

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name TETLEY other names/site number

2. Location

street & number North side Route 641 NA not for publication city, town Somerset X vicinity state Virginia code VA county Orange code 137 zip code 22972

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category at Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-rows for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: NA Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Hugh C. Miller Date: 20 Dec 1990 Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia 23219 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingDOMESTIC: secondary structures

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingDOMESTIC: secondary structures**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: FederalMid-19th Century: Greek Revival20th-Century Revival: Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Brickroof Wood: shingleother StoneWood: weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Tetley is a forty-five-acre farm located on the north side of Route 641 in western Orange County, Virginia. The main residence at Tetley, built about 1843, is a two-story, five-bay, hipped-roof brick house on an English basement. The house features Flemish bond brickwork on all four facades, Greek Revival window and door moldings, and two chimneys at the west and east gable ends and has elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival periods. Twentieth-century additions include the two-story, pedimented portico on the south, the two-bay, two-story wing on the west, and a polygonal bay on the north. The interior features a center stair hall with living rooms on the basement level. Many of the Greek Revival mantels, woodwork and some plaster ceiling medallions are original. The house is surrounded by formal box and flower gardens, and both the residence and grounds are in an excellent state of preservation. Also on the property are two ante bellum slave houses, a brick summer kitchen, and an unusual octagonal frame ice house.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Tetley is a forty-five-acre farm located on the north side of Route 641 in western Orange County, approximately six miles south of the county seat at Orange. The property's northern boundary is the Rapidan River, which separates Orange County from Madison County. The surrounding area is made up of large horse and cattle farms with many historic eighteenth-and-nineteenth century residences and is overwhelmingly rural. The house is approached by a long drive terminating in a circle in front of the house and is set among formal box and flower gardens, brick terraces and fruit trees.

The main residence at Tetley, built about 1843 in the transitional Federal/Greek Revival style by its owner Captain William Smith, is a two-story, five-bay, hipped-roof brick house on a high English basement. Flemish bond brickwork is used on all four facades, an unusual feature for a house of this late date. Windows have six-over-six sash with molded architrave, louvered shutters and Greek Revival lintels and plain corner blocks. The lintels and corner blocks are omitted on the second story of the south and east facades. On the basement level the windows have three-over-three sash and there are basement entrances on the east, south, and north facades. The front (south) entrance

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dates from the 1940s and features fluted pilasters, a door with six panels flanked by narrow vertical sidelights, and a deeply molded segmental arch with leaded fanlight muntins. Above this is another door on the second story which apparently once led out onto the original porch roof; the door has three-light sidelights, a five-light rectangular transom, and shallow ornamental railing.

The portico dates from the 1940s and replaced a turn-of-the-century one-story Colonial Revival porch, that itself replaced a large Greek Revival porch. The present portico features a high brick basement pierced by segmental-arched openings, two-story Ionic columns and pilasters, and a pedimented gable front with an oval Gibbs-style window. An iron railing extends across the front of the portico and an ornate wrought-iron gate covers the center opening of the basement level. Curved granite and brick steps with iron railings extend from the right and left sides of the portico; these also date from the 1940s.

The north (garden) facade features a one-story, two-bay Colonial Revival-period porch (probably built in the early 1900s) supported by Doric columns and bracketed and dentilled eaves. To the east of this is a projecting polygonal bay featuring a modern picture window flanked by tall casement windows with brick jack arches. The bracketed and dentilled eaves of this bay suggest it is from the same period as the porch. At the basement level there are wide segmental-arched openings topped by white, painted wooden keystones.

The two-bay east wing is original, although its one-story height was raised an additional story in the 1940s remodeling. Flemish bond brickwork is used here as well, and the window and door trim are identical to that of the main block. The two-story, two-bay west wing dates entirely from the 1940s and mimics the older wing in the use of Flemish bond, Greek architrave moldings, and scale. At the gable end are three French doors with arched heads that lead out to the terraces and gardens on the west.

