

VLR-6/17/75 NRHP-5/19/80

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Surry
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	1/23/80

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rich Neck Farm (Preferred)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Rich Neck; Richneck Plantation

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .8 mile east of Mill Farm Run; northwest side of Route 633;
1.3 miles northeast of intersection of Route 633 and Route 616.

CITY OR TOWN: (Surry vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth (Robert W. Daniel)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Surry CODE: 181

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BuildingS <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments house empty

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Frank W. and Sue W. Jones

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 31

CITY OR TOWN: Surry STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Surry County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Surry STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see continuation sheet #1)

TITLE OF SURVEY: (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Surry
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>Situated amid the flat farmlands of Surry County a mile from the James River, Rich Neck possesses a distinguished assemblage of buildings with many striking and unusual features. Approached along a long, straight drive, the house is shaded by several large trees. Two large granaries flank the drive and behind the house are several minor outbuildings. A slight wooded slope falls away behind the house.</p> <p>The Rich Neck plantation house is a story-and-a-half, gambrel-roofed brick building laid in three-course American bond. It is set on a high basement which has no water table but is lit by double grills with horizontal wooden mullions, spanned by jack arches. There are five bays of openings across the front of the house, but only three across the rear. All of the first-floor windows have nine-over-nine sash and stuccoed jack arches; the shed dormers in the steep lower slopes of the gambrel have six-over-six sash. Two exterior end chimneys with corbelled caps and stepped weatherings stand at each end, and between each pair, a pent projects. That on the east end has been converted into a bathroom; in the west pent are an exterior entrance and a buttery. A houndstooth brick cornice is used at the eaves of the main block and of the pents, and the gables of the house are parapeted. The lower slope of the roof is covered with round-butted wood shingles, and the upper slopes are roofed with standing-seam sheet metal.</p> <p>Rich Neck has a double-pile plan with a central passage. The passage is divided laterally by a doorway behind which it broadens to accommodate a two-run, open-well stair. This is very simple, having an open string, two rectangular balusters to a tread, an oval banister, and a square beaded newel which runs the full height of the first floor.</p> <p>The east parlor, like the rest of the first-floor rooms and the passage, has a molded chair rail and wainscoting throughout. The mantel is embellished with fluted pilasters framing the fireplace opening, a tall frieze with a central tablet flanked by molded panels, and a deep, heavily molded shelf. The architrave surround is diagonally reeded, and the firebox has been filled in to accommodate a stovepipe.</p> <p>There is a similar but less elaborate mantel in the west parlor. The central tablet is omitted, and the frieze is decorated with a single horizontal molded panel. The fluting on the pilasters is more delicate, and the reeding is absent from the surround. From this parlor, one enters the buttery in the pent, which retains its original shelving.</p> <p>The rear rooms have plainer mantels similar to those in the front. All of the mantels on the second floor are alike. They have architrave surrounds under a single horizontal recessed panel and an unmolded shelf.</p> <p>The plan of the second floor is similar to the first. However, the single-run closed stair to the attic rises from the front part of the passage.</p> <p>The basement is entered from the center bay of the rear and consists of four rooms and an entrance vestibule. All of the doorways have handsome batten doors with large wrought HL hinges and wooden box locks, some of (see continuation sheet #2)</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rich Neck, with its handsome farmstead set in the midst of a broad, open field, presents a vivid impression of life on a prosperous but unpretentious plantation in early-nineteenth-century Southside Virginia. Long connected with the Ruffins, one of the prominent families of Southside Virginia, Rich Neck possesses a collection of buildings which are among the best preserved and most noteworthy of their type in the region.

A 550-acre tract, which included the present Rich Neck, was granted to William Nusum in 1636. Of this grant, 275 acres came into the possession of Robert Ruffin sometime before 1675. Rich Neck was owned by the Ruffins until 1865.

The Ruffin family figured in Virginia's social and intellectual history throughout the colonial and early national periods. Its most notable member was Edmund Ruffin, an agricultural pioneer and Southern nationalist during the War between the States and a descendant of several early residents of the Rich Neck plantation. In addition, the Ruffins were connected to such other prominent families as the Harrisons, the Skipwiths, and the Cokes.

It was probably during the tenure of William E. B. Ruffin, who was a minor when he inherited Rich Neck in 1802, that the present house was built. With its parapeted gables, its shed dormers, its houndstooth cornice and its vertical emphasis, features commonly associated with seventeenth-century American buildings, the Rich Neck house is a good example of the reversion to these pre-Georgian forms in the early nineteenth century. Its decoration, though plain, is almost entirely intact, as are its minor details, such as its sash, hardware, and doors.

