

VLR-7/21/81 NRHP-2/24/83

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Woodford

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number State Route 610 N/A not for publication

city, town Simons Corner vicinity of congressional district First (Paul S. Trible, Jr.)

state Virginia code 51 county Richmond code 159

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> bath	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Chinn, Jr.

street & number Cottage 54, Cokesbury Village

city, town Hockessin vicinity of state Delaware 19707

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richmond County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Warsaw state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

title (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory has this property been determined eligible? y e s no

date 1958 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The dwelling house at Woodford is a quaint, story-and-a-half brick structure in the Virginia vernacular idiom. Its walls are laid in Flemish bond with scattered glazed headers. The walls were whitewashed at one time, but the wash has been allowed to weather, leaving the house with a soft mottled texture. Although the house at once appears to be an early 18th-century structure, no use is made of several masonry features normally associated with colonial brick buildings: the house has no rubbed brick, no jack arches, and no water table. The only architectural features that appear to be distinctly colonial are the two exterior end chimneys with their two sets of tiled weatherings. Interestingly, the chimneys are not centered on their respective walls. Despite the lack of these features, the house does likely date before 1773, as suggested by an inventory of that year, and seems just to have been an unusually simple, inexpensively constructed dwelling.

Typical of 18th-century vernacular houses, the openings on the three-bay north and south walls are not symmetrically placed. The uneven spacing of the openings reflects more of an interest in the uneven size of the rooms than in architectural formality. Most of the exterior woodwork, including the window architraves, the pedimented dormers, the box cornices, and the raking boards, appears to be modern renewals. This renewal undoubtedly occurred in 1935, when the house was thoroughly restored under the direction of Philip Stern, a Fredericksburg architect who at one time was associated with Colonial Williamsburg. That the renewed woodwork accurately reproduced the earlier trim is indicated by a pre-restoration photograph in the possession of the present owner. Features added during the restoration are the pedimented hoods above the north and south entrances, the stone steps of these entrances, and the corbeled chimney caps, shown to be missing in the photograph. The restoration also included a 1½-story frame addition on the east end which houses a kitchen and dining room, with bedrooms above. The new wing is sympathetically attached by a low hyphen. The addition was enlarged in recent years with the construction of a screened porch on the south wall. The porch, designed by Walter Macomber, is covered by a spreading hipped roof which adds to the picturesque quality of the group.

The clipped gable roof on the original portion of the house is one of Woodford's most distinctive features. A standard 18th-century vernacular form, the clipped gable serves to add character to an otherwise simple dwelling. The roof undoubtedly was covered with wood shingles originally; the present roof of composition shingles was added during the restoration.

The internal arrangement of Woodford is transitional between the vernacular hall-parlor house and the more formal symmetrical Georgian plan employing a center passage. Woodford's hall is a generously proportioned room occupying the west end. The smaller parlor, mentioned in the 1773 inventory as the chamber, and therefore used originally as a bedroom, is on the opposite end. The transitional feature of the plan is the center passage; in this case, it is somewhat off-center because of the uneven sizes of the adjacent rooms. In the passage is Woodford's most significant interior feature, an impressive closed-string, open-well stair with square newels, molded handrail, and turned balusters. At first glance, the balusters appear to have been installed upside down, but a comparison of the balusters with those on the stair at Chevening, a stylish 17th-century country house in Kent, England, shows the use of a nearly identical profile. The Woodford balusters are the only ones of their form to have been observed in a Virginia house.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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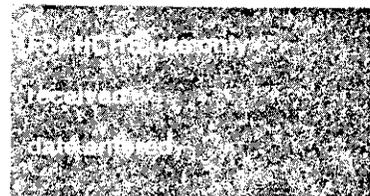
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Woodford, Richmond County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6,7

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1980 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

Except for the stair and a few doors, the interior retains little other original woodwork. The Federal-style muntins in the window sash suggest that the house was retrimmed in the early 19th-century, as frequently was the case with colonial Virginia dwellings. Although it was believed by the restoration architect that paneled chimney walls installed by him replaced lost original paneling, it is also quite likely that the house was trimmed quite simply in the beginning, having no paneling with perhaps only a chair rail and baseboard decorating plaster walls. That the interior was originally quite basic is reinforced by the presence of two small sections of clapboarding nailed to the undersides of the rafters, visible through two very small doors (almost peepholes) opening into the knee walls from the stair landing. (These doors are trimmed with Federal moldings and may have been used to let cats into the roof area to catch mice, which yet plague the owners.) Vernacular expert Dell Upton suggests that the clapboarding originally extended around the walls and ceilings of the two upper rooms as a primitive finish substituting for plaster. That these rooms were indeed primitively finished is again suggested by the 1773 inventory which shows both rooms to be virtually devoid of furniture. The doors into these rooms are curious and also primitive in their own way. They consist of two long boards joined vertically by a narrow feather-edged strip slotted into each board.

Another of Woodford's interesting vernacular features is the panels of herringbone-patterned brickwork forming the firebacks of the hall and parlor fireplaces. This type of treatment is common in England but relatively rare in Virginia and is usually a later insertion to take the place of original brickwork deteriorated by constant fires. The fireplaces themselves are very deep and wide and are topped by segmental arches with plastered faces.

Woodford has an unusually scenic setting on Farnham Creek just up from its confluence with the Rappahannock. A pair of guts forms the Woodford property into a small peninsula of some fifty-three acres. The peninsula is presently about equally divided into fields and woodlands with trees and marshes along the water's edge. The house is set in a scenically landscaped yard planted with shade trees, evergreens, magnolias, and numerous box bushes. Two outbuildings, including a smokehouse of undetermined age, stand to the west of the house.

