

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED ON:	
VLR	06/16/2011
NRHP	08/22/2011

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Captain Timothy Hill House
other names/site number DHR File No. 001-0274

2. Location

street & number 5122 Main Street

N/A
N/A

 not for publication

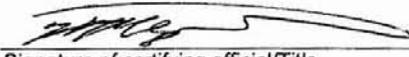
city or town Chincoteague Island vicinity

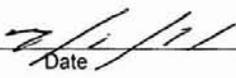
state Virginia code VA county Accomack code 001 zip code 23336

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

 _____
Signature of certifying official/Title

 _____
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Enter as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Enter only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
public - Local
public - State
public - Federal

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

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type. Rows include buildings, sites, structures, objects, buildings, and Total.

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, secondary structure

VACANT

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Folk House: Pre-Railroad: Tidewater
South Tradition

foundation: BRICK

walls: WOOD: Rough sawn planks

roof: WOOD shingles

other:

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1800-1859

Significant Dates

1859

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

Based upon written history of late 17th and early 18th century Chincoteague, land records, and evaluation of the style and manner of construction of the house, an estimated date of construction is ca. 1800. The end of the period of significance coincides with the death of Timothy Hill in 1859. It is estimated that by 1859 the house had in place its current distinguishing features. There was a later addition and weatherboard siding added ca. 1900, but these were removed by previous owners ca. 1980, leaving the current form of the house which most closely matches its likely mid-19th century appearance and condition.

Criteria Consideraton B Explanation

The Captain Timothy Hill house was built on Chincoteague Island in Accomack County ca. 1800 on a lot less than one mile from its current location directly across the island on virtually the exact same line of longitude. In 1980, faced with demolition, a citizen moved the house to a lot on Main Street two-tenths of a mile from its current location. There was no documentation of the first moving of the house, but the house was kept intact during that move. It stayed on that lot until 2009 when the current owners took ownership of the house and moved it to its current location to avoid the imminent demolition of the property.

The current site has the same topography, distance from the ocean, and overall setting as the original ca. 1800 house site.

The house sills were rotted. As a result, new sills were installed before the house was moved which allowed the house to be moved intact without any disassembly or reconstruction. This allowed most of the still existent plaster and chinking to be retained in the house at its new location. This also meant that the integrity of the original dovetail joints of the log plank walls remains intact.

Before the move was made, a shovel test examination of the receiving site was completed with only modern refuse found on the site. While an archaeological examination of the original site was not completed when it was first moved, an overall examination of the original house site has also been completed as a part of the current house relocation. This examination informed the decision to use brick piers since evidence existed of a brick foundation. The slightly raised foundation was required to ensure protection against future flood damage.

The house has since undergone a substantial restoration with every possible original element preserved. The end result has been for the house to be saved from demolition and placed in a very similar setting and in quite close proximity to its original location. The house was also sited and oriented to match its placement at the original site of construction. The house has also been restored and had certain elements rebuilt, such as the roof, to protect and preserve the house. Elements which had been lost to the elements and had to be recreated, were completed following the design and plan of an architectural historian and an architect focusing in historic renovation work. All of the restoration work was also completed only after consulting with several historic preservation professionals.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (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

Virginia Department of Historic Resources,
Name of repository: Richmond, VA

 Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): #001-0274

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.82

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>468950</u>	<u>4199768</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary of the property consists of all land within Parcel 030A70700B00000 with a street address of 5122 Main Street (Route 175) in Chincoteague Island, Accomack County, Virginia. The side facing Main Street to the NW measures 162.98'. The side facing SW measures 525.75'. The side facing SE measures 154.57'. The side facing NE measures 487.07'. All four corners are marked by pins.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary encompasses the property lines of the legal parcel on which the Captain Timothy Hill House currently rests. The property is of a similar size, setting, and topography to the original lot on which the Captain Timothy Hill House was previously sited.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marcus R. Pollard (most of the text was written by the owner Louisa Flaningam)
 organization Commonwealth Preservation Group date 3-25-2011
 street & number PO Box 11083 telephone 757-651-0494
 city or town Norfolk state VA zip code 23517
 e-mail marcus@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**Section 7
Summary Statement**

