

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR 3/20/8
NHP 5/15/8

**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 Edge Hill
other names/site number Green Hills, Walker's Ford Sawmill (#005-0174); VDHR #005-0005

2. Location

street & number 1380 Edgehill Plantation Road not for publication N/A
city or town Gladstone vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Amherst code 005 Zip 24553

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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] April 3, 2008
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official 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 Keeper
Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>12</u>	<u>1</u> 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: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	<u>Storage</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	<u>Sawmill</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	<u>Agricultural Field</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Standing-Seam Metal
walls Brick
other _____

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 1801-1947

Significant Dates 1801; 1833; c. 1947

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Walker, Isaac W. ; Clark, Pendleton S.

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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Bibliography

(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

Edge Hill
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- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 71 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 17 683102E 4152710N 2 17 682914E 4152380N 3 17 683564E 4152263N 4 17 683869E 4152420N
5 17 683671E 4152725N 6 17 683529E 4152801N 7 17 683402E 4152674N

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title: Sandra F. Esposito
Organization: _____ date 10/22/07
street & number: 140 Cradon Hill Lane telephone 434-946-7496
city or town Amherst state VA zip code 24521

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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)

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

name Warren G. Teates
street & number 1380 Plantation Road telephone 434-933-8382
city or town Gladstone state VA zip code 24553

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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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

Edge Hill is an 1833 Federal style, I-house built on a bluff overlooking the James River in Amherst County, Va. It is near the villages of Walker's Ford and Riverville and was built by Isaac W. Walker. The two-story house is constructed of oil brick laid in Flemish bond and it has a standing-seam metal, gable roof. There are two interior end chimneys on the parapeted gable ends decorated with elliptical wooden panels and horizontal wooden panels. Facing the river, the principle elevation has a one-story porch with a hip roof of standing seam metal. Additions to the house include the c. 1801 overseer's house originally connected to the central brick structure by a breezeway until c. 1947, when the breezeway was enclosed. A c. 1900 porch addition was remodeled around 1947, and this addition was incorporated into the 1995 addition, enlarging the guesthouse for the neighboring paper mill company, Virginia Fibre.

The interior of the house retains its Federal-style wood trim, stair and mantels. Immediately surrounding the house are deciduous trees, including a Hackberry believed to have been of the same rootstock as those of Monticello, and there are two nineteenth century landscape features: one is a raised circular flower bed located in front of the main house and the other is a series of concentric and intersecting brick paths with planting beds, located west of the main house. There are four c. 1833 outbuildings near the house: an office, pumphouse, corncrib, and log-framed barn. Below the bluff, adjacent to the railroad and near the James River, are four additional outbuildings: an 1865 sawmill and shed, a nineteenth century tobacco barn, and a c. 1947 post and beam two-story cattle barn. Several potential archaeological sites on the farm are slave quarters, additional outbuildings and a slave cemetery known to have been on the hillside above the river. This was the Walker family home until the 1940s when it was bought and renovated by the Suhling family. In the 1980s, the house was purchased and remodeled into a guesthouse by Virginia Fibre/Greif Brothers Corporation, who used it until 2004 when Edge Hill was sold to the current owners.¹

Architectural Description: Exterior

The main portion of Edge Hill was built c. 1833 in the Federal style. The main block is a two-story, single pile, I-house built on a bluff overlooking the James River in the southeast part of Amherst County. The main block of the house was built of oil brick laid in Flemish bond. The house has parapeted gable ends with interior chimneys and wooden elliptical panels inset in the gable above narrow wooden horizontal panels inset at cornice height. The interior of the house features Federal-style mantels and wood trim. The house has three additions dating from c. 1801, c. 1900 and c. 1995. The oldest addition was the first known house on the property and was connected to the main block of the house by an enclosed breezeway c. 1947. The c. 1900 addition was incorporated into the 1995 addition to adapt the house for use as a corporate guesthouse.

The principle elevation faces south, overlooking the James River. It has three symmetrical bays on both stories. On the first story, the central entry is a double-leaf door of four raised panels topped with a three-light transom. Most of the earlier windows on both stories were six-over-six double-hung sash windows. These earlier windows were replaced with vinyl replicas during the 1984 renovation. All window openings in the brick section of the house have Federal-style wooden lintels with square end blocks. The elevation has an entry porch accessed by concrete steps and floored with new planking that replaced the wood. The porch has a shallow-pitched hip roof of standing-seam metal supported by square columns. This remodeled porch is deeper than the earlier porch and was completed in 1984.