The interior of Tetley features a central stair hall with living rooms on the first floor, bedrooms on the second, and service rooms on the basement level. The stair hall extends the full length of the house and features original baseboard and architrave trim from the Greek Revival period. The stair rises in two stages from the rear right corner and features a molded handrail, turned newel with square base, and two rectangular-section balusters per tread. The stair appears to be entirely original. At the end of the stair hall is a door to the outside as well as a door to the dining room.

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The dining room features a large bay window at the north end. The chair rail and baseboard are largely original. The arched cupboards at the south end date from the 1940s remodeling, as does the plaster ceiling medallion (the other ceiling medallions in the house including those in the center hall and bedrooms are original). The Greek Revival style mantel features paired colonettes, a paneled frieze with beaded trim, and a wide stepped mantel shelf with projecting corners.

Next to the dining room is the present study, which retains little of its original appearance, having been altered extensively in the 1940s. Each wall is either paneled or covered with built-in bookshelves. On the east wall is a stone fireplace of Elizabethan design with a Tudor arch, Tudor roses in the spandrel, and a cushion frieze. On the other side of the hall is the drawing room, which extends the full length of the house. The fireplace features another stone mantel of Elizabethan design with a Tudor arch and bolection molding. Otherwise, baseboard and architrave trim are all original. French doors lead from this room to the modern wing, which now contains an artist's studio. On the north wall is a massive stone fireplace with a mantel and hood in the French renaissance style. The first floor of the east wing is now taken up by the kitchen and pantry, as well as a back stair.

The bedrooms on the second floor are entered from the wide central hall. All the interior doors are original and have been grained. The two front bedrooms feature Greek Revival mantels with fluted pilasters, beaded trim, and projecting mantel shelves. The ceiling medallions are original as well. The right, rear bedroom features a simpler, Federal-style mantel. A cross passage was inserted on the east when the roof was raised and now leads to two modern bedrooms and baths.

Outbuildings: Tetley also contains a good collection of mid-nineteenth century outbuildings.

Kitchen- To the east of the house and connected to it by a high brick wall (mid-twentieth century) is a one-story, gable-roofed, brick summer kitchen, most probably contemporaneous with the main house. It features nine-over-nine sash windows on the north, south and east facades, a simple box cornice, plain door and window trim and an entrance on the west gable end. Now used as a work and tool shed, the interior has been altered, but still retains the original brick cooking hearth and beams overhead.

Icehouse- North of the house and incorporated into the formal garden is a one-story octagonal ice-house built on a high rubble stone foundation and topped with an eight-side roof with finial. It was probably built after the Civil War and appears unaltered. There is a door with vertical planks

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on the south facade and louvered windows on the east and west, along with some simple trim and a plain cornice. The interior is excavated several feet below ground level and is open to the rafters.

Slave houses: To the west of the ice house are two ante bellum slave houses of frame construction. The first has an off-center south door with four-over-four sash windows on each facade. Some of these windows appear to be replacements, as does much of the window trim. This house is in derelict but largely unaltered condition. The second house is slightly larger and features an off-center door on the south, four-over-four sash windows, as well as an additional window at the east gable end of the attic and a brick and stone chimney on the west end. It has been recently renovated for use as a bath house and retains considerably less original material than the other slave house. The door, some of the siding, the roof, and the chimney have all been altered, and the interior has been altered by the addition of plumbing and changing rooms.

The three non-contributing buildings at Tetley date from the mid-twentieth century and include two garages and a tenant house. They are separated from the rest of the grounds and house by a high brick wall.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1843-1940

Significant Dates

1843

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Tetley is architecturally significant as a well-preserved antebellum Virginia house with Federal and Greek Revival detailing. Built about 1843 by Captain William Smith as the seat of his one-thousand acre plantation, Tetley reflects the prosperity and architectural sophistication of its owner. Among the features that distinguish it from simpler houses of this period are the use of Flemish bond brickwork on all four facades, ornate plaster ceiling medallions (some of which were duplicated in a 1940s remodeling) and the well-executed Greek Revival style wood trim on the exterior. Tetley also has a good collection of mid and late nineteenth century outbuildings, including a highly unusual octagonal icehouse.

