

VLR-9/18/79 NRHP-12/28/79

FHR-5-300 (11-78)

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 Snow Hill (preferred)

and/or common Booth House

2. Location

street & number W side of State Route 40; S of intersection of State Routes 612 and 40; E of Otterdam Swamp. not for publication

city, town Gwaltney Corner vicinity of Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.) congressional district

state Virginia code 51 county Surry code 181

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Timmie Hobbs Wilcox/Mrs. Rosalie Wilcox Priddy

street & number Route 3, Box 612

city, town Ashland vicinity of state Virginia 23005

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Surry County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Surry state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973, 1976, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Snow Hill is a 2½-story, single-pile frame house located in a completely rural setting on State Route 40 in Surry County. Erected in 1836, the gable-roof structure is set on a brick underpinning laid in three-course American bond with rodded joints.

The front (south) elevation contains the house's main entrance. The entry consists of a double doorway with paneled doors contained within a simply executed three-part architrave. A one-story, gable-roof porch originally sheltered the entrance. Fenestration consists of most of the original 9/9 hung sash, framed within a simple three-part architrave on a torus sill. Replacement louvred shutters flank both the first- and second-story windows. A modillion cornice embellishes the facade while the rear cornice is a simple molded one. The roof is covered with a standing-seam sheet metal which probably replaced wood shingles. All elevations are covered with beaded weatherboarding original to the house. The north elevation is similar to the main facade. Both the east and west elevations have brick exterior end chimneys laid in five-course American bond. The haunches are tiled, an unusual refinement for the period when most haunches were stepped. Replacement 4/4 hung-sash windows are found on the attic story. A side entrance is located on the west elevation.

Snow Hill's plan consists of a central passage flanked by single, large rooms on all three stories. The hall is dominated by an open-well stair that ascends to the attic, is open-string, and has a square newel, rounded hand rail, and three rectangular balusters to a tread. The stair retains its original marbled risers. Evidence exists of mahogany graining on the newel and handrail. The hall also contains a recessed-panel, green-painted wainscot with a pedestal chair rail. A simply executed plaster medallion decorates the ceiling.

The east parlor also has recessed-paneled wainscoting and a pedestal chair rail. The wainscoting retains its original paint consisting of grained, painted imitation-maple panels, mahogany-grained stiles, and a gray marbled baseboard. The doors retain their original graining. The mantel is a later 19th-century replacement. The west parlor or dining room is similarly executed, although the room has been repainted. The second floor features a molded chair rail. The door panels are grained in imitation tiger maple, while the third-floor door panels imitate birds-eye maple. The rails and stiles of the doors are mahogany grained. Federal-style mantels from both the second and first floors were removed for safe-keeping and will be replaced in a forthcoming restoration.

While no outbuildings survive, sites of the kitchen and so-called loom house are discernible to the rear of the main house.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" 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 1836 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Painting and graining, the special decorative treatment of interior woodwork in imitation of fine woods and marbles, was a craft widely practiced in antebellum Virginia. The character of this painting and graining varied from the wild and colorfully impressionistic to precise imitations of precious materials. There are few well-preserved examples of this embellishment, although it was formerly found in dwellings of widely divergent size and caliber throughout the Commonwealth. Extant examples are concentrated in the region south of the James River. Typical of the more restrained and more carefully delineated form of graining and marbleizing that characterized the moderate-size plantation houses of Southside Virginia is that in Snow Hill, Surry County.

The two-story frame house at Snow Hill was built by Samuel Booth in 1836 on the 111-acre tract he had purchased from David Cocke in 1817. Booth served as a captain in the Surry County Militia and later as a lieutenant colonel of the 71st Regiment of the Virginia Militia. The house Booth erected is notable not only for its decorated interior woodwork but as a good example of an "I" house, a house type consisting of two stories and a single-pile, center-passage plan. The type is a blending of vernacular and Georgian forms and was the most popular pattern for Virginia farmhouses from the late 18th to the late 19th centuries. The Booth house is exceptionally well proportioned and has fine detailing in its tall, exterior end chimneys and exterior trim.

The first notation for improvements on the property is found in the Surry County land book for 1837 when \$1,380 is listed for improvements on what had grown to a 172.5-acre tract. An additional \$618 in improvements was noted the following year. In 1859 Booth sold the property to William H. Hood of Southampton County and moved to Sussex County where he died in 1876. Hood retained possession of the property until 1875, when Binns Beverly Booth, son of the builder, purchased back all the land sold by his father.

