

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Nathaniel Burwell Parvey House (DHL File No. 77-49)

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number Pulaski County Corporate Center, VA Route 812 n/a not for publication

city, town Dublin  vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Pulaski code 77

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name County of Pulaski  
c/o Lason Vaughan, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

street & number Pulaski County Courthouse

city, town Pulaski N/A vicinity of state VA 24301

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pulaski County Circuit Court Clerk's Office

street & number Third Street, N. W.

city, town Pulaski state VA 24301

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Division of Historic Landmarks  
Survey File No. 77-49 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, -221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state VA 23219

## 7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Nathaniel Burwell Harvey House is located off VA Route 812, southwest of the town of Dublin in Pulaski County. The Colonial Revival two-and-one-half story brick house has a central passage, ell-shaped plan with an original two-story frame enclosure at the crook of the ell. Although the frame enclosure appears as an addition, it is original to the building of the house between 1909 and 1910. The house interior is profusely decorated with freehand stenciling, not commonly found in southwestern Virginia and the only known example within the county. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

This Colonial Revival residence was built between 1909 and 1910 by Nathaniel Burwell Harvey. The house is a two-and-one-half-story frame and brick structure with a weatherboard and lattice enclosure in the crook of an otherwise ell-shaped plan. The pencilled brickwork is laid in five-course American bond. It sits on a raised basement of ashlar, rock-faced limestone.

The front (southeast) elevation has three bays with the main entrance at the center through a single door frame, topped by a two-light transom. The door itself contains one large rectangular pane framed with a small egg-and-dart pattern. The fenestration on the front and all other elevations consists of 1/1 double-hung sash with attached louvered shutters. A one-story porch with six Tuscan columns extends across the front facade.

The northeast facade has two bays. The rear wooden enclosure, a secondary porch and sleeping porch above, are stepped back approximately three feet from the northeast elevation. This enclosure once accommodated the rear entrance.

The rear (northwest) facade consists of one-third weatherboard enclosure with no openings and one bay on the brick portion.

The southwest elevation consists of four bays; the two middle bays spaced closer together than the others.

The hipped roof with projecting eaves has a single hipped dormer with three separate 1/1 double-hung sash windows, above each facade except rear. Three deteriorated interior corbelled chimneys extend from a patterned slate roof.

The Harvey House has a somewhat traditional central-passage plan compared to other residences of the early twentieth century. The central hall is flanked on either side by parlors of equal size and terminates with double doors with a fan shaped space above decorated with an iron grate. To the left of the entrance is the first of three stairwells. The stair has a square newel post with carved garlands and turned ballusters. The panelling below the ballustrade is varnished oak as is the woodwork throughout the house.

The major interior feature which contributes to the significance of the property is its decorative painting on walls and ceilings of each room and hall except the kitchen and minor room above the kitchen. The attenuated, stylized designs form decorative panels, borders and freizes that encircle all architectural features of the rooms just as late Victorian wallpaper borders and Craftsman freizes and stenciling were used. The painting appears to be free-hand stenciling, in which templates were used to trace designs to be later painted in. Components of designs in each room are often repeated but never is the same border or color scheme used.

(See continuation sheet #1)

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" 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** 1909-1910 **Builder/Architect** Unknown Builder/James D. Chapman - interior stenciling

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated on a hill with commanding views of Peak's Knob Mountain and the surrounding rolling countryside, the Nathaniel Burwell Harvey House is significant in the areas of architecture, art, and agriculture. Built between 1909 and 1910 by Nathaniel Burwell Harvey for his family of Montgomery County, the house displays freehand stenciling done by itinerant artist James D. Chapman between 1909 and the winter of 1911. Although there are a significant number of early twentieth century houses in the county, the Harvey House is the only example with interior decorative painting. Interior decorative painting is not commonly found in the southwestern region of Virginia and this unique example remains unaltered and in relatively good condition. Almost equally distant from the town of Dublin and the city of Pulaski, the house is closest to the railroad station of Wurno from where the N & W Railroad built a spur track into the Harvey property to accommodate transport of Harvey's cattle, sheep and prizewinning Clydesdale work horses. The breeding of these draft horses made Harvey a prominent and influential man in Southwest Virginia, and brought notoriety to the Harvey farm.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Nathaniel Burwell Harvey was living with his family in Montgomery County when he bought 562 acres from B. E. and David P. Watson in 1909.<sup>1</sup> He began construction of his new dwelling by spring of the same year, moving an older, smaller dwelling nearby to accommodate the new residence. He used local craftsmen to build the two and one-half story, Colonial Revival house after devising plans which incorporated ideas from The Radford American Homes, a book published by Radford Architectural Company of New York which displays illustrations, plans, and costs for one hundred mail order homes for the average homeowner.<sup>2</sup>

While the house has exterior features similar to houses illustrated and popularized by the builder's guide, it has a more traditional (central-passage) plan than the asymmetrical plans suggested by the Radford guide.

