

VLR: 5-21-74
NRHP: 6-19-74

127-119

Form 10-200
(Rev. 6-72)

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:	Richmond (city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON: Woodward House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 3017 Williamsburg Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third (David E. Satterfield, III)

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

COUNTY: Richmond (city)

CODE: 760

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
Public Acquisition:			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> In Process			
<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Frederic A. Fay, Director
Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority

STREET AND NUMBER: 901 Chamberlayne Parkway

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

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: D. C.

CODE: 11

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Woodward House is a frame two-and-one-half-story dwelling set on a brick foundation with three exterior end chimneys. The house which stands on lot 199 faces north onto Williamsburg Avenue (Route 5) at the base of Libby Hill in Richmond's east end. The structure, dating from the early days of the city, possibly was begun before Richmond's incorporation in 1782 and has evolved through two significant periods of construction into its present form. The dwelling is set at a slight angle to the present road indicating the earlier alignment when the street was known as Bloody Run Road.

Careful architectural examination reveals that the house's core was a one-story frame structure set on a predominantly English bond foundation with excavated cellar, attic and a chimney at the east end. The simple floor plan consisted of one large room approximately 13 1/2 feet by 14 1/2 feet with a small hall to the west using the same depth and being 6 1/2 feet wide. At least one door and window faced the river to the south but similar evidence for the north wall was removed by later construction. Indications of what was probably an enclosed stair to the attic floor exist at the southwest corner of the hall. The form is open to question as both gambrel and gable roofs were used in small houses from this period.

At an early date, possibly in 1784, (see Henrico County Deed Book I, pg 300) a room and excavated cellar were added to the south. This addition had a shed roof, possibly a chimney and a three-course American bond brick foundation. At this time or soon after, the present Flemish bond chimney replaced the earlier one and still serves both floors of the original section.

In 1828-29, the house underwent its most extensive change. While retaining the early brickwork and framing, except for the roof, the house was enlarged to two-and-one-half-stories with a dormered gable roof. Internally the house gained front rooms on both floors, an extended hallway to the front on the first floor and an attic floor. Two chimneys laid in five-course American bond were constructed, one to serve the front rooms and one to serve the shed roofed wing to the rear. A brick pent closet was placed between the latter chimney and the Flemish bond brick one. Late-nineteenth or early-twentieth-century changes include the addition of second story rooms on the river side and a small frame porch on the front. Also windows were enlarged on the sides and the front and most two-over-two sash date from this period except for two early six-over-nine sash and frames remaining on the rear shed additions. The exterior beaded siding dates from the early-nineteenth-century but eighteenth-century siding and nails remain behind the pent closet on the original block. Three basement window frames survive from the two earliest period of construction.

The principle interior woodwork especially the mantels, date from the Federal period, although at this writing investigations have not proven whether they date as early as 1784. Certainly most of the trim was in place by 1828-29. Doors date from all three major periods of construction with several from the turn of the century. Three six-panel eighteenth-century doors survive on the first floor, two of them with H and L hinges. The large original room features the most elaborate mantel consisting of two narrow inset pilasters with simple bases at either sides of the opening, rising to fluted end blocks that frame an unornamented frieze. A band of pierced dentils and a molded cornice shelf cap the mantel and project out above the end blocks. A simple pedestal type chair rail and plaster wainscot and baseboard complete the woodwork for the room. Most of the

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rooms share this simple treatment except for the first floor front hall which has horizontal beaded boards for wainscoting. Other mantels are simpler as is typical of secondary rooms of the period, consisting of an architrave framing the fireplace opening and plain corner blocks above which in turn support an unmolded shelf. Random width pine floors are used throughout the house. The present stair with its simple rectilinear balusters, molded hand-rail and square newel was not constructed along with the 1828-29 enlargements but was added sometime afterwards. The attic floor is divided into two rooms with a stair hall and is finished with beaded flush siding on the cheeks of the dormers and on the low wall below the pitch of the eaves.

