

VLR-3/19/97 NRHP-9/4/97

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 an 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 Clapham's Ferry

other names/site number Spinks Ferry, Lost Corner Farm, Riverside  
DHR File No. 53-71

2. Location

street & number 44344 East Spinks Ferry Road  not for publication

city or town Leesburg  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Loudoun code 107 zip code 20176

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

[Signature] 7/18/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Clapham's Ferry

Loudoun County, VA

Name of Property

County and State

**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**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	4	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
6	4	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: water-related

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structures

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:

agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structures

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:

agricultural outbuilding

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls STONE/WOOD

roof METAL

other BRICK

**Narrative Description**

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

Clapham's Ferry

Name of Property

Loudoun County, VA

County and State

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or 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

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1757-1900

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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 #
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:

Thomas Balch Library; Leesburg, VA

Clapham's Ferry  
Name of Property

Loudoun County, VA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property 354.87319

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	286380	4344100	3	18	288135	4344145
Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	18	287480	4344985	4	18	287000	4343225
Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	

See continuation sheet

**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.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Nathaniel Palmer Neblett, AIA  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date January 15, 1997  
street & number 101 East Holly Avenue, Suite 13 telephone (703)430-1976  
city or town Sterling state Virginia zip code 20167

**Additional Documentation**

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)

**Property Owner**

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

name R. Christopher Williams, Inc.  
street & number 9331 Mount Vernon Circle telephone (703) 799-4796  
city or town Alexandria state VA zip code 22309

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Clapham's Ferry  
Loudoun County, VADESCRIPTION

The Potomac River makes a great bend of approximately ninety degrees in the vicinity of Clapham's Ferry flowing generally to the southeast upstream and to the southwest downstream. The Monocacy River in Maryland meets the Potomac at the eastern extremity of this bend. No structures remain at what is believed to be the ferry site, located at water's edge approximately 1,600 feet southeast of the stone dwelling. The bottom land has been scoured repeatedly by floods and severely disturbed by agricultural and topsoil removal operations. At the riverbank termination of the vestigial road that runs past the stone dwelling can be seen stones and handmade bricks, ceramic and glass fragments, oyster shells and bits of other debris suggestive of early occupation. Random sherds have been sight-identified as remains of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century English and Oriental household ware. During the fourth quarter of the twentieth century the property was the location of a topsoil packaging operation resulting in disturbance and loss of much of the upper strata of the bottom land.

The existing significant buildings are clustered about the stone dwelling which is sited above the flood plane and nestles into a gentle slope that rises to the north and west from the Potomac River at the bend opposite the mouth of the Monocacy. Boxwoods so luxurious that tradition has them envied by Gov. Westmoreland Davis now are gone as is any hint of designed landscape.

The two-and-one-half-story dwelling constructed of red sandstone is a three-bay composition with a two-story kitchen appendage of similar sandstone at the southwest end. The main block has interior end chimneys with brick flues; the appendage has a stone exterior end chimney with a brick flue. Door and window openings are spanned with three-segment stone flat arches with keystones incised in crude imitation of fluting. As part of a later alteration the southeast wall is parged and a two-story wood-frame porch spans the entire width. The roof framing was altered to accommodate the porch addition. The date "1849" reputedly found in the attic most likely refers to this alteration. A one-story porch at the northwest door has been removed. Three corbelled courses of brick support the gable roofs covered with standing-seam sheet metal on both main block and appendage.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

15

Section number 7 Page 2Clapham's Ferry  
Loudoun County, VADESCRIPTION (continued)

In plan the main block features one room on each side of a central stairhall. Most of the interior trimwork, Federal in character without Greek Revival influence, remains, consisting of beaded baseboard, chair rail (surbase) and beaded casing with ogee backband at windows and doors. Windows have splayed jambs with plain board reveals. Closets flank the end chimney breasts in three rooms. The four original mantels remain in situ with the most elaborate being located in the northeast first-floor room. This mantel features moulded sidepieces, paneled crosspiece, blocks with rosettes and a series of mouldings reminiscent of illustrations in Asher Benjamin's Country Builder's Assistant supporting the shelf. The stair railing is round supported on plain rectangular pickets and turned newels. Decorative brackets support the treads and the beaded wall string is eased at the landings. The unfinished attic, floored with wide boards, is subdivided into three spaces by rough partitions. The kitchen appendage shows little original interior finish. There are cellar spaces below the northwest end of the main block and the kitchen appendage that are accessible only from the exterior.

The kitchen, sited southwest of the dwelling, is a V-notched log building of approximate dimensions 26' x 15' rectangular in plan set upon a continuous stone foundation. The large exterior stone chimney dominating the southeast end has a brick flue which stands away from the building. Weatherboards cover the exterior and the corners are defined with plain vertical boards. Standing-seam sheet metal covers the gable roof, while the eaves are boxed without mouldings. A board-and-batten door on the northeast side gives access to the single first-floor room lighted by windows on the southwest side and northwest end. The floor, a portion of which is missing, is of wood. A large fireplace, unadorned with woodwork, is located at the southeast end beside which an open ladder-stair gives access to the loft. Two small windows flanking the chimney and a large window at the northwest end light the upper level.

