

VLR-4/28/95 NR-HP-4/7/95

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 Hunting Quarter

other names/site number VDHR File No. 91-31

2. Location

street & number SR 632, S of jct. w/SR 608 not for publication N/A
city or town Waverly vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Sussex code 183 zip code 23890

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 statewide X Locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julie A. [Signature] Date 3/1/95
Signature of certifying official/Title

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SURVEY & REGISTER
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of Keeper _____ Date _____
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u> objects	
<u>8</u>	<u>3</u> Total	

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
FUNERARY Secondary structure
Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
FUNERARY Secondary structure
Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD: weatherboard
roof STONE: slate
METAL: tin
other _____

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1745-1887

Significant Dates 1745
1775
1887

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 49 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	301430	4082520	2	18	302050 4082430
3	18	302000	4082130	4	18	301380 4082210

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Jane Crisler
organization Mary Washington College date 1/4/1992
street & number 11809 Grenadier Court telephone 703-250-5331
city or town Fairfax Station state VA zip code 22039

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name/title William J. and Pauline Ellis
street & number Route 4, Box 175 telephone _____
city or town Waverly state VA zip code 23890

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Hunting Quarter
Sussex County, Virginia

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Hunting Quarter is a 517-acre farm located on State Route 632 in Sussex County, Virginia. Two noncontributing mid-twentieth-century masonry gateposts mark the entrance to the farm. Situated atop a low hill is the mid- to late-eighteenth-century, single-pile, one-and-one-half-story, frame house with a gambrel roof, two exterior end chimneys, and a rear ell added in 1887; two small porches were added in the twentieth century. Like many houses constructed in Virginia's southeastern counties, its exterior is relatively plain, while its interior contains stylish Georgian-style woodwork. In addition to the dwelling at Hunting Quarter there is one contributing outbuilding, a small frame smokehouse. A noncontributing mid-twentieth-century barn stands between the residence and the nineteenth-century Harrison family cemetery. Hunting Quarter was the home of several descendants of Benjamin Harrison, of Berkeley, in Charles City County, Virginia. Other Harrison family sites listed in the National Register include Berkeley, as well as Brandon, in Prince George County, Virginia. A slave cemetery lies about four hundred yards east of the house. The contributing sites of four outbuildings are located near the dwelling: the kitchen and office sites to the east, and the sites of the schoolhouse and an outbuilding of unknown function to the west.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The historic residence at Hunting Quarter was constructed in two distinct phases. The main portion of the house is a fifty-six-by-eighteen-foot, timber-frame, one-and-one-half-story dwelling built over a raised brick basement with a gambrel roof and two exterior gable end chimneys. One-story pent closets with shed roofs flank either side of both chimneys. The house's plain, symmetrical, exterior has five bays and is covered with beaded weatherboards.

Historical records do not reveal a precise date for the first construction of Hunting Quarter. Structural features and design, however, suggest a building date in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The Flemish-bond brick foundation supports a hewn timber frame with wrought nails visible in the original floor joists. The symmetrical fenestration of the principal elevation and single-pile, central-passage plan of Hunting Quarter are also common to eighteenth-century Tidewater domestic architecture.

The chimneys reflect two periods of construction or rebuilding. The brickwork on the lower courses matches the Flemish-bond foundation. However, the bricks above the first floor are a lighter shade and are laid in common bond. Also, the mortar in the Flemish-bond portion is heavily weathered. These distinctions may indicate the roof was raised, a common practice in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, to create more living space at Hunting Quarter.

The house was enlarged in 1887 with a forty-five-by-fifteen-foot rear ell extending from the north facade. The frame addition rests on brick piers and is capped by a standing-seam metal

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Hunting Quarter
Sussex County, Virginia

roof with a small, brick stove flue. The north elevation also includes a sixteen-by-eight-foot enclosed porch built on a cinder block foundation and covered with aluminum siding. A carport was added to the rear ell in the mid-twentieth century.

The principal elevation of the structure faces south. Its main entrance contains a set of four-panel, wooden, double doors with no sidelights or transom. The doors, believed to be original to the house, are sheltered by a mid-twentieth-century, ten-by-eight-foot, pedimented, simple frame porch that rests on a cinder block foundation. The four window bays contain nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows.

Two pent closets extend out to the same plane as the exterior end chimney on the first floor of the west facade. Each closet is covered with a slate shed roof. The southwest closet contains a two-over-two, single-hung sash window. Outside the northwest closet, a batten door opens into bulkhead entrance to the raised basement.

