

VLR 6/6/7
NRHP 8/16/7

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 Spring Bank
other names/site number Ravenscroft, Magnolia Grove VDHR #055-0017

2. Location

street & number 1070 Courthouse Road not for publication NIA
city or town Lunenburg Courthouse vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Lunenburg code 111 zip code 23924

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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
X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
nationally X statewide ✓ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William H. Hulse
Signature of certifying official

July 2, 2007
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

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.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

_____ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
_____ determined eligible for the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
_____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
	<u>processing, storage</u>
	<u>agricultural field</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
	<u>processing, storage</u>
	<u>agricultural field</u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COLONIAL Sub: Georgian
OTHER Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone
roof METAL: Standing Seam Metal
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
other _____

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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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)

Agriculture
Architecture
Religion

Period of Significance 1746 - 1889

Significant Dates 1793

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Bishop John Stark Ravenscroft, Armistead and Lewis Burwell

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Jacob Shelor, John Inge

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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 # Robert Wiggins, 1958
- 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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 150 acres

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

Chase City Quadrangle

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>17</u>	<u>730695</u>	<u>4083725</u>	2	<u>17</u>	<u>731402</u>	<u>4082983</u>
3	<u>17</u>	<u>731280</u>	<u>4082780</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>730416</u>	<u>4083252</u>

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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=

name/title Kimberly M. Chen and Hannah Collins

organization Johannas DesignGroup date _____

street & number 1901 West Cary Street telephone 804.358.4993

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23220

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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 Randolph Hooks

street & number 320 East 46th Street, Apt. 17B telephone 212.989.0140

city or town New York state NY zip code 10017

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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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

Summary Description

Spring Bank is located in Lunenburg County, on the east side of State Route 49 (Courthouse Road) ten miles southwest of Lunenburg Courthouse. The house has been known by many names including Ravenscroft, the Kell Farm, and Magnolia Grove. Spring Bank is the original name given to the property by John Stark Ravenscroft and his wife, Anne Spotswood Burwell, when they built the house in 1793.¹ John Stark Ravenscroft (1772-1830) was the first Episcopal Bishop of North Carolina and his wife, Anne, was the daughter of Colonel Lewis Burwell, a wealthy land owner in Mecklenburg County and a member of Virginia's Tidewater gentry. In 1793, in honor of Ravenscroft's marriage to his daughter, Colonel Burwell sold John Ravenscroft the 610 acre tract where the house was built. The main house is a Late Georgian-style frame dwelling with a five-part Palladian plan composed of a two-story, three-bay center block flanked by one-story, one-bay, hip-roofed wings with one-story, one-bay shed-roofed wings at the ends. The dwelling is set on a raised ashlar foundation and there are massive ashlar chimneys at either end of the main block. The standing seam metal hipped roof is set off by a cornice with modillion blocks. Local craftsmen Jacob Shelor, a stone mason, and John Inge, a carpenter, were employed to build the house. Shelor and Inge separately and collectively worked on Elm Hill, Prestwoud, and Woburn in Mecklenburg County and may be associated with two other Lunenburg dwellings, Flat Rock and Reedy Creek.

Spring Bank is set in a broad lawn at the end of a long driveway. The land slopes away to the south and east to a spring and the south branch of the Meherrin River. Today, the property contains 150 acres. There are twelve identified resources, including the main dwelling which has changed very little since it was completed in 1793. There are a few remaining early-nineteenth century dependencies arranged to the rear of the house, including a smoke house and a log slave quarter. The remains of late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century dependencies, including a kitchen/laundry, ice house, spring house, and a dam are also located on the property along with a family cemetery and two other burial grounds. There is a mid-twentieth century, frame tobacco barn, and the remains of a hay barn. There are four buildings, seven sites, and one structure all of which contribute to the architectural and historic character of Spring Bank.

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Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

Detailed Description

Site

Spring Bank is located in the southwestern quadrant of Lunenburg County just north of its border with Mecklenburg County. The house is sited on a broad plateau on the east side of Courthouse Road (State Route 49) between the South Meherrin and Middle Meherrin rivers. To the southeast of the house is a steep bank at the base of which a spring is located. It is speculated that the name of the house, Spring Bank, was derived from this formation. The house is oriented on a slight northwest angle and was originally approached from the west by a driveway on axis with the front door. The current driveway approaches from the north and runs parallel to the main house forming a broad circle in front. The existing dependencies are arrayed to the east and south of the main dwelling and while they lack rigid formality they do suggest a sense of organization and hierarchy. With the exception of a circle of boxwoods in front of the house, there is no evidence of formal gardens. There are two ponds at the north end of the property – one at the western edge near the road and the other to the east across the fields.

Exterior Description

Spring Bank is a two-story, seven-bay, Late Georgian-style frame dwelling with a standing-seam metal hipped-roof with a box cornice decorated with modillions. The building has a five-part Palladian arrangement with a two-story, three-bay center block flanked by telescoping one-story, one-bay wings, that are centered on the north and south ends. The first set of wings has hip roofs with modillioned cornices and the shed-roofed end wings appear to have once been open porches. The dwelling rests on a raised ashlar foundation and there are ashlar chimneys flanking the two-story central block. On the facade or west elevation there are four, 6/6, single-hung wood windows flanking a central door in the ashlar foundation. On the east elevation there are five, 6/6 windows – three in the main block and one each in the first wings – in the foundation wall. The north end of the foundation has wood siding between the ends of the stone walls with a single leaf multi-light door. Paired 6/6 windows flanking a multi-light door fill the area between the ashlar walls at the south end of the foundation. On the facade there is a one-story, seven-bay, shed-roofed porch that extends the full width of the central block of the house. The porch is set on stone piers and has square posts, a picketed balustrade, and a box cornice. The porch is approached by a flight of steps with a picket balustrade. A full facade porch on a house

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Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

of this period is unusual, but the continuous flush-laid board siding on the facade under the porch would suggest that the porch is original or a very early alteration. The rest of the dwelling is covered with beaded weatherboard. The central entrance has a wooden, single-leaf, six-panel door with a four-light transom above. On the facade and rear or east elevation, the first story windows are 9/9 single-hung wooden sash, and on the second story, they are 6/9, single-hung wooden sash. All of the windows have operable wooden shutters; four pairs are original pegged shutters. The east elevation is ordered much like the facade, except there is a one-story, one-bay, center portico with a pedimented roof. The porch has Tuscan columns and a modillioned-cornice. There are single-leaf paneled wooden doors on the east elevations of the out-lying shed-roofed wings. The doors are accessed by wooden stairs and open stoops with incorporated benches. There are single, 9/9 double-hung wooden sash windows in the first stories of the north and south elevations of the end wings.