The east elevation was first altered around 1900 when a porch with a screened kitchen was added. Around 1947 the porch was remodeled, then incorporated into the 1995 addition. Originally this gable end had only the parapet

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and the wooden elliptical and horizontal panels near the top of the gable, and was identical to the west elevation.

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The north elevation of the main block originally mirrored the south elevation with three symmetrical bays on each story. The house was connected to the earlier c. 1801 house by means of a covered breezeway connecting the two buildings. The breezeway was fully enclosed around 1947. The north elevation was covered with vinyl in 1984.

The west elevation of the main block has the gable end wall with parapet and wooden elliptical and horizontal panels inset near the top of the gable. There is a frame structure with a standing-seam gable roof that sheltered an old entry to the basement. This has been sealed and is now accessible only from the interior as a storage area.

Architectural Description: Interior

The interior of the main block of the house has a central hall plan. The house is two stories with a basement. Each room has a fireplace, including those in the basement. Most of the original wood floors are of wide heart pine planks. Throughout the house are Federal-style, wide, single-leaf doors each with six raised panels. Most of the wooden door trim, baseboard and chair rail is of simple Federal style.

The basement has little decorative woodwork. It is accessed from the first story and the staircase has a closed stringer with square balusters and a simple square newel post. Both basement rooms have mantels of simple Federal style. The west room mantel has a plain frieze and the east room mantel has stylized pilasters with a plain frieze. Information from various sources state these rooms were used as the kitchen and dining room of the house until around 1900.²

The center hall has a chair rail. There is an open dogleg staircase with decorative scrollwork; the balusters are square and the turned newel is of simple Federal design. In 1947, an entry to the half-story room of the c. 1801 house was created and is accessed by two wooden risers at the stair landing.

The west parlor or living room has simple baseboard, chair rail, window, and crown molding. The Federal-style mantel in this room has fluted pilasters on either side of the firebox; the five-part frieze has an undecorated raised centerpiece, while the end plinths are decorated with a rope motif between flutes, and bead and reel molding runs beneath the molded shelf.

The east parlor or dining room has decorative trim similar to that of the west parlor. The mantel in this room has marble surrounding the firebox; the wooden surround has fluted pilasters with reeds, and the five-part frieze has a raised and undecorated centerpiece with reeded end plinths. In the northeast corner there is a c. 1900 built-in cabinet with double-leaf doors and horizontal panels.

The second floor once consisted of a hall and two bedrooms. Both bedrooms retain their similar Federal-style mantels with pilasters and an undecorated frieze. In 1984, closets were constructed in both bedrooms and the stair hall was altered to accommodate a bathroom.

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Architectural Description: Additions

C. 1801 house and c. 1947 enclosed breezeway

This section of the north elevation was originally a residence built on the site, circa 1801, when the Walker family moved to Buckingham, now Appomattox County across the James River. This one-and-one-half story, vernacular, frame building has a stone foundation and a single, exterior end stone chimney with brick at the top of the stack. The standing seam gable roof has a steep extended pitch on the north elevation. This house likely served as the overseer's cottage until the Walker family returned to Amherst in the 1830s, and the central brick house was complete by 1833. The weatherboard siding was covered by vinyl in 1984. The interior plan of the building cannot be determined due to many changes over time. Currently the main story is a large bedroom with a fireplace and a large bathroom area, and the half-story room is an open bedroom. The first story wooden mantel is simple Early Classical Revival style, and, according to owners, Delft tiles are behind the hand-painted firescreen that seals the firebox. The firescreen is a hand-painted trompe l'oeil design showing Delft tiles and was created by Carl Taylor, the former manager of the house for the paper mill. The half-story of the house once accessed by means of a stepladder is now accessed from the interior center hall stair.³

The house was attached to the main house by means of an open breezeway that was enclosed around 1947. The breezeway is two stories and is frame with a brick foundation and a slate gambrel roof. A standing seam metal canopy covers the concrete stair to the basement entry on the east elevation of the breezeway. There is a single dormer window on each of the east and west elevations at the second story. Bathrooms were installed in the basement and second story of the breezeway,. A hall from the main stair landing connects the half-story room to the main house. The open breezeway of the main story had an outdoor sink with a copper faucet. When local Lynchburg architect Pendleton S. Clark created the enclosed breezeway, the faucet was kept and enclosed within a cabinet as part of the shelving.