In 1904 Booth sold the dwelling house and 200 acres to his son Samuel Peter Booth. In 1916 S. P. Booth added a kitchen wing to the back of the dwelling which was removed during a restoration in the 1970s. At Booth's death in 1933, the property was willed to John Leo Wilcox, the only son of Samuel Peter Booth's sister, Edmonia Booth Wilcox. The present owners inherited the property in 1954. The outbuildings were removed in the early part of the present century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Priddy, Sumpter, III. "Snow Hill, Home of Colonel Samuel Booth." Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives,
 Surry County Land Tax Books 1851-1863.
Orders 1862-1877, p. 205.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Waverly, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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| 1 | 8 |
| Zone | Easting |

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| 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Northing | | | | | |

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|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Northing | | | | | | |

B

| | |
|------|---------|
| 1 | 8 |
| Zone | Easting |

| | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 0 |
| Northing | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Northing | | | | | | |

C

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|------|---------|
| 1 | 8 |
| Zone | Easting |

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|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 0 |
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| 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
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| 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 0 |
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| 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
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E

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| Zone | Easting |

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point 2000' SSW of intersection of State routes 40 and 612, 1300' E of Otterdam Swamp and 1.4 miles N of Blackwater River; thence extending 650' ESE to W side of said route 40; thence extending 700' SSW along said side of said route; thence extending 650' WNW; thence extending 650' NNE to point of origin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #1

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1979

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 Tucker Hill

Tucker Hill, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date SEP 18 1979

For HCERS 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

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Snow Hill, Surry County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

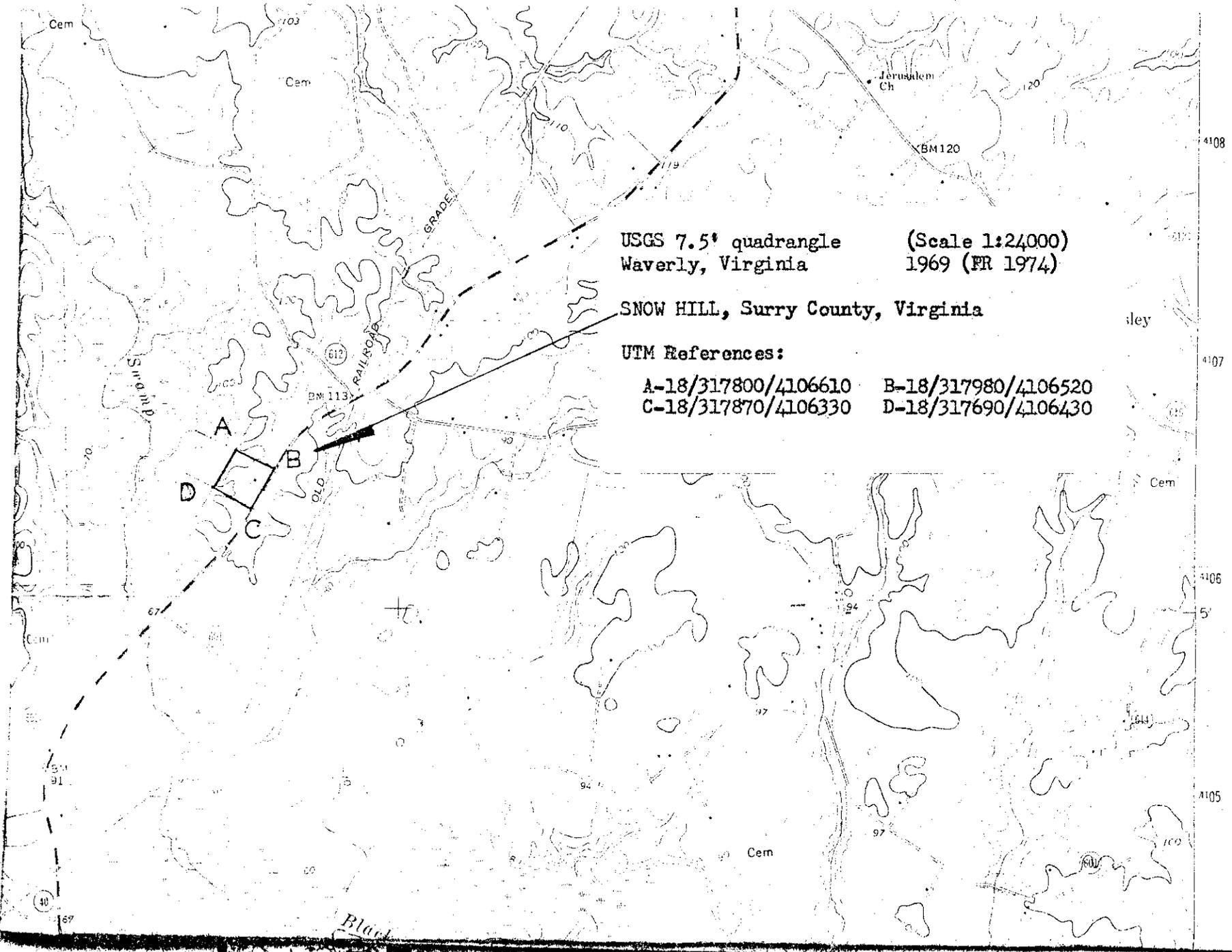
ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property of ten acres includes the house and the sites of three known outbuildings. It is a fraction of the total acreage owned by Samuel Booth when he built the house in 1836.





USGS 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)
Waverly, Virginia 1969 (PR 1974)

SNOW HILL, Surry County, Virginia

UTM References:

- A-18/317800/4106610
- B-18/317980/4106520
- C-18/317870/4106330
- D-18/317690/4106430