

VLR - 9/17/74, NRHP - 11/21/74

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:  
**VIRGINIA**

COUNTY:  
**ACCOMACK**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**MASON HOUSE**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **N. Bank of Guilford Creek, .4 mi. NW of Route 658, .1 mi. N of intersection of Route 658 and Route 187.**

CITY OR TOWN: **(Guilford vicinity)** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **First (Thomas N. Downing)**

STATE: **VIRGINIA** CODE: **51** COUNTY: **ACCOMACK** CODE: **001**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" 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	<b>Abandoned</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. H. V. Ewell, Jr.**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Bloxom** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Accomack County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Accomack** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1940, 1960, 1962**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected in the first half of the eighteenth century, the Mason House stands today as one of Virginia's finest surviving examples of Jacobean-Georgian transitional architecture. A three-bay, story-and-a-half farmhouse with a center-passage plan, the building remains essentially unaltered with the exception of some early-nineteenth-century interior changes and the addition of a simple, late-nineteenth-century frame wing.

The house's unusual brickwork treatment is unparalleled elsewhere in the State. The foundations are laid in English bond and rise approximately two feet above grade to a double offset Flemish-bond water-table. On the gable ends, the masonry continues in roughly-executed Flemish bond to the second-floor level where it is interrupted by an offset string course. Above the string course the brickwork continues again in Flemish bond but with the use of randomly placed glazed headers. The corners of the gable ends are accented by unornamented brick pilasters creating a panel effect. The doorway cut into the north gable end wall is early, but not original.

Like the gable ends, the front and rear walls are accented not only by corner pilasters, but also by raised brickwork around the window and door architraves and along the cornice lines. The two pilasters defining the east doorway possess very simple molded brick capitals. The placement of these vertical divisions across the face of the building visually breaks up the east and west walls of the structure into definite groups of four recessed brick panels. Within each of these panels, the mason worked a diaper pattern with glazed headers forming a double lozenge design. This example of the combined use of brick paneling with diaper work is unique in Virginia colonial buildings, although it was relatively common in seventeenth-century English buildings.

The doors and twelve-over-twelve, four-light-wide window sash appear to date from certain early-nineteenth-century alterations. While the house does not have a full basement, evidence exists that the building may have possessed excavated root cellars in front of the first-floor hearths. The roof line of the Mason House is a steep gable interrupted by three gable-roofed dormer windows on the east side and two dormers on the west, separated by the modern addition of the late-nineteenth-century frame wing.

Although the interiors of the Mason House have been damaged from past misuse and are at present used for the storage of livestock feeds, the house nonetheless retains a number of significant interior architectural details. Of particular note is the closed-string, center-passage stair with its symmetrically turned balusters supported on a vigorously molded pulvinated frieze. At the corners of the landings and termination of the stair are plain unturned newels with flat caps and applied half balusters. Although the original mantels have been removed, a single Federal-period mantel featuring shallow panels and applied squared pilasters remains in the first-floor south room. The second-floor ceiling retains exposed beaded ceiling joists. Despite some deterioration, all the floors are the original random-width pine boards.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*one eighteenth century window  
LPS gone*

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy                                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The diminutive Mason House is an important and rare example of Jacobean-to-Georgian transitional architecture combining distinctive architectural elements associated with several periods and traditions. The house's brick-paneled front and rear walls are unique in Virginia and make its bays appear as if they have been framed with pilasters. This was a common treatment for more elaborate seventeenth-century brick buildings in England, but it was rarely used in the colonies. The glazed-header diaper work in the panels relates the house to vernacular traditions, while its balanced fenestration and center-passage plan is derived from the classical tradition usually associated with Georgian period architecture. The transitional nature of the house is also evident on the interior. Such seventeenth-century features as a closed-string stair with symmetrically-turned balusters are juxtaposed with more classically inspired elements as a pulvinated frieze. The exposed, beaded ceiling joists also are features associated with seventeenth-century buildings.

Purchased in 1673 from Daniel and Anne Jenifer by Richard Hinnaman, the land on which the Mason House stands was divided in 1721 between Hinnaman's sons John, Bayly and Argill. John Hinnaman inherited the western eight hundred acres of his father's land which included the site of the present house. In 1722 John sold his interest in his father's land to William Andrews. The Andrews family retained the land until it was sold again in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Despite its numerous archaic features, the house was probably not built until after William Andrews acquired the land in 1722.

BLH

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Historic American Buildings Survey Files.

Unpublished information from Archives of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

Whitelaw, Ralph T. Virginia's Eastern Shore Vol. 2. Gloucester, Mass: Peter Smith, 1968. *pp 1148-1202*

**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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 50' 01"	75° 39' 15"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one 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: **July, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**221 Governor Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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., Executive Director, Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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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