HISTORY:

The Tetley tract, presently forty-five acres, was once part of the twenty-four-thousand-acre Octonia grant, patented in the early 1720s by eight business and political associates of Governor Alexander Spotswood. This grant, which extended across much of present day Greene and Orange counties with the Rapidan River as its northern boundary, had been explored by Spotswood and his Knights of the Golden Horseshoe during their famous expedition in 1716. The land was repatented in 1729 by Robert Beverley, one of the original patentees, and there was scattered settlement near present-day Tetley in the 1730-1750 period. Between 1765 and 1766 the Beverley holdings were sold at auction and a small tract of eighty²one acres, on which Tetley now stands, was bought by Benjamin Johnson. A 1769 deed for an adjacent tract referred to "the old race ground" at Tetley, indicating that the Beverley family may have run races on the property.

Johnson's land was purchased by Captain William Smith (1779?-1856), a native of Great Britain, and added to his other holdings to form a "home tract" that included acreage in both Orange and Madison counties.⁴ Smith was one of western

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Orange County's largest landholders, buying several large tracts during the 1820-1850 period, among them an eighty-acre parcel for eight-hundred dollars from his immediate neighbor, former President James Madison, in 1820.⁵ Smith apparently moved to Orange County from Madison County in the late 1700s and was mentioned in the court order books of 1797 as providing security for an ordinary license granted to Thomas Bell.⁶ In 1805 the court ordered that "William Smith be recommended to the Governor and henceforth commissioned captain of a company of Cavalry attached to the Third Regiment of the Militia of Virginia."

The Orange County land tax records for 1842 show that Smith owned twelve separate tracts, with improvements listed on three of them. Improvements were listed on the "home tract" during several years: \$300 in 1828, \$1,720 in 1832, and \$1500 in 1840.⁸ These figures lend credence to the oft-asserted theory that the present house replaced a much earlier frame residence built by Smith. A county history refers to a violent windstorm in 1810 which destroyed a barn at Tetley and damaged the house.

The county land tax records also show \$5000 added for improvements in 1843, indicating that the present two-story brick house at Tetley was finished that year.¹⁰ The summer kitchen appears to date from shortly thereafter. Tax records do not provide dates for the construction of the other outbuildings at Tetley but it is assumed that the two frame outbuildings were built as slave houses before the Civil War. Smith's 1856 will referred to his house, and the account of sales and accompanying deed to Charles Stoven in 1857 refer to the "Mansion House tract . . . on which the late William Smith resided."¹¹ The inventory of Smith's estate indicated the fortune in land, slaves and personal property he had acquired during his lifetime. Among the many items listed were a piano, old maps and prints, clocks, silver, several rooms full of furniture, and a "new" buggy and harness.¹² He also owned fifty-eight slaves at a total value of more than \$100,000, most of whom were divided among several collateral relatives and friends (Smith died unmarried), although a few house servants were freed.¹³

The house and 1307 acres were purchased by Charles Stoven (1809-1895) who named his house Tetley after his family estate Tetley Hall in Lincolnshire, England. It remained in the Stoven family until 1907 and in 1944 it was purchase by the Eriksen family.¹⁴ They were responsible for extensive additions to Tetley including the south portico, west wing, and much of the terraced gardens. The present owner, a well-known artist, bought Tetley in 1984 and has continued to make improvements including the gardens to the west and renovations to the numerous outbuildings on the property. Only forty-five acres were bought by the present owner; the rest of the extensive farm, with its many pastures barns and other outbuildings was acquired by Somerset Farms, Inc.