The Captain Timothy Hill House is located on Chincoteague Island in Accomack County, Virginia on a 1.82 acre site. The house was constructed ca. 1800 and is an early nineteenth-century plank-wall house measuring 17'4" by 16'4". The house was constructed using pit sawn and hewn pine planks with each wall consisting of eight planks measuring 9-11" in height and secured at each corner with original dovetail joints. The walls rest on a replacement sill, which rests on a low brick pier foundation. There are two wooden plank doors along and three 6/6 wood sash windows on the first floor. There is a four pane wood sash on the second level, next to the location of the former chimney, providing light for the stair to the garret. The modern roof is constructed using photos of similar, but now lost, houses on the island and features a steep side gable with wood shingles and weatherboard. A majority of the flooring on both the first and second stories contains historic floorboards. There are also several dozen nineteenth century carvings of period sailing ships on the exterior of the house and an early-to-mid nineteenth century mantel on the interior. The site also has a late-nineteenth century home which is original to the property and a modern shed.

Narrative Statement

The Captain Timothy Hill House, or Hill House, is located in the northern part of Chincoteague Island, a part of Accomack County and is part of the barrier islands along the Atlantic coast of Virginia. Chincoteague is typical of these seaside islands with flat topography and sandy soil. Large loblolly pines dominate the landscape with cedars, holly, and several varieties of deciduous trees such as red maple and oak. Shrubs such as wax myrtle and marsh elder along with a variety of grasses line the ponds, swales, creeks and edges of the bays.

The Hill House is currently in good condition after the first stages of restoration. Time was of the essence in beginning this work, as the found condition in early 2010 was greatly deteriorated and unstable. The house was moved in 1980 from its original location to a site two tenths of a mile from its current location. It remained at that site exposed to the elements until 2009-2010 when it was acquired, moved to its current location, and restored. The other house on the nearly two acre parcel sits about 200 feet to the southeast and is called The Homestead. It is a typical late-nineteenth century Chincoteague Island waterman's house and retains some historic features while also having undergone some modern alterations and additions.

A great deal of original material and historical evidence remained of the Hill House. All of the original log plank walls survived. They are pit sawn and hewn planks about 3" thick and about 10" in height. They run the length (17'4") and width (16'4") of the single pen house. They are tightly joined at the corners with a full dovetail joint. This compound cut forces water out and away from the joint. These joints have survived with little damage to the edges which indicates the house was never taken apart, even though hash marks are cut into the logs. These marks are a numbering system in order to know how to reassemble if it was dismantled. The planks fit rather close together and spaces are filled with wood chinking and a daubing. Evidence remains of a lime base daubing containing oyster shells, animal and human hair and that has been replicated with the remaining original chinking retained. Vertical pins of about 6" long by 1/2 to 3/4 inches in width are found in several places along the walls and they also define the openings for the fireplace on the south wall, the two entrance doors, east and west, and an early window on the north wall. These pins would add stability to the log wall structure. Evidence for a wooden chimney is found above the fireplace opening as discovered by Carl Lounsbury and Jeff Klee. "...the Hill House originally had a wooden chimney....Evidence for the wooden chimney appears in mortises in the seventh and eighth logs which are in line with the jamb openings."¹

The house likely sat close to the ground on cedar blocks, piles of rubble or sleeper logs set on grade.² The first sill logs likely deteriorated. The found sill logs were so rotted they were unusable but had historic evidence. They were cedar,

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joined at the ends and pinned at an angle. It's this angle pinning that suggests they were replacements. These sills show placement of the floor joists. The original fireplace header joist, which survived almost intact, is held in place by a mortise and tenon. The five remaining floor joists drop into open mortise holes.

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Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

A renovation ca. 1820 would have the house lifted onto brick piers and a brick chimney built. Archaeological exploration at the original site revealed the early piers and parts of a brick chimney. Colonial bricks found were used as a match for new handmade bricks for new piers. This new site allowed for a full perimeter concrete footing set below grade to support the piers and provides a stable foundation to withstand possible flood conditions on the island. Fill dirt and grading create an impression the house sits close to the ground as it did on the original site. This new site will mean fencing and gardens consistent with the early nineteenth-century century can be done.

