

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

LISTED ON:
VLR 12/17/2009
NRHP 03/17/2010

**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 Caryswood
other names/site number DHR# 015-5147

2. Location

street & number 8291 Colonial Highway not for publication N/A
city or town Evington vicinity x
state Virginia code VA county County of Campbell code 031 zip code 24550

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] 1/20/10
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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)

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>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>5</u>	<u>2</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>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>Animal Facility</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>Storage</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival
Late Victorian: Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	<u>Brick, Stone</u>
roof	<u>Standing Seam Metal</u>
walls	<u>Wood Weatherboard</u>
other	<u>n/a</u>

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

See continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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 1854-1900

Significant Dates 1855, 1856, 1900

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Attributed to James Womack, Builder

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

See continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15

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

Zone Easting Northing 1 _____	Zone Easting Northing 2 _____	Zone Easting Northing 3 _____	Zone Easting Northing 4 _____
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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 W. Scott Smith, Managing Partner
 Organization The Antiquaries, LC date 22 September 2009
 street & number Post Office Box 75 telephone 434-401-3995
 city or town Lynchburg state Virginia zip code 24505

Additional Documentation

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

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

name Addison L. Mason, Sr. & O. Marie Mason
 street & number 8291 Colonial Highway telephone 434-409-6593
 city or town Evington state Virginia zip code 24550

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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.). 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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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**Caryswood
Campbell County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Built circa 1855 for the Saunders family, *Caryswood* is situated on the southwest slope of Willey's Mountain, east of Flat Creek and the village of Evington in Campbell County. The resource occupies a 15-acre tract on the north side of Colonial Highway (Virginia Route 24), and is largely buffered from its surroundings by a perimeter of mature hardwood forest. The property also contains one contributing outbuilding, an 1856 stable, and three contributing sites: the remains of an icehouse, a smokehouse, and an office, all of the same period of the main house; and two late 20th century non-contributing buildings. The main block of *Caryswood* consists of a two-story frame building in an "L" configuration, which is covered by a low, hipped roof. The antebellum house displays elements of the Greek Revival style (which was typical in 1855 in Campbell County), as well as the Italianate style, which was just coming into vogue in the Western Piedmont of Virginia.

The Main House: Exterior Description

Caryswood faces south across a small meadow, approximately 800 feet north of Colonial Highway. It presents a three-bay façade, which is broken by a projecting element on the left side, which creates the "L" plan of the main house. This projection features a polygonal bay window on the first floor, and a tripartite Palladian window on the second floor. A portico occupies the right two bays, and is covered by a low-pitched, half-hipped standing seam metal roof. Beneath the porch roofline is a bracketed cornice and wide, banded entablature supported by large square paneled posts with simple capitals. The steps that lead from grade to the front door are located in the center bay of the porch, and thus do not immediately direct visitors to the front door, which is located in the center bay of the house, but the left bay of the porch.

The front entry door is located in the center bay, and is a classic four-panel door surrounded by a typical Greek Revival surround with transom window and sidelights. Most of the windows on the primary and secondary facades of the house are large-paned six-over-six sash, another typical Greek Revival feature. The Italianate bay window on the front façade contains four pairs of four-over-four sash, and is capped by a hipped roof with a bracketed cornice. The tripartite window above the bay consists of a standard six-over-six double-hung sash as found on the rest of the house, flanked by slender, three-light panels that are subservient in height to the main window.

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One of the most notable and unusual features of Caryswood's exterior is its siding. The house is covered in flush (presumably ship-lapped or tongue-and-groove) siding, which creates a regular, smooth, somewhat monolithic appearance. This type of siding is found more often in coastal areas and is very rare in Central Virginia. The only other known Campbell County example of this feature is the nearby Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, which was built by the Saunders family in 1871.