Somewhere on the property are probably the archaeological remains of perhaps two earlier houses. An early owner, Luke Billington, refers to his dwelling there in his will of 1672. That house, or more likely a later one, was inventoried in 1751 following the death of a later owner, Billington McCarty. McCarty's structure apparently lasted past 1773 when the present house was inventoried, for the inventory contains entries for articles found in the "Old House." No archaeological survey has yet been made of the property. An old burying ground is said to be on the peninsula, but it has not been precisely located.

CL

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 3rd quarter 18th century Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Woodford is an important example of Virginia's transitional vernacular architecture, combining features of the simple organic cottages of early colonial times with the more formal, symmetrical qualities of the Georgian style. Its traditional hall-parlor plan incorporates a center passage associated with Georgian plans, and the otherwise formal exterior has irregularly spaced openings reflecting the unevenness of the room sizes. Interesting details include a unique, for Virginia, stair banister following sophisticated English precedents and remnants of interior clapboarding originally used as a rude second-floor wall and ceiling finish. Worthy of note also is the complete lack of any decorative detailing in what are in every other respect finely executed Flemish-bond brick walls, a further indication of the house's combination of vernacular and sophisticated qualities. Woodford was built between 1756 and 1773 for Billington McCarty, Jr., (d. 1771) whose family had owned the property since 1661. The present house was preceded by perhaps two earlier dwellings whose sites, if located, could yield significant archaeological information.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The scenic peninsula on Farnham Creek where Woodford is located was originally part of a tract patented in 1650 by Col. Moore Fauntleroy. Fauntleroy sold 110 acres of the property in 1661 to Luke Billington who died in 1672 leaving the land and the "house wherein I dwell"¹ to his wife and son. The son, Luke Billington, Jr., died in 1686 with the property passing to his sister Elizabeth, wife of Dennis McCarty. The property does not appear to have been occupied over the next few decades, at least until after 1724 when Elizabeth McCarty's grandson Billington McCarty inherited the place from Daniel McCarty of Westmoreland County. He most likely built a new house there around the time of his marriage in 1732. His will of 1745 refers to the Farnham Creek property as my "now dwelling plantation."² Billington McCarty, Jr., was only nine years old when he inherited the property from his father. He probably built the present house around a decade later in order to accommodate a growing family.

Woodford's inventory of 1773, made after Billington McCarty's death, follows a room arrangement conforming to that of the present house. The inventory also shows the principal rooms to have been quite handsomely furnished. In the hall were a desk and bookcase, a walnut desk, a walnut table, a large maple table, a dozen leather-bottom chairs, a looking glass, four "Delph" punch bowls, and a dozen silver spoons, etc. The inventory also mentions items in the "Old House," indicating that the father's house was still standing.

Woodford was inherited by Billington McCarty, Jr.'s second son, William. The property, consisting of some 355 acres, then remained in the family through the mid-19th century. The first mention of the place by the name Woodford appears in the Richmond County Will Book of 1845, in the will of William McCarty, Jr.

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Woodford, Richmond County, Virginia
Continuation sheet #2

Item number 7,8

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7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries have been drawn to include the fifty-three-acre peninsula which is currently the entire Woodford tract.. This provides a scenic setting for the main house and includes any likely archaeological sites, specifically the sites of the earlier Woodford dwellings.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

During the early 20th century the house remained occupied but fell into decay. In 1935 the property was acquired by Maj. and Mrs. Charles Gilchrist of Charleston, South Carolina, who engaged Philip Stern, a Fredericksburg architect, to restore the house and add a kitchen wing. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chinn, Jr., of Wilmington, De maintain Woodford as a handsomely appointed weekend and summer home. Mr. Chinn is a native of Richmond County and is a descendant of the McCarty family.

MTP/CL

¹Old Rappahannock County Wills and Deeds 1, p. 114. 1665-1677.

²Richmond County Wills 5, p. 480 (1745).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Old Rappahannock County Record Book (1656-1664), p. 179.
 Old Rappahannock County Wills and Deeds (1665-1677).
 Richmond County Will Book 5 (1745), p. 480; 6 (1753), p. 1; 7 (1773), p. 113.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 53 acres
 Quadrangle name Morattico, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 UMT References

A	1 8	3 5 3 0 4 0	4 1 8 8 6 0 0	B	1 8	3 5 3 1 1 0	4 1 8 8 2 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 8	3 5 2 9 6 0	4 1 8 8 1 2 0	D	1 8	3 5 2 7 8 0	4 1 8 8 0 2 0
E	1 8	3 5 2 6 6 0	4 1 8 8 0 0 0	F	1 8	3 5 2 6 5 0	4 1 8 8 2 4 0
G	1 8	3 5 2 7 2 0	4 1 8 8 6 0 0	H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Property comprises \pm 53 acres. Bounded on the south and east by Farnham Creek; bounded on north by a creek and then by a property line, which extends west of the entrance to the west property line, which extends south to Farnham Creek.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date July 1981
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144
 city or town Richmond state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date MAY 10 1982

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Morattico, Va. 1968 (PR 1979)

WOODFORD, Richmond County

UTM References:

A	18/353040/4188600	B	18/353110/4188270
C	18/352960/4188120	D	18/352780/4188020
E	18/352660/4188000	F	18/352650/4188240
G	18/352720/4188600		

