

VLR-4/18/72 NRHP-11/7/72

Form 1000
July 1969

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: MIDDLESEX	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
OLD TOBACCO WAREHOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
JAMES MILLS STOREHOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
S side of Rt. T 1002, .1 mi. E of intersection with Rt. T 1005.

CITY OR TOWN:
Urbanna (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Middlesex CODE: 119

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"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESERVE USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input 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) <u>Library</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Association for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:
2705 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURT HOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Middlesex County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

Raised on a full basement, the storehouse of James Mills and Company is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. Queen closers mark the ends of the building and all sides but the north are girded with a watertable. Finished by a raking cornice, the gable roof extends out in a third plane to cover the porch on the north front.

Evidence of a platform was found during the architectural investigation of the building in 1960 and the restoration of this feature along the north side now characterizes the facade. Two antithetical side stairs ascend along the high brick foundation to the six bay post porch. Horizontal planks link the porch posts and serve as the rail of each set of stairs. As on the porch, the bays of access to the six-bay facade are located in the second bay from each end. Although most of the sash has been altered as evidenced by a space between the brick and the top of the architrave, queen closers flanking many of the doors and windows give proof of the original bays. In the restoration the eastern door was cut and the bay to the west of this opening was converted from a door to a window. The windows of the front with their pegged architrave, nine-over-six sash, and diagonal board shutter are echoed throughout the first floor.

The major aspect of the restoration on the west side was the elimination of the more recent end chimney. At the base of this side below the watertable a centrally located door leading into the basement is flanked by two cellar windows with vertical bars. The architectural investigation revealed that the north window retained its early frame crossed by square wooden bars. After the removal of the chimney, a recent window on the south side of the wall was filled in and another was cut through the center of the wall. Evidence was also found for a hoist and door leading into the loft. These features were restored and are flanked by four-over-four sash windows with header lintels.

An early interior end chimney cuts the cornice of the east end. Two windows similar to those on the west side light the loft and three nine-over-six sash windows hang at the first floor level. The flue of the chimney is located in the wall between the center and north window enabling the former to be centrally located beneath the chimney's stack. Queen closers flank three sides of the two basement windows located below the end bays of the first floor. Cut into the east side of the porch foundation, a loading door provides a second access to the cellar.

On the rear of the building the two windows which cut the wall at the first floor level were doors before the restoration. The western bay had been recently converted from a window to a door. During the renovations a window between the two present bays was filled in. As on the east and west sides the basement windows on the south side are located below the watertable.

Upon the completion of the restoration the building's interior was outfitted for use as a town library. The interior is comprised of two approximately equal sections cut by a brick cross wall. The eastern half is divided further by stud partitions which create a southeast corner room, a hallway, and a stairhall along the rear. In both areas the surface of the walls and ceiling were finished with white washed plaster and wide board pine floors were laid down by tongue and groove construction. At

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7.

some later date a passageway was cut in the brick wall separating the east and west rooms. The floor boards of each section have been noticeably joined by mitered boards within the interval.

Originally finished by a molded chair rail and baseboard, which has now been restored, the northeast room is believed to have been the store with the attendant occupying the room in the southeast corner. The fireplace displays the early hearth and a segmental arched opening.

The stairhall leading to the loft is finished with diagonally laid beaded boards and displays some simple molded trim. The loft has been left unfinished and evidence remains from its nineteenth century use as a sleeping area. The walls of the loft are of brick laid in English bond covered occasionally with traces of early plaster. Although the early hearth remains, the fireplace on the eastern side of the loft was rebuilt.

The basement which like the main floor is divided by a brick partition retained traces of the early brick paving. Leading under the porch platform, a door in the northeast room served as a loading entrance for goods to be stored in the cellar.

R.S.

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 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 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 checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Facing north from a high embankment, the storehouse of James Mills, commonly known as Urbanna's "Old Tobacco Warehouse", overlooks Virginia Street, once the tobacco rolling road leading down to the docks on Urbanna Creek. Although the river towns along the fall-line experienced the major part of eighteenth century port development, a number of Tidewater towns located on navigable creeks also flourished as ports in the colonial period. Urbanna is a good example of one of the colonial ports that served the tobacco planters of the Tidewater while the Piedmont was beginning to grow. In 1730 the building of tobacco warehouses and stores was accelerated by an act requiring mandatory tobacco inspection, and Urbanna was listed as an authorized center for inspection.

Built sometime between 1763 and 1767 the storehouse of James Mills is a rare if not unique survivor of the type of storehouse which, being run by a resident factor of a British company, was not only connected with the sale of tobacco but which housed imported goods to be bought on credit by the planters. The storehouse is a manifestation of the eighteenth century evolution in the tobacco trade which began to favor the outport merchant who bought the product outright over the traditional consignment merchant used by the large planter.

Being built and run by a number of Scottish merchants, the storehouse gains further importance through its connection with the brief but brilliant performance of Scotland in the eighteenth century tobacco trade. Figures show that in 1738 the Scottish merchants controlled only ten percent of the British tobacco trade but by 1769 the amount had jumped to fifty-two percent, topping England herself within the trade. Built just previous to this date, the storehouse of James Mills thus experienced this period of Scottish ascendancy which continued until the Revolution.