The main house rests on a brick foundation, which is laid in five to six course common bond. A pair of internal brick chimneys rise from the hipped, standing seam roof. An interesting feature of the roof is that there is a small flat area, measuring approximately eight by twelve feet, in the middle of the roof. This platform is accessed by a boxed staircase that leads upwards from the second floor stair hall. A simple wooden hatch covers the opening on the roof. While it may be assumed that this platform once contained a feature similar to a "widow's walk," no physical or photographic evidence of this exists. Instead, it is likely that the opening on the roof provided for a "chimney effect" inside the house, and, with the addition of a screen over the opening, significantly aided in ventilation of the residence in the summer months.

To the rear of the main block of the house is a partial-width two-story, shed-roofed addition, which likely began as a one-story open porch. This porch addition rests on a stone foundation, and is lit by a combination of window styles, including four-over-four pane double-hung sash and two large, forty-pane, hopper-style picture windows. A one-story, twenty-eight by sixteen foot kitchen addition (probably built circa 1900, and may have originally been a separate building) projects from the northwest corner of the house. It is surrounded on two sides by a large, open porch.

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The Main House: Interior Description

Upon entering the house from the front porch, guests immediately find themselves in a relatively small (ten by ten foot) chamber, which features an unusual cove ceiling. Three doorways are located in this chamber: one leads to the main parlor on the left, one leads to the rear stair hall, and one leads to a small study or office to the right. The massive door that leads to the rear stair hall is perhaps the most interesting. It features three pairs of long, vertical panels. The top panel of each pair is filled with louvers, which allow air to circulate through the house while maintaining a private separation between public functions towards the front of the house and family activities in the rear.

The main parlor is illuminated by the polygonal bay window on the front façade, and one six-over-six double-hung window on the west façade. Doors in this room may be constructed of stained walnut, and feature four long, vertical faceted panels. The mantel is made of pine, and is typical of Greek Revival houses in the area. What now appears to be a smooth frieze roll may have originally been faceted to replicate the pattern of the doors, but evidence of this is inconclusive at this time. The firebox and surround are lined in soapstone or Lynchburg greenstone, which is found in other area Saunders houses, including the ruins at *Flat Creek*.

A second room of equal size is located to the rear of the main parlor. Its mantel has been replaced with a more modern, but Greek Revival-inspired form. Crown moulding was added in the twentieth century.

To the right of the main foyer is a small chamber that may have served a public, or business purpose, such as a farm office. It contains a fireplace with a simple, flat-featured, Greek Revival mantel and a built-in closet on the same wall. Behind this chamber is a room of similar size to the other two large chambers on the first floor. Like the small room to its south, it has a simple Greek Revival mantel. Crown moulding was added in the twentieth century.

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The stair hall was undoubtedly built as a private, functional space, rather than as a means to impress visitors. It is separated from the entry foyer by the aforementioned louvered door, and the stair rises to the second floor in a straight line from the rear of the hall. The stair is trimmed in a very simple fashion, with plain, rectangular balusters and a hexagonal railing.

Under the stair is a doorway that provides access to the stair that leads to the basement.

The various rear additions to the house represent a hodgepodge of late nineteenth and early twentieth century building techniques and trim features. The largest room, which is now used as a kitchen, is lined in beadboard, and features a large brick fireplace that was installed by the current owners Addison and Marie Mason.

The room configuration on the second floor is almost identical to that of the first floor of the main house, with three large chambers and one small. The primary bedchamber, and probably the one occupied by Robert and Caryetta Saunders, is located in the southeast corner of the house, and is illuminated by the tripartite Palladian window, which has louvered shutters on its interior. A simple, Greek Revival mantel is flanked on its left by a large, built-in closet. Also located on the second floor is an enclosed stair that leads up through the roof structure of the house to the roof platform described earlier.

The basement of the house was clearly used for domestic purposes, and has two rooms that are finished with whitewash and have stone and brick floors. One room has a surprisingly ornate mantel with a Greek key design, and may have been used as a winter kitchen. Massive paneled doors, which mimic the faceted pattern of doors on the first floor, are found in the basement.

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Smoke House, c. 1856, Contributing Site

To the northwest of the house is what remains of the smokehouse. This building has suffered greatly from decay over the last century and a half, and its remnants feature post and beam construction and a pyramid roof (covered with asphalt shingles). No exterior walls remain, and it is supported by earth fast poles that have been used to stabilize its structure.

