

VLR-1/5/71 NRHP-7/2/71

76-23

Form 10-309
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Prince William
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rippon Lodge

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Rippon Lodge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
.6 mi. SE of Rt. 1, .8 mi. N of intersection with Rt. 642.

CITY OR TOWN:
(Woodbridge vic.)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Prince William CODE: 153

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Click 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"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisitions: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<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

Agricultural
 Commercial
 Educational
 Entertainment
 Government
 Industrial
 Military
 Museum
 Park
 Private Residence
 Religious
 Scientific
 Transportation
 Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Richard Blackburn Black, Rear Admiral, USNR (Ret.)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rippon Lodge

CITY OR TOWN:
Woodbridge

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY D, DEEDS ETC:
Prince William County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Manassas

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 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 William

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Size

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rippon Lodge is a frame house of one and one half stories covered by a gable roof with jerkinheads and dormers. The stone foundations have been reinforced with concrete as well as brick and wooden piers and the two original brick corner chimneys still define the original portion of the building between them. Additions were made on the west end possibly in the late-eighteenth century complete with brick chimney, the gable roof being extended with the jerkinhead repeated at the end. In 1924, the two wings and the full-length porch between were added to the south front. In spite of the many additions, the framing, chimneys, part of the basement masonry as well as much of the beaded siding remain from the first half of the eighteenth century. Interior changes have been made but out of the five irregularly sized rooms in the original rectangle two retain their eighteenth century pine paneled walls. Although horizontal widths vary, the paneling consists of a single rectangle below and above a molded chair rail. The elliptical arch of the fireplace opening in the dining room has a marble surround with volutes above but the mantel in the small room on the south uses fully-developed consoles supporting a cornice shelf.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DATE: 11/15/50

BY: [illegible]

NO. 10

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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 checked="" 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) <u>History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<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

Richard Blackburn Black, fifth-great-grandson and namesake of the builder and original owner, came into possession of Rippon Lodge in 1952. Admiral Black, a polar explorer old-style who first visited the Antarctic with Richard E. Byrd's second expedition, purchased the property from the widow of Wade Hampton Ellis. Rippon had passed out of the Blackburn family when George Atkinson (died 1844) purchased it from the estate of Thomas Blackburn. It was subsequently held by Atkinson's son, then by his daughter, and finally by one Thomas Marron. Judge Ellis, a collateral descendant of the original owners, restored the Lodge to the family and to something of its original appearance, in 1924.

Although the many additions to Rippon Lodge tend to detract the eye from the original portions, considerable material remains in the early-eighteenth-century block. The fine quality of the interior paneling is surprising in so small a structure. One of the most impressive features of the house is its site overlooking the alluvial plain of the Potomac with the river itself within view over the trees to the east. The charm and convenience of this situation attracted Englishmen from the first. Captain John Smith visited the site while it was still the seat of the Doeg Indians.

The earliest land patents in Northern Virginia were surveyed here, on the Occoquan estuary of the Potomac. When Richard Blackburn purchased his tract in 1737, it was part of a mature, densely settled, agricultural neighborhood. Blackburn came to Prince William County from Rippon, England early in the eighteenth century. He made his fortune as planter and builder: certainly building the first Falls Church, among the several significant structures attributed to him. He speculated in land, owned a grist mill, and co-founded several towns including Dumfries. Blackburn's social and economic activities were those typical of a member of the upper gentry.

Indeed the Blackburns are text-book models of Virginia's eighteenth-century leadership. Richard Blackburn was "Preferred by the Governor to posts of command in the Colony as well as by the People who made him a Representative in the General Assembly. . . ." The interplay of democratic and aristocratic forces, implied in this contemporary epitaph, was --according to modern scholars-- a necessary element in the political culture which produced the Virginia Founding Fathers. Richard Blackburn's son and heir, Thomas, followed his father in service to the Commonwealth. Thomas Blackburn's generation of gentlemen planters lived to provide Virginia with leadership

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

8. during the Revolution and under the Republic.