The fireplace opening was enlarged to allow for the brick chimney. The mantel around the fireplace opening survives, as does the original batten door for the enclosed staircase to the garret and a piece of the under stair sheathing. Clear evidence from shadows and nailings made an authentic replication of the staircase possible. Two steps lead up to the door and once inside the enclosure, three winders make the turn and five steps continue up to the garret floor.

One original batten door at the west entrance survived. There is a sloop carved into the exterior of this door. On the interior side a great deal of paint evidence is intact. Most of the colonial wood trim around the interior west window and door survived. The detailed paint analysis by Susan Buck provides clues to the renovations. The interior side of the original door has 21 generations of paint. The 1st layer is "...likely Prussian blue and white lead....typical of the deep blue paint found on mid-18th to early 19th centuries Eastern Shore of Virginia interior woodwork..."³ This blue is also the 1st layer of the paint on the mantel, staircase door, surviving staircase sheathing, as well as small spots on the walls that line up with the staircase enclosure. The surviving early wood trim outline the west window and west door openings. This west window opening measurement defines a perfect six over six sash window. The cut opening on the east side is the same size with a single piece of the wood trim surviving. The 1st layer of paint on the surviving wood trim lines up with the 3rd generation of paint on the entrance door,⁴ showing the east and west windows were cut in during a renovation about a decade or two later. There remains evidence of many layers of whitewash on the interior walls, ceiling joists and the underside of the garret floor boards.

A ca. 1900 renovation resulted in the addition of a two story frame building to the north side of this house. The log house became the kitchen and the garret was used for storage. A doorway opening was cut in the north wall, where the early window had been, in order to connect the two buildings. This opening destroyed any evidence of subsequent changes to that early window. Only some early pinning remains that defines part of that original window opening. This renovation may have been the time when the chimney was replaced with an interior brick flue for a wood stove. The mantel is cut out in the center for such a flue and an opening with the same dimensions was cut out in the garret floor next to the interior of the south wall. At this time, the fireplace opening was enclosed and plastered over and an outline of the flue was evident on the plaster in this location. Also, the interior walls of the first floor were lathed and plastered. Some plaster remains in the southwest corner, but evidence of nailings on the walls are consistent with furring strips for lathe. During the early-to-mid twentieth century, a false wall of wood was built from the staircase newel across the width of the room creating a storage area for wood and a pantry that concealed the fireplace and mantel. The stove was moved to a location in front of this wall and a hole cut in the wall for a stove pipe.

Rough cut weather board was put on to cover the exterior of the two joined buildings during the ca. 1900 renovation. Later in the twentieth century, asbestos singles were installed over the wooden weather board. These shingles were removed for the initial move when the frame addition was taken down in 1980. Only the log house was saved.

In this ca. 1900 renovation the roof line was changed to match the new addition. The original 8" extensions of the ceiling joists that held the rafters were sawn off. Clear shadows mark how these garret floor joists originally extended beyond the

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Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

exterior of the east and west log walls. The current restoration has returned the roof to its early nineteenth century application by adding extensions and replacing two ceiling joists with salvaged wood in the original length. The roof utilizes an historic twelve by twelve pitch with salvaged wood used for rafters. The rafters are joined by a pinned bridal joint, collar ties set six feet from the garret floor and sheathing laid on. Cypress shingles of varying widths with an eased butt cut were made to replicate a found early nineteenth century shingle from a similar, partial log plank house in Berlin, MD. The gable ends have the original mortise holes for the gable studs, so replicated studs of salvaged wood could be put in place on the top end logs. The south wall has 5 studs spaced asymmetrically and allows for an historic two over two casement window above the stairs. The north gable has four studs symmetrically placed allowing for a four over four sash window in the center of the gable. Beaded siding covers both gables and salvaged wood has been used to box in extensions that hold the rafters. Wooden stairs, constructed with a tenon through the stringer and a key that clinches it all together, are at both entrance doors.

The wooden chimney represents the first period of this house. The addition of piers, a brick chimney, mantel, hearth, windows and staircase added over the first half of the 19th century show the early evolution from a simple structure that provided basic needs of survival to a "dressed up" house that corresponds with the growing wealth of many of the island residents including Timothy Hill, Sr. There are also over thirty carvings in the exterior which represent several types of nineteenth century sailing vessels including schooners and sloops. The carvings are simple outlines, but do accurately portray the details and proportions of period sailing vessels. With the alteration of the chimney placement and later addition of weatherboard makes dating the ship carvings difficult. It is known that the Hill family, beginning with Timothy Hill, made their living on the water throughout the nineteenth century and that the original site faced out to Assateague Channel and Little Oyster Bay where multitudes of sailing ships would have been passing by or at anchor. It can only be said definitively that the carvings are nineteenth century creations.

