

VLR - 12-5-01  
NRHP - 5-13-02

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Rockv Mills  
other names/site number Fairfield (preferred) DHR File Number: 043-0005

**2. Location**

street & number 211 Ross Road not for publication  
city or town Richmond vicinity   
state Virginia code VA county Henrico code 087 Zip 23226

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility **meets** the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and **meets** the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria, I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Catherine Sussner March 29, 2002  
Signature of certifying official Date  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not ~~meet~~ the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.

Signature of Keeper

- determined not eligible for the National Register Date of Action
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling (plantation mansion)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling (mansion) :contributing

domestic garage/servants' quarters : contributing

domestic pump house: contributing

domestic gardener's cottage: contributing

domestic swimming pool: non-contributing

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone (uncoursed rubble fieldstone)  
roof concrete tile  
walls brick with stone trim  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

**Period of Significance** 1928 - 1951

Significant Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
                          1928 (date of reconstruction on new site)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Euro-American

Architect/Builder Herman Louis Duhring, Jr. (architect for reconstruction)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # VA-146  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 7.772 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
18	274426	4160488	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Calder Loth and John G. Zehmer, architectural historians  
organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

date September, 2001

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue telephone 804 367-23232

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Alice Preston Smith

street & number 211 Ross Road telephone 804 285-1540

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23226

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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### Summary Description

Fairfield, in Henrico County, Virginia, is a Georgian mansion located on 7.772 acres of landscaped grounds in a fashionable neighborhood of Richmond's west end. The property is situated between River Road and the James River. Formerly called Rocky Mills, the house was originally built around 1750 in Hanover County, Virginia, but was dismantled in 1928 and re-erected with some modifications on its present site that same year. The rebuilding was a careful and informed project, preserving and reusing most of the structure's historic fabric, notably its outstanding interior woodwork and distinctive exterior rusticated stone trim. The main architectural change in the rebuilding was the deepening of the plan by several feet to accommodate bathrooms and service areas. Also, the present south elevation, which originally was a five-bay façade in a single plane, was modified to have a slightly projecting three-bay central pedimented pavilion with pairs of windows on either side. Among the more notable interior features is the wide center passage arch topped by a full Doric entablature. While much of the woodwork is mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the interior has trim from other periods indicating at least two remodelings prior to the move.

### Detailed Description

As originally built in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, Fairfield (formerly Rocky Mills) was a high-style Georgian plantation mansion, two-stories high and covered with a hipped roof with two interior chimneys. The brick walls were laid in Flemish bond, with unglazed headers. A distinguishing feature was the rusticated stone trim used around all the openings on the five-bay east elevation (originally), including the arched entrance and the Palladian window above. The rustication was in the manner of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century English architect James Gibbs and was likely copied from a pattern book either by Gibbs or Batty Langley, both of which were available in colonial Virginia. Fairfield and Cleve, King George County (destroyed), are the only two Virginia colonial mansions to use this type of rustication on all the openings of a principal elevation. Other stone trim included the string course, quoins, molded stone water table, and the stone lintels and keystones above openings on the other three elevations. The stone is probably a local sandstone similar to Aquia Creek sandstone. The walls were topped with a wooden modillion and dentil cornice. All of these elements were incorporated in the reconstructed house. Fieldstone rubble was used below the water table and into the foundation. This was repeated in the reconstruction as well.

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The former west elevation, opposite the former east elevation originally had five bays with the center three bays closely spaced or grouped. A wooden pediment that formerly was above the east elevation was removed probably around 1900 and stored in the attic. When the house was reconstructed on its present site the pediment was reused for the west (now south) elevation and the wall below was slightly advanced to receive it, creating a clearly defined center pavilion. The total number of bays on this elevation was increased to seven by placing two bays on either side of the grouped center openings instead of the original one. Dormers lighting attic servants' rooms, were added on either side of the pediment. Sheltering the first floor of the center pavilion is a flat-roofed porch with four Tuscan sandstone columns. The porch is a feature of the reconstruction and was not on the house prior to dismantling. It is not known whether the columns were salvaged from a historic house or were crafted new for Fairfield. Like the north entrance, the south entrance has a rusticated stone frame although the south entrance has a flat lintel with keystone where the north entrance has an arched top.