Hunting Quarter's east elevation is very similar to its west elevation. The northeast closet contains a six-panel exterior door which, at one time, may have provided access to a kitchen building that no longer exists. The southeast closet, like its counterpart at the other end of the house, contains a two-over-two, single-hung sash window.

The interior of Hunting Quarter contrasts with the exterior's lack of ornamentation. The central passage of the first floor contains an enclosed straight-run staircase in the northwest corner, with a closet underneath. The doors, hinges, and pine flooring in the central passage are, as in the east and west chambers, generally original. Each room has a ten-foot-high ceiling with identical, plain, eight-inch baseboards, twenty-one-inch paneled wainscots, and seven-inch chair rails. The moldings and door surrounds, which present a low-relief, uncomplicated profile, are identical in each room. The doors leading to the east and west chambers, also typical throughout the house, have four panels. The plaster, which had deteriorated over two decades when the house stood vacant, was replaced by plasterboard during an interior restoration in the early 1980s.

The west chamber, now a living room, contains the most elaborate architectural details in the house. A mantel with fluted Doric pilasters and raised panels below and above a simple shelf is positioned between the doors of the pent closets. A hand-carved, molded cornice with alternating small brackets and round beads also decorates the room. These stylized architectural components, however, possess a simple, non-academic quality.

The east chamber, now a dining room, though similar to the west chamber, is less formal. The room has no decorative cornice and the mantel lacks pilasters but does feature raised panels below and above the simple shelf. Access to the nineteenth-century rear ell was gained by changing a window into a door. The southeast pent closet has a six-panel door, the closet side of which is grained.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Hunting Quarter
Sussex County, Virginia

The plan of the second floor mirrors the first. However, a partition wall divides the passage to create a small bedchamber. The west wall of that room contains a small closet, the interior of which is paneled to chair rail height. The woodwork in each second-floor chamber resembles that of the first floor. Each room contains a nine-inch flat baseboard, twenty-five-inch paneled wainscot, and a two-inch flat chair rail. The fireplace mantels of the east and west bedchambers, less formal than those found below, are composed of plain, rudimentary, wooden panels framed by architrave trim with a high shelf above. The plaster throughout the upper story is original.

The severely weathered smokehouse stands immediately southeast of the dwelling. It is a one-story, one-bay, wood-frame structure with a wood-shingled gable roof. Because the structure was framed with hewn timbers and wrought nails, this outbuilding may have been built at approximately the same period as the main dwelling; the smokehouse has been little changed.

East and west of the main residence are the sites of four outbuildings: a kitchen and an office (east) and the schoolhouse and an outbuilding of undetermined function (west). Approximately one hundred yards north of the dwelling are eleven Harrison family graves surrounded by brick walls and an iron gate. These graves, including that of Henry Harrison, "last of the name of Henry, son of Benjamin Harrison of Berkely," date from 1807 to 1856. A slave cemetery, which contains no grave markers, is located about four hundred yards to the east of the house.

In 1976, the present owners constructed a noncontributing wood-frame barn between the main residence and graveyard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Hunting Quarter
Sussex County, Virginia

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hunting Quarter, located in rural Sussex County, Virginia, probably was built by Henry Harrison sometime between 1745 and 1772. Although one addition was made to the main residence soon after the property was sold out of the Harrison family in 1887, and other small changes were made in the twentieth century, the house maintains its rural character and has a high degree of integrity. Hunting Quarter's non-academic interpretation of some classical architectural features adds to its architectural interest. Hunting Quarter is an increasingly rare example of a gambrel-roofed, vernacular, eighteenth-century farmhouse.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land on which Hunting Quarter is located was first mentioned in the private notebook of Major William N. Blow as owned by Henry Harrison, of Sussex County (1693-1732).¹ Harrison left the land to his nephew Benjamin Harrison IV, of Berkeley.² Benjamin Harrison IV, whose will was probated in 1745, bequeathed this land "on the south side of the Nottoway River by Peter's Bridge" to his son, Captain Henry Harrison and "his heirs forever." Captain Henry was the brother of Benjamin Harrison V, of Berkeley, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the father of President William Henry Harrison, and a grandfather of President Benjamin Harrison. Sometime between 1745 and his death in 1772, Captain Henry Harrison constructed the residence now known as Hunting Quarter.