Interior Description

There are seven rooms in the basement – three rooms and a hall in the main block of the house and one room each in the four wings. The perimeter and interior walls of the basement are stone, some of which have been whitewashed, all of the floors are stone unless otherwise noted, and the ceilings are exposed floor joists. In the center is a large room with a closed stinger stair from the first floor. There is an original closet under the east end of the stair, in the passage to the next room to the south. This room has a brick floor and a stone fireplace with a segmental arched opening at the south end. On the east side of the fireplace is a closet the depth of the chimney and on the west is the door way to the next room. The next room to the south has a brick floor that is a step higher than the adjacent floor level. This room does not have a fireplace and there is a grained door that leads to the garden room in the southern-most wing. The east and west walls of the garden room are stone and the southern end has been infilled with paired windows and a central door. To the north of the center hall is a small room enclosed by stone walls, creating a hall on the west side. This smaller room has a brick floor and a fireplace with a segmental arched opening. The next room to the north has a stone floor, plaster walls and ceiling, and a stone fireplace with a mid-19th century wooden mantel. At the northern end is a laundry room with a stone floor that is up two steps from the adjacent room. The east and west side walls are stone and the north wall is of frame construction with a center door.

On the first floor there is a center hall with a u-shaped staircase that has Tuscan column

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Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

newel posts at the corners, a picket balustrade, and a molded hand rail. The square pickets are set on the diagonal. There are simple stair brackets under each step, and horizontal beaded paneling between the stringer and the wainscoting. The entrance hall has flush wainscoting with a molded chair rail and base, and a dentiled cornice. The entrance hall connects to a library on the south and a parlor on the north. The library and parlor have flush wainscoting with a molded chair rail and base. At the windows the wainscoting and base are slightly projected and the chair rail forms the sill. There are molded door and window architraves, and elaborate mantels with crossettes, pulvinated friezes, and dentiled cornices. There are dentiled cornices around both rooms. The bedroom in the south wing has a dentiled cornice and a molded chair rail and base around the room. The mantle has a molded surround crowned by a pulvinated frieze and a dentiled cornice. The decoration in the dining room is similar to the south bedroom except that the cornice and mantel cornice do not have dentil molding. There are closets with original shelving on the west side of the chimney block between the dining room and the parlor. The closets have been combined on the south end of the dwelling (between the library and the bedroom) to create a large closet. The far wings are unadorned. A kitchen and bathroom are located in the northern and southern wings, respectively.

On the second floor there are two bedrooms and a bathroom. The architectural features of the bedrooms are identical to the dining room -- molded chair rails, bases, and cornices, and the mantels have molded surrounds crowned by pulvinated-friezes and molded cornices. Original closets flank the chimneys in both bedrooms. In the 1950s, a wall was added to the west side of the hall between the two bedrooms to accommodate a bathroom. There are unfinished pine floors throughout the first and second stories of the house.

Outbuildings and Sites

The early dependencies on the Spring Bank estate were hierarchically arranged to the rear (east) and south of the main house. They are all set on an axis either parallel or perpendicular to the main dwelling. A number of small cemeteries have been located on the property. A small cemetery is located to the southeast of the house, beyond the dependencies and on axis with the wing. Enclosed by a stone wall the cemetery contains six marked graves and an undetermined number of unmarked graves. The marked graves range in date from 1845 to 1862, including an obelisk that marks the graves of Alexander and Ebenezer Hepburn, and Charity and William Dodson. The other marked graves are those of Thomas Ames and William Hepburn Walker (14 February 1856 – 17 July 1856). A

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Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

low stone wall that might have supported a tablet is located on the south side of the cemetery. It is speculated that this might be the final resting place of Anne Spotswood Burwell Ravenscroft who died in 1814. Further to the south and east are two other cemeteries. There appears to be a traditional slave cemetery located at the edge of a wood with graves marked by river rocks. The other cemetery is located near the southeast corner of the property and is contained by a low wall. There are no visible headstones. The extent and age of these two cemeteries has not been determined.

To the southeast of the main house in the rear yard, is a small one-story structure which served as a smokehouse. The smokehouse has a stone foundation, horizontal weatherboard siding and a standing-seam metal, front-gabled roof. To the east of the smokehouse are the ruins of a structure that was reportedly used as a slave quarter, kitchen, and laundry and may have served as the first dwelling on the property. The surviving three-course American bond foundation and large central interior chimney are indicative of a late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century construction period. Photographs taken by Gary M. Williams in 1968, illustrate a 1 ½-story, four-bay building with horizontal wood siding, board and batten doors, and shuttered windows. The doors were set at the north and south ends of the west elevation with widely separated windows in between. The east elevation was penetrated by two shuttered windows. There was a standing-seam metal, side-gabled-roof and the gable ends had vertical siding. A 1958 survey of the building describes it as having a "center chimney, separate staircases, and unconnected rooms in the basement, first floor and attic. Unusual features of this structure are 14" to 19" floor boards (this is very rare in southern Virginia) horizontal beaded wainscoting, diagonal beaded boarding in the closed staircases, beaded picture hanging moulding, and strange beaded moulding (same as picture moulding) forming a pattern (rectangular) in the ceiling..."²

To the northeast of the kitchen/laundry building is a two-room log dwelling. The one-story, two-room building originally served as a slave quarters and was converted to a dog kennel in the 1980s. The structure has a standing-seam metal side-gabled roof and board and batten siding. The west facade has two board and batten doors and two six-light windows.