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Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

SECTION 8

Summary Statement of Significance

The Captain Timothy Hill House is a very rare example of an early nineteenth-century plank house which retains its original pit sawn and hewn pine planks with full dovetail joints. The majority of the interior floorboards on the first and second levels are historic along with one of the exterior doors, which may be from the original date of construction and retains elements of twenty one layers of historic paint. The exterior of the wood planks are carved with several dozen nineteenth century images of contemporary sailing vessels and there is also some original chinking between the logs. The interior has an original early-to-mid nineteenth century mantel and an original door to the garret stairs with a substantial amount of historic paint intact. The Hill House is possibly the oldest remaining house on Chincoteague Island, and one of the few houses remaining in Virginia which at one time had a wood chimney. It is also a rare surviving example of log plank construction still existent in Virginia. In regards to Criterion Consideration B, the house was moved in order to avoid demolition, but is currently sited at a location within a mile of its original site and in a remarkably similar setting. The ca. 1800 to 1859 period of significance represents the estimated date of construction to the date of the death of its most notable resident. Timothy Hill was also the owner which finished the house to a point which is best represented by its current style and detailing. Given the rarity of the resource type, the few remaining examples of this construction method, and the good condition of the most distinctive features of the house, the Hill House is a good candidate for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture.

Narrative Statement

The Captain Timothy Hill House is the historic name for the log house known as the earliest surviving house on Chincoteague Island, Virginia. It is significant under National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of an early nineteenth century plank log house. It is a rare and probably the earliest surviving example of the type of houses lived in by early Eastern shore watermen. This hewn and pit sawn log plank with full dovetail construction was once a common housing style in the colonial period but few examples remain. The Hill House owes its construction to the log building techniques brought to the New World by the Finns and the Swedes in the seventeenth century by way of the Delaware Bay. As waves of immigrants followed into that area from all over Europe, they adopted, interpreted and modified this style of building. We are familiar with the movement of log building as the frontier pushed west but there is evidence that this type of construction also moved down the Delmarva Peninsula through Delaware, Maryland reaching the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Chincoteague Island saw its population start to expand in the late eighteenth century as the original land patents were subdivided. The people who moved to Chincoteague were not of the wealthy classes. The first homes on the island were known to be log houses.⁵ These strong, simple buildings provided shelter and survival. When times got a bit easier and more resources available, people started to improve their homes. The Captain Timothy Hill House is an example of the evolution from the first simple structure with a wooden chimney in the earliest days of the nineteenth century to a "dressed up" house with a brick chimney and mantel, windows and fashionable paint by the middle of the nineteenth century. The significance of the house is bolstered by the carvings of sailing ships of the period on the exterior log walls, representing a clear link to the early establishment of industries and professions linked to the close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean.

It may have been Giovanni da Verrazano, on his voyage on behalf of the King of France in 1524 who was the first European to lay eyes on what is now called the Eastern Shore and Chincoteague Island. The Eastern Shore refers to the lands and barrier islands in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia that lie between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Early records of Virginia have an English settlement at the southern end of the Delmarva Peninsula in the early part of the

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

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seventeenth century called Accomack. "Well up the peninsula on the seaside, well away from the first settlements was 'Chincoteague Creek'...and there lived the Chincoteague Indians and not just the bank of the creek but the entire region in which they lived, hunted and fished...was known to Englishman and Indian alike as 'Chincoteague'".⁶ The area included the mainland, as well as the two barrier islands that became known as Chincoteague and Assateague. During the late 1600's the English, including the tobacco farmer John Custis II, began moving up the peninsula with large plantations.