Ice House, c. 1856, Contributing Site

The site of Caryswood's original ice house, now marked by a circular depression in the earth, is located approximately 90 feet northeast of the main house. No architectural features are extant.

Well House, late 20th Century, Non Contributing Building

While the well that this building surrounds is most assuredly the original well pit for the house, the building itself is a reconstruction using various recycled lumber components. It is square in form with a pyramid roof (covered with asphalt shingles). The exterior walls are covered by diagonal lattice.

Office, c. 1856, Contributing Site

Approximately 75 feet to the east of the main house is the site of what the Saunders family called "the office." This frame building was described as being two stories in height, and may have been originally built as a kitchen/quarter. Later, it was used as lodging for boys in the family, who considered it a rite of passage to be able to move out to "the office." This building was demolished in the 1960s.

Stable, late 20th Century, Non Contributing Building

This stable was constructed by Addison Mason to house small livestock, and is a small, gable-roofed, post-and-beam building. It is sited approximately 150 feet to the east of the house.

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Stable, circa 1856, Contributing Building

Probably the most significant secondary building on the property, this stable exhibits a classic form found in Virginia from the eighteenth century through the middle of the nineteenth century. The gable-roofed building is located approximately 300 feet east of the main house, and measures approximately 16 by 20 feet. It has a gable roof (covered by standing seam metal) and a boxed cornice. The south gable end of the building is pierced by a pair of doors supported on iron pintle hinges, and an open doorway to the hayloft above is located on the second floor. The west façade has three window openings that contain horizontal wooden slats. The three east façade windows show evidence that they originally contained small wooden or iron horizontal bars. The interior is open, and displays evidence of traditional timberframe building methods, including carved Roman numerals adjoining mortise-and-tenon joints. A steep wooden stair leads to the hayloft above. The roof rafters are spaced on twenty four inch centers, and are joined at the peak by a mortise-and-tenon joint.

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Campbell County, Virginia**Section 8 Page 7**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE****Summary**

Completed in 1855, *Caryswood* is an early example of the emerging Italianate style in Campbell County. Attributed to local builder James Womack, the house was built for military officer and politician Robert Chancellor Saunders and his wife Caryetta Davis (for whom the house is named). The property remained the home of the Saunders family for over a century, and maintains a great deal of its original historic fabric, character and setting.

Because *Caryswood* is a relatively rare example of the transition between Greek Revival and Italianate architectural styles in Campbell County, and because it possesses certain construction methods, including flush tongue-and-groove siding, which are uncommon in the region, the property is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture. The period of significance begins in 1854, the year of construction of the main house, and ends in 1900, the approximate year of the kitchen addition. In addition to the *Caryswood* main house, the property contains a significant outbuilding: a mid nineteenth century stable that exhibits characteristics and construction techniques that were moving out of fashion at the time of its construction.

Historical Context

In 1796, William Watts (1743-1803) acquired a 1,140 acre tract from Christopher Irvine (also known as Christopher Irvine Clendening), as well as another tract from Conrad Speece (which Speece acquired from Irvine the same year). Watts built his seat, which he called *Flat Creek* (015-0117), on the west side of the creek near the Rustburg to New London Turnpike. William Watts died in 1803, leaving the estate to his wife Mary Scott (d. 1836), his brother John Watts, and his brother-in-law Thomas T. Scott. Alice Watts (d. 1867), a daughter of Mary and William, married Judge Fleming Saunders I (1778-1858) of Franklin County in 1814. Judge Saunders appeared in the 1907 edition of "Men of Mark of Virginia, Volume III," stating that he was a judge for 32 years, and that "many of his decisions are still regarded as beacon lights in the troubled waters of Old Dominion litigation."¹

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The Judge's son, Robert Chancellor Saunders, was born at *Bleak Hill I* (033-0002) in Franklin County in 1827, and spent most of his childhood at *Flat Creek*. He attended school at the nearby New London Academy and later at the University of Virginia. While unable to complete his studies in Charlottesville due to an eye injury sustained in a hunting accident, he did meet his future bride, Caryetta Davis, there, and the couple was married in Charlottesville in 1851. Caryetta was the daughter of Professor John Andrew Gardiner Davis (1802-1840) and Mary Jane Terrell (1803-1879).²

