

VLR-6/19/73 NRHP-6/25/73

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: Prince William
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rockledge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West side of Telegraph Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Occoquan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Eighth, Stanford E. Parris

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

COUNTY:
Prince William

CODE:
153

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 checked="" 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Derelict
<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:
John E. Woodall

STREET AND NUMBER:
7909 Lomond Court

CITY OR TOWN:
Manassas

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC.:
Prince William County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Manassas

STATE:
Virginia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

Rockledge is located near Virginia Route 123 on the northern edge of Occoquan and overlooks the town and Occoquan Creek. The House sits on a crag, virtually carved out of a solid rock face which rises abruptly behind the house and descends immediately in front of the facade to the road below. The structure stands in a state of neglect with two of its three outbuildings remaining.

The stately dwelling is well-proportioned and has some fine architectural detailing. The main section is one room deep and two-and-one-half-stories in height. This section is constructed with stones from the nearby quarry on Occoquan Creek. Stone houses are rare in Tidewater Virginia and two of Rockledge's three sections are of this material. Of the two south wings, the smaller wing, containing the bread oven kitchen, probably was constructed first. The stone wing connecting the original section to the kitchen came later. The six-bay facade, the original house section and the connecting wing, faces east and has a stone water-table. The entrance door is in the fourth bay from the south end of the house, and is reached by steps leading to an elevated stone landing at the same level as the first floor. Three interior brick chimney stacks are in the main structure located at each of the gable ends and between the second and third bays. The three dormer windows with pedimented gables are placed, one each, at the center of the roof span and at each quarter-span point. These dormers appear to have been added after the construction of the stone addition between the kitchen and the main house. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles laid over the early wood shingles. A modillin cornice with a wall of Troy fret molding runs the entire length of the facade. The first and second story fenestration pattern is similarly treated. Louvered shutters frame the second story six-over-nine sash while paneled shutters flank the six-over-six sash first story windows. Vertically barred grills are found in the water-table under the second and third bays and between the fifth and sixth bays from the south end. A later window is found in the water-table between the first and second bays. The stonework throughout the entire structure is laid in a rough pattern.

The facade of the one-and-one-half story brick kitchen wing, immediately to the south of the main residence, has been altered over the years. A tall interior brick chimney stack is found in the exposed gable end and two pedimented gabled dormer windows are used on the asphalt shingled roof. A simple box cornice is found under the eaves of the facade. The three-bay facade consists of a doorway centered between two small windows, one double window with three-over-three sash and a single window with three-over-three sash.

The west elevation, which is the rear of the house, is partially built into the cliff. The fenestration patterns are irregular and much of the sash is missing. A simple cornice runs almost the entire length of the west elevation. The roof contains one pedimented gabled dormer placed roughly in the center of the roof span. The first floor is entered through a portal on axis with the front door on the east elevation and is connected to it by a center hall. Projecting from the wall plane of the west elevation, the kitchen wing envelopes the south corner of the main structure. One pedimented gable dormer window is found in the roof as well as a gable dormered doorway. No fenestration pattern can be detected on the first floor.

The south elevation forms an interesting composition of superimposed gable ends of various roof pitches, construction materials and fenestration patterns. Both the north and south elevations have two small windows of two-over-two sash placed on either side of the chimney stack in the gable ends.

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These windows were probably the original primary sources of light for the third floor attic space.

Three large rooms in addition to the central hall and stairway form the first floor of the main house. Simple woodwork is found in these rooms: pedestal type chair rails, base boards and cornices. The kitchen wing consists of a large workspace area dominated by a sizeable fireplace with an iron lintel and two small bake ovens, where the local flour was baked into loaves for commercial use. A pantry is also located in the kitchen wing. The second floor of the house consists of three rooms, two with fireplaces, plus a stair-hall and a connecting passageway which leads to the attic space of the kitchen wing which also has a fireplace. The third floor consists of three rooms, a stair-hall and closet.

The condition of Rockledge can only be described as poor due to neglect over many years. Much of the house has been vandalized and structural problems have developed. All of the mantels and much of the other interior woodwork has been removed.

J.L.F.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C.1760

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Historical</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

Rockledge is significant for its association with the town of Occoquan and the successive entrepreneurs who sought to realize the town's potential as a milling, manufacturing, shipping, and travel center. The finely proportioned and detailed Georgian house is also claimed to be an early work by William Buckland, foremost architect of the late-colonial Chesapeake region. Buckland allegedly supervised construction of the house under contract to the quixotic industrialist John Ballendine, the latter then being engaged in the milling and foundry industries "at or near the falls of Occoquan."

Ballendine was soon displaced from his home and businesses by an erstwhile partner, John Semple. The imaginative, but imprudent and poorly capitalized Ballendine, attempted at one time or another to dig canals, or otherwise improve transportation on the Potomac or James Rivers; develop common carrier transportation on the Potomac; transport troops or build their cannon; and conduct sawmills. The picturesque site of Rockledge, hacked out of solid rock and overlooking the falls of Occoquan, is a testimonial to Ballendine's imagination.

Ballendine's successor gave up the forge and expanded his milling operations to cope with the increasing production of wheat, which had become the staple agricultural crop of Northern Virginia. Semple's holdings eventually passed to Nathaniel Ellicott, a member of one of Jeffersonian America's foremost Quaker and milling families, the founders of Ellicott City, Maryland. Ellicott employed an itinerant teacher and writer, whose account of Occoquan included a reference to Rockledge, "a house built on a rock," which surely would have delighted the otherwise dour Ellicott.

