

VLR-3/18/75  
file  
NAME- 615/75Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia	
COUNTY:	Hanover	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY DATE		

1. NAME		
COMMON:	Rural Plains	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Rural Plains	

2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: .4 mile northeast of Totopotomy Creek; south side of Route 606; .6 mile southwest of intersection of Route 606 and 643.		
CITY OR TOWN:	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
(Mechanicsville vicinity)	Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)	
STATE:	CODE	CODE
Virginia	51	Hanover

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
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 type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<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:	William R. Shelton, Jr.	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Mechanicsville	Virginia	51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:		
Hanover County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Hanover Court House	Virginia	51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)		
TITLE OF SURVEY:		
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey (see continuation sheet #1)		
DATE OF SURVEY:	1936	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:		
Library of Congress		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	D. C.	11

FOR NPS USE ONLY	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

 Altered Moved Original Site

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rural Plains stands in a grove of trees above the Totopotomoy Creek near its junction with Strawhorn Creek, in the Rural Point section of Hanover County. The house is a five-bay, story-and-a-half gambrel-roof structure built in the mid-eighteenth century of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers both above and below the beveled water table. Rubbed brick is used on the jack arches and jambs of the first-floor windows (which also have molded throatings), on the door jambs, and on the corners of the building. A multitude of putlog holes pierce both gable ends.

Large six-over-six sash are used in all of the first-floor windows. Though the openings of these windows have not been disturbed, the frames date from a remodeling in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and the present sash were probably installed then. An additional window opening was cut in each gable end around 1915, according to the owner. Each of the four front and five rear hipped-roof dormers, as well as the front porch chamber, has nine-over-six sash. The basement windows have segmental openings, some of which have grills with horizontal diagonally set wooden mullion bars.

A modillion cornice embellishes the house's eaves. Its haphazard application, covering a large portion of the rubbed-brick window arches, raises questions about its originality to the house. Square interior-end-chimney stacks with corbelled caps and plastered bands crown the roof ridge.

Frame porches are on the front and the rear of the house. That on the rear, one-story high, is obviously a later addition. The front porch, a one-story wooden structure with a small chamber over it, is an enigma. The porch is late; the present owner recalls its being renewed within his lifetime. The chamber, however, with its early sash and interior woodwork, including a two-panel, raised-panel door with HL hinges and a wooden box lock, is to all appearances original, although it forms an awkward protrusion on the facade.

In plan, Rural Plains is a central-passage, double-pile house, with its front rooms deeper than the rear rooms. Corner fireplaces heat each room, and the stairs rise near the back door against the rear wall, turn, and ascend the rest of the way in the wall space.

Little original woodwork remains in the house. What there is consists of some two-panel and four-panel doors with HL hinges and two with box locks (one lock has recently been removed but is preserved in the house) on the second floor and the closed-string stair with its turned balusters on the first floor. Fragments of double-beaded chair board throughout the building suggest that any more elaborate decoration was confined to mantels or chimney breasts.

Rural Plains underwent a major remodeling, apparently in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and most of the trim in the house dates from this period. It is very high quality Greek Revival work. Doors and windows in the main rooms are framed with full-height symmetrically molded trim having corner blocks carrying acanthus leaves. The door into the parlor, composed of two tall applied-mold panels grained in imitation of maple, is particularly impressive. Its brass-colored box lock bears a medallion with the inscription (see continuation sheet # 2).

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8. SIGNIFICANCE																																								
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<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b> <p>Rural Plains, situated in a sparsely settled area of Hanover County, is a handsome specimen of a substantial, non-academic rural Virginia farmhouse. It is noteworthy both for its splendid mid-eighteenth-century brickwork and for its long--nine generations--tenure in the hands of the Shelton family. It was reputedly in the parlor of Rural Plains that Sarah Shelton was wed to Patrick Henry in 1754.</p> <p>The history of Rural Plains began in the 1670s with the grant of the land in (then) New Kent County to the first John Shelton. Although the house is popularly assumed to have been built at that time, architectural evidence--brickwork, window size, and the original gambrel roof, a form which probably was not used in Virginia before late in the second quarter of the eighteenth century--argues for a construction date in the middle of the eighteenth century at the earliest.</p> <p>A subsequent John Shelton was the keeper of the tavern at Hanover Court House. It was his daughter whom Patrick Henry married. As a wedding present, Shelton deeded to his daughter and son-in-law 300 acres of Rural Plains, which became known as Pine Slash. The so-called "Honeymoon Cottage" that was part of Shelton's present still stands about a mile from the Rural Plains house.</p> <p>Since that time, Sheltons have continued to live at Rural Plains. The present owner, William R. Shelton, Jr., is the ninth-generation owner of the land, making Rural Plains one of Virginia's longest, direct, continuous tenures by one family.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DTU</p>																																								

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commemorative Historical Edition. Herald-Progress (Ashland, Va.), August 1971.

Farrar, Emmie Ferguson and Emilee Hines. Old Virginia Houses Along the Fall Line. New York: Hastings House, Publishers, 1971.

Page, Rosewell. Hanover County--Its History and Legends. Richmond, 1926.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	O	R	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds			Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NE	°   '   "	°   '   "	UTM	A	18/292280/4170360	18/293300/4169610
SE	°   '   "	°   '   "			B 18/293180/4170830	0 18/292100/4169610
SW	°   '   "	°   '   "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 125 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

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

March 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

221 Governor Street

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., Exec. Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 16 1975

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	Virginia	
COUNTY	Hanover	
<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. code: 11

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

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Virginia	
COUNTY	Hanover	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number of entries)

**7. DESCRIPTION**

tion "Carpenters Patentees". Similar locks are found on the front and rear entrance doors.

All of the mantels in the house are plain, having Roman Doric colonettes carrying a shelf above a full, unadorned entablature. The fireplaces on the second floor have been closed and their mantels removed, but according to the owner, they were similar to those on the first floor.

DTU



pped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

#### Photogrammetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial

MN  
GN

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