T.H.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Woodward, Captain of the Sloop Rachell, and other craft operating from "Rocketts," lived in this house at the corner of Williamsburg Avenue and 31st street (then Bloody Run and Elm Streets) during the first two decades of the nineteenth century. His livelihood, like that of his neighbors, depended on the maritime and trade-related crafts of what was then a vibrant residential and business community lying on both sides of Gilley's Creek at the foot of Chimbarazo Hill. This section (now a part of the area known as Fulton) derived its name from the Rockett family, several of whose members were associated with the early history of the region.

The Woodward House, a portion of which may be the "old house" referred to in the lease of August 13, 1784 entered into by Charles and Susannah Lewis and John Roper, is one of the city's oldest surviving structures. It remains the last significant structure commemorating a truly cosmopolitan section of old Richmond: the neighborhood of Rocketts, where ship captains and sailors, harbor masters and tobacco inspectors, tavern keepers and draymen, and assorted craftsmen and laborers lived and worked during Richmond's first century.

Rocketts--- described alternately as being the port, a suburb or section of, Richmond --- bore an amorphous legal relationship with the city until a series of laws and ordinances adopted 1798-1808 strictly defined it as a part of Richmond, and caused its streets to be connected with those of the area of the capital to the west of Shockoe Valley. At no time before, or for many years following the turn of the century, was its importance to the economy of Richmond and environs in doubt.

Trans-Atlantic cargoes were being handled at Rocketts by 1771, and the community was recognized as one of five James River ports by act of the General Assembly in 1788. Other legislation of the period established, and subsequently enlarged, an official tobacco warehouse and inspection station at Rocketts. Contemporary documents record a wide range of economic activities at Rocketts during the early years of the Republic. While tobacco and shipping were the most significant industries, there were -- in addition to the Rocketts (tobacco) Warehouse, several wharfs, and a shipyard -- lumber, hemp, and auction houses; mills, a rope walk, and tavern; and even an illegal gambling establishment.

At least seventeen vessels were launched by the Ralston-Pleasants yard (circa 1800-circa 1845), and a Confederate Navy Yard later was maintained here. Rocketts was also the location of a Confederate military camp, and had seen the passage of Simcoe's troops during an earlier war. A sanguinary Indian engagement was fought in the vicinity during the latter seventeenth century (giving rise to the name "Bloody Run"). Rocketts

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almost achieved immortality--and an early demise--in 1800 when it was to be burned by the followers of Gabriel Prosser during the abortive uprising. Gabriel had hoped to lure the citizenry away from the capital and armory by firing Rocketts.

Although the Woodward House has been recognized for many years as an early Richmond landmark, it was only recently that close examination and access to the interior was accomplished. The discovery of a late-eighteenth century core, significant early woodwork and the possibility of a period of construction concurrent with or predating the incorporation of the city, place the building in an unique position in the architectural history of the city. No other frame building in Richmond of similar age retains as much early trim as does this structure. Thus this simple frame dwelling easily outmatched in sophistication by other Richmond landmarks, mostly of a late date, stands as a rare architectural survival of early Richmond and as the last remnant of the busy maritime and mercantile community of Rocketts.

H.P.P. & M.T.P.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Public Documents

Calendar of Virginia State Papers. . . , ed. W.P. Palmer, et al. Richmond 1875-1893. VI-X (1793-1808).
 Hening, W.W. Statues at Large. . . 13 vols, Richmond and Philadelphia, 1809-1823, X-XIII (1781-1792).
 Henrico County Deed Books, I:300; III:1, 78-81; IV:31, 222, 224-25, 312-15, 395; V:558-59, 621; VI:368; XXVI:83; XXVII:412; cf., *ibid.*
 Henrico County Will Books, II (1787-1802), Charles Lewis will, John Roper appraisement.
 Richmond Hustings Court Records, Book IV:222,224-225, 312-315, 395.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37°	31'	29"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	25'	00"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre.