The estuary of the Occoquan has attracted the attention of travellers since the time of John Smith. Its natural advantages, being practical as well as picturesque, were recognized by the 1650s when the land was patented, among the first to be taken up in Northern Virginia. Andrew Burnaby (1760), John Davis (1801), and Joseph Martin (1836) each recorded their impressions of the Occoquan as it nears the Chesapeake.

The Occoquan combined continuously strong water power at its falls with an estuary so broad and deep that it could accommodate the largest ships of its day. The town which developed was a concentration point for tobacco during the first-half of the 18th century, and a link in the great Southern mail route for a century thereafter. The tavern at Occoquan was described as superior to most.

By the mid-1830s there were numerous houses, shops, stores, and ~~manufactories, and every prospect of continued growth and prosperity.~~

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But the estuary of the Occoquan silted up, and the back country trade and through traffic were diverted by the new railroads and alternate roadways. Occoquan declined, but the river rolled on "along mountains that rise abruptly from its bank, while on the opposite shore, which appears to have been formed by a volcano," there remained as there had been in Davis' day, "mills enveloped in foam and here and there a dwelling which has vast masses of stone for its foundation." Three of these were on the riverside, and a fourth he described as the "house built on a rock."

H.P.P.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rosamond Randall Beirne & John Henry Scarff, FAIA, William Buckland 1734-1774, Architect of Virginia and Maryland, Baltimore: Board of Regents, Gunston Hall & Hammond-Harwood Assoc. 1958.

John Davis, Travels of Four Years and a Half in the United States of America During 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801 and 1802, New York, 1909.

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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	38	41	06
NE	0	'	"	77	15	45
SE	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 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: April, 1973

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: 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: _____

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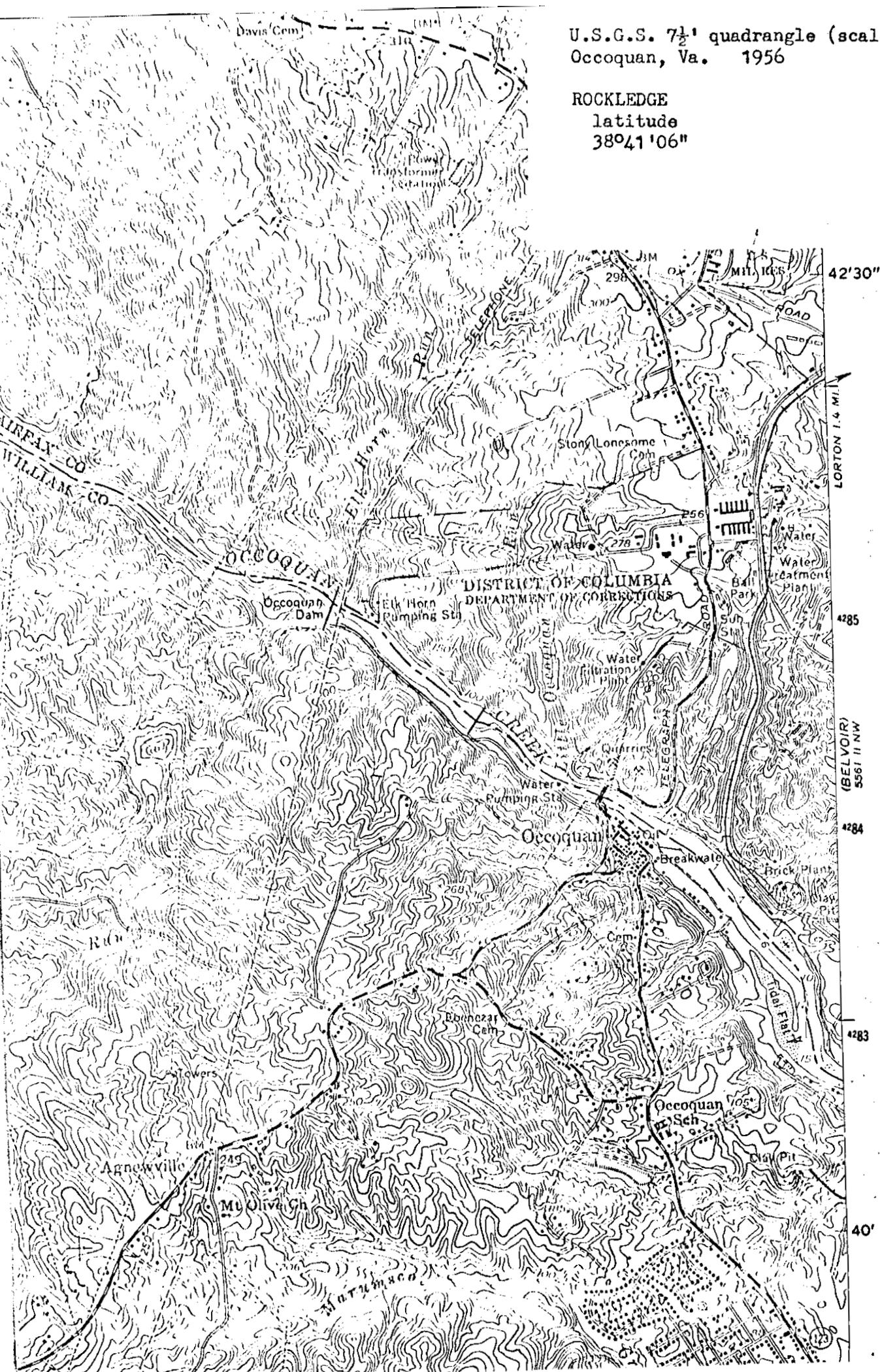
6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1959 Federal
Library of Congress

Washington, D. C. Code: 11

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Occoquan, Va. 1956

ROCKLEDGE
latitude
38°41'06"

longitude
77°15'45"



Rock ledge