

VLR- 9/18/73 NRHP- 12/4/73

Form 10-590
(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: Colonial Heights (city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ellerslie

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ellerslie Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Colonial Heights

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Third; David E. Satterfield, III

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (city) CODE: 570

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. John M. Dunlop

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ellerslie Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Colonial Heights

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Chesterfield County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Chesterfield

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INST JCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Colonial Heights (city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ellerslie house is an Italian Villa style dwelling erected circa 1857, and extensively remodeled in 1910. Its original appearance is known from two contemporary representations. The earlier is a water color by a local artist, George Simpson. The second is a small unsigned pencil drawing made during the Civil War. The illustrations show a two-story stuccoed house with a three-bay facade. Sheltering the front entrance is a porte-cochere supported on two columns. On the north side is a three-story tower with flat roof, bracketed cornice, and paneled parapet. The roof of the main body of the house is similarly treated except that the parapet is not paneled. Panels are employed on the sides of the chimneys, however. The south wall features a central, three-part bay, and a two-story service wing is attached to the rear or east wall by an arcade. The windows on both the first and second floors are long and narrow and have no particular embellishments. The Simpson drawing shows six-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-six sash on the second. Separating the two floors is a narrow, unornamented belt course.

The original room arrangement and appearance of the trim is unknown. The house probably had the same number and type of rooms as shown in the drawings for the first two proposed designs. In these, the architect, Robert Young, provided a hall, library, morning room, drawing room, dining room, stair hall, store room and water closet on the first floor. The second floor he divided into four bedrooms, dressing rooms, water closet, bathroom and service areas. The tower room was designated as a "Ladies Sitting Room." The house was set deep in a landscaped park. Beyond the park were farmlands.

As remodeled in 1910, the flat roof, cornice, and parapet were removed and replaced by a spreading hipped roof with deep eaves and exposed rafter ends. Wide, three-part hipped roof dormers were placed on the roof's east and west slopes. Both the tower and the three-part bay were raised an extra story and given hipped roofs. The porte-cochere was replaced by a veranda that extends across the entire first floor of the facade. A new porte-cochere was built in front of the porch's center bay. The small pane sash was removed and replaced with sashes of single sheets of glass. The service wing was retained but was attached to the house and given a hipped roof. Its interior was converted into a handsome game room.

Inside, the house was completely retrimmed; none of the original woodwork or interior decoration was retained. The Bungaloid feeling of the exterior was carried into the stair hall. It features a finely crafted exposed joist ceiling, with tongue-and-grooved work between the joists. The rich, dark-wood stair was given square-tapered newells and a balustrade containing Mogul-type arches. The reception rooms were restyled with a combination of Louis XVI and Georgian motifs. The paneling and woodwork in the drawing room and writing room are dignified examples of their period. Presently, the interior is enhanced by an exceptionally fine collection of antiques.

The landscaped park is largely intact and contains many of its original trees. The grounds are accented by a series of early-twentieth-century out-buildings and farm structures built for David Dunlop II. Of particular interest is a large, log manager's house designed by Carneal and Johnston, architects of the remodeling.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ellerslie is a handsomely preserved ante-bellum estate containing an unusual Italian Villa style mansion and a rare surviving example of a mid-nineteenth century private landscaped park. The estate was formed by David Dunlop (1803-1864), a native of Ayr, Scotland, who settled in Petersburg, Virginia in 1828, and quickly became one of the most successful tobacco growers and dealers of his day. The Chesterfield County tract on which he later established his country seat originally served as one of his tobacco plantations.

Even though Dunlop acquired the Ellerslie land in 1839 he did not get around to building his house until the 1850's. For his architect Dunlop chose Robert Young of the Belfast, Ireland, firm of Young and MacKenzie. The fact that Dunlop remained a British subject until his death makes it plausible that he should have thought only a fellow subject could provide him with suitable designs for his country house. The design went through three versions, and the sets of drawings for the first two versions, produced in 1856, survive at Ellerslie today. The drawings for the third and final version do not; as was the custom, they probably were handed over to the builder and discarded when they no longer were useful.