As rebuilt, the orientation was changed so that the east elevation became the north elevation and the west elevation became the south elevation. The description of the interior that follows describes the house with its current orientation. Because the architectural drawings and specifications for the reconstruction have not been located, and may not survive, it is difficult to determine many of the interior changes from the original form. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) drawings of the house, showing its original configuration, are not wholly reliable since they were made in 1940, well after the reconstruction.

Fairfield's plan is double-pile with a center passage. The passage broadens into a wide stair hall or saloon on the south side. The parlor and dining room frame the passage on the north side and two smaller rooms frame the stair hall/saloon on the south side. As noted above the plan was deepened by several feet when the house was rebuilt although the massive chimney structures allowed for closets between the north and south rooms in the original configuration. The second-floor plan is nearly identical.

Although Fairfield retains unusually fine original woodwork, trim also exists from as many as three other periods: ca. 1790, ca. 1830, and the 1928 rebuilding. The dominant architectural feature of the interior is the bold arch separating the north center passage from the stair hall/ saloon. The arch has an architrave archivolt and paneled soffit supported by fluted pilasters with paneled jambs. Above the arch on both sides is a full Doric entablature with triglyphs and metopes. Interestingly, since the

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arch penetrates into the architrave, the center triglyphs are slanted at bottom to avoid being cut off by the arch. Carved oval rosettes ornament the metopes. Flanking the arch, on both faces, are stop-fluted Doric pilasters.

The present stair is of the period ca. 1790, having a plain round handrail, square balusters, and simple scrolled bracket on the stair ends. The location and appearance of the original stair can only be guessed at. The stair presently ascends in three flights, the middle flight being against the west wall. Prior to the rebuilding, the stair ascended against the opposite wall; the reason for the change in the rebuilding is not documented.

The pedimented doorway framing the south entrance is richly ornamented with guilloche molding, Greek fret and dentil moldings. The character of this doorway is more in the style of the 1790s than the 1750s. It has many similarities to the parlor woodwork of Mount Ida, an important 1790s plantation house originally built in Buckingham County but dismantled and rebuilt in Albemarle County in the 1990s. The two broken pedimented doorways in the northern end of the passage, enriched with Doric pilasters and full Doric entablatures, however, are consistent with the center arch and are surely original. Also, the arched door frame, Doric entablature, and floor-to-ceiling pilasters decorating the north wall are all original although the double doors themselves appear to be early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Likewise, the doorway to the southeast room, with its shouldered architrave, pulvinated frieze and bold cornice, appears to be original as well. An interesting feature of this doorway is the curious attached scrolled modillions, which have a Victorian appearance but could well be original.

The impressively proportioned dining room preserves most of its mid-18<sup>th</sup> century trim. The main feature of the room that is not original is the ca. 1790 door and pedimented doorway that is similar to that on the south entrance. The doorway is flanked by attenuated fluted Doric pilasters that support a delicately molded pediment. Ornamenting the doorway are dentils, and a wall-of-Troy fret. On the south wall are full-height fluted Doric pilasters supporting a wide frieze and dentil cornice. Flanking the fireplace are doorways each with a broken pediment and a frieze interrupted by two archaic triglyphs. The ca. 1820 mantel formerly in this room was replaced in the rebuilding with a simple shouldered fireplace surround. The exceptionally tall windows have the tops of their frames abutted with curious panel strips simulating brackets. The base of each bracket is ornamented with an equally curious melon-like motif.

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The parlor or drawing room, across the passage from the dining room, is trimmed entirely with ca. 1830, Greek Revival woodwork. It is said that a fire in this room damaged the original woodwork and necessitated its replacement. The mantel is a simple Greek Revival wooden mantel with scrolled brackets supporting the shelf. This mantel is a copy of a type that was often executed in King of Prussia marble. The face trim of the windows and doors are typical 1830s type with symmetrical architrave and turned corner blocks. A striking feature of the room is the hand-painted Chinese-style wallpaper, painted for the house and installed soon after its reconstruction.