C. 1900 addition and 1995 addition

The style of the doors in the dining room indicates that the first addition to the east elevation was built circa 1900. The one-story frame addition had a hand-made brick foundation laid in four-course American bond. It consisted of a kitchen with a screened porch and a wooden stair to the basement. In 1995, this area was remodeled and enlarged by Virginia Fibre Company in a style reflecting the main house. The new one-story wing was brick laid in five-course American bond and has a standing-seam metal roof. The new wing was erected perpendicular to the main house and the south elevation of the wing has a parapet influenced by those of the main house. It also has a large bay window. The east elevation has two six-over-six double-hung sash windows and French doors that access the wooden patio. The north elevation has a triple set of paired windows each containing twelve lights.

The interior of the c. 1900 addition was completely remodeled in 1995 with the addition of the new wing. The basement of this area contains the utility room, three bedrooms and three baths. On the main level is a hall area with cabinets, sink and dishwasher, a large kitchen and the wing is an open room formerly used as a conference room.

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Currently, the entire house has seven bedrooms and seven bathrooms. It was used as a guesthouse until about 2003, when the executives of the paper mill thought the upkeep expenses were too costly and they sold the house to the current owners in 2004.

Surrounding Landscape

Near the house, according to family lore, the Walker family created two flowerbeds in the nineteenth century. Both are **contributing sites**. The first, on the South lawn, is a raised low, circular mound that was created with the dirt dug from the well during construction of the brick house, c. 1833. The center of the mound has a fountain with mythological figures. Virginia Fibre planted roses around the base of the mound and current owners have replaced these with boxwoods.⁴

The second flowerbed, west of the main house, has three brick concentric circles intersected by four straight paths; the areas between the paths are the planting beds. The north yard has a dry-laid stone wall fragment. The entire yard contains many mature deciduous trees including the Hackberry on the south elevation that is, according to local lore, from the same rootstock as those of Monticello. The house sits on a bluff overlooking the James River and the surrounding farmland remains open.⁵

Outbuildings

The outbuildings on the property range in dates from c. 1833 to 2005. The oldest contributing buildings and structures, c. 1833, are located southwest of the main house and include an office, pumphouse, corncrib and barn. There is also a 2005 metal, non-contributing barn in the same area as the older outbuildings. Below and east of the house is the area where the cemetery was located. Below the bluff, near the river and on the creek, are the 1865 sawmill, shed and nineteenth-century tobacco barn and the c. 1947 cattle barn. This area is adjacent to land sold by the Walker family to the James River and Kanawha Canal Company. In the 1870s, the canal company sold the land to the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad. The railroad laid rail lines on the old canal towpath. The house overlooks the James River, once the main travel route between Richmond and Lynchburg.

Office/Schoolhouse- c. 1833 contributing building

The c. 1833 office or schoolhouse is a frame, one-story structure with weatherboard siding on a brick foundation. In 1984, the earlier weatherboard was replaced. The building has a standing seam, metal gable roof and a chimney on the gable end of the north elevation. This chimney, like that of the c. 1801 house is constructed of stone with brick at the top of the stack. On the east and south elevations, there is a six-over-six double-hung sash window. The entry is on the west elevation. A standing seam metal door hood is supported by brackets and protects the single-leaf Dutch batten door. The interior was not accessed but is only one room.

Pumphouse- c. 1833 contributing structure

The pumphouse is a one-story frame structure on a rock foundation with a pyramid shaped roof of asphalt shingles. There is a rock step into the structure. The main entry is a herringbone patterned wooden door. The interior was not accessed.

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Corncrib (labeled as Smokehouse)-c. 1833 contributing structure

Virginia Fibre labeled the corncrib as a Smokehouse; construction and shape is similar to a corncrib. The building was constructed on dry-laid rock piers, like the log-frame barn. The internal framing is unknown, as the current batten siding dates from 1984. The building has a standing-seam metal roof and a single-leaf batten entry on the gable end.

Log-frame Barn-c. 1833 contributing building

The barn is one-and-one-half stories with two shed extensions. The central portion and western shed extension both have dry-laid stone foundations. The central portion of the barn is log-framed, the framing is exposed beneath the eastern shed extension. In 1984, batten siding was applied to the exterior of the barn. The barn is currently used for equipment storage.

Metal Barn-c. 2005 non-contributing building

The metal barn is located northeast of the main house and older outbuildings. It is constructed of metal framing with vinyl siding with a gable roof. It is a non-contributing building and was not accessed.