Robert and Caryetta began their married life at *Flat Creek*, where their first three children were born. In 1853, Judge Fleming Saunders (1778-1858) gave his son Robert Chancellor Saunders (1827-1902) just over 562 acres between Flat Creek and Hopewell (now Salem) Church. The bulk of this tract (450 acres) consisted of a portion of the 1,140 acre parcel acquired by Saunders from the estate of his father-in-law William Watts. In 1854, R.C. Saunders began construction on the house known as *Caryswood* (named for his wife, Caryetta), and the family moved into the new dwelling in the late summer of 1855. In 1856 as land tax records indicate that buildings valued at \$2,000.00 had been added to the site by that year (this value increased to \$2,500.00 in 1857, and remained stable in the following years).³

Local tradition holds that *Caryswood* was built by James Womack, a local carpenter.⁴ In 1828, Campbell County court records indicate that William and James, the children of William Womack (1765-1828), were bound out by the Overseers of the Poor. An 1835 letter from James' mother Catherine to his brother, William, stated that "James is living with Mr. Austin learning the Carpenter's trade... ..come in and work with James. He gets fifty-five dollars this year." In 1837, she wrote again to William, saying that "James would be so glad for you to come and work with him. He has been with Mr. Austin Lane--this is the fourth year. He gave him wages every year and has nearly got his trade and he would hire you at a word if you would come."⁵

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In 1850, James Womack appears in the U.S. Census as a 34 year old carpenter residing in close proximity to other men engaged in the building trade, including carpenters Meredith Hogans, Christopher Harvey, and brick mason Abner W. Spencer. Womack appears a decade later as a carpenter living within the Castle Craig Post Office district (the same district in which Robert C. Saunders resided).⁶ Womack is also credited with performing other construction work in the Evington area, including portions of the Evington Methodist Church. However, it is reasonable to question why a house's possible association with a particular builder is worthy of note. In the greater Lynchburg area, it is somewhat rare to be able to identify the construction of a country house in the mid nineteenth century with any particular carpenter, builder, or architect. In this case, *Caryswood* is not being associated with a renowned or prominent regional or national builder, but rather a little-known and documented carpenter whose involvement in the trade can be verified through the study of manuscripts and government documents of the time.

While Womack is the possible builder of *Caryswood*, its designer is not known. However, it is highly likely that Robert C. Saunders was in frequent communication about design concepts with his brother, Peter Saunders, Jr. During the general period of *Caryswood*'s construction, Peter Saunders was building *Bleak Hill II* in Franklin County (the original *Bleak Hill*, built by their father, Judge Fleming Saunders, had been destroyed by fire in 1830). The stylistic similarities between *Caryswood* and *Bleak Hill* cannot be coincidental. Features common to both residences include the overall size (*Caryswood* measures forty-five feet by thirty six feet; *Bleak Hill* measures forty eight feet by forty feet), the "L" plan with the projecting section on the left side of the front façade, the porch and front door configuration, the presence of a bay window on the projecting ell, and the chimney placement. *Bleak Hill*, however, is more stylistically refined in many ways: it is built of brick, has more clearly defined Italianate arched windows, a deeper cornice overhang, a more complex hipped roof structure, and more complex chimneys. While *Bleak Hill* is more refined in construction and detail, its overall form, massing, and style all relate quite well to *Caryswood*. It is highly possible that Peter Saunders thought of *Bleak Hill* (which was finally completed by 1858) as an improvement to the architectural ideas presented in Robert's *Caryswood*. Nevertheless, *Caryswood* is architecturally significant as one of the earliest known examples in Campbell County of the transition from the Greek Revival to the Italianate style.