The granaries at Rich Neck are of as antiquated a form as the house. They use a "tilted false plate" framing system in which the rafters are notched over a square "false plate" which is set diagonally on the ends of the tie beams. These are in turn half-lapped and cantilevered out over the wall plate. This form of construction ceased to be used in Virginia houses in the first quarter of the eighteenth century. While the date of these granaries is uncertain (they may predate the house, but it is possible, on the evidence of the nails and the mortar joints in the underpinning, that they are contemporary with it), it is evident that they are at any rate very late examples of the use of this feature. They appear to be antiquated as well in their ten-foot bays, a feature found in many excavated (see continuation sheet #3)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry, R. B. Ruffin and Other Genealogies. 1918.
 "Ruffin Family," William and Mary Quarterly, 1st Series. Vol. 18, 1910.
 Stephenson, Mary A. Old Homes in Surry and Sussex Counties. 1942.
 Surry County Deed Books.
 Surry County Will Books.
 Upton, D. T., ms. Title Search, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Surry, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	3, 4, 4	4, 1, 0	4, 1, 1, 0	0, 8, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					
E					
G					

B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
D					
F					
H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION : Beginning at a point on N side of State Route 633, about 4400' SE of the confluence of College Run and Mill Farm Run; thence extending about 350' NW, crossing private drive; thence extending about 650' NE across open field; thence extending about 500' SE to N side of 633; thence extending about 700' SW along

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (see Continuation Sheet #1)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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NAME AND TITLE:

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

June 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date

JUN 17 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

I C T I O N S

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Surry	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Rich Neck Farm, Surry Co., Va.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1975 State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia code: 51

10. Geographical Data

VBD: (cont'd) said side to point of origin.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Virginia
COUNTY	Surry
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Rich Neck Farm, Surry Co., Va.

7. DESCRIPTION

which have been removed. There is a fireplace in the southeast room and relieving arches are at the chimney bases in the other three rooms. The centering used to construct these arches is still in place.

The house is remarkable for the number of original accessory features which survive. Much original sash, most of the doors, hinges (many with their leather washers), locks, and other hardware remain.

The outbuildings at Rich Neck add to the plantation's importance. This is especially true of the two granaries. These buildings are both approximately 20 by 40 feet, set on brick piers. They retain much of their original beaded weatherboarding. They take the form of three-bay, side-opening English barns but are in reality divided into two equal, non-communicating compartments, approximately 20 by 20 by 10 feet. Both use an antiquated "tilted false plate" form of construction, with the rafters resting on a square timber set diagonally and supported by the ends of the tie beams which are cantilevered over the plate. There is a pole lean-to attached to the south end of the east granary, and the west granary has been enlarged by the addition of a full-length pole lean-to ell across the rear.

Behind the house are a nineteenth-century smokehouse, an early- and mid-nineteenth-century office, an outhouse, a well house, and a chicken house, all built in the twentieth century. All of these are frame buildings.

DTU

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION The boundaries have been drawn to include the dwelling house, significant outbuildings and the approach from the county road.

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

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Surrey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