In 1909, Harvey contracted the services of James D. Chapman, an itinerant craftsman from Eustis, Florida to stencil the entire interior of his home and to supervise the installation of all woodwork.<sup>3</sup> It is thought that Chapman was commissioned to decorate the interior of Gov. James H. Tyler's second home, "Halwick", built in Radford in 1890. None of this painting remains although the owners had templates made to record the design in one room before it was covered. Chapman lived with the Harvey family while gradually stenciling the entire house. He

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #4

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Dublin, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	7	5	2	4	4	4	0	4	1	0	3	5	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point approx. 3,500' SW of intersection of VA 643 and VA 807; thence approx. 100' SE; thence approx. 200' SW; thence approx. 100' WNW; thence approx. 200' NNE to point of origin. Boundary justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the house and several old trees which frame <sup>the</sup> immediate front yard of the house, also to

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

exclude new construction to the SE of the house.

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

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Naranjo-Lupold

organization N/A

date July 1985

street & number 226-A High Street

telephone (804) 733-7981

city or town Petersburg

state Virginia 23803

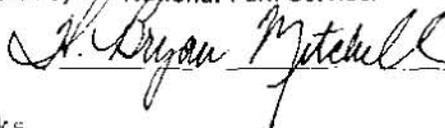
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



H. Bryan Mitchell, Director

title Division of Historic Landmarks

date November 14, 1985

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Nathaniel Burwell Harvey House

Continuation sheet 1 Pulaski County, Virginia Item number 7.

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7. Description

The front passage is decorated in strong colors with fields of pinkish mustard above a border of ochre and a painted turquoise "chair rail". Below the turquoise is a field of reddish tan with a border of deep brown with bright yellow designs above the base moulding. The hall designs are predominantly fan-like, dots and slender lines; rectilinear bands of color which create panels out of wall spaces between architectural features; dots, ovals, and crescents creating abstract flower-like designs; and series of painted broken dentil shapes. The color scheme and combined designs make for an impressive entrance hall.

Both parlors display mahogany mantels with ionic columns supporting a cushion freize with a mirror below framed by flat panels and resting above the mantel shelf. All three mantels remain on the first floor. Except for these late Victorian mantels, the oak woodwork throughout the <sup>house</sup> is characteristic of woodwork of Craftsman design. Mouldings are flat and wide with few articulations, more a display of the wood itself. The woodwork is said to have been hand-scraped with glass rather than sanded. Hand-scraping finely planes the surface and lends the wood to a more polished look than sanding. All doors have fine recessed panels.

The parlor to the right of the front passage is decorated in more subdued colors than the hall. The ground color of the walls, a pinkish putty accentuates predominantly grey borders with deep browns, tan and ochre designs. The designs themselves are blocks with broken dentil shapes, rectilinear bands, xes, crescents, dots, fan-shapes and simplistic leaf and vine. Stenciling is on both the wall and ceiling.

The parlor to the left of the hall uses varying shades of green and white. The borders are somewhat more prolific than in the other parlor and contain bands of triangles, dots and crescents on a deeper green than the walls; simplistic tree or leaf designs in alternating large and small sizes against a white field; dot and dot with crescent borders form a freize of alternating simplistic tree and flower designs. These flower designs are very similar to the stencil designs prescribed by Stickley in his publications. Intersections at the corners of rooms provide a ground for embellished corner blocks outlined by fan and scallop shapes. The wall surfaces are lively yet display such controlled patterns that they do not appear over embellished.

Once through the front passage, the floor plan appears to be a double-pile, central passage plan, however, the second hall is narrower, <sup>accommodating</sup> a second set of stairs to the left and slightly irregular shaped rooms on either side. To the right of the hall is a room, used as a bathroom, decorated in various shades of bright and light blue. The designs appear more in panels than in borders or freizes. Again, the ceiling is decorated to the same extent. Flower shapes are repeated in this room.

To the left of the second hall is the dining room, complete with shallow closets and panelled pass-through window. Shades of bluish greens decorate the room accentuated by brick-red stenciled designs used in simple combinations.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Continuation sheet 2 Pulaski County, Virginia Item number 7.

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This room has received the most damage, however, the paint appears fairly durable beneath the dirt and scum.

To the rear of the dining room is the kitchen with no painted decoration. Directly through the rear hall door is a porch deck enclosed with tongue-and-groove wainscoat, lattice and screen above. To the left is the third set of full size stairs made exactly as the first two sets. Below these stairs is the stair and entrance to a full size basement. From this screened porch is an exit to the rear of the house and an artesian well in which the flooring is built around.

The second-floor rooms and hall repeat the same floor plan as below. Stenciling continues up each stairwell. Both halls and all four major rooms are decorated with the same care in choosing a complimentary color scheme with many different colors than those used previously. Various combinations of the same design elements used on the first floor are employed.