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:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: May, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

MAY 21 1974

Date _____

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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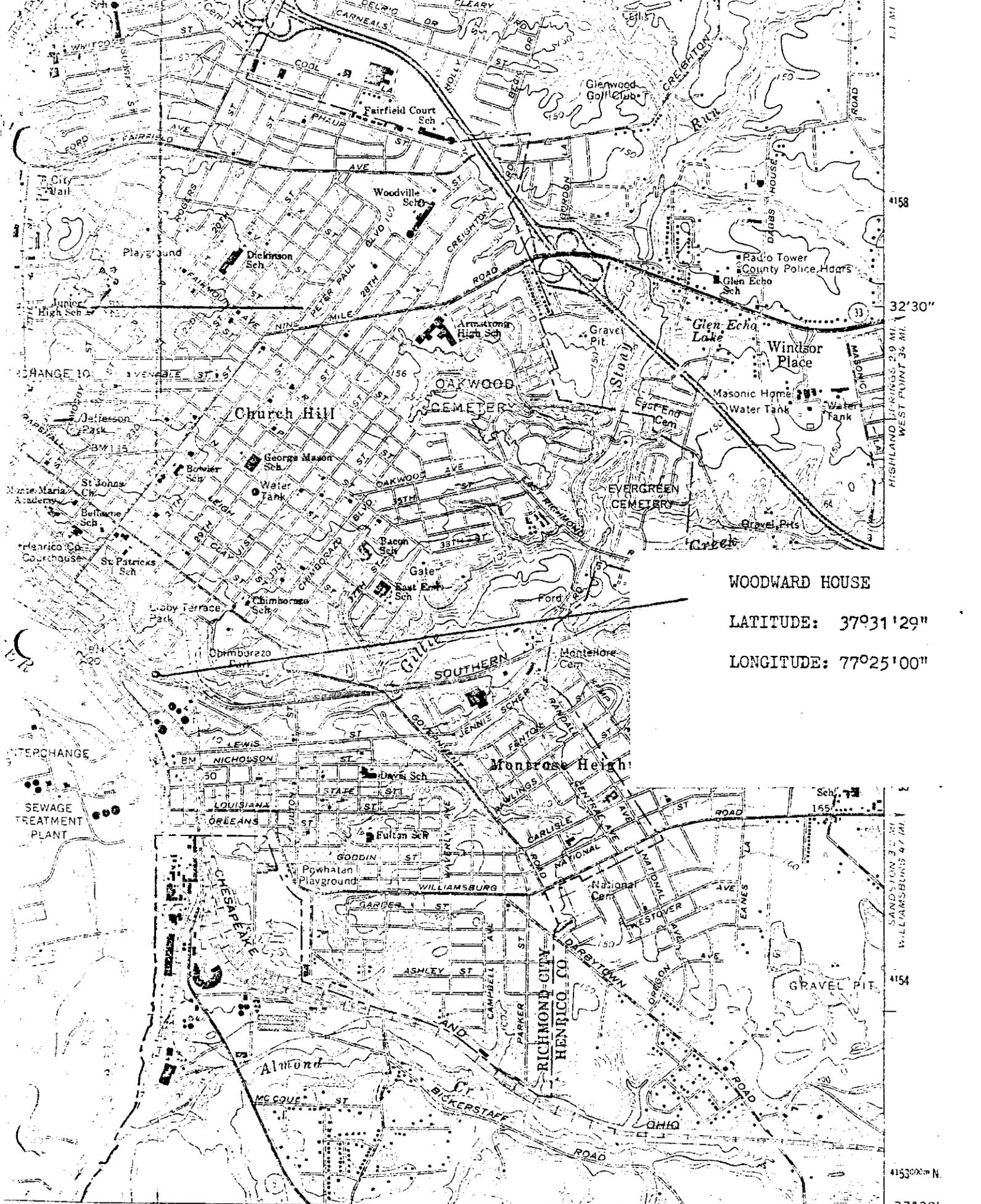
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origins of place name, "Rocketts"); ibid., V(1897):136, XXII(1914):386 (for
maritime activity at Rocketts, circa. 1771).
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58,69.

Other

Personal interview and inspection of the Woodward House with Paul Buchanan,
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WOODWARD HOUSE
 LATITUDE: 37°31'29"
 LONGITUDE: 77°25'00"