The southeast first-floor room preserves its original paneled chimneypiece and other trim. The chimneypiece is framed by long, thin, fluted pilasters. Between are simple panels, the upper one being exceptionally large. The fireplace has no mantel but is surrounded by a simple thin roll molding. The deep chimneybreast is fully exposed in the room; there are no flanking closets. Low doors in the deep recesses on either side of the chimney lead into the parlor. The HABS plans of the house, showing its condition prior to reconstruction, indicate doors on either side of the chimneybreast opening into closets with no access to the parlor. The rest of the walls are plaster above the chair rail. A fully molded cornice tops the walls. The pine woodwork has been stripped of paint and stained.

The room opposite has similar woodwork although the fireplace is flanked by closets with original paneled doors. Bookcases have been installed on the other three walls. The south walls of both rooms originally were lighted with only one window. As noted above, additional windows were installed on the south wall when the house was reconstructed so that both rooms now have two windows on their respective south walls.

Like the first floor, the second floor stair hall and north passage are separated by an arched opening framed by Doric pilasters and topped by a full Doric entablature with triglyphs and metopes on the south face. The entablature and pilasters are not used on the north face of the arch. The southeast second-floor room has a fully paneled chimney wall with very thin fluted pilasters flanking the fireplace and closet doors beyond. Like the room below the pine woodwork has been stripped and stained. The southwest bedroom is treated simply with a plain paneled chimneypiece with molded shelf, plain wainscoting, and closet doors flanking the fireplace.

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The northwest bedroom, like the dining room below, is a very large space and is ornamented with very slender fluted pilasters framing a paneled chimneypiece. The paneling extends only halfway up the chimneybreast. Closet doors are situated beyond the pilasters. According to the HABS report, the fireplace in this room had a ca. 1820 marble mantel prior to the dismantling. The fireplace opening is now framed by a simple backband with no shelf. The northeast bedroom is of similar generous proportions. It may have been damaged when the parlor below is believed to have burned since no 18<sup>th</sup>-century trim remains in the space. The room is currently trimmed with a handsome Colonial Revival fireplace wall with crossetted overmantel and flanking arched closet doors with fan lunettes.

The cavernous basement is distinguished by its exposed fieldstone walls, the stones presumably salvaged from the original site. The rooms are used for service areas. The southwest room was outfitted as a kitchen when the house was reconstructed. A long and narrow concrete-lined passage leads below grade from the west side of the basement to the garage/servants' quarter. The basement kitchen became disused when the current one-story kitchen wing was added around 1936. The kitchen wing, designed by the Richmond firm of Baskervill & Son, is a handsomely detailed composition with a Palladian window and stone quoins.

The house is set in an informally landscaped park dotted with an impressive variety of mature trees. The grounds are entered through Georgian Revival brick gate piers via a gently curved gravel drive that leads up to a circle before the north front of the house. Extending from the drive to the house is a brick walk bordered by exceptionally large English boxwood. To the east of the walk, also bordered by boxwood, is a small formal garden. Spreading before the house's south front is a broad lawn sloping down to woodlands bordered by the James River and Kanawha Canal, the CSX Railroad, and the James River beyond. The river is not visible from the house. The hillside to the east of the south lawn was landscaped to a design by Richmond landscape architect Charles Gillette.

On the grounds are three contributing ancillary structures. West of the house is small brick building erected with the main house for servants' quarters. The cottage is placed above a three-car garage. The garage is connected to the main house by an underground passageway that opens up to an area framed by retaining walls and used to store firewood. Perched above the retaining wall opposite the servants' quarters is a small octagonal brick structure that originally was built to house the water pump.

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South of this group, on the down slope, is a brick gardener's cottage erected ca. 1938. Adjacent to the cottage is a swimming pool, a non-contributing structure, installed in 1955-56.

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### Summary Statement of Significance

Fairfield, originally known as Rocky Mills, is significant under Criterion C for the importance of its original and unusual 18<sup>th</sup>-century architectural features. These include bold classical elements combined with its traditional Virginia Georgian plan, paneling and brickwork. Of particular note is the use of stone embellishments on the exterior, the robust Doric order in the center passage, and the finely detailed late Georgian doorways added to the interior. It is also significant as an icon of the Colonial Revival movement, having been rescued from neglect at its original Hanover County site through dismantling and reconstruction in a fashionable Richmond suburb. The reconstruction transformed the fabric of a ca. 1750 plantation house into a finely appointed 20<sup>th</sup>-century mansion of impeccable workmanship and ranking among the most impressive of the prestigious suburban Richmond dwellings of the period. The variations in its rooms and their levels of formality give it a timeless comfortable air that many reconstructed mansions lack.

