

VLR-8/16/72 NRHP-9/22/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: PRINCE EDWARD	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
DEBTORS' PRISON

AND/OR HISTORIC:
DEBTORS' PRISON

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
W side of Rt. 15, .1 mi. S of intersection with Rt. 665.

CITY OR TOWN:
Worsham (Watkins M. Abbitt, Fourth District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Prince Edward CODE: 147

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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" 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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miss Mary Dupuy, Directress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Prince Edward Branch of Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

CITY OR TOWN: Hampden Sydney STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Prince Edward County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Farmville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 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: PRINCE EDWARD
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins. Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The small log jail beside Highway 15 in the village of Worsham has the solid appearance of a building constructed with security in mind. The 14' by 18' structure consists of a single room with unutilized attic space above. The square hewn logs of the walls are closely fitted, without chinking and are held together with half dovetailed joints at the corners. The floor and ceiling are also constructed of heavy squared logs set closely together. The ceiling logs extend about one foot beyond the front and back walls to form a slight roof overhang. The roof structure itself is of lighter frame construction. The building sits on a low sandstone rubble foundation and has an interior-end brick chimney.

Entrance into the jail is through a set of two doors in the center of the front wall. The outer door may be a replacement, but the inner door, of vertical beaded boards and horizontal braces, appears to date from the eighteenth century. Two small square unglazed windows flank the door, the southern one being a conjectural restoration based on the northern opening. Remains of three vertical iron bars found in the original window also served as precedent for restoration. A small opening in the back wall appears to have been a latrine slot.

A lean-to addition at the back was constructed in the nineteenth century when the jail was converted into a residence. A larger window was cut in the front wall, and an opening was made in the log ceiling to give access to the attic space.

Most of the post-eighteenth century additions were removed in a 1951 restoration of the building. The tin roof was replaced with wooden shingles, and all beaded siding except that under the gables was removed. This siding was certainly of pre-War Between the States date, and it may have been eighteenth century. The jail is now scheduled for further restoration and repair by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

A more substantial jail of stone was constructed just north of the earlier one around 1855. This structure had fallen in by the mid-1950's, and the walls were then dismantled. A heavy iron door and window grate from the stone jail were preserved and put up just outside the log prison.

E.A.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>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 checked="" 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

Worsham was the county seat of Prince Edward County from its foundation in 1754 until 1872, and the debtors' prison constructed there in 1787 remains the oldest public building in the county. Debtors' terms of imprisonment were usually comparatively short in the eighteenth century, and their places of incarceration were usually separate from those provided for criminals.

The Prince Edward "gaol for debtors" was authorized in 1786, with Thomas Scott and Charles Allen directed to let bids. The completed building was viewed and received the following year, and Richard Bibb was paid fifty-two pounds for its construction.

Imprisonment of debtors was abandoned in the nineteenth century, and apparently as early as 1820 the log building was converted into a residence. In 1908 the property was deeded by the Burke family to E. L. Dupuy, whose family retained ownership until it was purchased in 1950 by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. This organization carried out restoration of the structure in 1951.

As a documented log public building surviving from the eighteenth century, the Worsham debtors' prison is a rare survival in Virginia. Its quality of construction is also notable, being of finely fitted squared logs that form the ceiling and floor, as well as walls.

E.A.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradshaw, Herbert Clarence, History of Prince Edward County, Richmond: Dietz Press, 1955.
 Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, "Report on Archaeological Exploration in Conjunction with the Superstructure of the Old Debtors' Prison For Prince Edward Co. at Worsham, Virginia," Unpubl. ms., 1954. (Copy on file at VHLC)
 Prince Edward County Records, order book 8: 187 & 328.

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	13'	42"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	78°	26'	35"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2 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: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION DATE: June, 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 Va. 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 _____

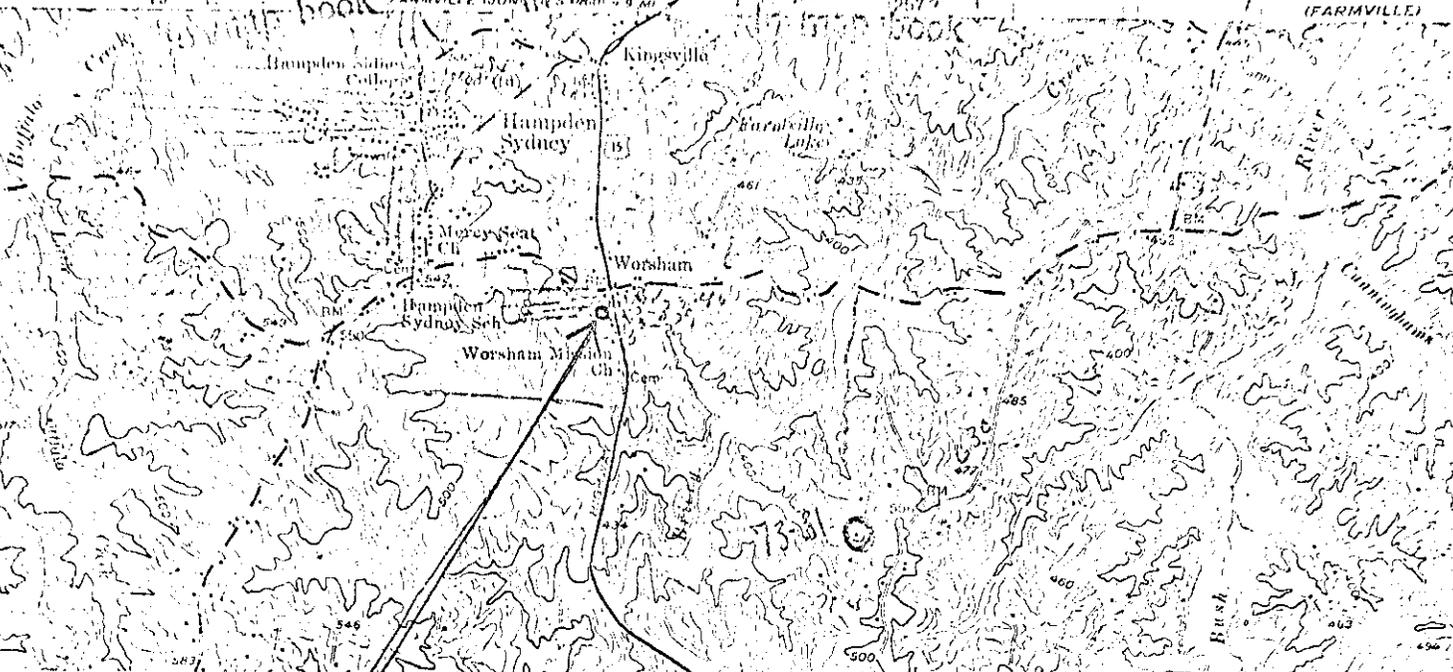
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ENTERED In map book ENTERED In map book ENTERED In map book

STATE OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVERT, STATE GEOLOGIST
(FARMVILLE)

ENTERED In map book
ENTERED In map book
ENTERED In map book
ENTERED In map book

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



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

DEBTORS' PRISON
Latitude 37°13'42"
Longitude 78°26'35"

ENTERED In map book
3-24
CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE