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This likely collaboration between brothers on architectural matters, rather than any potential builder or architect, is what makes *Caryswood* an architecturally significant resource in Campbell County. In the 1850s, the predominant architectural form in rural Campbell County was the ubiquitous Greek Revival dwelling, which typically displayed a symmetrical three-bay façade, flanked by a pair of chimneys, and covered by a low, hipped roof. To date, a comprehensive, analytic, professionally-conducted survey of architectural resources in Campbell County has not been performed, so it is difficult to employ statistical evidence to gauge the significance of Saunders' construction of a residence that exhibits elements of the newly-popular Italianate style while still retaining standard Greek Revival features. Based on the author's not insignificant experience with Campbell County architectural resources, however, it is thought that *Caryswood* is a relatively early harbinger of the Italianate style in the area.

It is likely that Robert and Peter Saunders pored through pattern books of the day to identify features and plans of dwellings that would sufficiently tout their place as rising stars in Campbell and Franklin County society. Peter Saunders probably used the rendering of "Villa no. 1" in La Fevre's *The Architectural Instructor* (1856) as inspiration for *Bleak Hill*,⁷ and it is probable that this also inspired Robert Saunders' design of *Caryswood*.

In 1860, Saunders is listed as possessing a personal estate valued at \$25,705 and real estate worth \$9,750. Robert's occupation is that of a farmer, and he shared the household with his wife Caryetta and children Alice, Eugene, Edward, Mary, and Thomas Carson, a 37-year-old farmer. Saunders is also shown as owning twenty slaves that year.

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One year later, and just a few years after the construction of R.C. Saunders' seat at *Caryswood*, rumors of war would disturb the quiet countryside along Flat Creek. Robert Chancellor Saunders formed a company of 89 men, who called themselves the "Southern Guard," to respond to the call of duty if it should come. On the afternoon of April 22, 1861, a telegraph machine in Lynchburg received an order to direct soldiers to report for duty in Richmond. Saunders received this notice at *Caryswood* around midnight, and spent the remainder of the night ordering his men to muster at nearby Yellow Branch the next day. The group reported to Lynchburg and was designated B Company, 11th Virginia Regiment, and Saunders was appointed Captain.

Sergeant Samuel Carson, who lived on the farm adjoining *Caryswood*, wrote often to his family on the first campaign, and spoke of R.C. Saunders frequently. While at Manassas in June, he wrote that "Captain Robert Saunders was taken sick and came back to camp looking very feeble." A few days later, it was noted that Saunders had been taken to Charlottesville. He remained out of service for some time, but returned to Manassas Junction to be with his men by early August.

In 1861, Robert Saunders was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates as one of two representatives from Campbell County and resigned his commission as Captain in the Confederate Army. Robert's brother, Peter Saunders (of *Bleak Hill*) was also serving as a delegate. That December, the Speaker of the House of Delegates appointed Robert Saunders to the Committee of Roads and Internal Navigation and the Committee on Military Affairs.⁸ Saunders appears to have been an active and attentive member of the House of Delegates during his term, but is not known to have sponsored or championed any particular item of legislation that had a significant, long-term effect on the Commonwealth.

On June 14, 1864, the Senate of the Confederate States of America confirmed a nomination for Robert C. Saunders to be appointed a Major in the Quartermaster Corps.⁹ According to a later narrative, he was responsible for the collection of "tax-in-kind for the State of Virginia" and he had ten captains (one for each Congressional district) working under him at his Lynchburg office.

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Following the Civil War, Robert C. Saunders' household continued to grow. In 1870, he and Caryetta housed children Alice, Eugene, Edward, Mary, Robert, John, and 3 year old Caryetta Davis (a first cousin of Caryetta Davis Saunders, who was adopted by Robert and Caryetta). Robert's real estate value increased to \$15,000, but the worth of his personal estate was significantly reduced from that of 1860 to \$3,000. Because of the emancipation of his slaves, they no longer appeared on the separate Census slave schedule as nameless chattel with only ages and complexion descriptions to distinguish them. Saunders' immediate neighbors included Judith and Caroline Robertson, mullatoes whose occupations were listed as "keeping house" and "domestic servant," respectively. The next household was occupied by Henry Robertson, a mullatow wagon driver, Virginia Robertson (keeping house), Doaka Robertson (Cook), Susan Scott (domestic servant), and Owen Johnson (gardener). At least the next four households listed after these were occupied by mullatow and black farm laborers, cattle herders, and a mill worker; all of these individuals were likely associated with the *Caryswood* farm operation.¹⁰ While no documentary evidence has yet been discovered to confirm this, it is highly likely that many of these individuals were former slaves of the Saunders family, and were now in their employ on *Caryswood*, *Rickohock*, *Flat Creek*, and other nearby farms.