To the southeast of the house is a steep bank that forms a bowl at the base where a spring is located. It is likely that the name of the house, Spring Bank, was derived from this formation. Slightly to the south and east of the spring are the ruins of a spring or dairy house. The stone foundation of an ice house is located to the southwest of the house in the front yard. On axis with the house to the east is a stone dam at the edge of the eastern-most pond. The walls have been repaired with concrete and new metal culverts

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Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

installed. The exact date can not be determined but it would appear to date from the mid-eighteenth century.

There are two twentieth century outbuildings on the property. To the northeast of the main dwelling is the concrete and stone rubble foundation of a frame hay barn that was constructed ca. 1940. Unlike the early dependencies it is placed on a diagonal to the main house and the other outbuildings. The barn was standing when the property was surveyed in 2004 but was heavily damaged during Hurricane Isabel and was torn down. To the southeast of the main dwelling is a frame tobacco barn with a stone-rubble and concrete foundation and a gable roof. The wood siding has been covered with asphalt shingles.

Inventory

Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Georgian, Condition: Good, 1793

This a central passage, single pile, five-part Palladian plan, Late Georgian style frame dwelling with a two-story, three-bay center block with telescoping one-story, one-bay wings. The main block and the flanking wings have standing seam metal, hipped-roofs with modillioned-box cornices. The two, outer-most one-story wings have shed roofs and box cornices and appear to have been open porches.

Building – Contributing

Slave Quarter, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Poor, ca. 1840

This one-story, four-bay log building has two rooms. There is a standing seam metal roof and board and batten siding. There are two board and batten doors and two six-light windows.

Building - Contributing

Smoke House, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Good, ca. 1840

This is a one-story, frame smoke house. There is a gable roof and wood siding.

Building – Contributing

Tobacco Barn: 1, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Fair, ca. 1940

This is a one-story, frame tobacco barn. There is a concrete and rubble foundation, a gable roof and wood siding that has been covered with asphalt shingles.

Building – Contributing

Hay Barn, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1940

This was a two-story, frame hay barn with a gable roof and wood siding. The barn was

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Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

blown off its foundation during Hurricane Isabel. The concrete foundation is still visible.
Site – Contributing

Spring House/Dairy, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1800
This former dairy or spring house is in ruins. **Site - Contributing**

Ice House, Stories: 0, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1800
This former ice house is in ruins. All that remains of the structure is a circular stone foundation. **Site - Contributing**

Kitchen-Laundry-Slave Quarter, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, Condition: Ruinous, ca. 1780
This former kitchen-laundry and slave quarters is now in ruins. All that remains is a raised three-course American bond brick foundation and a large central chimney. **Site - Contributing**

Cemetery, ca. 1814
The cemetery contains six marked graves ranging in date from 1845 to 1862 but may also include the graves of Anne Spotswood Burwell Ravenscroft (1773-1814) and three of the Hepburn boys. **Site – Contributing**

Cemetery, ca. 1800
The age, extent and number of graves needs be further investigated **Site – Contributing**

Slave Cemetery, ca. 1800
The age, extent and number of graves needs be further investigated **Site – Contributing**

Dam, ca. 1840
Wide stone dam with modern metal culverts. **Structure – Contributing**

Resource Totals: 4 buildings, 7 sites, 1 structure
12 contributing, 0 noncontributing

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Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

Statement of Significance

Spring Bank was built in 1793 by Bishop John Stark Ravenscroft (1772-1830), shortly after his marriage to Anne Spotswood Burwell. John Stark Ravenscroft was the first Episcopal Bishop of North Carolina, serving from 1823-1830. Anne was the daughter of Colonel Lewis Burwell, a wealthy land owner in Mecklenburg County and a member of one of the oldest and most widely connected families in Virginia. Spring Bank was built on a 610-acre tract sold to Ravenscroft by Colonel Burwell and part of Burwell's extensive holdings in Lunenburg and Mecklenburg counties. Today, the house, eight dependencies (four standing and four ruinous), three cemeteries, and a stone dam are situated on a 150 acre tract. The house is a fine example of a Late Georgian-style dwelling and is one of the few remaining properties of this period in Lunenburg County and the only building with a five-part Palladian plan. The house is well preserved and has the distinctive characteristics of this style. It also possesses a hierarchy of building and site design that is rare in Lunenburg County. Spring Bank also represents the work of two known craftsmen, John Inge, a carpenter, and Jacob Shelor, a mason, who worked in Lunenburg and surrounding counties.

Spring Bank is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A, B and C. Under criterion A, the evolution of the Spring Bank property is illustrative of the broad development pattern found in Lunenburg County and Southside Virginia. Spring Bank illustrates the early settlement of the region by Tidewater gentry, and Lunenburg County's development into one of the largest slave owning and tobacco producing counties in the commonwealth. Under criterion B, the property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, namely John Stark Ravenscroft, the first Episcopal Bishop of North Carolina, and the Burwells, a prominent Tidewater family. Under criterion C, the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction and possesses high artistic values. Spring Bank is associated with the work of two identified craftsmen and is of a style and formality not typically found in Lunenburg County. The period of significance for the property is 1746, when the land was patented by Armistead Burwell, to 1889 when the property was sold out of the Ravenscroft-Hepburn families.