Cemetery- date unknown-contributing site

The cemetery, according to a 1980 survey, was located on the hillside southeast of the main house. An early survey suggests that slaves were buried in the area. The Walker family owned many slaves according to the 1850 and 1860 census records. This cemetery, and slave quarters also mentioned in the survey, have been lost.⁶

Sawmill and Shed - 19th century contributing buildings

Samuel Branch Walker built the sawmill and its associated Shed in the mid to late 19th century. These buildings are located southeast of the main house below the bluff, on an unnamed creek near the James River. The sawmill is a single-room, rectangular, frame structure built on "a series of wooden posts with mortise-and-tenon braces, spaced approximately eight feet apart." The building, as described in a 1980 survey, retains most of its features such as the sawn, random-width vertical boards. Machinery, beneath the floorboards of the mill, included the leather belts and iron pulleys, wheels, and rods. It is possible this mill, like a nearby mill built by Benjamin P. Walker, was a coal-fed steam-powered mill. The entry, a single-leaf batten door, is accessed by means of rungs nailed to one of the posts beneath the gable end. The building has a standing-seam metal, gable roof with exposed rafters. The structure is deteriorated and unused. This a good example of a surviving 19th century sawmill. Lumber was a major industry in Amherst County after the Civil War until the early twentieth century, and few, if any, of the many known sawmills survive, including the nearest one at Walker's Ford (about 1 mile from Edge Hill). Benjamin P. Walker built the Walker's Ford sawmill in 1867. It was built on Lime Kiln Creek, today Walker's Ford Creek. This mill and surrounding land eventually came into the possession of Samuel Branch Walker in the late 19th century. Few examples of 19th sawmills exist in Amherst County.⁷

Adjacent to the mill is a supporting shed of the same frame construction with batten siding. This building has no foundation and a standing-seam gable roof. The building has a sliding batten door.

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Log Tobacco Barn-19th century contributing building

The tobacco barn is located south of the sawmill and nearer to the river. The structure is built of logs on a foundation covered by plant growth. It has a standing-seam metal gable roof and batten siding in the gable ends. The barn is deteriorated and was not accessed.⁸

Cattle Barn-c. 1947 contributing building

The two-story cattle barn is north of the sawmill and was built about the time Gerhard Suhling was farming the land. It is post-and-beam construction on a wood and concrete foundation. The standing-seam metal barn has a central gable roof with extended shed roofs on either side. On the gable end at the second story is an overhang gable at the hayloft. Beneath the extended roof areas cattle were housed. The structure is deteriorated and was not accessed.

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8. Statement of Significance

Edge Hill is significant under Criterion C for architecture. The house, constructed 1833, is a well-preserved example of Federal-style architecture in Amherst County. Its significant exterior Federal-style features include the decorative lintels on the main elevation and the parapets and wooden inserts on the gable ends. On the interior, the decorative mantels were influenced by pattern books of the day such as Asher Benjamin's The American Builder's Companion. Other significant features of the property include the use of oil bricks for construction. Oil bricks, laid in Flemish bond, were generally used for facades, as was done at the Pavilions at the University of Virginia. However, the main section of Edge Hill used oil bricks for the entire exterior, not just the façade, as at Bremono Plantation in Fluvanna County. Attached to the main house is the earliest structure on the property, a c. 1801 house. Surrounding the house are what appear to be the remains of 19th century formal gardens: the circular mound in front of the house and a concentric circular garden on its west side. The property retains several of its outbuildings and among these is the only remaining Amherst County 19th-century sawmill with its machinery. This property -- both the house with its intact architectural features and the surrounding grounds and outbuildings -- retains much of its historical integrity despite changes and alterations over time and serves as a tangible reminder of 19th-century life in Amherst County. Edge Hill was the property of the Walker Family from 1801 to 1947. In 1984, Virginia Fibre/Greif Brothers purchased the house for use as a corporate guesthouse, and in 2004 Edge Hill again became a private residence.

