



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Haw Branch plantation, located above the hawthorne lined stream of the same name, is approached by a country road winding several miles through the woods. The house is surrounded by cleared pastures and cultivated fields which slope to the east. The exact appearance of the original structure is not known, but apparently it was much smaller than the present large frame house. Portions of this original structure are believed to be incorporated into the present building which largely dates from the late eighteenth century. Formal in plan, the central five-bay block with hipped roof and exterior-end chimneys is flanked by symmetrical three-bay wings with hipped roofs. The ground immediately surrounding the house is dug out to a depth of several feet and paved with brick. The house's English basement is laid in common bond below normal ground level and Flemish bond above. The walls above the brick are covered with beaded clapboards. On the central block, rectangular ornamental insets are employed on the south facade between the upper and lower windows. There are modillion cornices on both the central block and the wings. Two gabled dormers project from the south slope and one from the north slope of the central block's roof. There is one dormer on the north slope of each of the wing roofs. The basement windows have three lights over six; all the others are six-over-six and have architrave trim with molded sills. The windows over the north and south doorways have sidelights. Both doorways have an elliptical fanlight, sidelights and engaged columns. The south doorway has tobacco leaves carved on the entablature immediately above the columns. A single-bay porch topped by a Chinese lattice railing shelters the south doorway. The entire first floor on the north side is sheltered by a shed roof veranda.

The most striking feature of the interior of Haw Branch is the finely detailed woodwork, thought to have been installed around 1815. In the hall, elliptical arches with a molded keystone and stars in relief spring from symmetrically molded pilasters framing the north and south doorways and the division in the center of the spacious hall. Details of the pilasters are repeated on the doorways leading to the drawing rooms. Tobacco and oak leaf motifs occur below the consoles on the hall's interior doorways. A distinctive motif employed in the double drawing rooms (one of which is now used as the dining room) is the hawthorne blossom. In the east drawing room it appears on the mantel and on the frieze of the doorway, where it flanks festoons of drapery and an urn. The mantel in the west room includes the hawthorne motif, urns, a central stylized sunburst flanked by small fluted pilasters topped by festoons of drapery, and pilasters with a strong Egyptian influence. The frieze over the doorway opening from the west drawing room to the hall employs the hawthorn blossom. In the northeast leg of the hall an open string two-run stair with turned balusters and brackets ascends to the second floor. It is thought that the one-run stair to the basement incorporates certain elements of the original stair which was removed when the interior was remodelled in the early nineteenth century. The sunburst design features prominently in the wing room. A crown molding cornice and a chair rail are employed in all of the rooms on this floor. The rooms on the second floor and those in the basement, including the original dining room, are much less elaborate, having simple unadorned trim on the mantels and doorways.

To the north of the house, the first row of an original three rows of dependencies remains. These three buildings include a structure known as

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Local history</u>
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Haw Branch, the most significant Federal building in Amelia County, is distinguished by finely detailed interiors. Although its size and formality make it unusual in the provincial expression of the style in the area, the Federal interiors are the feature singling the structure out from its neighbors. For much of its history, the house has been connected with the prominent Tabb and Mason families, active in state and national affairs, friends with such celebrated citizens as John Randolph of Roanoke, a frequent visitor and a patron of the racecourse in the meadow east of the house. This, the handsome exterior, formal plan and finished interiors raise Haw Branch to an unique status in Amelia County.

Colonel Thomas Tabb purchased the nucleus of the land making up Haw Branch plantation in 1743. A small house, believed to be incorporated in the western part of the present house, appears in the record in 1748. The plantation grew, reaching 2700 acres by 1798. The house is thought to have been enlarged and given its present exterior appearance by John Tabb after the Revolutionary War. Marianna, daughter of John Tabb, married William Jones Barksdale, a partner in Gallego Mills in Richmond, then the largest flour mill in the U. S., in 1815. The present owners believe that the house was renovated and that the fine Federal interiors were installed at that time. Marianna Barksdale inherited Haw Branch from her father, and left it to her daughter, Harriet, wife of John Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy under Presidents Tyler and Polk, and Attorney-General under Polk. The property remained in the Mason family until 1872, when it was purchased by a wealthy Englishman, M. M. Blacker, who operated the plantation as a model and experimental farm. The long north porch was added during this period. After 1903, the house passed through many hands until it was purchased and restored in 1965 by Mr. and Mrs. W. Cary McConaughy, the latter being a descendant of Colonel Tabb.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Mary Armstrong Jefferson, Old Homes and Buildings in Amelia County, Virginia, Amelia, Va.: Mary Jefferson, 1964.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

**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 ° 24 ' 50 "	78 ° 01 ' 48 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37 ° 24 ' 50 "	78 ° 01 ' 10 "				
SE	37 ° 24 ' 27 "	78 ° 01 ' 10 "				
SW	37 ° 24 ' 27 "	78 ° 01 ' 48 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **98 acres**

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: **September, 1972**

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**J. R. Fishburne, Director**  
Title **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY AMELIA	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

the little school house, a rectangular building with a massive central chimney housing the kitchen and weaving room, and a smoke house on the eastern end of the row. All are covered with white clapboards and have clipped gables.