The appearance of the house as originally completed around 1857 is known through two contemporary representations. The most detailed is a water color by a local artist, George Simpson, painted soon after completion. It shows a somewhat austere Villa style house with stuccoed walls, flat roof and the inevitable tower. More American than British in scale and concept, it recalls the plainer Villa style house of Alexander Jackson Davis. The house was set deep in an extensive romantic landscaped park containing ornamental trees, lakelets, paths, vistas, and garden ornaments.

Ellerslie served as the headquarters of General Pierre G. T. de Beauregard during the War Between the States. In 1864 the grounds were used as a rest camp for Confederate troops following action along the Weldon Road, south of Petersburg. An officer in the encampment, Johnson Haygood, in his Memoirs of the War of Succession, (Columbia, S.C., 1910) provides a detailed description of the house and grounds as they appeared then. In his account Johnson noted, "Whenever a prospect opened, or the shade was densest, or the murmur of the water fell gentlest upon the ear, a summer house or a rustic seat invited repose; and from the various parts of the grounds the mansion was to be seen sometimes a glimpse, sometimes a view more or less full, but always picturesque. It was a structure in the Italian Villa style and stood upon a gentle eminence near the creek, with the grass growing up to its walls and the gravelled carriage drive approaching in a graceful sweep."

Ellerslie was sold out of the Dunlop family in the 1870's and passed through a series of owners until 1907 when it was bought by David Dunlop's

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Colonial Heights (city)	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.

grandson and namesake. The house had fallen into a bad state of repair in the intervening years, and David Dunlop II undertook an extensive renovation and remodeling. The Richmond firm of Carneal and Johnston was engaged in 1910 to carry out the project, and they gave the house a more fashionable appearance by restyling it in the then-popular "Bungaloid" mode. The basic plan was kept but a spreading hipped roof with wide dormers, deep eaves, and exposed rafter ends was substituted for the original low roof and parapet. The Asiatic feeling was carried into the interior in the stair hall but the reception rooms were redesigned in a more sedate combination of Louis XVI and Georgian styles. While the house thus took on an Edwardian character, the basic outline of the handsome park was retained, thus preserving the ante-bellum flavor of the estate.

The whole survives as an interesting example of the tastes of a leading mercantile family. The house is one of the few Virginia buildings that can be documented as having been designed by a foreign architect, and its architectural interest is supplemented by its historically significant Civil War associations.

CCL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haygood, Johnson, Memoirs of the War of Secession, Columbia, S.C., 1910, p. 302.
 Loth, Calder, "Ellerslie, a Scotsman's Villa in Virginia," Antiques, June, 1973, pp. 1157-1160.
 Wyatt, Edward A., IV, Plantation Houses Around Petersburg, 1955, p.22.
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission archives.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 16' 27"	77° 24 25"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 16' 27"	77° 24 14"				
SE	37° 16' 04"	77° 24 14"				
SW	37° 16' 04"	77° 24 25"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: August, 1973

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., Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date _____