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Spring Bank (055-0017)
Lunenburg County, VA

Historic Background

Geographically, Lunenburg County is located in Southside Virginia or the lower Piedmont region which is bounded by the James River on the north and the Virginia-North Carolina line to the south. The area lies between the fall line and the Blue Ridge Mountains. The colonial government restricted settlement in the Southside because of the proximity of Native American villages causing the area to remain a frontier longer than the Upper Piedmont. Before 1730, the settlers of Lunenburg County were predominately English moving from the eastern counties of Surry, Isle of Wight, Henrico, Goochland, and Hanover. A significant number of German and Scotch-Irish settled in the region as they emigrated south from Pennsylvania to the Carolinas through the Shenandoah Valley. Settlers came in two waves between the late 1740s and early 1750s and again in the mid-1760s. "The river system of the Southside, though pleasing to the eye, was nearly useless as a means of transportation, a fact which would work to hinder the full integration of the Southside into the better-settled parts of the Virginia colony."³ Settlement was interrupted during the French and Indian War (1754-1763); in fact many settlers abandoned the area for fear of Indian attacks. With the exception of a few speculative nonresident landowners like William Byrd, Richard Randolph and Armistead Burwell (Sr.), the majority of Lunenburg's early inhabitants were people of modest circumstances looking for a better life on the frontier.⁴

Lunenburg County was created in 1746 from Brunswick County. Both counties were named in honor of King George II, whose titles included "Baron of Brunswick-Lunenburg." When created in 1746, Lunenburg County covered nearly 5,000 square miles. Eventually, ten counties – Mecklenburg, Halifax, Charlotte, Campbell, Pittsylvania, Henry, Patrick, Franklin, Appomattox, and Bedford – were carved out of this expanse -- giving rise to Lunenburg's nickname, "The Mother of Counties". Between 1746 and 1751, the tithable population in Lunenburg nearly doubled, a trend that continued for the next twenty years. Before the 1760s, the tending and marketing of livestock was a more dependable source of income for early settlers in Lunenburg than either the cultivation of grain or tobacco. Settlers were beginning to grow tobacco but their efforts were limited by the labor-intensive nature of the crop and poor transportation. By 1770, the tithable population of Lunenburg had increased to 1,683 and the percentage of the population-owning slaves had increased from twenty-two percent to fifty-three percent. These changes led to the transition from a subsistence farming based economy to one based on a single cash crop – tobacco.

On January 7, 1746, Armistead Burwell patented 3,404 acres on Finneywood Creek in Lunenburg County. Earlier that year, his brother, Lewis Burwell IV patented over 10,000

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acres in Lunenburg County. Like his brother and other early patentees of large tracts of land, Armistead was an absentee owner and continued to reside in Williamsburg where he was a merchant and served in the House of Burgess. As required by law he established quarters on his land with overseers in charge. In October 1749, Armistead Burwell deeded 100 acres in Lunenburg to John Cox, one of his overseers, "for work and labour and service done and performed in saving and improving a tract of land."⁵ According to the 1764 Lunenburg list of tithables, Armistead Burwell's estate was occupied by three overseers, John Oliver, George Tureman and John Westbrook, and thirty-four slaves. In 1764 Mecklenburg County was formed from Lunenburg County and Armistead Burwell's estate was divided between the two. Armistead Burwell died suddenly in 1754 and his holdings in Lunenburg-Mecklenburg County were inherited by his sons, Lewis and John who were nine and eight, respectively at the time of their father's death. Lewis came of age in 1765 and into possession of nearly 2,000 acres of his father's land in Lunenburg and Mecklenburg counties. On March 28 1768, Lewis married Anne Spotswood; the granddaughter of former Virginia Governor Alexander Spotswood. Their two oldest children, Mary and Armistead were born in Williamsburg, and in 1771 Lewis moved his family to Mecklenburg County into his recently completed house, Stoneland, near Finneywood Creek. Anne and Lewis Burwell had ten additional children all of whom were born at Stoneland, between 1773 and 1789. Anne Spotswood Burwell died in 1789 and in that same year Lewis married Elizabeth Randolph Harrison with whom he had two more sons. Lewis Burwell was a Colonel during the Revolutionary War and served fourteen years in the Virginia House of Delegates. In 1777, Lewis purchased the balance of his father's 3,404 acres from his brother, John, and over the next thirty years his holdings grew to over 9,000 acres in Mecklenburg, Lunenburg and Franklin counties. The Stoneland "complex included a grist mill, general store, iron mines and a forge, a saw mill, orchards, pastures, a still house, and hundreds of acres of productive tobacco and grain fields worked by as many as 200 slaves. In order to ensure the classical education of their children, they set up a boarding school at the Stoneland Manor where John A. Fowlkes taught English, French, Latin, arithmetic, and writing."⁶ Lewis Burwell died in 1800 at Stoneland; the house was destroyed by a fire on New Years Eve 1815.

On September 7, 1793, Colonel Lewis Burwell, Jr. sold John Stark Ravenscroft a 610-acre tract in Lunenburg County for the sum of five shillings in honor of Ravenscroft's marriage to his daughter, Anne Spotswood. The land was part of two larger tracts purchased by Lewis Burwell from the estate of John Fleming and from Bartley (Bartlett) Cox, the son of Armistead Burwell's former overseer, John Cox. The gift of land was perhaps an inducement so his daughter would live close by, just across the county line from Stoneland.

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Shortly thereafter, construction was begun on the house that would be known as Spring Bank.