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The brick house built by Smith displays characteristics of both the Federal and Greek revival periods of architecture. Among the features that distinguish Tetley from other simpler contemporaries include the use of Flemish bond brickwork on all four facades, the elaborate and well-executed plaster ceiling medallions, and Greek Revival exterior woodwork. Of special interest is Tetley's resemblance to four other Orange County houses from this period: Monteith (built about 1844); Beaumont (circa 1855-1857); Merriewood (1856); and Edgewood (circa 1852). All five houses have an English basement with three-over-three windows, a center door with five-light transoms and three-light sidelights (the present arched entrance at Tetley is later), Greek lintels with plain corner blocks, and similar floor plans. Each of the last four houses was designed and built by Major William A. Jennings, a master builder who lived at Merriewood, near Somerset.¹⁵ If Tetley was indeed designed by Jennings, it is a rare example of a mid-nineteenth century Orange County residence with a known builder/architect.

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REFERENCES:

- 1- Ulysses P. Joyner Jr., Orange County Land Patents (Orange: Orange County Historical Society), 1985, page 22.
- 2- J. Randolph Grymes, Octonia Grant (Ruckersville: Seminole Press), 1977, page 12.
- 3- Ibid., page 28.
- 4- Orange County Land Records, Deed Book 16, page 91.
- 5- Orange County Land Records, Deed Book 32, page 571.
- 6- Orange County Order Book 25, page 38.
- 7- Orange County Order Book 4, page 667.
- 8- Orange County Property Tax records, 1828, 1832 and 1840.
- 9- William W. Scott, A History of Orange County Virginia, (Richmond: E Waddey 1907, page 279.
- 10- Orange County Property Tax records: 1843.
- 11- Orange County Land Records, Deed Book 44, page 428.
- 12- Orange County Will Book 12, pages 280-284.
- 13- Orange County Will Book 12, pages 267-272.
- 14- Orange County Land Records, Deed Book 122, page 63.
- 15- Ann L. Miller, Ante-Bellum Orange (Orange: Moss Publications) 1988, pages 57, 62, 84, 88, and 106.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Grymes, J. Randolph. Octonia Grant. Ruckersville: Seminole Press, 1977.
- Joyner, Ulysses P. Orange County Land Patents. Orange: Orange County Historical Society, 1985.
- Miller, Ann L. Antebellum Orange. Orange: Moss Publications, 1988.
- Orange County Land Records, Orange.
- Orange County Order Books, Orange.
- Orange County Processioner's Reports, Orange.
- Orange County Property Tax Records (microfilm), Orange.
- Orange County Will Books, Orange.
- Scott, William W. A History of Orange County Virginia. Richmond: E. Waddey, 190
- Sehring, Adolph. Owner of Tetley, Somerset, Virginia.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 45 acres

UTM References

A 17 745000 4235980
 Zone Easting Northing

C 17 744530 4235460

B 17 745070 4235610
 Zone Easting Northing

D 17 744270 4235900

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A 17/745000/4235980, B 17/745070/4235610, C 17/744530/4235460, D 17/744270/4235900, E 17/744580/4236060.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property form the nucleus of the tract upon which Captain William Smith constructed the main house about 1843. They also include the resources historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry