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

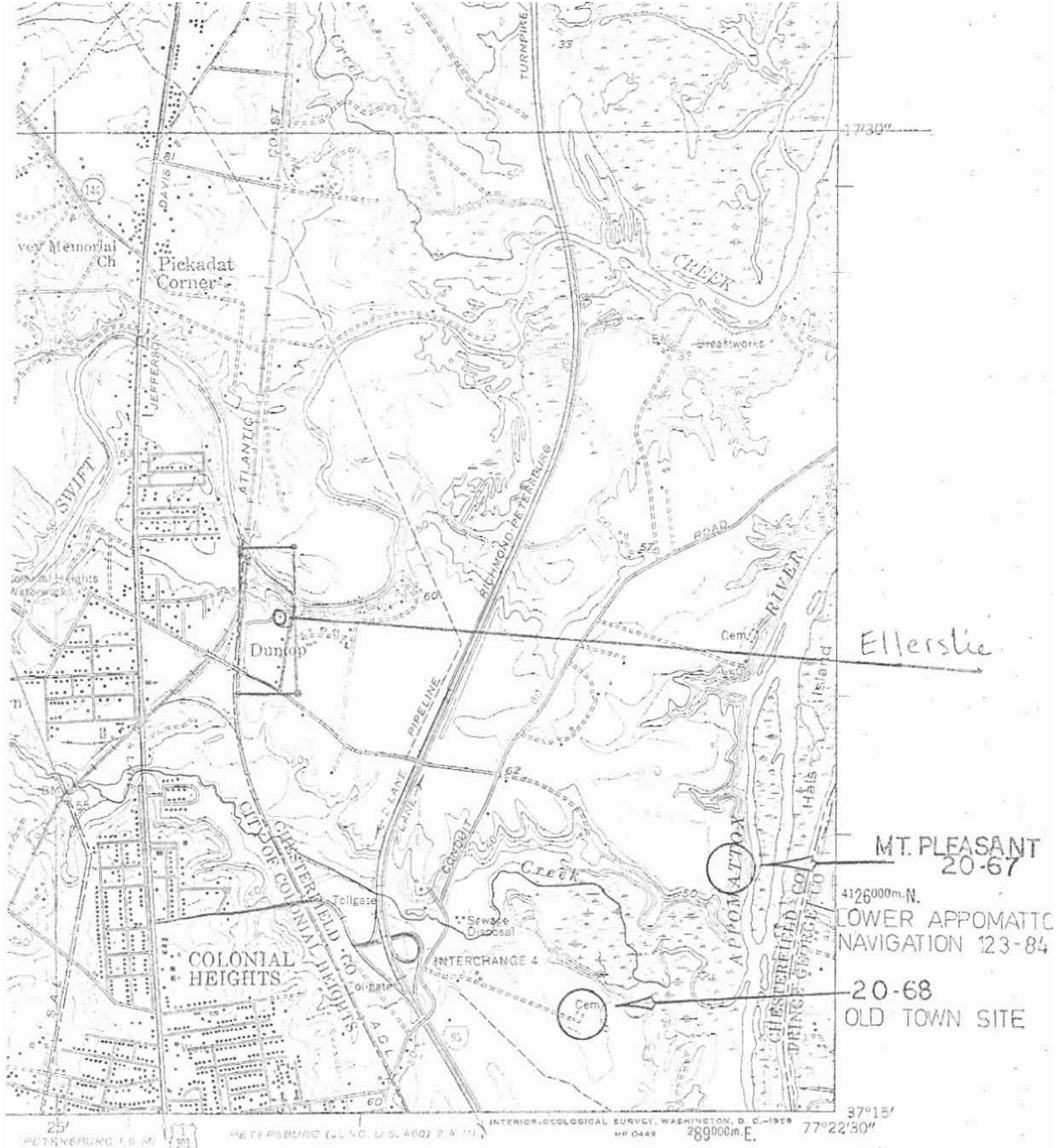
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Ellerlie

MT. PLEASANT
20-67

4126000m. N.
LOWER APPOMATTOX
NAVIGATION 123-84

20-68
OLD TOWN SITE

25' PETERSBURG 1.6 MI
IMPORIA 40.52

PETERSBURG (LONG. U.S. 400) 2.4 MI

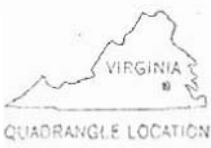
INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1959
MR 0449 289000m. E.

37°15'
77°22'30"

(PRINCE GEORGE)

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy duty ——— Light-duty ———
- Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
- Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route



CHESTER, VA.

SW/4 BERMUDA HUNDRED 15' QUADRANGLE
N3715—W7722.5/7.5