John Stark Ravenscroft was born May 17, 1772 in Prince George County into a family with strong ties to the Anglican Church. His great, great grandfather, Captain Samuel Ravenscroft emigrated from England to Boston in 1679 and in 1680 married Dyonisia Savage. In 1686, Samuel, along with a group of other parishioners, founded King's Chapel, the first Anglican Church in Boston. In 1692, three years before his death, he moved his family to James City County, Virginia. Thomas Ravenscroft, the youngest of Samuel and Dyonisia's six children, married Elizabeth Hamlin. In 1723, Thomas and Elizabeth moved to Prince George County, Virginia where he purchased a tract of land on the James River that was originally patented by Captain Samuel Maycox, who was killed in the 1622 Indian massacre. Thomas Ravenscroft represented Prince George County in the House of Burgess from 1727 until his death in 1736. His son, John Ravenscroft married Rebecca Stark, the daughter of Mary Bolling and William Stark. John and Rebecca had two children, the youngest of whom was Dr. John Ravenscroft, who married Lillias Miller. Lillias Miller was the daughter of Jane Bolling, Mary Bolling Ravenscroft's sister, and Hugh Miller. Lillias' two sisters, Anne and Jean, would be Sir Peyton Skipwith's first and second wives, respectively. Dr. John Ravenscroft and his wife, Lillias Miller, had three children, Ann, Jane and John Stark Ravenscroft, the builder of Spring Bank. Soon after the birth of John Stark in 1772, the Ravenscroft family moved to Scotland because of the unstable political conditions in the Colonies. The younger Ravenscroft attended schools in Scotland and England until 1789, when he returned to Virginia on family business and enrolled at William and Mary with the intention of completing a law degree. John Stark Ravenscroft was known as having a mercurial temper and being fully engaged in all the popular vices of the day. He was given the moniker "Mad Jack" by his fellow students while at William and Mary.⁷ In a memoir describing the future Bishop's life, one of his fellow students, Thomas Green, wrote, "In Williamsburg, Ravenscroft developed habits which he carried through half his life. He became a skillful swearer; gambling and drinking were his favorite pastimes; violence characterized his personality."⁸

John Stark Ravenscroft returned from Scotland in 1792 after a trip to settle his father's estate. In that same year, at the age of 21, he married Anne Spotswood Burwell. Around 1810, Ravenscroft joined the Republican Methodists, a small sect led by James O'Kelly. This sect was formed early in the 19th century and the founders opposed the use of the Episcopalian ministry structure and believed in the equality of all members of the ministry. This sect of Methodism was short lived and was eventually absorbed into the United

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Church of Christ. Ravenscroft became increasingly interested in religion and became a candidate for orders in the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1815, a year after the death of his wife. He was ordained the following year and appointed Rector of St. James Church in Mecklenburg County. He married Sarah Buford in 1818. In 1823, Ravenscroft was granted a Doctor of Divinity degree from Columbia University and William and Mary College and was elected the first Bishop of North Carolina. Sarah Buford Ravenscroft died in 1829 and Ravenscroft followed close behind in March 1830. The Bishop was buried in a brick vault beneath the chancel of Christ Church in Raleigh, NC, where he had served as Rector since 1823.

The same factors that hindered growth – isolation and poor transportation – protected the county from the upheaval and destruction of the Revolutionary War. The disruptions of war and failing soils were loosening Tidewater's monopoly of the tobacco market. In 1785, Southside produced thirty-three percent of all the tobacco in Virginia; by 1790 the area produced forty percent of the total tobacco crop; and by 1840, that number had risen to sixty-two percent. The amount of land being cultivated in the county changed little between 1795 and 1800 but the character of the population working the land changed radically. By 1800, the number of slaves (5,876) in the county exceeded the number of whites (4,372). By 1820, with 6,663 slaves, almost double the white population; Lunenburg had one of the highest concentrations of slaves living within its borders in the state. With an increase in production, better transportation and easier access to tobacco markets, wealth in Lunenburg grew.

Ravenscroft appears to have moved to Mecklenburg County around 1813, but during his tenure at Spring Bank the property grew from 610 to 2,127 acres. The 1810 census for Lunenburg lists John S. Ravenscroft, his wife Anne, and thirty slaves. By the 1820 census he is no longer listed in Lunenburg County but is listed in Mecklenburg County and was serving as the Rector for St. James Parish. Ravenscroft's financial situation suffered in his years in the ministry due to his personal generosity and the neglect of his personal holdings. In 1819, Ravenscroft executed a Deed of Trust with William and Lucy Miller for Spring Bank but in 1824, trustees, John W. Lewis and John J. Nelson, were offering the property for sale at auction. On November 8, 1824, Spring Bank was purchased by Alexander M. Hepburn. Alexander McHarg Hepburn (1792-1845) and his brother, Ebenezer McHarg Hepburn (1794-1864) were wards of John S. Ravenscroft. When their father, Dr. William Hepburn, died in 1794 he named John S. Ravenscroft, Lewis Burwell, Samuel Pettus and William Wills Green as guardians of his five minor orphaned children. Dr. Hepburn was predeceased by his wife Mary Watts McHarg. Ebenezer and Alexander

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were two of the five Hepburn boys raised by Ravenscroft and the only ones to survive to adulthood.

Alexander and Ebenezer Hepburn do not appear in the census for Lunenburg County until 1840. By 1840, the county's population had reached 11,052, over half of those slaves. Between 1840 and 1860, the white population in the county increased by 292 persons, from 4,129 to 4,421. During this same period, the slave population increased by 598 to 7,305 slaves in 1860. Between 1840 and 1860, the production of tobacco in Lunenburg County increased by over 1,600,000 pounds and corn increased by nearly 20,000 bushels. The production of all other crops and the raising of livestock declined during the antebellum period, indicating a growing reliance on tobacco. In the 1840 census, Alexander is listed as the head of the family with another male, between 40 and 50 years old, presumably his brother Ebenezer, and another unidentified white male between the ages of 20 and 30. The census also enumerated thirty-seven slaves. On October 29, 1844, Alexander married Charity Anne Swepson. Alexander died the following year and is buried in the cemetery at Spring Bank.

