

VLR-4/17/73 NRHP-7/2/73

Form 10-300  
(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: Loudoun
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Farmer's Delight

AND/OR HISTORIC:

f2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .2 miles Northwest of Route 745, .5 miles Northeast of intersection with Route 626.

CITY OR TOWN: Leithtown vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Tenth, Joel T. Broyhill

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Loudoun	CODE 107
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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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. George C. McGhee

STREET AND NUMBER: 2808 N Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

CODE: 20007

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Loudoun County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Leesburg

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Loudoun

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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

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural Character: Farmer's Delight is an architecturally sophisticated northern Virginia Federal period farmhouse exhibiting fine brickwork and handsome interior trim. The former farmstead has been converted into an impressive estate with the addition of wings and extensive formal gardens.

B. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Overall dimensions: The two-story, five-bay house has later wing additions on the north and south. A two-story, three-bay wing three-bays wide extends to the north. A two-bay two-story wing one-bay wide extends to the south. To the south and west of this wing is another four-bay wing, two-stories high and three bays wide. A two-bay two-story wing with west gable end extends to the west of this large wing. Approximate dimensions of the original block are 24'X43'.

B. Foundations: Brick.

C. Wall construction: The walls of the main block are laid in Flemish bond. A single-course belt course extends across the front and rear walls. The north wing is also laid in Flemish bond. The south wing is all stretchers and the southwest wing is seven-course American bond.

D. Porches: A two-story glassed-in porch covers the north end of the north wing. A gable roofed porch with Tuscan pediment and columns shelters the rear door.

E. Chimneys: The main block has interior end chimneys, as do both the north and south wings. A chimney also rises at the juncture of the southwest wing with the main section of the house.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The front doorway features a five-pane transom, paneled soffit and plain trim with a bead. The door has two panels, each set with six glass lights over two simple wooden panels. The rear doorway has architrave trim. The upper portion of the door features six glass lights. Both doorways have gauged brick flat arches.

2. Windows: The wooden, double-hung lower windows have six-over-nine lights; the upper windows have six-over-six lights. All the windows have architrave trim and gauged brick flat arches. The windows also retain their shutter pintles.

G. Roof: The main block of the house has a moderately pitched gable roof. The cornice features scroll modillions with dentils. The wings all have gable roofs and a similar cornice with returns.

III. Description of the interior:

A. Floor plan: The block consists of the

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traditional single-pile plan with a central hall and a room on either side.

B. Stairway: The steep narrow stair rising in the hall has a simple turned newel, a molded handrail, turned balusters and brackets. The spandrel is paneled.

C. Wall and ceiling finish: The plaster walls are either painted or papered. The ceilings are painted plaster.

D. Doorways and doors: Six-paneled wooden doors have architrave trim. Corner cupboards frame the front doorway.

E. Trim: All of the rooms have a molded chair rail and baseboard. The parlor features a cornice composed of moldings and dentils.

F. Heating: Although fireplaces originally provided heating, today central heating is employed. The chimney pieces in the house are elaborate. The parlor chimney piece consists of a architrave around the opening, three short pilasters supporting the molded shelf, and a band of reeding just below the shelf. A chimney breast surrounded by architrave trim rises above the mantel. In the dining room, the chimney opening is surrounded by architrave trim and the shelf is made of a molded cornice with punch work and dentils. Four beaded boards divide the chimney breast into panels. The mantel in the upper south room has a wide shelf. The sides and lintel have a series of small panels.

IV. Site:

A. General setting and orientation: The house faces east and is approached by a lane lined with evergreens. The garden to the west include terraces and a colonnaded grape arbor composed of twelve pairs of columns, each with a different capital.

B. Outbuildings: The stone museum building is located south of the house and features a massive fireplace and hearth and large picture window facing a patio.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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 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

Farmer's Delight is an important example of an architecturally sophisticated northern Virginia farmhouse. The general style of the Federal-period structure follows that of the Georgian plantation houses of the tidewater region. Notable features of the house include the fine brickwork and the handsome interior trim.

The Farmer's Delight land was originally part of the Goose Creek Tract taken by Robert Carter in 1727. In 1741, 1000 acres of this tract, known as Green Leislip, were conveyed by Lord Fairfax to Doctor Charles Green. After Green's death, his widow retained the property for a time, but later sold it to Thomas and Mary Owsley. Jacob Reed obtained the land from the Owsleys but sold it to Colonel Joseph Lane for 568 pounds, 4 shillings in 1791. The present house at Farmer's Delight was built by Lane prior to 1803. An insurance policy of that date issued by the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia describes brick dwelling house, called Farmer's Delight, measuring twenty-four feet by forty-three feet.

Colonel Lane was a classmate and friend of the noted diarist, Philip Vickers Fithian, at Princeton. During Fithian's sojourn at Nomini Hall, Lane made several visits to the famous Carter family seat. In 1792-3 Lane was a member of the Virginia General Assembly, and he served as a Colonel in the army during the Whiskey Rebellion of 1793. Lane died in 1803, but Farmer's Delight remained in the hands of his family for a number of years.

The Leith family purchased Farmer's Delight in 1856, and it was owned by them until it was conveyed to Henry W. Frost, Jr. in 1919. The Frosts maintained well-known racing and hunting stables during their tenure at Farmer's Delight. The wings were added to the house at this time.