Less well known than his famous relatives, Harrison made his own mark. Stationed at Fort Duquesne during the French and Indian War, he served under Major General Edward Braddock and later under Lieutenant Colonel George Washington. In peacetime Virginia, Harrison was known as a breeder of Thoroughbred horses that gained fame in the mid-eighteenth century. Silver Heels, perhaps his most famous race horse, is listed among other Thoroughbreds in the inventory taken of his estate after his death in 1772.

Although Henry Harrison was the builder and first owner of Hunting Quarter, its exact date of construction is not certain. In 1772, Captain Harrison died intestate, and the county court appointed his brother Nathaniel Harrison as administrator of the property.³ According to Sussex County land records, Nathaniel Harrison transferred ownership to Captain Harrison's son, Henry Harrison, in 1783. Henry Harrison, who married Mary Starke Cocke, of Surry County, in 1785, also died intestate in 1798.⁴ His son, Henry J. Harrison, who married, first, Anna Bland, and, after her death her sister Harriet Bland, lived on the property until his death in 1853.⁵ His gravestone, located in the family cemetery behind the main residence, reads, "In Memory of Henry J. Harrison, son of Benjamin Harrison of Berkely who first settled this land under the Colonial government." Like his father and grandfather, Henry J. Harrison died intestate; the property was inherited by his cousin, Henry Harrison. When he and his wife, Frances Tabb Burwell, sold Hunting Quarter in 1887 to Joseph T. Deal, they ended a Harrison family association with the property that spanned more than a century.⁶ Deal sold the farm to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

**Hunting Quarter
Sussex County, Virginia**

Hawkins family in 1890. The Hawkinses retained possession of Hunting Quarter until they sold it to the present owners, William and Pauline Ellis, in 1977.⁷

While Hunting Quarter's association with the Harrison family is an important aspect of the property's long history, the information it provides about eighteenth-century Virginia's social and economic development is more significant. Despite the wealth and importance of the Harrison family in early Virginia, Hunting Quarter is a relatively unimposing residence. Its small scale is characteristic of Virginia's rural vernacular architecture in the eighteenth century.⁸

Captain Henry Harrison was the third son of wealthy Benjamin Harrison; thus, he inherited a smaller portion of the family land than his brothers. Although Captain Harrison became one of the most affluent gentlemen in Sussex County, he chose to build on a modest scale rather than construct a more elaborate dwelling.⁹ He did, however, include vernacular renditions of some of the architectural features found in the houses of wealthier planters. The fluted pilasters of the mantel and the carved wooden cornice in the west chamber, for example, are rural interpretations of the classical architectural details used in the finer eighteenth-century Virginia houses.

The lack of significant alterations made to the main residence during the Harrison occupation is another important feature of Hunting Quarter. Although the roof was likely altered from a gable to a gambrel to create more living space, the interior architectural features were never significantly changed.

Hunting Quarter's isolation from urban centers--typical of eighteenth-century farms--helped create a relatively self-sufficient plantation whose characteristics have changed but little over more than two centuries. Inventories taken of the estate in 1772, 1798, and 1853, for instance, record much of the same furniture and household possessions, such as twenty-three black walnut chairs and blue damask curtains. These inventories also reveal that throughout the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the Harrisons owned between thirty and forty slaves who grew corn and wheat while raising cattle, horses, hogs, pigs, and sheep. Today, the land is still farmed and remains seemingly remote from the modern world.

Today, Hunting Quarter stands amid its fields and woodlots much as it did two centuries ago. Its architectural integrity, in addition to its setting, makes Hunting Quarter a significant resource for the study of rural Virginia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Hunting Quarter
Sussex County, Virginia

ENDNOTES

1. The notebook of Major William N. Blow is in the possession of the present owner of Hunting Quarter, Mrs. Pauline Ellis.
2. From the private notebook of Major William N. Blow. Major Blow kept a family record of his neighbors, the Harrisons, recording each family member's birth and death dates, and place of residence.
3. Sussex County, Will Book C, Sussex County Courthouse, Sussex Court House, Va.
4. Sussex County, Will Book F, Sussex County Courthouse, Sussex Court House, Va.
5. Sussex County, Will Book Q, Sussex County Courthouse, Sussex Court House, Va.
6. Sussex County, Deed Book 5, Sussex County Courthouse, Sussex Court House, Va.
7. Sussex County, Deed Book 7, Sussex County Courthouse, Sussex Court House, Va.
8. Richard R. Beeman, *The Evolution of the Southern Backcountry: A Case Study of Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1746-1832* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984), 4.
9. Ibid.