After Alexander's death in 1845, Ebenezer became the owner of Spring Bank. The 1850 census lists Ebenezer Hepburn as the head of a household that consisted of eight other individuals, including his widowed sister-in-law, Charity Swepson and three of her siblings. The census also indicates that a mill and store were being operated on the property and that the value of real estate owned was \$46,647.⁹ The 1850 Slave Schedule shows that Hepburn owned forty-two slaves. By the 1860 census, it appears that two households had been established at Spring Bank – one headed by Ebenezer Hepburn and the other headed by Dr. William E. Dodson, his sister-in-law's second husband. The census entry for the Dodson household lists William and Charity Ann, and an overseer, William S. Gordon, his wife and their five children. The value of the real estate was placed at \$14,000 and the value of personal property at \$37,670 which likely included the twenty-eight slaves listed in the Slave Schedule. Ebenezer Hepburn's household included Charity Ann's brother, Robert, her sister, Martha, and Charity Ann's eight-month-old daughter, Marion Hepburn Dodson. The household also included Thomas Ames, a clerk with the mercantile of Hepburn and Swepson, and Ebenezer Jones, an overseer. The value of the real estate was placed at \$16,800 and the personal property was valued at \$39,777 including forty-two slaves. The size and value of these two households was exceptional. A review of the 1860 Slave Schedule for Lunenburg County shows that 70% of slave owners owned one to ten slaves. A small percentage, 9%, owned more than twenty-five slaves, and only one

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owned more than 100 slaves. A review of the 1860 census reveals that the average value of real estate was around \$2,000 and the average value of personal property was slightly over \$8,000.

Ebenezer Hepburn died on May 7, 1864 and is buried in the family cemetery. In his will he left Spring Bank to the two minor daughters of Charity Ann Swepson Hepburn and William Dodson. Charity Dodson died in June 1861 shortly after the birth of her second daughter, Virginia, and leaving a two-year old daughter, Marion. William Dodson died in August 1867, leaving the two young girls to be raised by their aunts, Martha Swepson Saunders and Mary Swepson Walker. While the first years after the Civil War were difficult ones in Lunenburg County, this period also saw the introduction of public education, the construction of railroads and the establishment of the county's two largest towns – Kenbridge and Victoria. The winter of 1865 was harsh, because fields had not been planted in four years, the livestock and labor required to cultivate the fields was scarce, and the currency to purchase provisions was worthless. The 1870 census illustrates the impact of the Civil War on Lunenburg County. The white population declined by only seventy-seven persons but the African American population declined by 1,503 between 1860 and 1870. The production of all crops was down by over fifty percent, and the number of pigs, cattle, and sheep were down by nearly sixty percent. The most dramatic decline was in the production of tobacco from over 4,000,000 pounds to less than 1,000,000 pounds. It would not be until 1900 that tobacco production in Lunenburg County exceeded pre-war levels. The county's population grew by approximately 2,400 persons between 1870 and 1910 with African American population always exceeding white population.

In 1889, Frederick E. Kell purchased Spring Bank from the estate of Ebenezer Hepburn and from Marion and Virginia Dodson, thus ending the Ravenscroft-Hepburn association with the property. Over the next century, the land associated with Spring Bank was subdivided and changed hands numerous times. In 1920, the population of Lunenburg County stood at 15,260 persons. There were a total of 2,108 farms and 9,633 acres dedicated to the cultivation of tobacco. In that year, nearly five million pounds of tobacco were produced. The raising of chickens and dairy products also represented a major sector of the agrarian based economy. The population of the county steadily declined over the next forty years to a low of 12,523 in 1960 and has only slightly rebounded over the last forty years to 13,146 in 2000. The number of farms also declined to 1,849 in 1950, the last year that the census recorded this statistic. The 2000 census for County Business Patterns shows that the majority of workers in Lunenburg County are engaged in the manufacturing of tobacco or wood products. The next largest employer is the retail sector closely followed by the construction trades. A very small number of workers, less than three percent, listed

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their occupations as farmers.

Today, Spring Bank, like many former plantations in the county is no longer a working farm -- the pastures are leased for the grazing of cattle. The remaining 150 acres of the Spring Bank property contain the most significant of the early dependencies and the main house. The house has recently under gone a careful restoration and retains a very high level of integrity. The house and its grounds tell a significant story of regional and architectural development.

Architectural Analysis

More so than any other property in Lunenburg County, Spring Bank expresses the Anglican influenced hierarchical arrangement of spaces -- both interior and exterior. The house is set in an "articulated processional landscape" as defined by Dell Upton.¹⁰ In this scheme, houses are set at the center of a controlled landscape with a sequence of social buffers with supporting dependencies arrayed in a regulated fashion to the rear. Spring Bank has a center hall plan which presents another set of social barriers to those entering the house. About 1725, prosperous Tidewater planters abandoned the hall-and-chamber-plan and rearranged domestic spaces to accommodate their genteel lifestyle. They built houses with symmetrical facades and classical details surrounded by a hierarchical arrangement of outbuildings. "Furthermore, the development in Virginia houses of the central passage as a social channel and barrier and the dining room as a setting for the newly popular rituals of display and hospitality represent the gentry's attempt to distance themselves from middling and lower planters. Thus, the architecture of the Tidewater gentry expressed the ideology of the Anglican ruling class."¹¹

The size and formality of Spring Bank are atypical in Lunenburg County and Southside Virginia and more reflective of dwellings constructed by landed gentry in the Tidewater region. In comparison to the dwellings being built by the landed gentry in the greater Tidewater region, the typical house in Lunenburg County is unpretentious with an eye to practicality rather than displays of wealth and not arranged for entertaining and social hierarchy. "An analysis of houses advertised for sale in the *Virginia Gazette* over the course of the eighteenth century shows that 45 percent of Virginia's landowning planters lived in houses with fewer than 540 square feet."¹² The Southside planters were wealthy enough to build grand houses like their Tidewater brothers but they chose not to do so. The gentry of Lunenburg County were not interested in a hierarchical arrangement of their

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living space. Ellis puts forth the theory that while the Anglican gentry may have held the institutional power in Southside Virginia, it was the Baptists that held social and ideological control. The Baptist ideology judged the worth of a person by their personal experience and moral behavior. "The Baptist condemned all the important venues for gentry display and bearing as godless and decadent" thus, dictating architectural expression and rejecting domestic spaces designed for social ritual.¹³ A recent comprehensive survey of Lunenburg County reveals that Spring Bank is the only eighteenth-century dwelling in the county with a center hall plan and two-stories in height set on a raised foundation. It is also the only dwelling in the county that uses ashlar blocks for the foundation and chimneys. All of the contemporary buildings identified in the county are 1 ½-story, hall and parlor plan dwellings with Flemish bond or rubble stone chimneys and foundations. It was not until the early nineteenth century that other two-story, center-hall-plan houses, such as Brickland, Woodlawn and Oak Ridge, were constructed in the county.