Meanwhile several hundred miles north, at the Delaware Bay, people were arriving from Northern Europe. Although the area, which included parts of Delaware, Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey, had been claimed by Holland and England, Peter Minuit in 1638 brought the first settlers, Swedes and Finns, to establish "New Sweden". Their hold on the land was not long. Losing to the Dutch in 1655, who in turn were defeated by the English in 1664, led to William Penn arriving to head the colony in 1682. The English and the Dutch were very impressed with the abilities of the Scandinavians to use basically an ax to construct log buildings and forts. C.A. Weslager, in his book *New Sweden on the Delaware* states "the log cabin made its American debut with the Swedes and Finns in the Delaware Valley....They brought to America the kind of vernacular log-house techniques with which they were familiar....Later German and Swiss immigrants also brought...their log-building techniques..."⁷ The techniques were assimilated and adapted. The New World was full of virgin forests and even peoples who came from areas where they were used to using other building materials took to this log style. "The English and Scots-Irish settlers seemed to have taken to log building quite easily....its technology was not so difficult to learn. And, because the East Coast was so heavily wooded, it made perfect sense to use the trees felled when clearing the fields."⁸ The simplicity of the tools needed to build a log house meant travel to new locations would require less equipment.

It was an era where waterways were the highways. The English were moving up the Eastern shore and creating farms and plantations along the many creeks. The migration from the north was moving down the Delmarva Peninsula out of the Delaware Bay, along the Atlantic coast and its many inlets and bays and along the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay with its many rivers and creeks opening into it...bringing people to new places for farms, settlements and plantations.

Carl Lounsbury, in his article *Log Building on the Chesapeake*, speaks of the adaptation of the log building by the English colonists on the Eastern Shore as early as the seventeenth century, and believes it to have been commonly used in the Tidewater area by the middle of the eighteenth century. He cites early records that describe log buildings on the Eastern Shore.⁹ He also includes a reference to the surveying expedition in 1728 of William Byrd, a member of the Governors Council, in which Byrd "was appalled by the housing encountered in the frontier of the border between Virginia and North Carolina..."¹⁰ Byrd describes the houses as being made of logs with wood shingles and no use of nails or other iron materials. "The fact that he felt compelled to describe them suggests that log-building was something of a novelty for those who resided on older plantations."¹¹ Lounsbury makes the point that this type of building was popular with poorer people. They had access to forests of timber; it was a building skill they could master and which was less expensive in cost and time to build than framed buildings. Westlager wrote: "The log cabin was an extremely important element per se in facilitating migration of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries...The knowledge that no matter where he (a man) settled, as long as trees were within easy reach, he could obtain wood to build a cabin....unaided if necessary using only an ax, gave him the assurance he needed to guarantee the security of himself and his family."¹² This style of construction for the common man has few surviving examples. Weslager's book, *The Log Cabin in America*, has many photos of log buildings that once stood on the Delmarva Peninsula, but no longer exist. Carl Lounsbury references the Capt. Timothy Hill House, with its long planks, tight fitting dovetail joints, vertical pins for added stability and evidence of a wooden chimney, as an example of an early nineteenth century log building.¹³ The Hill House represents a clear link in the development and style of building in colonial America. Its ca. 1800 construction coincides with the beginning of the expansion of settlement on Chincoteague Island.

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N/A

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The barrier islands were owned for a good part of the colonial era by the wealthy landowners on the mainland of the Eastern Shore. The earliest patent for Chincoteague Island was in 1671. Disputes over the next years ended with the island being divided by the Court in Jamestown in 1691 between William Kendall, being given the north half and John Robins the southern half. For most of the 18th century, Chincoteague and her sister barrier islands were seen as very good pasture land fenced in by the sea. The few early residents were employed by the land owners to look after the hogs, sheep, cattle and horses. Early records are scarce on the population as few were land owners. Subdivision of the large tracts began in the late 1700's. "By the turn of the century, there were over 30 families living on the two islands and the population totaled fewer than 200. Almost half of these families bore names still found on the island today..."¹⁴

Oral history has Timothy Hill shipwrecked on the "levels" of Assateague Island. Making his way to Chincoteague, it must have been to his liking as he stayed and made the island his home. The first official record of him is from an Accomack County deed which records his purchase of 30 acres and appendiaries for \$133.00 on Chincoteague Island April 22, 1822.¹⁵ Shortly thereafter, he marries Rebecca Russell on May 15, 1822. The marriage was performed by the Justice of the Peace of Horntown, David Watts.¹⁶ By "...1838 there were 26 houses on the island."¹⁷ Some of those owning the 26 homes were Whealtons, Jesters, Watsons, Masons, Babbits, Clayvilles, Jones, Lewis, Rev Thurston, Daiseys, Hills and Andrews.¹⁸ This house is the last known survivor of the 26.