### Historical Background

Rocky Mills, the house now known as Fairfield, was originally built around 1750 in Hanover County, Virginia. The land on which it stood was granted to John Syme about 1725. Syme died in 1731 and his widow married Col. John Henry and subsequently they became the parents of Patrick Henry, the patriot. John Syme II, a minor at the time of his father's death, married Mildred Merriweather in 1750. He became a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1752 and served in all of Virginia's Revolutionary Conventions. He served alongside his half brother, Patrick Henry, from 1765 onward.

It was John Syme II who built the mansion at Rocky Mills about the time of his first marriage. Mildred Merriweather Syme died in 1763 and in 1768 John married Sarah Hoops, originally from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Syme was wealthy and the mills for which his home was named were productive. They supplied grain for the American Army during the Revolution. There are records of his orders for lavish supplies for the appointments of his mansion. John Syme died about 1805 and Sarah in 1810. There followed a number of transactions involving the Syme heirs, some of whom lived at Rocky Mills, for about 15 years.

In 1819 Rocky Mills was given as a wedding present to Edmund Fanning Wickham and his bride Lucy Carter by her father Robert Carter of Shirley. Wickham was a son of the first marriage of noted Richmond attorney, John Wickham, a leader of Richmond society, scholar, collector, and

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patron of noted artists. In 1812, he built the well-known neoclassical Wickham House designed by Boston architect Alexander Parris. (It is now a part of the Valentine Museum—Richmond History Center.) Edmund Wickham was certainly aware of the neoclassical style that was so well exemplified in his father's Richmond mansion. Rocky Mills was one of a group of grand Georgian houses that functioned as the center of major agricultural estates depending on slave labor to support the gentry's lifestyle. As owners changed many were "improved" and modernized as the changes in Rocky Mills attest. Often heavy Georgian paneling was removed to give way to the lighter, simpler finishes of the neoclassical and William and Lucy Wickham made just such changes at Rocky Mills.

In 1843, Edmund F. Wickham died and Hanover County Land Books show the transfer of Rocky Mills to Adolphus W. Nolting in that year. The Noltings were among the German families who settled in the Richmond area in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In *The Virginia Germans*, Karl Wust noted that they were "artisans and mechanics, artists and engineers, adventures and traders." The early Noltings were involved in overseas tobacco trade. In 1863, during the Civil War, Nolting and his wife, Johanne Pauline Nolting, conveyed the property to Alfred Moses.

Rocky Mills passed through a succession of owners until 1925, when Adolphus Nolting's great nephew, Frederick E. Nolting (1872-1955), a Richmond real estate developer, purchased it. In 1928 Nolting had the house dismantled and re-erected for his own residence on a bluff on the north bank of the James River in Henrico County just west of Richmond. Nolting and his wife changed the name to "Beau Pre" which means "fair field" in French. The architect for the project was Herman Louis L. Duhring, Jr., of Philadelphia. Photographs taken before the move give clear evidence of the original condition of the house and supply good information on changes made when the house was reconstructed and later. Duhring was partner of the Philadelphia firm of Duhring, Okie, and Zieger. One of his projects was the restoration of Philadelphia's Powell house. Regrettably Duhring's drawings and specifications for Fairfield have not been located.

The Frederick Noltings were part of a group of wealthy Richmonders who dismantled and reconstructed houses in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This phenomenon grew out of the various architectural revivals that were popular in that era. The Colonial, Georgian, and Jacobean Revivals were all based on nostalgia for both the American past as well as a desire for ties to a real or imagined noble British past. Antiquarianism went hand in hand with creativity and, at times, one masqueraded for the other. One of Richmond's earliest expressions of this is the 1918 John Kerr Branch House on Monument Avenue (NRHP), a totally modern mansion in medieval garb designed

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to house a private art collection. It included interior paneling and fittings from real English medieval and Georgian buildings. In the mid-1920s two other English buildings were dismantled and moved to Richmond's stylish new suburb, appropriately named "Windsor Farms." One was Agecroft Hall (NRHP), a half-timber manor house from near Manchester, whose pieces were assembled to create a comfortable essay in "Stockbroker's Tudor." Next door the pieces of a priory near Warwick were used to form a stone mansion called Virginia House (NRHP). At the same time less grandiose buildings in these historic modes were built in new materials in Windsor Farms and other Richmond neighborhoods.