The form and formality of Spring Bank was likely influenced by the homes that John Stark Ravenscroft and his wife Anne Spotswood Burwell were exposed to while growing up. A sketch of Maycox, the home of Thomas Ravenscroft, John's great-grandfather is included in Robert Andrew Parker's manuscript, The Burwells of Kingsmill and Stoneland: An Account of An American Family 1633 – 1900. The sketch depicts a five-part Palladian plan dwelling with a two-story, three-bay hip-roofed center block with one-bay hyphens connecting the main block to one-bay, hip-roofed wings. The entire building appears to be set on a raised foundation and there are interior chimneys in the main block and in the wings. The architectural legacy of the Burwell family is tied to some of the grandest houses of the Tidewater gentry, including Fairfield, Kingsmill and Carter's Grove. No architectural descriptions of Stoneland, Col. Lewis Burwell's house in Mecklenburg County, survive but it can only be assumed that it was a grand house like those of his forebears in Tidewater.

Spring Bank is further distinguished because it is one of the few houses in Lunenburg County for which the craftsmen-builders have been identified. John Stark Ravenscroft hired John Inge as the carpenter and Jacob Shelor as the mason for the construction of his house. During the recent renovation, signatures were found on beams in the basement that appear to be those of "Jack Inge" and "J. Shelor" followed by the numbers "93". Records show that Jacob Shelor was the mason of Prestwoud, a stone mansion near Clarksville in Mecklenburg County, constructed for Ravenscroft's aunt, Lady Jean Miller Skipwith and her husband Sir Peyton Skipwith, in 1795. It was Ravenscroft who recommended carpenter, John Inge, to Sir Peyton Skipwith, as evidenced by a letter dated 28 September 1793 in which Ravenscroft states that he is sending Inge to Prestwoud. The

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staircase, mantels and chair rail at Prestwould are virtually identical to Spring Bank as are the Tuscan columns on the porch. Ravenscroft also recommended Inge to Armistead Burwell, his brother-in-law, when he built his home Woburn in Mecklenburg County which was completed ca. 1799. Another family house that appears to be associated with Shelor and Inge is Elm Hill built ca. 1800 in Mecklenburg County by Peyton Skipwith, Jr. He was the son of Sir Peyton and his first wife, Anne Miller, also Ravenscroft's aunt. Elm Hill, a frame dwelling, has stone foundation walls and chimneys like Spring Bank and the mantel in the front hall is identical to the mantel in the first-floor bedroom at Ravenscroft. The form of Elm Hill is also reminiscent of Spring Bank. It has a two-story, three-bay center block with one-story, one-bay flanking wings with open porches at the ends. The plan however is different from Spring Bank. While a single-pile dwelling, Elm Hill has a hall and parlor plan with a rear wing that contains the stair. Another house that may show evidence of Shelor and Inge's craftsmanship is Flat Rock in Lunenburg County. The original portions of Flat Rock were built ca. 1795 and expanded shortly thereafter. The original portion of the house was a hall and parlor plan set on a stone foundation. The mantels on the first story are more ornate than those found at Spring Bank but the second floor bedroom mantels are identical. Another house that may also be attributable to Inge is Reedy Creek built ca. 1790.

As is typical of builders and craftsmen of this era, little is known of the lives of Jacob Shelor and John Inge. It is believed that Jacob Shelor was born after 1753 in either Pennsylvania or Maryland. His father, Lawrence Shelor, arrived in Philadelphia from Hamburg, Germany on September 8, 1753. Women and children were not listed on the ship's manifest but Lawrence Shelor and his first wife, Margaretta, had five children, all born in Germany. By 1759, Lawrence Shelor had settled at Oley Valley in Berks County, Pennsylvania and after 1767, Margaretta's name no longer appears in the records of the Oley Reformed Church, Lutheran. Jacob and his sister Mary were born to Lawrence and his second wife, Mary Beatty. In 1778, Lawrence purchased land in Frederick County, Maryland. In 1782, Jacob and his brother Daniel moved to Floyd County, Virginia where Daniel operated an iron mine and furnace. Jacob married Elizabeth Ryland in 1801 and they had four children. One of their daughters, Sarah, married George L. Gee of Lunenburg County in 1819.

Shelor moved to South Carolina in the first decade of the 19th century where he engaged in the slave trade; he owned numerous slaves skilled in stone masonry. Jacob Shelor died in South Carolina around 1840. In addition to the three houses named above, Shelor is known to have built the Mecklenburg County Clerk's office in 1815. The small brick building was dismantled in 1839 when the courthouse was built. The bricks were used in the walk

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way in front of the courthouse.¹⁴ He is also believed to have constructed a large dam near Richmond (this may refer to Boshers's dam constructed in 1823).

John Inge was born in 1748 in King William County, Virginia to Vincent and Sarah Burras Inge. Vincent immigrated to New Kent County, Virginia from England in 1719 and Sarah was born in Hanover County, Virginia in 1729. In 1787, John Inge appeared on the tax rolls in Lunenburg County and in 1789 he married Frances Dance of Lunenburg. Their eldest son, Edward, was born in Lunenburg County; the next two daughters were born in Pittsylvania County; a third daughter was born in Brunswick County; and their last two sons were born in Mecklenburg County. While Inge seemed to move frequently, presumably from job to job, he does seem to have accumulated a degree of wealth as reflected in numerous deeds.¹⁵ By 1808, Inge appears to have settled in Pittsylvania County where he acquired 1,200 acres on the north fork of Sandy River. In January 1819, he married Nancy Overton Harris, the widow of Samuel Harris. John Inge died in January 1820 and was buried in Pittsylvania County. Inge's wood work has been described as having an "old-fashioned quality...It is also uniform throughout the house, contrasting with the more dramatic distinctions earlier joiners created among rooms."¹⁶ In addition to the three houses listed – Spring Bank, Prestwould and Woburn -- few other examples of Inge's work have been identified. Based on similarities in style, execution and time period, two other Lunenburg houses, Reedy Creek (ca. 1790) and Flat Rock (ca. 1795), can possibly be attributed to John Inge. Reedy Creek and Flat Rock were both built during the time period that Inge was actively working in Lunenburg, the woodwork shares many of the same late-Georgian features found at Spring Bank and Prestwould, and the woodwork at these two houses is uniform from room to room. More research is needed to definitively make this attribution.

