of the five remaining fireplaces in the house has a unique design of hearth and facing tiles and each has been fitted with a mantel, no two of which are alike. The tile work on the fireplaces was done by masons who came from Italy to work on the St. Francis buildings. Another unusual feature of the house is a separate two-



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**Rosemont  
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story, frame kitchen-building connected to the main house by a breezeway or hyphen. The only remaining outbuilding is a stable with a slate roof located several hundred feet to the rear of the main house. Like the main house the stable has a mixture of window and door shapes and may also reflect the use of materials originally chosen for buildings at St. Francis.

Rosemont is located on property that was originally a part of the 400 acres patented by John Taylor on September 17, 1731, on the south side of the James River in what was then Southam Parish of what was then Goochland County. When Taylor died in 1758, his last will and testament, written on October 8, 1758, specified that this tract of land go to his granddaughter, Martha Taylor, which it did in 1773, when Martha's father, James Taylor died. The property remained in the Taylor family until 1869 when Daniel Taylor and his wife sold 27 ½ acres to Samuel M. Wilson. In 1898, Rosezilla Dodd, wife of C. L. Dodd, bought the property and Rosemont was built that year.

Initially the Dodds called Rosemont Hardscrabble, but the second owners, Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Meacham, gave it the name Rosemont which had been the name of their home in Ohio. C. L. and Rosezilla Dodd sold Rosemont to Meacham on September 6, 1901. While living at Rosemont, the Meacham family established a family cemetery several hundred feet to the south of the house on SR 684. On June 1, 1940, Rosemont was sold to O. C. Lawson and his wife Etta J. Lawson, who conveyed the property on April 2, 1964, to the present owner, G. Swift Williams, Jr.

Rosemont meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture and differs from the typical domestic architecture historically found in Powhatan County. The greater part of Powhatan County's domestic architecture from the eighteenth century well into the twentieth century was based largely on regional vernacular traditions, commonly expressed in one to one-and-one-half-story hall/parlor, side-hall and center hall dwellings, or in the full two-story "I-house" with either a hall/parlor or center-hall plan. In houses such as these, overt expression of academic or popular "style" was very limited, particularly on the exterior. In the later nineteenth century, an expanding railroad network and general economic rebuilding resulted in somewhat greater attention to architectural fashion, facilitated by increasing availability of pre-cut materials from catalogs and building suppliers. As the work of an identified architect, Rosemont again is an exception to the typical historic dwelling in Powhatan County.

Rosemont does not conform to one particular style, but rather presents a locally significant example of the eclectic approach to "style" that often characterized design at the turn of the century. Of particular interest is the typically Victorian attention paid to exterior surface treatment, as evidenced by features such as the patterned gable-end shingles, the variety of window shapes (including the unusual triangular bay windows), and the distinctive treatment of the chimneys. Other elements typical of the period include the Eastlake-style front doors, mantelpieces with glazed tile surrounds, the heavily-articulated staircase, and the two rear "Queen Anne" windows with the stained-glass edging in the upper sash. In addition to integrity of location, feeling and association, the house possesses integrity of design, workmanship and materials, being largely unaltered from its turn-of-the-century construction. Its association with its neighbor, St. Francis de Sales Institute, adds to Rosemont's local distinction.

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**Rosemont  
Powhatan County, Virginia**

Section   9   Page   6  

**Bibliography**

Contract drawn up by Mother M. Katharine (Catherine M. Drexel) with C. L. Dodd, 1895. St. Francis De Sales Museum, Powhatan, Virginia.

Cumberland County Will Book 1: 161-164, 1758

Cumberland County Will Book 2: 107, 1773

Mutual Assurance Society Policy No. 831, 1802, Vol. 16, Reel 2, Library of Virginia, Richmond

Mutual Assurance Society Policy No. 125, 1805, Vol. 35, Reel 4, Library of Virginia, Richmond

Mutual Assurance Society Policy No. 1720, 1815, Vol. 43 Reel 5, Library of Virginia, Richmond

Palmore, Peggy. Powhatan County Old and New, *The Farmville Herald* (Virginia), August 18, 1965

Phase II Architectural Evaluation, Route 684, Powhatan County, Virginia. Richmond: The Cultural Resource Group – LouisBerger & Associates, Inc., 1992.

Powhatan County Deed Book 2: 33, 509, 1793-1798

Powhatan County Deed Book 14: 338, 1839

Powhatan County Deed Book 21: 225, 1869

Powhatan County Deed Book 30: 67, 1898

Powhatan County Deed Book 31: 197, 1901

Powhatan County Deed Book 53: 258, 1940

Powhatan County Deed Book 79: 405, 1964

Powhatan County Will Book 7: 306, 1826

Virginia Land Office Patents 14 (1728-1732): 331

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**Rosemont  
Powhatan County, Virginia**

**Section 10, Photographic Data Page 7**

**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Rosemont is located on the southeast corner of SR. 684 (Bell Road) and SR 621 (Cosby Road) in Powhatan County, Virginia. Situated on an irregularly shaped parcel of 56 acres, it is identified on the tax parcel maps for Powhatan County as Section 14, Parcel 77. The property being nominated consists of 20 acres of the 56-acre parcel which represents most of the property during the ownership of C. L. Dodd; and is defined more specifically by the following four UTM points.