Enthusiasts for America's past, many specifically for Virginia's past, also engaged in architectural pursuits. This resulted, not only in the building of new fine houses inspired by Virginia's own examples of English Georgian, but also the removal and reconstruction of real colonial mansions and lesser houses from other parts of Virginia. This movement began before the founding of Colonial Williamsburg and has continued to the present. Their enthusiasm was fueled by the romantic view of old Virginia penned by popular Virginia writers including Thomas Nelson Page, Amelie Rives, Ellen Glasgow and James Branch Cabell. In addition to Rocky Mills, two other Virginia brick mansions were dismantled and brought to Richmond in the 1920s. Ampthill, built about 1730 by Henry Cary II was taken down and rebuilt in Richmond by Hunsdon Cary, a descendant of a brother of the builder. It was later the home of D. Tennant Bryan, long the publisher of Richmond Newspapers, Inc. Somewhat later, in the 1930s, Wilton, home of the prominent Randolph family, was moved to Richmond by the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Virginia. This classic Georgian mansion serves as headquarters for the Dames and as a museum.

Like Ampthill and Wilton, Fairfield is an elegant two-story Georgian house. Like Ampthill, it was saved by a kinsman of one of its early owners. Owning one's ancestral home is a status symbol for which many Virginians have an abiding desire. Others enamored of the workmanship and feeling of venerable dwellings are moved to go to great lengths to save them. Sometimes, but certainly not always, removal and reconstruction was the only way to preserve such structures. Ampthill and Wilton were both put at risk when industries purchased their sites. Agecroft was threatened by mining and what eventually became Virginia House was a little known ruin at best. It is interesting to note that Mount Ida, a frame house with important interior woodwork undoubtedly crafted by the same carver as some of Fairfield's, was saved from certain demolition in the 1990s by its removal from Buckingham County to Albemarle County. It was primarily the quality of Mt. Ida's woodwork that motivated the Herculean task to save the house.

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In 1934 Frederick Nolting sold Fairfield to William J.T. Reed, a major figure in Richmond's tobacco industry and the Virginia Democratic Party in the days of the elder U. S. Senator Harry Byrd. Reed gave it to his daughter Alice Reed Preston, wife of Dr. Robert Preston. In 1956 title transferred to their daughter Alice Preston Smith, wife of Parke Smith. They have been careful stewards of the house and grounds.

**Major Bibliographical References**

Dabney, Virginius. Richmond: the Story of a City. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1976.

Brownell, Charles E., Calder Loth, William M.S. Rasmussen, and Richard Guy Wilson,. The Making of Virginia Architecture. Richmond: The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1992.

Christian, Frances Archer and Susanne Williams Massie. Homes and Gardens of Old Virginia. Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1950.

Hanover County Historical Society. Old Homes of Hanover County, Virginia. Hanover, Virginia, 1983.

Historic American Buildings Survey. "Rocky Mills (Fairfield)," Library of Congress (VA-146); 6 data pages, 6 sheets of measured drawings, 40 photograph (10 made prior to dismantling); compiled 1940.

Waterman, Thomas T. The Mansions of Virginia. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press:1945.