organization _____ date _____

street & number 1515 Rutledge Avenue telephone 804-293-8006

city or town Charlottesville, Virginia state _____ zip code 22903

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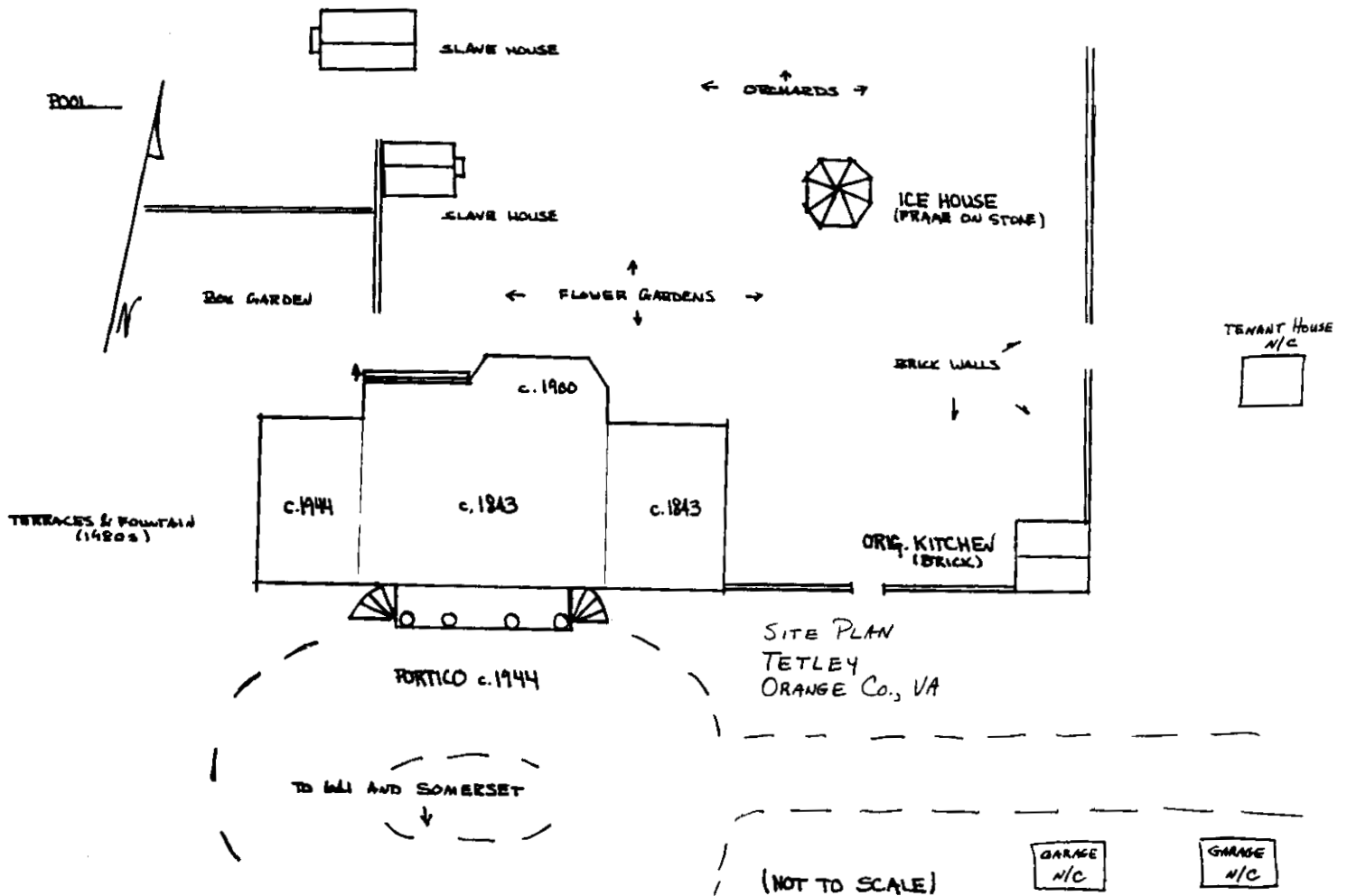
UTM References, continued

E 17/744580/4236060

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(ROCHELLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TETLEY PLANTATION
SOMERSET, VA

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

78° 15' 38" 15' E 741000m 742 743 2080000 FEET (SOUTH) 744 12'30" 745 (MA)

TETLEY
ORANGE CO.

UTM REFERENCES

- A: 17|745000|4235980
- B: 17|745070|4235610
- C: 17|744530|4235460
- D: 17|744270|4235900
- E: 17|744580|4236060

690 000 FEET
(SOUTH)