The meat house, located southeast of the dwelling, is a V-notched log building rectangular in plan of approximate dimensions 15' x 12' supported on stones. The exterior is clad with wide boards applied vertically. Standing-seam sheet metal covers the gable roof and the rafter ends are exposed at the eaves. A wide doorway on the northwest side gives access to the unfenestrated interior of one room with board floor and loft over.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Clapham's Ferry  
Loudoun County, VADESCRIPTION (continued)

Across the road northwest of the dwelling stands a massive bank barn of dimensions approximately 125' x 45' constructed of timber on a stone base. The larger framing members are hewn; the joists, studs, and so forth, are sawn. Much of the framing is assembled with pinned mortise-and-tenon joints. The frame portion, clad with wide vertical boards set apart for ventilation, overhangs the stone base approximately 6' on the southeast side. The two end walls and the southeast side are punctuated by wood louvered vents, both rectangular and segmental, enclosed in decorative trimwork. The gable roof covered with standing-seam sheet metal supports a louvered cupola centered on the ridge. A later pole-framed addition on the northeast end is clad with sheet metal and open along the southeast side. Extensive additions to the northwest constructed of frame and metal are of no historical significance.

Inside the bank barn, three rows of heavy wood columns on the ground floor support the floor of the main space above. A stair against the northwest wall rises to the main space which is accessible through large doors and an earthen ramp on the northwest side. This main space is open throughout to the underside of the roof except for minor subdivision related to recent usage. The barn is reputed to have been damaged due to a fire set by lightning and rebuilt in the 1930's. The barn has been wired for electricity.

A late-nineteenth-century corn crib of approximate dimensions 24' x 21' stands north of the bank barn. It consists of two storage areas sheathed with vertical boards set apart for ventilation and a central open runway, the whole roofed by a gable covered with sheet metal. Repairs have been effected using pressure-treated poles to stabilize the sides and corners. The series of adjacent frame, masonry and metal buildings to the north and east are of no historical significance.

A tenant house located on the north side of Spinks Ferry Road approximately 800 feet southwest of the dwelling is not considered a contributing building. Irregular in plan, it consists of one-story and two-story elements now sheathed on the exterior with asbestos-cement shingles and roofed with sheet metal and asphalt shingles. Reputed to include a log element, this building has been altered extensively over the years and retains no evidence of early finishes.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

5

Section number 7,8 Page 4

---

Clapham's Ferry  
Loudoun County, VA

DESCRIPTION (continued)

A wood-frame poultry house next to the kitchen is of undetermined age, in a precarious state of deterioration, and not considered a contributing building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clapham's Ferry is historically significant as the site of an early ferry crossing connecting Loudoun County, Virginia, with Maryland. It is architecturally significant as one of the most intact early nineteenth-century rural dwellings with outbuildings remaining in Loudoun County and exhibits the level of craftsmanship and design employed during the period. Although no structures or buildings related to the ferry remain at water's edge, sherds and surface debris denote the area. The existing stone dwelling, built on high ground overlooking the river, probably served as the residence of the owner of the ferry as well as the nucleus of a successful agricultural operation.

In 1757 the Virginia Legislature awarded to Josias Clapham, prominent eighteenth-century resident of Loudoun County, permission to operate a public ferry "From (his) land...over Potowmack river, to the land on either side the Monochisey creek, in the province of Maryland;..." In competition with Noland's Ferry three miles upstream for the Carolina Road traffic this ferry was operated intermittently by the Clapham family until 1816 when it was taken over by William Hawling. The ferry tract comprising 201 acres was sold to Hawling in 1820. In 1828 the property was partitioned among his heirs, the ferry lot of 89 acres with a small house passed to son William, the present stone dwelling with 85 acres to daughter Jane and her husband Hamilton Rogers. Sometime thereafter Jane and Hamilton Rogers bought out the other heirs, augmented the tract with additional acreage and sole 459 acres to John Spinks in 1833. The ferry, thereafter known as Spinks, was operated until about the time of the Civil War.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 6

---

Clapham's Ferry  
Loudoun County, VA

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Harrison, Fairfax. Landmarks of Old Prince William..., 2 vols., Richmond: Old Dominion Press, 1924  
reprint edition, Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1987.

Hening, William Waller. The Statutes at Large... 13 vols., Richmond: Samuel Pleasants, Jr., 1809-1823  
reprint edition, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1969.

Loudoun County Land Records and Tax Records

Osburn, Penelope M. "Seven Ferries Served Loudoun in 1700's" Loudoun Times-Mirror, September 26,  
1957.

Scheel, Eugene M. "Ferries Played Part in Local History" Loudoun Times-Mirror, January 8, 1981  
continued as: "History Article Finished" Loudoun Times-Mirror, January 15, 1981.

Scheel, Eugene M. "The Potomac River from Brunswick to Van Deventer's Island..." (map) Capitol  
Heights, MD: Williams & Heintz, 1995.

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for  
Catoctin Rural Historic District DHL File No. 53-12.

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks Survey Form 53-71 (3-83).

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 7

---

**Clapham's Ferry  
Loudoun County, VA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

That tract conveyed to R. Christopher Williams, Inc. as "1st Tract" (Tax Map 21 Parcel 15) consisting of 354.87319 acres as surveyed by Chamberlin, Wolford & Chen, PC on a plat dated May 6, 1996.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Over the years the boundaries of the property containing the described resources have varied greatly under various ownerships. For the past century and a half under Magaha and later ownership a relatively large acreage tract has prevailed. The described tract of 354.87319 acres under one ownership contains all related resources in a setting of historical precedent.