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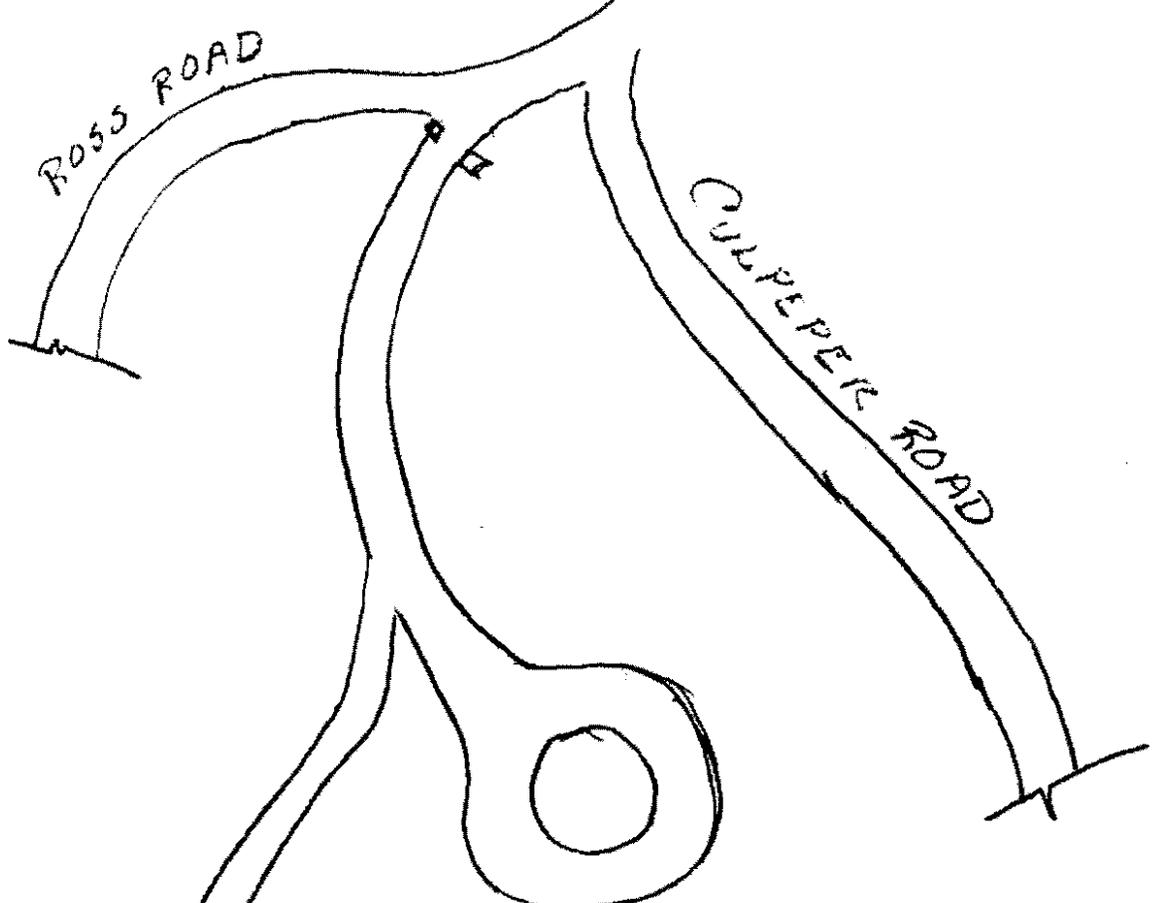
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Henrico County, VA**

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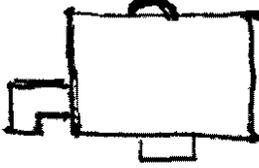
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**Verbal Boundary Description:** Fairfield's roughly triangular boundaries conform to the legal boundaries of the 7.772-acre tract shown as parcel number 757-731-1607 on the tax parcel maps for Henrico County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundaries conform to property lines of the 7.772-acre tract currently defining Fairfield. It contains the house, all the outbuildings, and landscape features associated with the house on its present site. The boundaries include the entrance grate, landscaped grounds, and three contributing ancillary structures.



HERB GARDEN



MANSSION



GARAGE



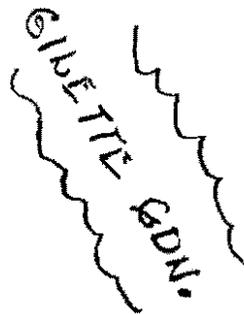
PUMP HOUSE



GARDENER'S COTTAGE



SWIMMING POOL



GILLETTE GDN.

