

VLR-12/20/77 NRHP-5/23/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wormeley Cottage (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Wormeley-Montague House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Virginia Street (State Route 602);  
South of intersection of Virginia Street and T 1010.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Urbanna

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First (Paul S. Trible, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

119

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Robert L. Montague III

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 327

CITY, TOWN

Urbanna

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23175

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Saluda

STATE

Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)**

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1959

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wormeley Cottage on Virginia Street in Urbanna is a small, story-and-a-half frame structure three bays long with three narrow, gabled dormers in the front slope of the roof. The entrance is in the western (right) bay of the facade through a doorway hung with double applied-mold, Greek Revival doors. Early 19th-century 9/6 sash are used in several of the first-story windows, with 4/4 sash in the dormers. The asymmetrical chimney on the east end is set well back on the house to provide corner fireplaces in the main room and in the rear lean-to room. It is built of brick laid in Flemish bond with English bond below the water table and with tiled weatherings. The house is covered with reproduction beaded weatherboards and is set over a half-excavated dirt cellar on a low brick underpinning.

The plan of the Wormeley Cottage is a simple one. It is a side passage house with two rooms to the east of the passage--a large one in the main block and a narrow one in the lean-to. Both are heated by rebuilt segmental-arched corner fireplaces. The enclosed straight-run stair ascends from back to front against the west wall of the passage, and there is a large closet under it.

Little original trim remains in the house, but it is unlikely that there was ever much decoration. Some six-panel, raised-panel doors survive throughout the building; others have been replaced by four-panel, applied-mold Greek Revival doors. There is a wide double-beaded chairboard on the north wall of the lean-to room; another in the passage completes the decoration.

DU

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wormeley Cottage on Virginia Street in Urbanna is one of the few 18th-century buildings remaining in that once-bustling Rappahannock port town. Built on a lot originally belonging to Ralph Wormeley the small cottage with its picturesque asymmetrical chimney has a history of ownership intimately connected with that of Lansdowne just across the street.

The trustees of the town of Urbanna originally conveyed lots 74 and 75 on the edge of the incipient town to Ralph Wormeley in 1747. The deed stipulated, as was the standard practice for new Virginia towns in the colonial period, that the lots be built upon within twelve months. Since Wormeley did not forfeit his title it is clear that he did comply with the requirement, but it is not possible to tell whether the present cottage is that original structure. A thoroughly vernacular building, all of its surviving features are traditional ones characteristic of Virginia buildings erected throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. The only datable features are the surviving sash, which have muntins of an early 19th-century profile, and several Greek Revival doors. It is likely, however, that the structure was erected sometime in the second half of the 18th century.

In 1770, Wormeley sold to James Mills eight half-acre lots, including the ones on which the Wormeley Cottage stands, along with 300 acres of land adjoining the village and comprising the present Lansdowne property. Robert Beverley, Mills' heir, sold the property to Arthur Lee of Fairfax County in 1791. It was Lee who lived in the present house at Lansdowne, a few blocks to the east. In 1803 the Lansdowne holdings were sold to Robert Beverley Spratt who died two years later leaving them to his brother George D. Spratt. At Spratt's death in 1807 the cottage and associated property were left to his nephew, Robert B. Fife, then studying at Edinburgh, Scotland, who sold it to James Doswell and Thomas Price in 1817. By 1849 lots 74 and 75 (it is not certain which one the cottage stands on) were in the possession of Augustus Owen and the Frances Stamper estate, respectively, with Lansdowne the property of Thomas Street.

The present owner of the Wormeley Cottage is Robert L. Montague III who is responsible for its recent renovation. The house is one of the first historic structures in the state to be equipped with a solar heating unit.

DU, MTP

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Middlesex County Deed Books 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14.  
Land Books.  
Will Books F, 2.