Records concerning the storehouse first occur in 1767 when the structure is represented on a map made by William Parry illustrating the bounds of the town prison. In 1763 the land which appears later as Lot #29 on Towles plan of Urbanna, was sold to James Mills by James Reid. Four years later when James Mills changed the title to James Mills and Company, the lot is recorded as that "whereon storehouse of Company stands." In 1789 the Overton Cosby Company purchased the lot and thirty-four years later James Ross took possession of the property. For a number of years the land was left in an estate until William H. Purkins bought what was described as "Ross' Old Store House". The title was then passed in the second half of the nineteenth century through Carter Purkins, P.T. Woodward, E. W. and G. P. Beazley, Lizzie Healey and W. H. Berry. In 1911 the property was purchased

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by Farinholt and Ryland after whom followed W.C. Kennard, Thomas G. Jones and R. Finley Gayle.

The APVA assured the building's preservation when it bought the property in 1938. After a thorough architectural investigation in 1960 the restoration commenced in 1964. Two years later the APVA agreed to let the town use the building as a library.

R.S.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Middleton, Arthur Pierce, Tobacco Coast, The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia, 1953.
 Price, Jacob, "The Rise of Glasgow in the Chesapeake Tobacco Trade, 1707-1775," William and Mary Quarterly, (3rd series), XI (1954), 179-199.
Report on a Building at Urbanna, Virginia, Prepared under the general direction of the Ralph Wormeley Chapter and a special committee from Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 1958-1960.

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	38'	10"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	76°	34'	22"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION, STAFF

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION DATE: April, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: James W. Moody, Jr.
 Title: Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: APR 18 1972

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

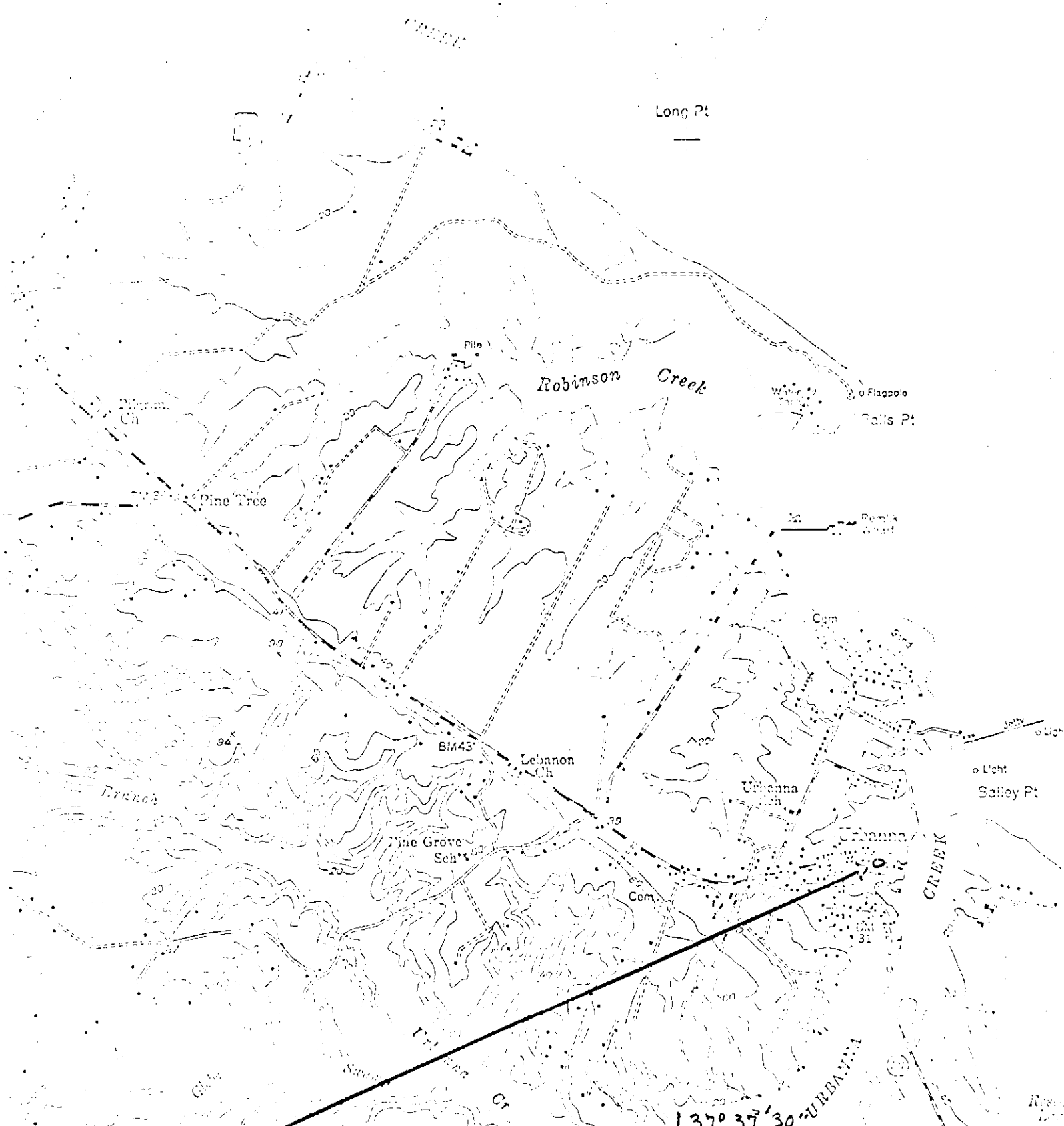
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

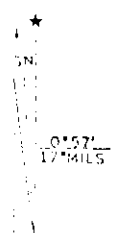


U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Urbanna, Va. 1946

TOBACCO WAREHOUSE

latitude
 37°38'10"

longitude
 76°34'22"



0°57' 17\"/>
 CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL
 20 FEET

SOME LINES SHOWN ON THIS SHEET
 ARE THE AVERAGE