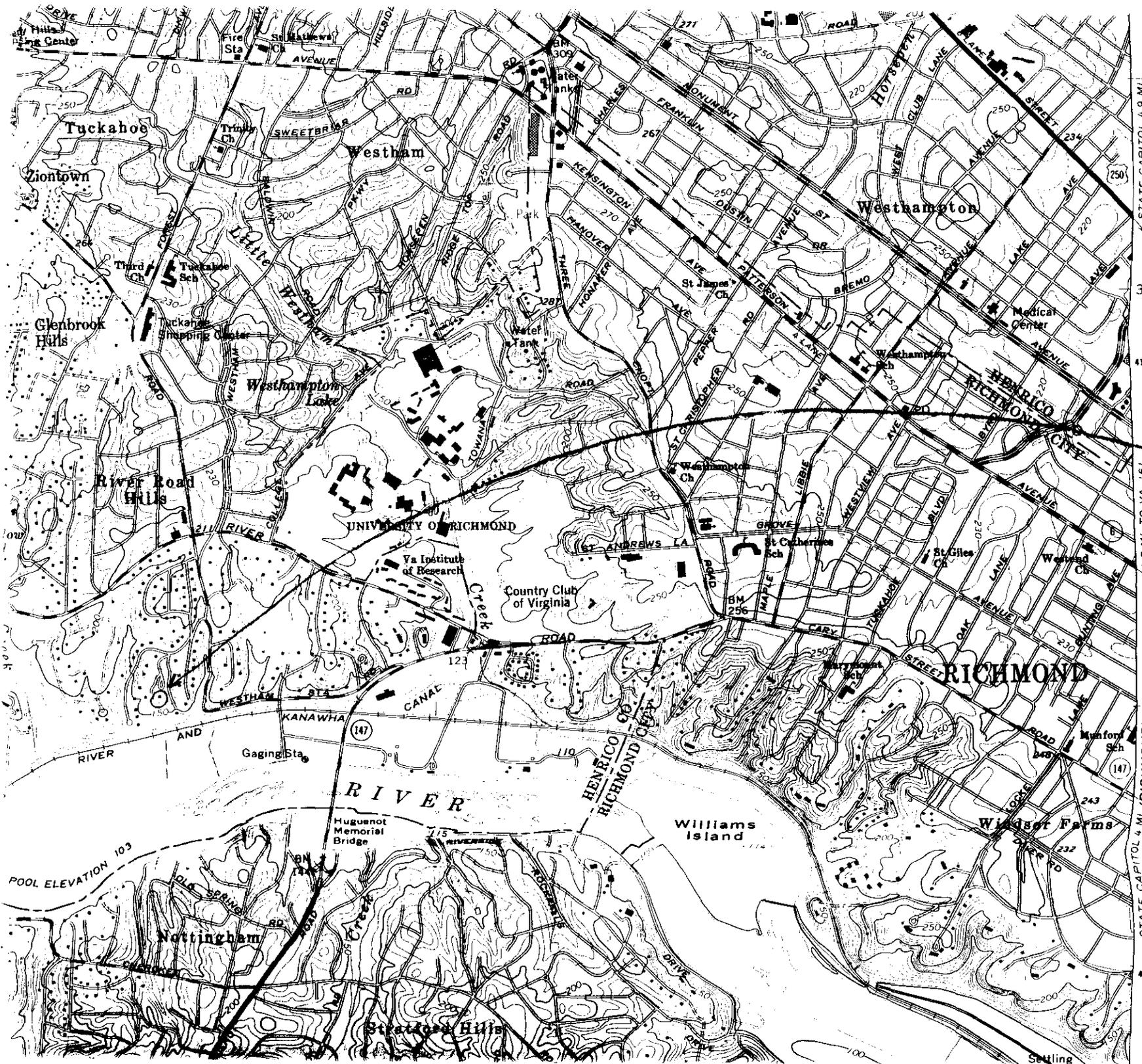


N

FAIRFIELD  
HENRICO CO.



JAMES RIVER & KANAWHA CANAL



STATE CAPITOL 4.9 MI.  
35'  
4162  
1.7 MI. TO VA. 161  
STATE CAPITOL 4 MI. (RICHMOND)  
5559 III SW  
4159

Rocky Mills  
HENRICO CO.  
VIRGINIA  
UTM  
ZONE 18  
E-271,426.54  
N-4160,488.87