Historical Significance

Edge Hill is located on land patented to the Christian family around 1743. The Christian family home, Rosedale, c. 1780 (DHR # 005-0015), is a neighboring house on the same road as Edge Hill. The land of Edge Hill passed through two generations of the Christian family, James Christian Sr. (1715-1758) and his son, John Harvey Christian (1746-1801). John Harvey Christian and wife Joyce had only one child, Susan (1776-1845). In 1790, Susan married John Merriwether Walker (1772-1830) and together they lived with her parents at Rosedale as noted in the early census records.⁹

In 1801, when John Harvey Christian died, he left his land to his son-in-law, John Merriwether Walker, who owned Oakland, across the James River in Buckingham County, now Appomattox County. John and Susan Walker moved to Oakland. They left their Amherst lands in the hands of an overseer who likely lived in the c. 1801 house, which is now the northern wing of the house. The Edge Hill property became Walker family land and remained in the Walker family until 1947.¹⁰

John Merriwether and Susan Walker had three sons: Benjamin, Samuel J., and Isaac W. Walker. John Walker died in 1830. His will no longer exists but it is assumed that he divided his lands between his sons, with his elder sons receiving the Buckingham County lands across the river from Edge Hill. The entire area around the river is known as Walkers Ford, an easily crossed area of the James River. The homes of the brothers were of frame construction and still exist; one in particular is Locust Grove, home of Samuel J. Walker (1809-1866), which was the earliest guesthouse of Virginia Fiber/Greif Brothers.¹¹

Isaac W. Walker (1810-1839) received the Amherst property and began construction on his home soon after his father's death. Edge Hill was completed by 1834. The house was built as a traditional single-pile, two-story I-house with Federal-style details and transitional Greek molding profiles that were influenced by popular building

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manuels at that time, including The American Builder's Companion by Asher Benjamin. In particular, the parapets on the main house are reflective of those of a town house building on plate 33 and the mantels have decorative influences similar to plate 28 of the same manual. Walker used oil brick to construct the entire building rather than using frame construction or hand-made bricks. Oil brick was readily available from Lynchburg. Oil brick is characteristically uniform in shape, size and color. The process for making oil brick was perfected in the early 19th century, but by the Civil War the emerging technology of the brick press had rendered oil brick obsolete.

Isaac Walker married Sarah Branch (1811-1904) and they likely lived in the overseer's cottage until the brick house was complete. Their only son, Samuel Branch Walker (1832-1906) was born at Edge Hill farm. In 1839, Isaac Walker died and his will stated that should his wife remarry Edge Hill was to be held until Samuel was of age. Sarah Branch remarried in 1843 and she and her son moved to Appomattox and the house of her husband, Dr. Reuben D. Palmer. Dr. Palmer administered the Edge Hill property until Samuel reached age 18.¹²

In 1859, Samuel Branch Walker married Mary Venable (1837-1913) and census records have them at Edge Hill in 1860. They raised six children on the farm. After the death of her husband, Sarah Branch continued to live at Edge Hill and it is believed that she lived in the overseer's cottage.¹³

After the Civil War, two sawmills were built in the Walker's Ford area of Amherst County. The northern sawmill was built and operated by Samuel Branch Walker. It was built on an unnamed creek below Edge Hill and it still remains today. The southern sawmill was built near what became Walker's Ford Depot on Lime Kiln Creek (now Walker's Ford Creek) and no longer survives. Benjamin P. Walker, uncle of Samuel, built this mill in 1867 and it was located about a mile upriver from the Edge Hill mill. Benjamin Walker sold his mill in 1867, and Samuel bought an interest in this mill from then owner Peter Shearer. Samuel eventually owned the land as additional holdings to the Edge Hill property. There are no surviving records for the operational period of either mill.¹⁴

Edge Hill remained in the Walker family until Samuel Walker's daughter, Sallie Mundy, died in 1946; the family sold the property in 1947.¹⁵ While still in possession of the Walker family, the main house was altered about 1900 by the addition of a wing on the east side to house the kitchen which was relocated from the basement.

W. Gerhard Suhling (1898-1971) bought the farm in 1947, renamed it Greenhills, and hired noted Lynchburg architect, architect Pendleton S. Clark, to renovate the deteriorated house. He and his family occupied the overseer's cottage during the work. The brick house was completely restored, plumbing was added, and the breezeway was enclosed. The Sahlings also erected the cattle barn. Suhling was a former OSS agent, a World War II veteran, and President of Suhling Tobacco Company. He also ran the farm, likely raising tobacco and livestock. As part of a government program to help displaced Europeans after WWII, Suhling sponsored a Romanian family who helped to work the farm; this family later moved to Michigan. After the death of his wife, Suhling sold the farm.¹⁶

Virginia Fibre, known today as Greif Brothers, bought the property in 1984. Virginia Fibre/Greif Brothers is a corrugated paper mill on the James River and their land joins Edge Hill. The house was purchased for use as a guesthouse. It replaced their former guesthouse, Locust Grove, the home of Isaac Walker's brother, Samuel. In 1984, the company restored the house and updated the utility systems, and in 1995 erected a new wing. They took great pains to restore and retain as much of the historic materials as possible. They were also careful to restore and retain the outbuildings as well as the gardens. The caretaker, Carl Taylor, researched the history of the house and contacted remaining family members to help guide the restoration.¹⁷