Spring Bank is a rare high style dwelling in Lunenburg County and one of the few for which the craftsmen have been identified. Spring Bank posses high levels of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While the property has been diminished over the years, Spring Bank is still located in an unspoiled rural setting and is sited in such a way as to convey its importance as the heart of a large working plantation. Architecturally, the house has changed little since it was completed in 1793. The workmanship of highly skilled craftsmen is still visible in every aspect of Spring Bank's construction.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary description for Spring Bank is described as Parcel 4, tax id. # 52A-4.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary is that of the property still held by a single owner and that which preserves the primary elements of Spring Bank.

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Photographic Index

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Spring Bank (055-0017)
Location: Lunenburg County
Photographer: Kimberly M. Chen
Date: 5 November 2006
Digital Images File: Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

Photograph Inventory:

- 1 Main House, East Facade
- 2 Main House, West Facade
- 3 Dining Room, Looking Southwest
- 4 Parlor, Looking Northwest
- 5 Hall and Stair, Looking Southeast
- 6 Ice House Ruins
- 7 Family Cemetery
- 8 Spring House Ruins, Looking South
- 9 Tobacco Barn, Looking Southwest
- 10 Dam, Looking South

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End Notes for Section 8

¹ Three letters donated to the Virginia Historical society in 2002 establish the original name given to the home of John S. Ravenscroft and his first wife Anne Spotswood Burwell Ravenscroft. Two letters (25 Jan. 1794 and 5 April 1794) are from Anne S. Ravenscroft at SPRING BANK to Lady Jean Skipwith at Prestwoud. The other letter (27 Sept. 1807) is from John Wickham, a Petersburg attorney, addressed to John S. Ravenscroft, Esq. at SPRING BANK Lunenburg County.

² Robert Wiggins, "Magnolia Grove, Lunenburg County, Virginia." Historic American Building Survey, 1958 (Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 055-0017).

³ Richard R. Beeman, The Evolution of the Southern Backcountry. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984) p. 16.

⁴ Richard R. Beeman, "Social Change and Cultural Conflict in Virginia: Lunenburg County, 1746 to 1774" The William and Mary Quarterly: A Magazine of Early American History. (Third Series, Vol. XXXV, Number 3, July 1978) p. 457.

"there was no group in Lunenburg that could boast of disproportionately large holdings in either land or slaves. Over 93 percent of the 292 land sales within the county during the period 1746-1751 involved tracts of 600 acres or less. Four percent involved tracts of 601-1,000 acres, less than two percent, tracts of 1,001-2,000 acres, and only one-half of one percent -- two transactions in all -- dealt with parcels larger than 2,000 acres. Although nineteen land patents out of 447 granted during the same period exceeded 2,000 acres, all but three were to nonresidents. The great majority of the patents -- 84 percent -- involved tracts of less than 600 acres. Moreover, in a region where land was still plentiful and labor was in short supply, the scarcity of slave labor -- less than 20 percent of the population in 1750 -- made it unlikely that any resident would accumulate wealth on a scale comparable to that of the grandees of the tidewater and the Northern Neck."

⁵ Robert Andrew Parker, The Burwells of Kingsmill and Stoneland: An Account of an American Family 1633 – 1900, (Raleigh: privately printed by the author, 1997) p. 14.

⁶ Parker, p. 35.

⁷ Anderson.

⁸ Ibid.

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⁹ United States Census records, Lunenburg County 1850, household 687.

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Value of Real Estate
Ebenezer M. Hepburn	56	M	Farmer	\$21,021
Edward Goode	45	M	Miller	
Robert Swepson*	22	M	Merchant	
Philip Wallace	26	M	Manager	\$462
Mrs. C. Swepson**	32	F		
Martha Swepson***	22	F		
Mary Swepson***	18	F		
Unidentified	21	M		\$25,626
Unidentified	21	F		

*Charity Swepson Hepburn's brother

** Widow of Alexander Hepburn

***Charity Swepson Hepburn's sister

¹⁰ John Michael Vlach, Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery (Chapel Hill and London: the University of North Carolina Press, 1993), p. 8.

¹¹ Clifton Ellis, Chapter 2, pg. 23-40, "Dissenting Faith and Domestic Landscape in Eighteenth-Century Virginia" Annmarie Adams and Sally McMurray, ed. Exploring Everyday Landscapes: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, VII (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1997) p. 23.

¹² Ellis, p. 25.

¹³ Ellis, p. 33.

¹⁴ Susan L. Bracey, Life by the Roaring Roanoke: A History of Mecklenburg County, Virginia (The Mecklenburg County Bicentennial Commission, 1977) p. 202.

¹⁵ Sterling Anderson, Unpublished research on John Inge.

¹⁶ Edward Chappell, "Prestwold Architecture" Antiques, January 1995.

CHASE CITY QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 CHASE CITY 15' QUADRANGLE

5357 IV NE
(LUNENBURG)

729 730 25' 733 2 030 000 FEET 733

78° 22' 30"
36° 52' 30"



Spring Bank
(055-0017)
1) 730195 E
40827.21
2) 731402 E
4082782
3) 731287 E
4082780
4) 730414 E
408225
Zone 17

4083
190 000
FEET

4081

4080