1) 18 236713 4166017 2) 18 237006 4166049 3) 18 237033 4165873 4) 18 236800 4165800

**Boundary Justification**

The property being nominated follows the tax parcel lines along the northern, western, and eastern sides and crosses through the larger tax parcel along the southern boundary. This southern boundary cuts off the domestic portion of the property from the forested area which does not include any contributing resources to the architecturally nominated property. The property being nominated includes the dwelling and the two secondary resources historically associated with it on the approximately 20 acres of the total 56 acres, which constitutes the property during the ownership of C. L. Dodd, the builder of the house.

The following information is the same for all photographs:

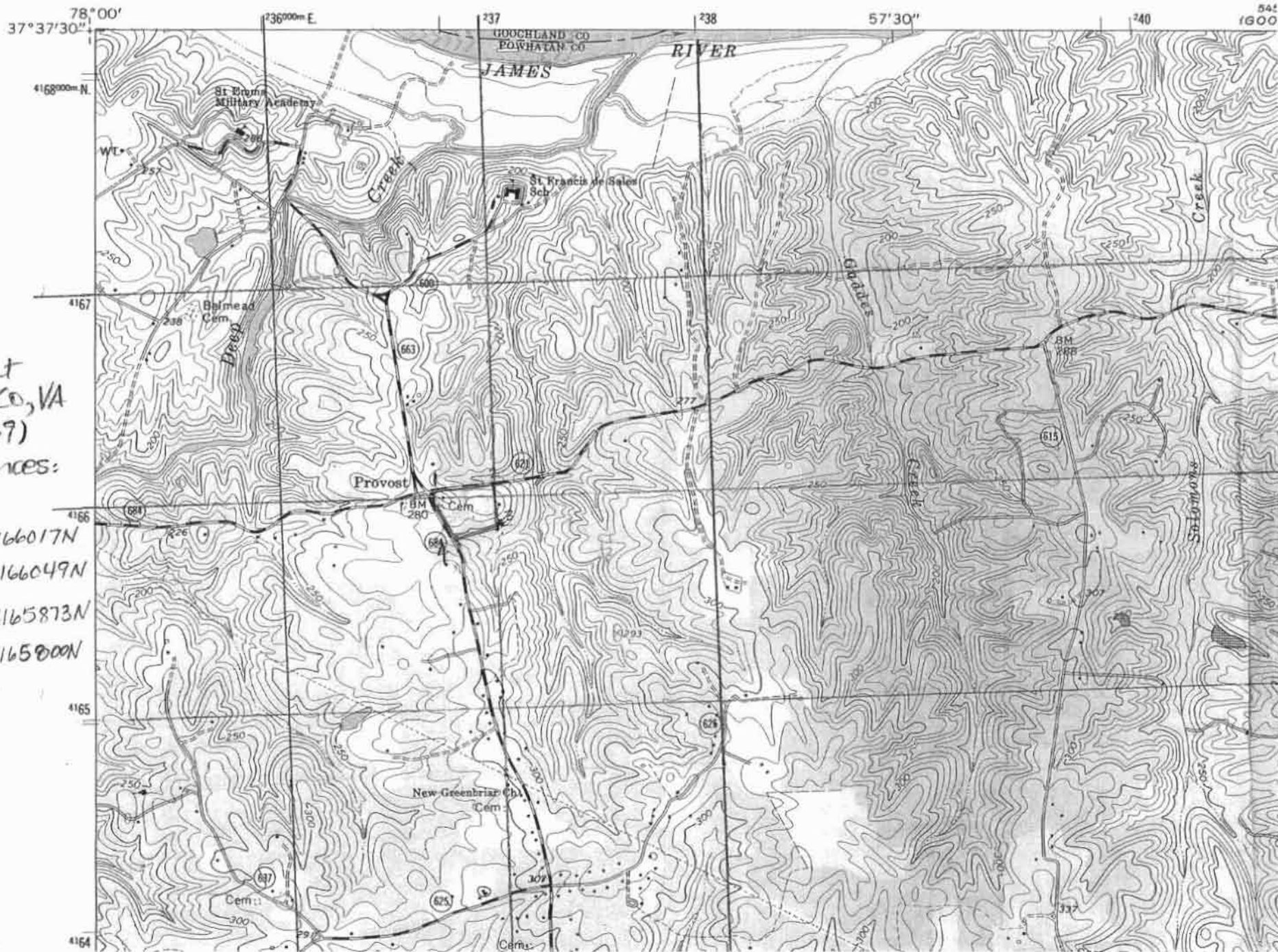
Property: Rosemont,  
Location: Powhatan County, Virginia (VDHR 72-169)  
Negative Number: 23606  
Negatives filed: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA  
Photographer: John G. Zehmer  
Date: July 30, 2007

- 1 of 10: Front (west) façade
- 2 of 10: Front porch pier showing metal cap
- 3 of 10: Front door
- 4 of 10: Detail of main gable on west façade (front)
- 5 of 10: South side of house
- 6 of 10: North side of house
- 7 of 10: Stair and entrance
- 8 of 10: Stair and door opening converted to bookcase
- 9 of 10: Mantel and window, northwest room on first floor
- 10 of 10: Stable

5359 U. ME  
(CARTERSVILLE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH  
DIVISION OF MINES



Rosemont  
Powhatan Co., VA  
(072-0169)

UTM References:  
Zone 18

- 1) 236713E 4166017N
- 1) 237006E 4166049N
- 1) 237033E 4165873N
- 1) 236800E 4165800N