It was during the second quarter of the nineteenth century that farming started to take a second place to the oyster and seafood industry that would bring prosperity to the island and a continued growth in population. There was easy access from the Atlantic at that time and Assateague Bay, Big and Little Oyster Bays were filled with sailing ships. Most of the men on the island were actively engaged in the seafood industry. Oysters and seafood became a bountiful crop heading north to the tables of Philadelphia and New York. Perhaps it was because of this trade with the northern states, that during the Civil War, Chincoteague Island would not join the secession and men from the island were directly involved with actions that helped secure the Eastern Shore for the Union. Newspapers in the north reported the events and proclaimed the local delicacy...the "Patriotic Chincoteague Oysters!"¹⁹

Timothy Hill was historically known as Captain Hill. Every man on Chincoteague who had a boat was called a Captain. He had six children with wife Rebecca. In the 1850 Census, he said he was a sailor from New York and he had real estate worth \$300.00.²⁰ He bought and sold a lot of land on Chincoteague, as well as Assateague and the mainland starting in the 1820's.²¹ He appears to have been a man with financial resources. This would account for the improvements made to the log house in the first half of the nineteenth century. He settled in the area called Deep Hole which is on the north east side of the island facing Assateague and Little Oyster Bay. His first child, Timothy Hill, Jr. was born in 1826 and this son went on to father twelve with Zipporah, his wife. At the original site a rather large frame house sits next to where this log house once sate, and appears to have been built between 1840 and 1870. Family tradition has it that the Captain started it and Timothy, Jr. added to it. Timothy, Jr. was also a sailor and became a successful oysterman, oyster planter and maintained a farm. The Captain died in 1859. Rebecca remarried a John Jester in 1866, and lived until 1879. She was a life long respected member of her church and community. Before Timothy Jr. died in 1900, he would become one of the more prosperous residents of Chincoteague. Land originally bought by the Captain was added to by his son. He shared this land with his sons, John, Joseph, Andrew and Daniel. John and Joseph built houses on the Hill land near by the original homestead. The Hill family farms and "compound" may have been in excess 300 acres on the east side of Chincoteague.

In the Census of 1880, Andrew Hill, son of Timothy, Jr., is living next door to his father with his wife Mary Ann.²² It appears he inherited the log house. Andrew dies later that year and in 1882, his younger brother, Daniel, marries the same Mary Ann.²³ By 1900, the Census shows Daniel in this house, has six children and he is now the son living right next door to the father.²⁴ A 1900 deed also shows Daniel is given two acres where this house sits by his father.²⁵ Daniel

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Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

gave this old home place and the two acres to his youngest son, John W., when John married Betty Jones from Assateague and they set up housekeeping in 1907. It remained in the Daniel Hill family until it was sold in 1979. However, a small

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strip of this same land that runs from the road to the water's edge is still part of the Estate of Daniel Hill, left to the family so they would always have a place to put a boat in the water.

Tragedy struck the Hill family June 17th, 1885 when 13 year old Emma Virginia, known affectionately as "Jennie", the youngest daughter of Timothy and Zipporah and granddaughter of Captain Timothy, was murdered by 20 year old Tom Freeman. Tom worked on the Hill farm, was madly in love with Jennie and when his proposal was turned down by Jennie's mother, he accosted them in the yard and shot both women twice. To escape Tom, they sought refuge in this house with Jennie's brother, Daniel. Tom turned the gun on himself and died instantly. Zipporah lived but Jennie died the next day. Private writings and oral history have Jennie passing away in this log house.²⁶ This was the first murder and suicide on Chincoteague and was widely reported by the newspapers of the day. Two windows in the Methodist Church on Chincoteague are dedicated to Jennie and the Hill Family and she is buried with other family members in the Hill Cemetery that is located between the frame house and the site where this log house once stood.