It was said that Robert Saunders was generous to a fault. His brother Captain Fleming Saunders once went to Europe and left Robert in charge of his estate. When he returned, he found that the Major had "given nearly everything away." Saunders was known to give away food, livestock, and other commodities to people in need. Unlike his brother Fleming, Robert did not prosper financially, and he eventually fell into bankruptcy. In 1877, Robert Saunders' property was posted for sale. Caryetta Davis Saunders' brothers purchased most of the property, including *Caryswood*, and gave it to Caryetta for her lifetime use. At this point, the *Caryswood* estate began to shrink in size, and was reduced to 362 acres by 1883.¹¹

In 1880, Robert, Caryetta, and their six children shared *Caryswood* with Martha Carson, their housekeeper (who, according to family history, was a next door neighbor who began assisting the family when Robert reported for duty at the onset of the Civil War two decades earlier), W.B. Shaw, a boarder from Ireland, Betsy Brown, their cook, and her six (presumed) children; four of whom acted as servants. Shaw's presence may be confirmation of family lore that says that Robert Saunders boarded "Englishmen who were sent over by Dean Bradley of Westminster to learn farming."¹²

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Caryetta Davis Saunders died in 1894, and became the first person to be buried at nearby Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, which had been built by the Saunders family in 1871. In early 1895, Robert Saunders wrote to Caryetta's sister, Lucy M. Davis. In addition to writing about his recently departed wife and their relationship, he mentioned that several improvements were being made to the house by his sons. Walter built a "store room annex to the kitchen-entry," Edward "reproofed" the kitchen and repaired the servant's room, and Eugene installed a pump tank and water piping for the house and kitchen. He also wrote that he recently moved his quarters from the "chamber to the little room" (presumably both on the second floor. He noted that he liked the "little room," but "one does not give up a room in which they have lived for 40 years—without a wrench."¹³

Robert Saunders became the first Superintendent of Schools for Campbell County, and was active in having his alma mater, New London Academy, converted into a public school in 1884. The precise span of Saunders' service as school superintendent is unknown, but "Maj. R.C. Saunders" was made president of the new board of managers for New London Academy in 1884, and it is noted at that time that he was the "Superintendent of Campbell."¹⁴ Despite being a pioneer in local education, little is known of his service, as historical records at the Campbell County School Board office are scant at best, and the first superintendent to be well-documented is J.J. Fray, who served in the early twentieth century and oversaw the consolidation of district schools into countywide systems.

Robert Chancellor Saunders died in 1902, and was buried in the family plot at Good Shepherd Church. Several children of Robert and Caryetta resided at *Caryswood* well into the twentieth century, including Mary Jane Saunders (1858-1953), Elizabeth Gardner Saunders Hickson (1860-1957), John Staige Saunders (1868-1942), and Susan Richardson Saunders (1875-1960). Upon the death of Susan, the house transferred briefly to other family members, and was sold as a 15 acre tract to Edwin and Marion Lewis in 1962. In 1974, the house and surrounding grounds was purchased by Brian and Judith Smith. Eight years later, Robert and Claire Walter acquired the property. In 1986, the current owners, Addison and Marie Mason, purchased the house.