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In 2004, Greif Brothers could no longer afford to maintain the building and sold it to the current owners, Warren Teates and Caroline Emswiler.¹⁸ This couple cherishes the history of their house and wish to preserve it for the future. Edge Hill is a well-preserved example of a 19th century farm and sawmill. Despite renovations, Edge Hill retains much of its Federal-style details such as the exterior decoration on the gable end walls and the interior woodwork and mantels. The house continues to overlook the James River and its surrounding farmland, as it has done since its construction. The sawmill, near the river, is one of the few surviving examples of a 19th-century sawmill in Amherst County. Edge Hill's unique architecture, construction materials, gardens and outbuildings make it a significant property in Amherst County.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Baber, David W., "Edgehill," *Virginia Historic Landmark Survey*, 1 November 1978.

Hibbert, Meg, "Edgehill," *Amherst New Era Progress*, Amherst, Va.: 17 July 1986.

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Private Files of Owners includes:

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Langhorne, Elizabeth A., *Letter to Carl Taylor*, 11 April 1994.

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Amherst County Deed Book 70, p. 407.

Amherst County Deed Book 74, p. 530.

Amherst County Deed Book 130, p. 429.

Amherst County Deed Book 210, p. 127.

Amherst County Deed Book 211, p. 407.

Amherst County Deed Book 512, p. 287.

Amherst County Deed Book 989, p. 711.

Amherst County Will Book 10, pp. 207, 211.

Amherst County Will Book 29, p. 130.

Virginia Land Grant, 1798 to John Harvey Christian available online from Library of Virginia at www.lib.va.us.

Virginia Land Tax Records for Amherst County 1798-1805, Reel 17, available at Jones Memorial Library.

Virginia Land Tax Records for Amherst County 1806-1833, Reel 18, available at Jones Memorial Library.

Virginia Land Tax Records for Amherst County 1833-1854, Reel 19, available at Jones Memorial Library.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The property being nominated is identified as # A 8 on tax parcel map 143 for Amherst County, Virginia. This is the same property deeded to Warren Teates and identified in Amherst County Deed Book 989, page 711 dated 29 October 2004.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary includes all historic resources historically and currently owned and known as Edge Hill in Amherst County.

Photographs

The following is the same for all the photographs:

Edge Hill, Amherst County, Virginia #005-0005

Photos taken by Sandi Esposito in October 2007

Negatives stored at the Virginia Department of historic Resources

Photo 1 of 8 Facing North, main elevation, neg. 23701

Photo 2 of 8 Facing West, showing 1984 addition, neg. 23701

Photo 3 of 8 Facing East, interior stair, neg. 23703

Photo 4 of 8 Facing West, interior west parlor mantel, neg. 23702

Photo 5 of 8 Facing North, circular garden landscape, neg. 23705

Photo 6 of 8 Facing Northwest, outbuildings in northeast yard, neg. 23701

Photo 7 of 8 Facing North, outbuildings near river, neg. 23704

Photo 8 of 8 Facing Northeast, sawmill, neg. 23704

Section Endnotes for Sections 7 and 8 Page 13

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Edge Hill
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Endnotes

¹ David W. Baber, "Edgehill," Virginia Historic Landmark Survey Form dated 1 November 1978, DHR No. 05-0005

² Information for the use of the rooms comes from Edward Suhling, 4 April 2007, telephone interview; the owners and Susan Phillips, "Edge Hill," 31 July 1983, pp. B5-B6.

³ Wilmer L. Kerns, Ph.D., *Waltons of Old Virginia and Sketches*, (Willow Bend Books, Wilmington, Md.) pp.321-336 and 429-434; Virginia County Land Tax Records, Amherst County 1806-1833 and 1834-1850, microfilm available from Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, Virginia; and Information from owners.

⁴ Elizabeth A. Langhorne, Letter to William M. Slagle of Virginia Fibre Corp. dated 17 April 1986

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Baber, "Edgehill."

⁷ Sherrie and William McLeRoy, *More Passages: A New History of Amherst County, Virginia* (Heritage Books, Lynchburg, VA: 1995), pp. 105-114; Gloria E. Scott, "Walker's Ford Mill," Virginia Historic Landmarks Survey dated August 1980, DHR No.05-174; the 1980 survey accurately described the Edge Hill mill but the survey history described the mill at Walker's Ford; Amherst County Deed Book JJ p. 260, 19 December 1871; Amherst County Deed Book 74 p. 530; Amherst County Plat Book A p. 291; Amherst County Plat Book F p. 63; and Amherst County Deed Book 229 p. 250.