This house has been the birthplace and home to countless Hills. In its present form, it is easy to see and imagine how the early families lived. The large fireplace for cooking and heat, the entrance doors set across from each other to allow for cross ventilation on hot days and the garret for the children to sleep. Daniel Hill and Mary made some of the improvements around the turn of the 20th century and their youngest son, John W. and Betty, were the ones that likely added the wall that closed off any view of the fireplace. Their last child was Jack Hill, the great, great grand son of Captain Timothy, the youngest of 11 and born in this house in 1930 and is still living. Betty seemed to keep the walls covered with appropriate kitchen wallpaper and bright paint. In her unpublished memoir, *Memories, Life on Assateague and Chincoteague*, she says she was afraid to come to live in this house..."the old home place"...because of what had happened there. Betty never allowed anyone to sleep in the garret.²⁷

This log house made of native timbers has stood with few changes for about 200 years and is a unique link to the early history of Chincoteague Island, the Eastern Shore, and the early waterman culture. Its modest size, one-room plan and modest finish (whitewashed walls and wooden chimney originally) exemplify the housing conditions associated with seafaring families on the Eastern Shore. Despite the additions and alterations made to the house in the later nineteenth and early twentieth century, the original log plank home survives largely intact and gives an excellent sense of the proportions, design, detailing, and function of the house.

There are also over thirty carvings on the exterior which represent several types of nineteenth century sailing vessels including schooners and sloops. The carvings are simple outlines, but do accurately portray the details and proportions of period sailing vessels. With the alteration of the chimney placement and later addition of weatherboard makes dating the ship carvings difficult. It is known that the Hill family, beginning with Timothy Hill, made their living on the water throughout the nineteenth century and that the original site faced out to Assateague Channel and Little Oyster Bay where multitudes of sailing ships would have been passing by or at anchor. It can only be said definitively that the carvings are nineteenth century creations.

The Captain Timothy Hill House is a very rare example of an early nineteenth-century plank house which retains its original pit sawn and hewn pine planks with full dovetail joints. The majority of the interior floorboards on the first and second levels are historic. One exterior door and one interior door may be from the original date of construction as evidenced by the twenty one generations of historic paint. The exterior of the wood planks are carved with several dozen nineteenth century images of contemporary sailing vessels and there is also some original chinking between the logs. The interior has an original early-to-mid nineteenth century mantel and original door to the garret with a substantial

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Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

amount of historic paint intact. The Hill House is possibly the oldest remaining house on Chincoteague Island, and one of the few houses remaining in Virginia which at one time had a wood chimney. It is also a rare surviving example plank construction still existent in Virginia. In regards to Criterion Consideration B, the house was moved in order to avoid demolition, but is currently sited in a located within a mile of its original site and in a remarkably similar setting. The ca. 1800 to 1859 period

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of significance represents the estimated date of construction to the date of the death of its most notable resident. Timothy Hill was also the owner who finished the house to a point which is best represented by its current style and detailing. The house can also be well documented through local histories and documents and represents an excellent example of early seafaring life on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Given the rarity of the resource type, the few remaining examples of this construction method, and the good condition of the most distinctive features of the house, the Hill House is a good candidate for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture.

Endnotes

- 1 Lounsbury, Carl: Timothy Hill House, Chincoteague, Accomack County, Virginia; Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, March 24th, 2010. This unpublished report written after Mr. Lounsbury's visit to the Hill House early March, 2010 and a significant portion of this narrative description is taken directly from this report.
2 Bomberger, Bruce, D.: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings; National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services; Washington, 1991.
3 Buck, Susan, Ph.D., Conservator: Cross Section Microscopy Report, Captain Timothy Hill House, Chincoteague, Virginia; Williamsburg, Virginia., Nov. 8, 2010, pg. 7.
4 Ibid, p.13.
5 Pruitt, Victoria: The Pruitt Papers, (Unpublished History of Chincoteague), p. 6.
6 Mariner, Kirk: Once Upon an Island, The History of Chincoteague; Virginia, Miona Publications, 2003, p. 4.
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10 Ibid, pg. 76.
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12 Westlager, C.A.: The Log Cabin in America; New Jersey, Rutgers University Press, 1969, p. 44.
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14 Mariner, Kirk: Once Upon an Island, The History of Chincoteague; Virginia, Miona Publications, 2003, pg. 30.
15 Accomack County Circuit Court, Clerks Office, Accomac, Virginia, Deed Book 20 1820-1824 p. 16.
16 Turman, Nora Miller: Marriage Records of Accomack County, Virginia 1776-1854: Maryland, Heritage Books, Inc., 1994, pg.130.
17 Pruitt, Victoria: The Pruitt Papers, (Unpublished History of Chincoteague), p.155.
18 Ibid. pg. 142.
19 Mariner, Kirk: Once Upon an Island, The History of Chincoteague; Virginia: Miona Publications, 2003, p. 55.
20 United States Census Records: United States Federal Census 1850: Provo, UT: Operations, Inc., 2009, pg. 16.
21 Accomack County Circuit Court, Clerks Office, Accomac, Virginia, Deed Books: 24, 25, 28,29,30, 1841-1842, 1842-1843, 1853-55, 1855-1858, various entries.