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Endnotes

1. Phillips, Robert Bass, Jr. *Caryswood: A Memoir of a House near Evington, Campbell County, Virginia*. 2000. page 4.
2. Phillips, Robert Bass, Jr. *Caryswood: A Memoir of a House near Evington, Campbell County, Virginia*. 2000. page 6, 11
3. Deed Book 30, page 90, 29 December 1853, Campbell County Clerk of Court; 1856-1857 Land Tax Records, Campbell County, Virginia; Recollections of Mary Jane Saunders (b. 1858) (daughter of Robert Chancellor Saunders). Copied at *Caryswood*, November 3, 1951. Received from Sara Wilson Harold Saunders. Transcribed by Sara Saunders Hollberg in November of 2005. Personal collection of Sara Saunders Hollberg.
4. Oral interview with Stephen B. Wood of Big Rapids, Michigan (childhood resident of Evington, Virginia).
5. Web Site: http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rgwomack/thomas_womack.htm
6. United States Census, Population Schedule, Campbell County, Virginia. 1850, 1860
7. Beckett, Anne Stuart, National Register Nomination of Bleak Hill (033-0002), 2002
8. Journal of the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1861
9. Journal of the Congress of the Confederate States of America
10. United States Census, Population Schedule, 1870
11. Deed Book 44, page 378. 20 November 1883. Campbell County Clerk of Court
12. Letter- George and Jean Saunders to Addison and Marie Mason, Kirkwood, Missouri. 30 August 2005. Personal collection of Addison Mason.
13. Robert C. Saunders to Lucy M. Davis, January 13, 1895, *Caryswood*, Evington, Virginia. Personal collection of Addison Mason. Saunders's mention of living in "the chamber" for 40 years helps confirm *Caryswood's* date of construction as 1855.
14. Read, Daisy I. New London: Today and Yesterday Lynchburg, Virginia: J.P. Bell Company, 1950. Pages 11-13.

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Major Bibliographical References

Campbell County Land Records, Campbell County Clerk of Court, Rustburg, Virginia

Phillips, Robert Bass, Jr. *Caryswood: A Memoir of a House Near Evington, Campbell County, Virginia*. 2000.

United States Census, Population Schedule, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930

United States Census, Slave Schedule, 1860

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Verbal Boundary Description

The subject property includes the tax map parcel within the County of Campbell identified as 41-A-121.

This nominated property is located on the north side of Colonial Highway (Virginia Route 24). UTM coordinates of the outer boundaries of this property follow:

Beginning at a point on the north side of Route 24 at:	A	17S	0654811	4121746
Running northward to:	B	17S	0654887	4122021
Running eastward to:	C	17S	0655060	4122024
Running southward to:	D	17S	0655101	4121835

Thence continuing westward along Route 24 to the beginning

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundaries form the core of the *Caryswood* farm since the 19th century. The 15-acre site was carved out of the larger *Caryswood* tract in the early 1960s, and is what is owned today by Addison and Marie Mason.

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Photo Captions

Information Common to All Images

Property Name: **Caryswood**

Town, County, State: **County of Campbell, VA**

Photographer: **W. Scott Smith**

Photo Captions:

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0001.tif

Front (south) Façade

Date: September 2008

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0002.tif

East Façade

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0003.tif

South and East Façades

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0004.tif

Rear (north) Façade

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0005.tif

Front Entryway Detail

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0006.tif

Entry Foyer Ceiling Detail

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0007.tif

Mantel & Fireplace, Southwest Parlor, 1st Floor

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0008.tif

Door Detail, Southwest Parlor, 1st Floor

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0009.tif

Smoke House

Date: August 2009

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VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0010.tif

Well House

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0011.tif

Stable

Date: August 2009

VA_CampbellCounty_Caryswood_0012.tif

Stable

Date: August 2009

OF VIRGINIA
AL RESOURCES

LYNCH STATION QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 ALTAVISTA 15' QUADRANGLE

5158 1 SW
CITY FARM

650 651 17'30" 652 CITY FARM 7 MI. 654 1780 000 FEET 655 79° 15' 37° 15'



CARYSWOOD
DHR # 015-5147
EVINGTON VICINITY
LYNCH STATION QUAD

330 000 FEET

KEY TO POINTS

A	17S 0654811
	4121746
B	17S 0654867
	4122021
C	17S 0655060
	4122024
D	17S 0655101
	4121835

UTM - NAD 1927

3.8 MI. TO U.S. 29