Fifty years, and an Empire, passed between the deaths of Richard Blackburn (in 1757) and his son, Thomas. But their wills, in many ways interesting and informative documents, give evidence of little change in either the customary forms of inheritance or the social position of the family. There is some hint of entail--slaves certainly were attached to specific plantations; but little of primogeniture in the late-colonial document. The division of personal and real property between older and younger sons, and daughters, was comparable in both wills: the one written when Virginia was part of the Empire, the other when she was a Republican State.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harrison, Fairfax. Landmarks of Old Prince William.
 Hening, William W. The Statutes at Large .13 volumes. Richmond, 1809-1823.
 Ranke, Mrs. Vinetta (Wells). The Blackburn Genealogy, 1939.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 37' 05"	77° 17' 03"				
NE	38° 37' 05"	77° 17' 03"				
SE	38° 36' 40"	77° 16' 24"				
SW	38° 36' 40"	77° 16' 24"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 140 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: December 18, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street 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 _____
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

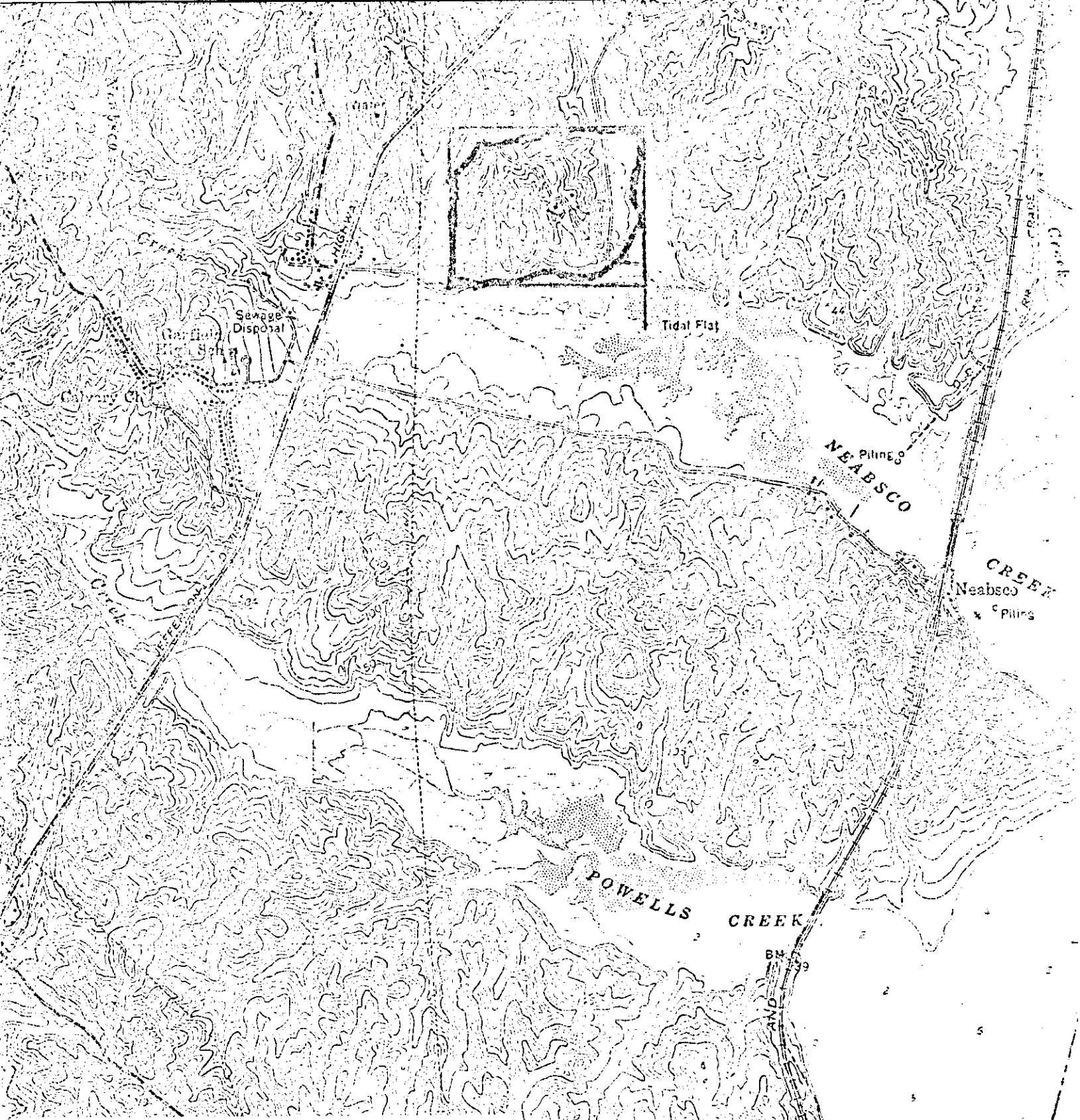
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
 Quantico, Va. 1956

Rippon Lodge

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	38° 37' 05"	77° 17' 03"
NE	38° 37' 05"	77° 17' 03"
SE	38° 36' 40"	77° 16' 24"
SW	38° 36' 40"	77° 16' 24"

VIRGINIA
 MARYLAND