George C. McGhee, former ambassador to Germany and ambassador-at-large, acquired the house and farm in 1948. He undertook an extensive renovation of the house, added to the wings, and laid out elaborate gardens. The garden at the rear of the house was designed by Boris Timchenko of Washington and

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includes a colonnaded grape arbor composed of twelve pairs of double columns, each with a different capital. These columns, originally from the Benedictine Abbey at Samaron, France, were brought to the United States by William Randolph Hearst for his estate at San Simeon.

During Ambassador McGhee's residence, Farmer's Delight has been visited by dignitaries from many foreign countries as well as United States officials. Prominent fellow citizens of McGhee's native Texas, including President Lyndon B. Johnson and Speaker-of-the-House Sam Rayburn, have been frequent guests.

G.H.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

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	39°	02'	00"	77°	45'	35"			
NE	39°	02'	00"	77°	44'	36"			
SE	39°	00'	48"	77°	44'	36"			
SW	39°	00'	48"	77°	45'	35"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 320 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff  
 ORGANIZATION

DATE  
March, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE  
Richmond, Virginia 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., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

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

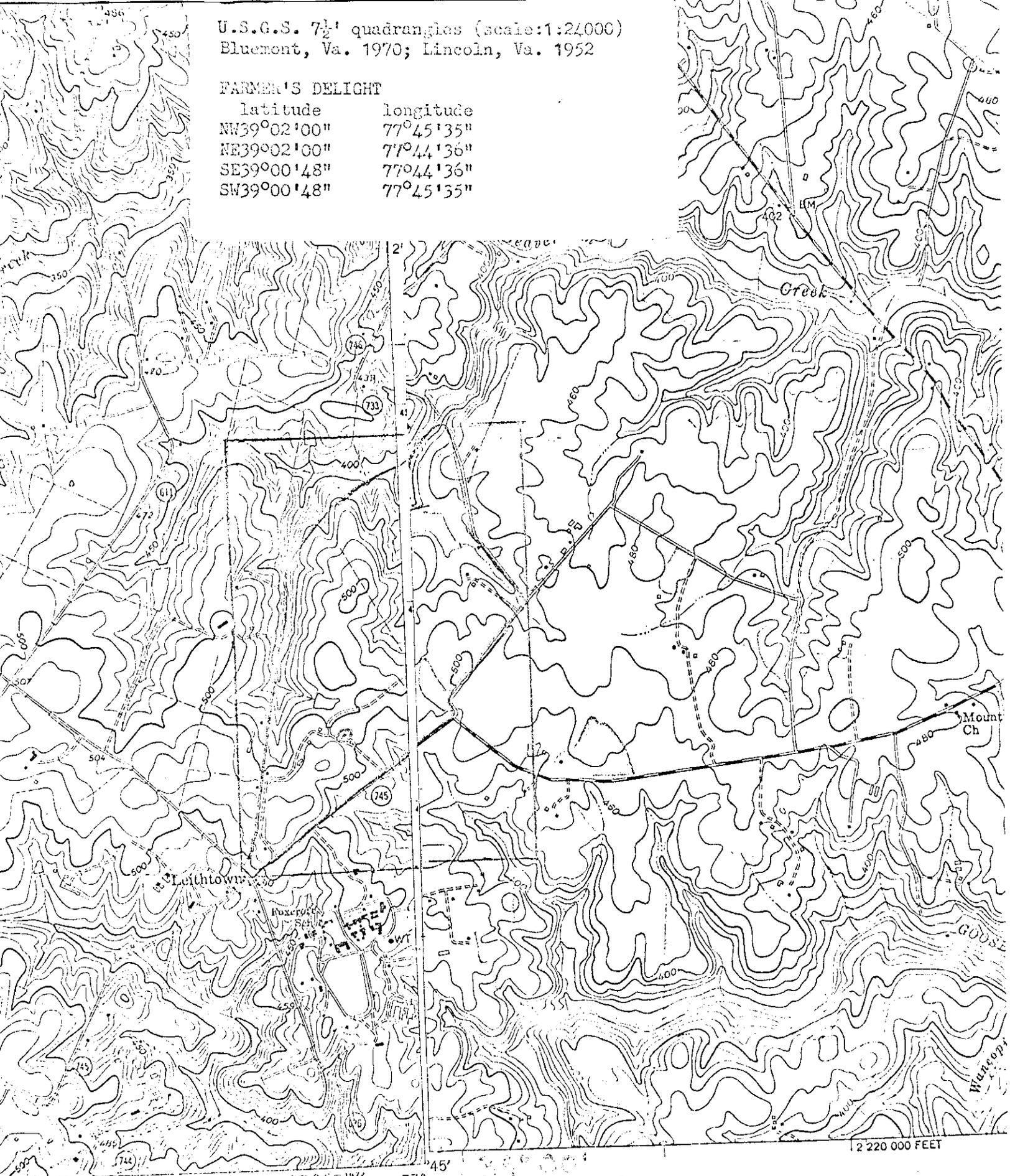
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangles (scale:1:24000)  
 Bluemont, Va. 1970; Lincoln, Va. 1952

FARMER'S DELIGHT

latitude	longitude
NW39°02'00"	77°45'35"
NE39°02'00"	77°44'36"
SE39°00'48"	77°44'36"
SW39°00'48"	77°45'55"



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	—————	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	- - - - -	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
 Aerial photographs taken 1942. Field check 1943  
 Revised by the Geological Survey 1952

1:220 000 FEET

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON D.C. - 1972  
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