⁸ Several other structures are seen and these were once associated with the property and are now owned by the Virginia Fibre such a tobacco barn and the ruins of a lockkeeper's house.

⁹ Virginia Department of Historic Resources, survey files sent by email to author on Rosedale; Christian Family Information from the files of the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society and Wilmer L. Kerns, *Waltons*, pp.321-336 and 429-434.

¹⁰ Wilmer L. Kerns, *Waltons*, pp.321-336 and 429-434; Ann L. McAlister, "Walker Summary," February 1982 from files of current owners; Carl Taylor, Various notes; Elizabeth A. Langhorne, Letter dated 17 April 1986; and Susan Phillips, "Edge Hill," 31 July 1983, pp. B5-B6.

¹¹ Wilmer L. Kerns, *Waltons*, pp.321-336 and 429-434; and Carl Taylor, Various notes.

¹² Amherst County Will Book 10, pp. 207 (30 May 1837) and 211 (16 March 1840); and Elizabeth A. Langhorne, Letter dated 17 April 1986.

¹³ Elizabeth A. Langhorne, Letter dated 17 April 1986; Liz Langhorne, Letter to Carl Taylor dated 11 April 1994 from the files of current owners.

¹⁴ Sherrie and William McLeRoy, *More Passages: A New History of Amherst County, Virginia* (Heritage Books, Lynchburg, VA: 1995), pp. 105-114; Gloria E. Scott, "Walker's Ford Mill," Virginia Historic Landmarks Survey dated August 1980, DHR No.05-174; the 1980 survey accurately described the Edge Hill mill but the survey history described the mill at Walker's Ford; Amherst County Deed Book JJ p. 260, 19 December 1871; Amherst County Deed Book 74 p. 530; Amherst County Plat Book A p. 291; Amherst County Plat Book F p. 63; and Amherst County Deed Book 229 p. 250.

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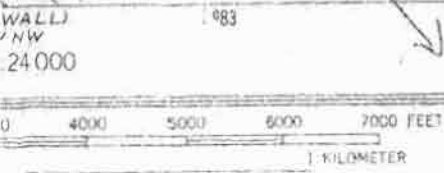
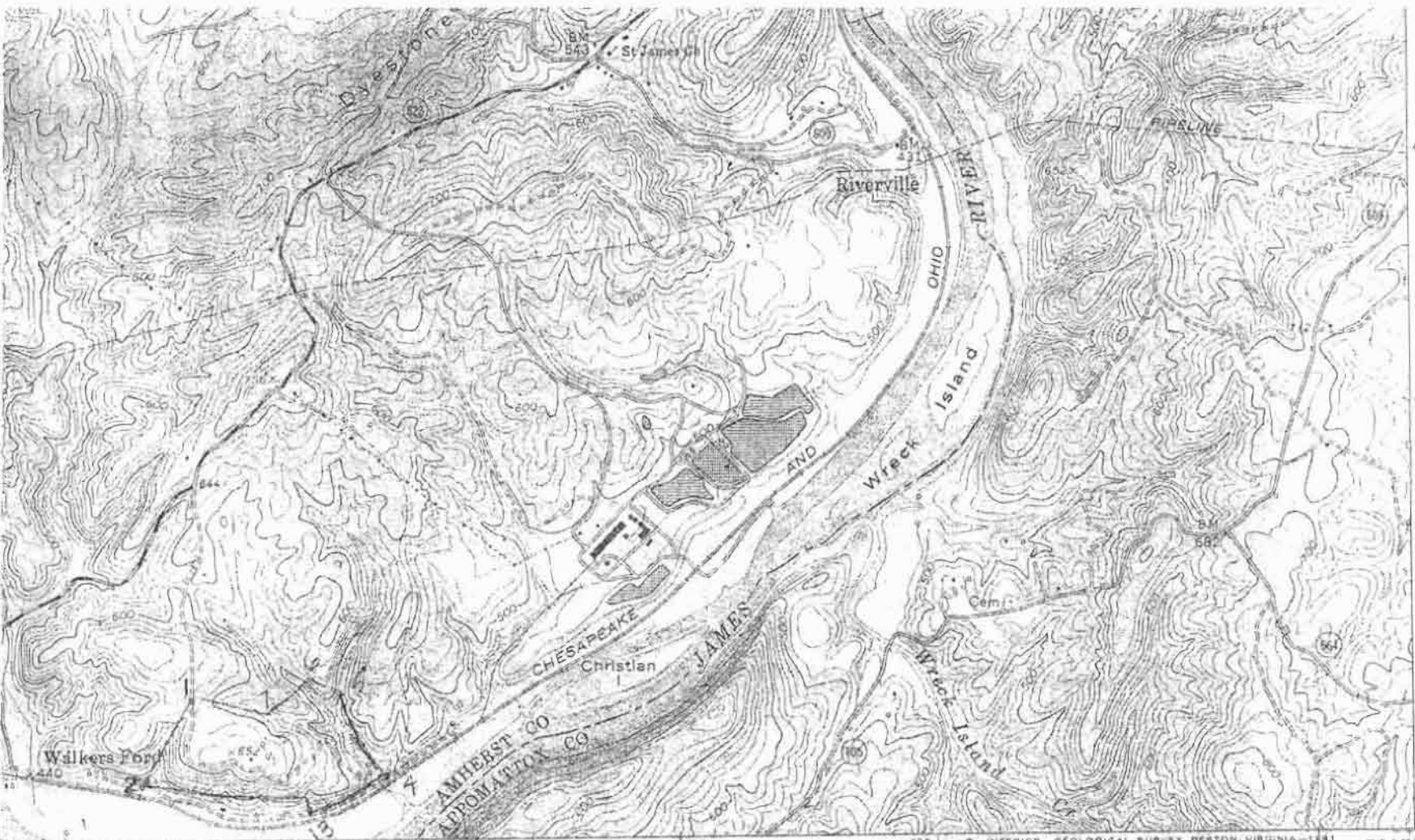
**Edge Hill
Amherst County, VA**