The room above the kitchen is painted a solid buff color. The enclosed porch area with stairs appears to have been used as a sleeping porch. The attic floor is reached through a small hall and stair to the left of the second passage right at the entrance to a bedroom at the left of the second stair. None of this floor displays decorative painting.

Directly to the rear of the Harvey House is the limestone foundation of a small outbuilding, the gas house which housed the acetylene light works for the property. The house had acetylene lighting before converting to electricity. This and the house are all that remain of the Harvey farm. The site nominated includes only the immediate surroundings of the house. Four large oak trees frame the front (southwest) facade of the house which is surrounded by smaller trees and shrubbery. Located in what was once a large and prosperous farm, the house occupies one of the best vantage points in the county. It sits on a hill surrounded by plateaus and to the North the Peaks Knob mountain range. Looking southwest, the original entrance and path are still evident—lined with fruit trees. To the northeast and east of the house stood the fore-bay barn, a small earlier house, silo, and limestone wall. New construction is to the northeast of the house on lower sites except for a watertower built adjacent to the site.

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Nathaniel Burwell Harvey House, Pulaski County, Virginia  
Continuation sheet 3

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stayed until the fall of 1911, planning to spend the winter there, when he was killed by a train near Wurno Station. He is buried in the town of Pulaski.

The freehand stenciling is of excellent quality. Each room has imaginative designs and color schemes with no two alike. The painted walls create lively surfaces that complement the rooms' height and dimensions. The Harvey House is the only known structure in the county with this type of interior painting, which stylistically reflects stencil designs popular during the late-19th century.

A shrewd businessman and land speculator, Harvey acquired several thousands of acres of farmland. He raised corn and wheat and sold timber. Harvey was known throughout the counties of Pulaski, Giles, Floyd, and Montgomery for his livestock. He raised cattle, Shropshire sheep and draft horses. The Norfolk and Western Railroad built a spur line onto his farm in order to more easily accommodate transport of his agricultural products. Although Harvey continued to raise cattle until his death, it was the breeding of draft horses such as Clydesdales that made him a prominent and influential man in Southwest Virginia. Since its first importation of French Percheron horses in 1866, Pulaski County, one of the first places in the United States to breed these horses, became famous for its fine draft animals.<sup>4</sup> Harvey's horses won numerous titles for their excellence bringing many breeders to the farm for showings and thus making his home a well-known gathering place from the early 1900's to well into the 1940's.

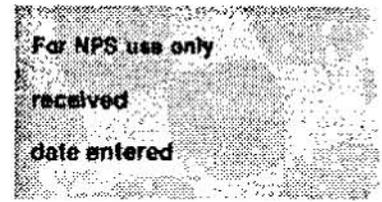
Harvey, who desired the most modern and efficient of agricultural and household products, had acetylene lights installed in his house when it was first built. The limestone foundation of the acetylene gas house still remains. The main house was later converted to electricity. The Harvey House was one of the first in the area to have a telephone line run to it; later area residents tapped onto this line as a party line. Harvey was also an agent with the National Fireproofing Company of Pittsburgh, PA for NATCO Imperishable Silos. Mail-order farm buildings were very popular in the early twentieth century and seen as the fastest way of creating a modern farm. Before 1914, Harvey had a NATCO silo of fireproof hollow clay tiles built on his farm and acquired plans for other NATCO fireproof farm buildings. (The silo is still standing although it is not within the nominated site.)

N.B. Harvey and his wife, Oceola Persinger, raised five children at the Harvey home. His wife dying before him, Harvey, at his death, divided his farm among all five children and grandchildren, however, Laura, the oldest was to have the house until her death. Laura remained at the Harvey House until she was unable to care for herself and the property remained in dispute among family members for many years after N.B. Harvey's death in 1963. The tract on which the house remains was to be cared for by a local cattle broker, unfortunately,

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Continuation sheet 4

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without proper supervision for several years the property fell into neglect. In 1984, Pulaski County acquired the site for an industrial park. After seeing the value of the house, the county is considering a rehabilitation that will make use of the property as an integral part of the park's administration.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Pulaski County Land Tax Records for 1909 and 1910.

<sup>2</sup> This book along with numerous building material receipts were kept together by Harvey and are now in the possession of Angelina Harvey Chisholm, daughter, and Harvey Chisholm, grandson, Mineral, Virginia 23117.

<sup>3</sup> Correspondence to James D. Chapman in care of N.B. Harvey, 1909-1911. Angelina H. Chisholm remembers Chapman and the duties he was contracted to do at the Harvey House.

<sup>4</sup> Pulaski County, Virginia Commission, Jamestown Exhibition, Pulaski County, Virginia, Banner County of Southwest Virginia, A Historic and Descriptive Sketch. (Pulaski: Southwest Publishing Company, Inc., 1907).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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