

VLR - 9/17/74, NRHP - 11/21/74

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: VIRGINIA
COUNTY: ACCOMACK
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
MASON HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **N. Bank of Guilford Creek, .4 mi. NW of Route 658, .1 mi. N of intersection of Route 658 and Route 187.**

CITY OR TOWN: **(Guilford vicinity)** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **First (Thomas N. Downing)**

STATE: **VIRGINIA** CODE: **51** COUNTY: **ACCOMACK** CODE: **001**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Abandoned</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Mr. H. V. Ewell, Jr.**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Bloxom** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Accomack County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Accomac** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1940, 1960, 1962** 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**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected in the first half of the eighteenth century, the Mason House stands today as one of Virginia's finest surviving examples of Jacobean-Georgian transitional architecture. A three-bay, story-and-a-half farmhouse with a center-passage plan, the building remains essentially unaltered with the exception of some early-nineteenth-century interior changes and the addition of a simple, late-nineteenth-century frame wing.

The house's unusual brickwork treatment is unparalleled elsewhere in the State. The foundations are laid in English bond and rise approximately two feet above grade to a double offset Flemish-bond water-table. On the gable ends, the masonry continues in roughly-executed Flemish bond to the second-floor level where it is interrupted by an offset string course. Above the string course the brickwork continues again in Flemish bond but with the use of randomly placed glazed headers. The corners of the gable ends are accented by unornamented brick pilasters creating a panel effect. The doorway cut into the north gable end wall is early, but not original.

Like the gable ends, the front and rear walls are accented not only by corner pilasters, but also by raised brickwork around the window and door architraves and along the cornice lines. The two pilasters defining the east doorway possess very simple molded brick capitals. The placement of these vertical divisions across the face of the building visually breaks up the east and west walls of the structure into definite groups of four recessed brick panels. Within each of these panels, the mason worked a diaper pattern with glazed headers forming a double lozenge design. This example of the combined use of brick paneling with diaper work is unique in Virginia colonial buildings, although it was relatively common in seventeenth-century English buildings.

The doors and twelve-over-twelve, four-light-wide window sash appear to date from certain early-nineteenth-century alterations. While the house does not have a full basement, evidence exists that the building may have possessed excavated root cellars in front of the first-floor hearths. The roof line of the Mason House is a steep gable interrupted by three gable-roofed dormer windows on the east side and two dormers on the west, separated by the modern addition of the late-nineteenth-century frame wing.

Although the interiors of the Mason House have been damaged from past misuse and are at present used for the storage of livestock feeds, the house nonetheless retains a number of significant interior architectural details. Of particular note is the closed-string, center-passage stair with its symmetrically turned balusters supported on a vigorously molded pulvinated frieze. At the corners of the landings and termination of the stair are plain unturned newels with flat caps and applied half balusters. Although the original mantels have been removed, a single Federal-period mantel featuring shallow panels and applied squared pilasters remains in the first-floor south room. The second-floor ceiling retains exposed beaded ceiling joists. Despite some deterioration, all the floors are the original random-width pine boards.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*one eighteenth century window
LPS gone*