Unpublished Report. Ralph Wormeley Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. n.d. (ms. at Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately one-half acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,6,0	7,5,0	4,1	6,6	3,6,0	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Wormeley Cottage is bounded on the N by Virginia Street (State Route 602) and is situated between town routes 1010 on the W and 1009 on the E, S of the intersection of Town Route 1001 with State Route 602.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

December 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

Virginia 23219

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 20 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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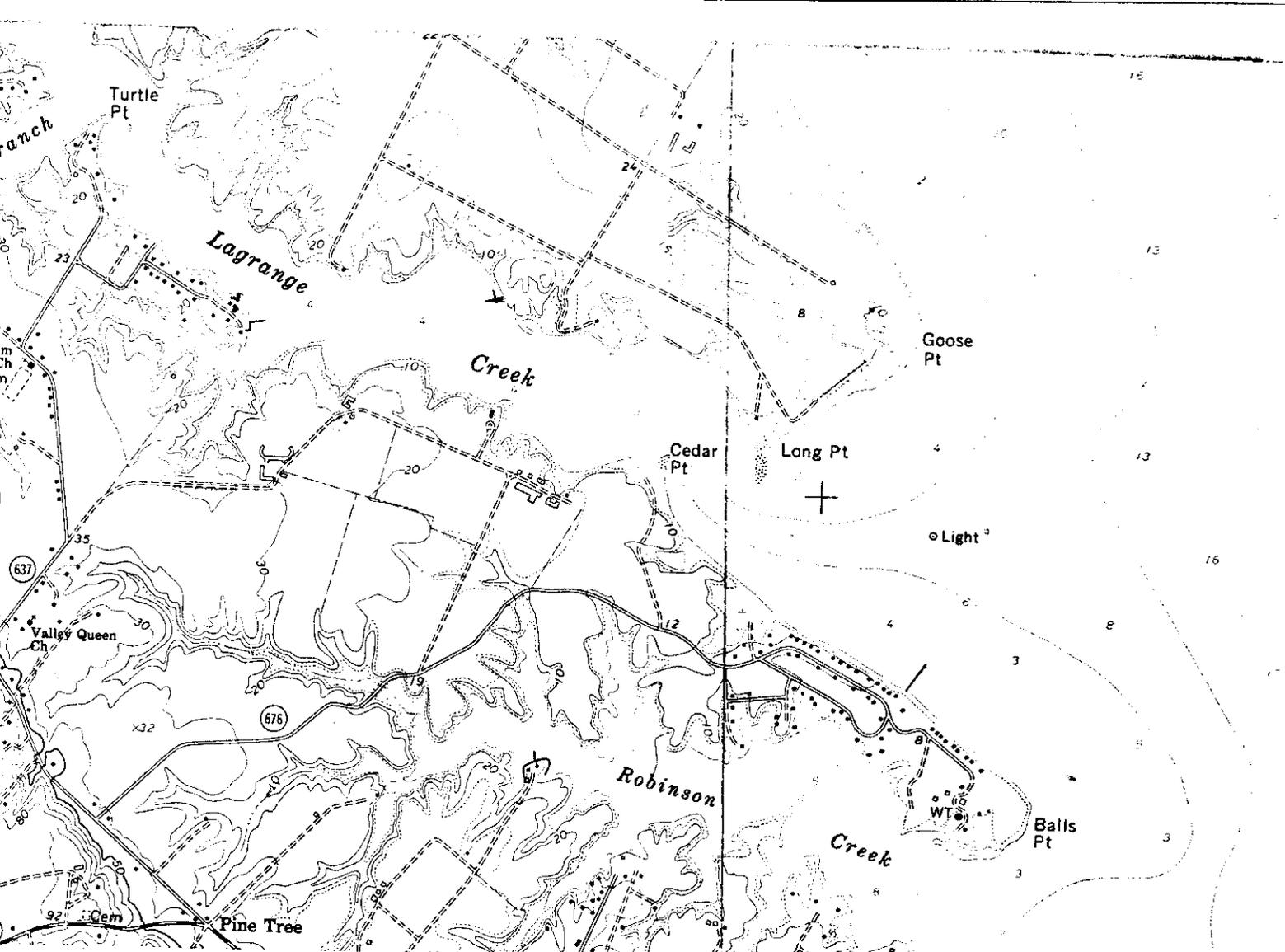
DATE ENTERED

Wormeley Cottage, Middlesex County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1 ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1970, 1972, 1977 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Richmond, Virginia



USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
 Urbanna, Va. (Scale: 1:24,000)  
 1968

WORMELEY COTTAGE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
 UTM Reference:

A - 18/360750/4166360