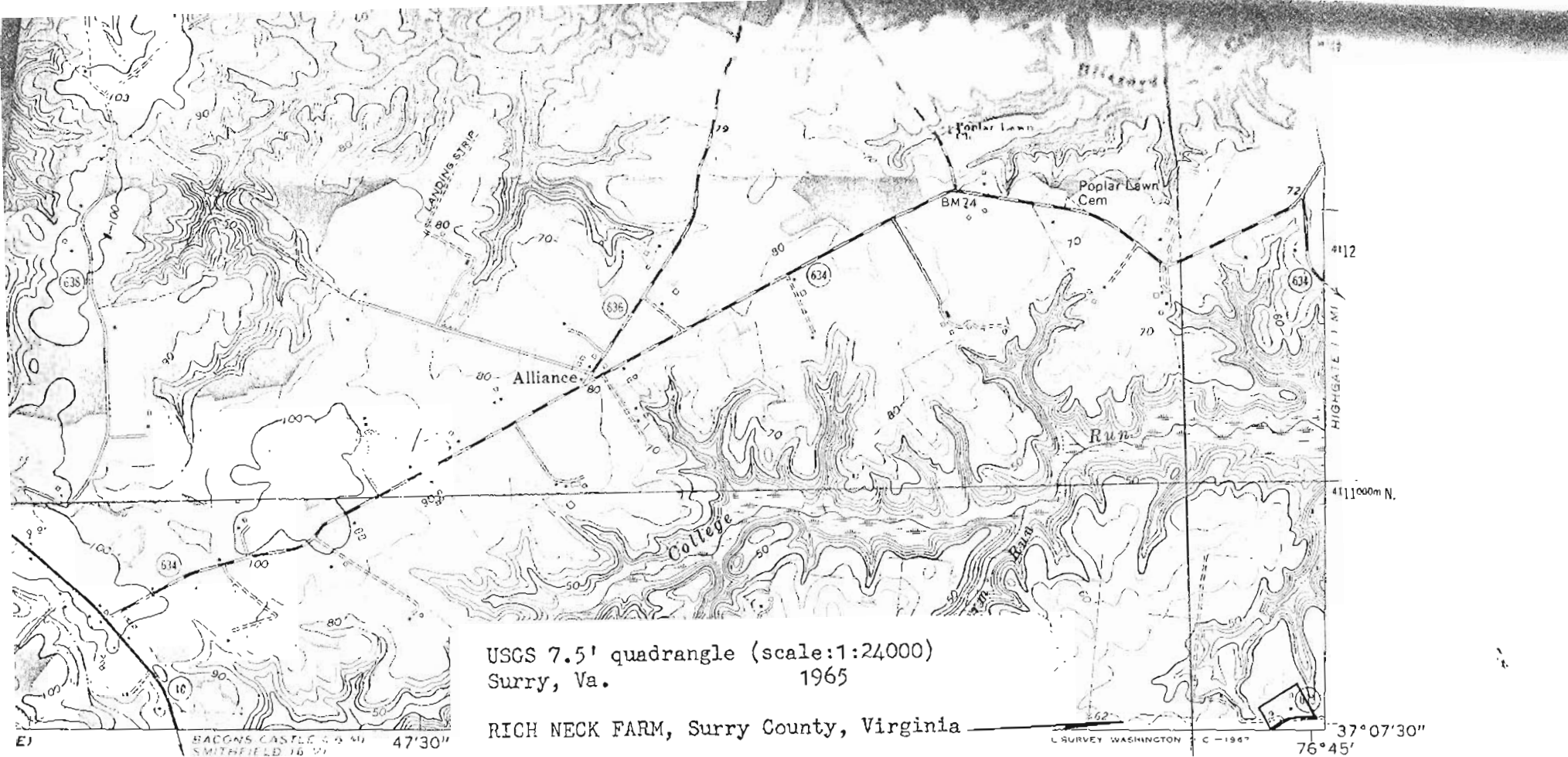
(Number all entries)

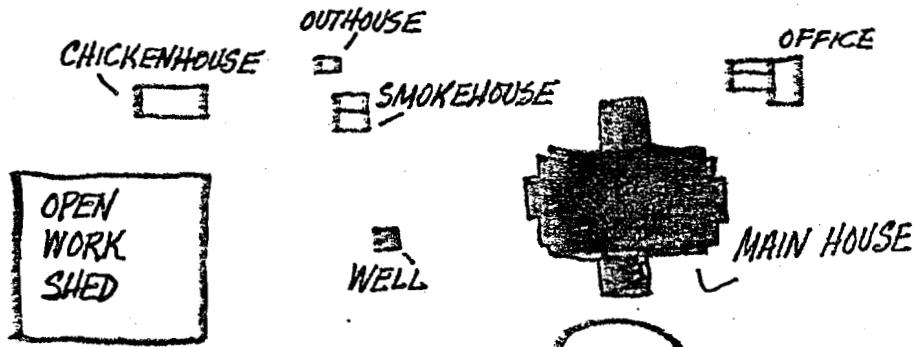
8. SIGNIFICANCE

seventeenth-century sites in Tidewater Virginia, but not so regularly in later buildings. Finally, their use of the side-opening "English barn" model is unusual in a region in which end-opening buildings, often with side lean-tos, are the rule for granaries, cribs, and other large outbuildings.

William E. B. Ruffin was the last of his family to reside at Rich Neck. After his death in 1860, it was necessary to sell the plantation to the Jacob Faulcon estate to satisfy a debt. It was purchased at auction by William A. Warren in 1881 and descended to Walker P. Warren as one of a group of five important Surry County farms which included Bacon's Castle. Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Jones purchased Rich Neck in 1973.

DTU





RICH NECK FARM
SURRY CO., VA.
SKETCH MAP--
NOT TO SCALE

VHLC-1975

ROUTE 633