G.P.H.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE <b>Virginia</b>	
COUNTY <b>Amelia</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: <b>Haw Branch</b>			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>2 miles East of Rt. 667, 1 mile Northeast of intersection with Rt. 681.</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Amelia Vicinity</b>			
STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE <b>51</b>	COUNTY: <b>Amelia</b>	CODE <b>007</b>
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: <b>U. S. G. S. 15' quadrangle Jetersville, Virginia</b>			
SCALE: <b>1:62500</b>			
DATE: <b>1958</b>			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

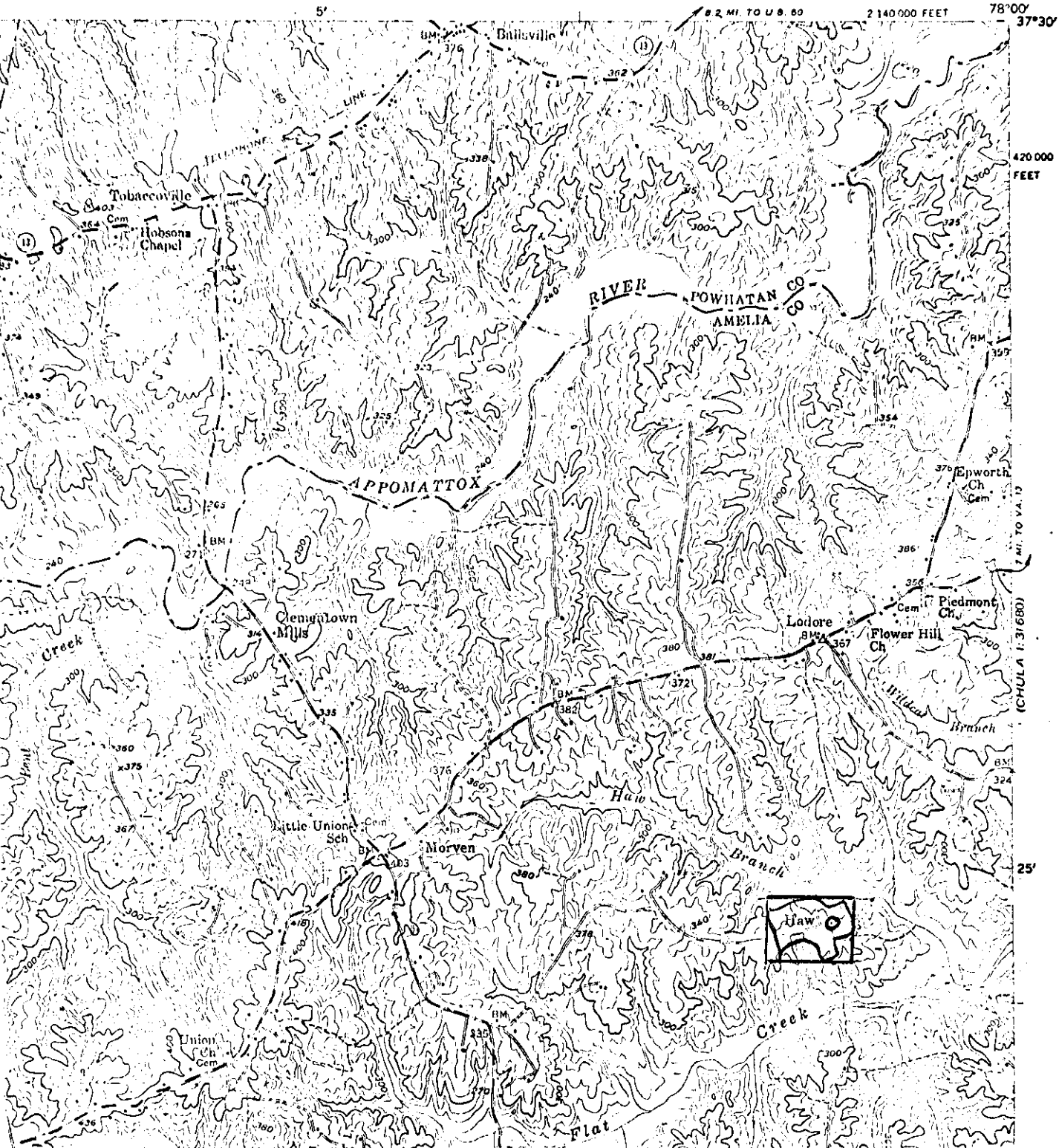
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE <b>Virginia</b>	
COUNTY <b>Amelia</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
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STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE <b>51</b>	COUNTY: <b>Amelia</b>	CODE <b>007</b>
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: <b>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission</b>			
DATE OF PHOTO: <b>1972</b>			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: <b>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Richmond, Virginia</b>			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  <b>View from the south.</b>			



U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle (scale:1:62500)  
 Jetersville, Va. 1958

HAW BRANCH

latitude	longitude
NW37°24'50"	78°01'48"
NE37°24'50"	78°01'10"
SE37°24'27"	78°01'10"
SW37°24'27"	78°01'48"