¹⁵ Elizabeth A. Langhorne, Letter dated 17 April 1986; Liz Langhorne, Letter to Carl Taylor dated 11 April 1994 from the files of current owners; Joe McCarthy, 19 March 2007, telephone interview by author [Joe McCarthy is the son of Alma Walker McCarthy (1906-2004) the last Walker born at Edge Hill]; Amherst County Will Book 24, p. 67 (1 February 1898); Amherst County Will Book 29, p.130 (18 May 1939); Amherst County Deed Book 70, p. 407 (11 December 1913); Amherst County Deed Book 74, p. 530 (3 April 1916); and Amherst County Deed Book 130, p. 429 (24 Sept 1946).

¹⁶ Amherst County deed Book 130, p. 429 (24 Sept 1946); Edward Suhling, 4 April 2007, telephone interview; William Gerhard Suhling, information online at www.lib.virginia.edu and www.healthsystem.virginia.edu and files of University of Virginia; A Cuban resident, John G. Dewitt bought the house in 1959 and resold it in 1961. The Dulas, John and Mary, came to own the land and John worked as a cattle farmer while his wife was an educator in Amherst County and later in Lynchburg. John Dula developed an allergy to bees, he gave up the cattle and began a tree farm. The Dulas sold the farm in 1984; Amherst County Deed Book 210, p.127 (2 November 1959); Edward Suhling, 4 April 2007, telephone interview; Susan Phillips, "Edge Hill," pp. B5-B6; Meg Hibbert, "Edgehill," 17 July 1986; Amherst County Deed Book 211, p. 407 (17 April 1961); Amherst County Deed Book 512, p. 287 (10 October 1984); and Information from owners.

¹⁷ Carl Taylor, Various notes; and Information from owners.

¹⁸ Amherst County Deed Book 989 p. 711 (29 October 2004).

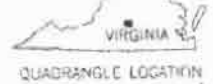


VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

EDGEHILL
1 MILE AMHERST COUNTY VA 005-0005

- 1 17 683102 E 4152710 N
- 2 17 682914 E 4152330 N
- 3 17 683564 E 4152263 N
- 4 17 683869 E 4152720 N
- 5 17 683671 E 4152725 N
- 6 17 683529 E 4152801 N
- 7 17 683409 E 4152821 N



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- | | |
|--|--|
| Primary highway, all weather, hard surface | Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface |
| Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface | Unimproved road, fair or dry weather |

- U. S. Route
- State Route

BUFFALO RIDGE, VA.

SW/4 SHIPMAN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3730—W7852.5/7.5

1969
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 5259 III SW—SERIES V834

SEVERAL
2059 V 35