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Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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	ACCOMACK
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: CORBIN HALL

AND/OR HISTORIC: CORBIN HALL

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1.2 mi. E of Rt. 679, .4 mi. NE of intersection with Rt. 709

CITY OR TOWN: Horntown vicinity (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Accomack CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> Districts <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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: ~~David Flinn~~ William C. Rowland

STREET AND NUMBER: 150 Meadow Lane 431 Riverview Road

CITY OR TOWN: ~~Winnetka~~ Swathmore STATE: Illinois PA 19081 CODE: 17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Accomack County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Accomac STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940  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

STATE: VIRGINIA

COUNTY: ACCOMACK

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Corbin Hall is located in the northeast corner of Virginia's Eastern Shore, overlooking Chincoteague Bay and Chincoteague Island beyond. The house retains its isolated plantation setting and is approached by a mile long axial avenue through a forest and across broad level fields. The house's immediate grounds are unusually handsome and are impeccably maintained. The west, or land front, faces onto an informal park featuring a broad lawn, circular drive, boxwood and other ornamental shrubbery, and very large shade trees. The east front overlooks a series of earth terraces leading down to the water. The terraces are probably an original feature to the grounds, but the planting, walks, and steps all appear to be modern. No early outbuildings survive.

The main body of Corbin Hall is a large brick dwelling 60' 8" long and 38' 3" wide above the watertable. In general feeling it more resembles its Maryland neighbors than the Tidewater mansions of the mainland. The two-story structure is covered by a gable roof with two interior chimneys at either end and a modillion and dentil cornice on each front. The walls are laid in Flemish bond without glazing and appear to have been repointed in all areas but the decorative work. The repointing is consistent and unobtrusive, however. A brick inscribed CCT 1787 is located below the north window of the first floor on the east side, and near the peak of the gable on the north end are three bricks set in a diamond shape and inscribed with a three bladed ornament at the top, G+C in the center, and 1787 at the bottom. A rubbed brick belt course extends around the entire structure, and gauged brick arches are located above all the openings. Particularly noteworthy are the gauged brick arches above the Palladian windows on the second story of both fronts. The only significant exterior additions include a one-story frame service wing on the south end, and an enclosed brick entrance around the original stoop on the west front. The service wing was an early addition but was completely rebuilt in 1951; the brick entrance was added in the early twentieth century.

Corbin Hall's interior contains a wealth of fine paneling and other handsome woodwork. Indeed, few houses of such quality survive with as much original fabric. The west entrance leads into a wide stairhall with the stair ascending in the northeast corner. The stair features a molded handrail, slender turned balusters, scrolled end brackets, and paneled soffit. The stair hall is separated from the center hall of the west side by a tall arch framed with fluted pilasters set on pedestals. Both halls are further decorated with paneled wainscoting. The house's principal chamber, the northeast room is fully paneled and is one of the best examples of its type in Virginia. The paneling is ornamented with a Wall-of-Troy cornice molding, and a molded chair rail. On the end wall the chimney-piece is flanked by fluted Doric pilasters set on pedestals. Beyond the pilasters are small doors opening into the chimney closets. The three other first floor rooms have paneled end walls but only half paneling around their other three sides. The southeast room features interesting glazed closet doors with round arch top panes. The second floor rooms contain much original woodwork, but it is more simple than that below it. Some of the second floor spaces have been altered with the insertion of bathrooms. Corbin Hall's attic is a large unfinished storage area given interest by the exposed original roof framing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

- Urban Planning
- Other (Specify)  
Local History.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Corbin Hall is a Georgian plantation house of superior architectural quality - perhaps the best brick example of its style on the Eastern Shore. The beauty of the house is enhanced by the retention of its rural setting, with its broad prospect across Chincoteague Bay. Not only is Corbin Hall notable for its fine exterior proportions and careful brickwork details (especially evident in the second story Palladian windows), but for its superb interior woodwork and paneling, nearly all of which survives in an excellent state of preservation. The superior quality of Corbin Hall thus exhibits the high level of craftsmanship and design achieved on the Eastern Shore in the eighteenth century.

Because of insufficient documentation there has been some question of the house's date. It is reasonable to assume however, that the date 1787, inscribed in the brickwork in two places, refers to the construction date. The architectural style of the exterior would support such a date, although the style of some of the paneling is often associated with an earlier period. Assuming 1787 to be the construction date, the house would have been built by George Corbin, son of Convention and Barbary Corbin, who apparently lived on the property in an earlier house. Convention Corbin acquired the land known variously as Chincoteague Farm, Rowley Farm, and more recently Corbin Hall, in 1745 from John and Ann Potter. The property was originally part of Colonel Edmund Scarbrugh's tract of 3000 acres, patented in 1664.

George Corbin, who died in 1797, stated in his will: "To my daughter Agnes Drummond Ker my whole estate, provided she have a son, my son-in-law John Shepherd Ker call such son George Corbin, to which son I will my Chincoteague plantation Island, and swamp land." The plantation remained in the hands of Agnes Drummond Ker's descendants until 1873 when it was sold by a trustee to William P. Moore. During the remainder of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth, the property passed through various owners. In 1961, the house and five hundred acres were acquired by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Miur Rogers of Winnetka, Illinois. The Rogers use Corbin Hall to house part of their extensive collection of eighteenth-century English furniture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CCL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Whitelaw, Ralph, T., Virginia's Eastern Shore, Vol. 2, Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968.

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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 37° 58' 42"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 75° 27' 28"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	37° 58' 42"	75° 25' 47"				
SE	37° 58' 04"	75° 25' 47"				
SW	37° 58' 04"	75° 27' 28"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **500 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: **March 1972**

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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: *James W. Moody, Jr.*  
Title: Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: **APR 18 1972**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 \_\_\_\_\_

458 459 27'30" 460 STOCKTON MD 4 JAN 5960 III SW (GIRDLETREE) 462

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Chincoteague, Va. 1965

CORBIN HALL

latitude	longitude
NW37°58'42"	75°27'28"
NE37°58'42"	75°25'47"
SE37°58'04"	75°25'47"
SW37°58'04"	75°27'28"