Section Endnotes,9 Page 9

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

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²² United States Census Records: *United States Federal Census 1880*. Provo, UT: Operations, Inc., 2009, p. 13-14.

²³ Carpenter, Sr., James Waine: *From Tears to Memories; The Cemeteries of Chincoteague*: New Jersey, Morris Publishing, 2008, pg.n/a listed as Hill, Mary Ann Daisey.

²⁴ United States Census Records: *United States Federal Census 1900*. Provo, UT: Operations, Inc., 2009, p. 50.

²⁵ Accomack County Circuit Court, Clerks Office, Accomac, Virginia, Deed Book 75, pg. 392.

²⁶ Pruitt, Victoria: *The Pruitt Papers*, (Unpublished History of Chincoteague), p. 10; an interview conducted summer 2010 by applicants of Elizabeth Hill of Chincoteague, widow of Fred Hill; great, great grandson of Capt. Timothy Hill .

²⁷ Hill, Betty Jones: *Memories; Life on Chincoteague and Assateague Islands*: self published 1970.

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SECTION 9

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Accomack County, Virginia

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Individuals:

Miles Barnes, Chief Librarian for The Eastern Shore Room, Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomac, Virginia.

Roy S. Custis, Painter, Virginia.

Elizabeth Hill, (widow of Fred Hill who was son of John W. Hill and grandson of Daniel Hill and great, great grandson of Captain Timothy Hill), Chincoteague, Virginia.

Jack and Ann Hill, (Jack son of John W. Hill and grandson of Daniel Hill and last person born in this house), Chincoteague, Virginia.

John and Mary Jester, Chincoteague, Virginia.

Jeffrey Klee, Architectural History, The Williamsburg Foundation, Virginia.

Kenny Lewis, Building & Zoning, Town of Chincoteague, Chincoteague Island, Virginia.

Robbie Lewis, Forester, Virginia Department of Forestry, Accomac, Virginia.

Carl Lounsbury, Architectural History, The Williamsburg foundation, Virginia.

Tommy Reed, Chincoteague, Virginia.

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Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

Donald Thornton, Chincoteague, Virginia.
Chuck Ward, Planning and Zoning Director, Town of Berlin, Maryland.
Earlene Watson Young, Eastville Virginia.

Museums :

Barrier Islands Center, Machipongo, Virginia
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels' Maryland
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia
Freeport Historical Society, Freeport, Maine
Historic New England, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Ker Place, The Eastern Shore Historical Society, Onancock, Virginia
The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia
Mystic Seaport, Mystic, Connecticut

Government :

Department of Historic Resources, Richmond & Norfolk, Virginia
Town of Chincoteague, Chincoteague Island, Virginia
United States Geological Survey.

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: **Captain Timothy Hill House**
City or Vicinity: **Chincoteague Island**
County: **Accomack**
State: **Virginia**
Photographer: **Marcus R. Pollard**
Date Photographed: **3/21/2011**
Location of Original Digital Files: **VDHR Archives**
Number of Photographs: **24**

Description of Photographs:

Photo #1:
Timothy Hill House, NW elevation

Photo #2:
Timothy Hill House, NE elevation

Photo #3:
Timothy Hill House, West elevation

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

Photo #4:
Timothy Hill House, SE elevation

Photo #5:
Timothy Hill House, Interior wall, facing NW

Photo #6:
Timothy Hill House, Interior wall, facing NE

Photo #7:
Timothy Hill House, Interior wall, facing SW

Photo #8:
Timothy Hill House, Interior wall, facing SE

Photo #9:
Timothy Hill House, Stair to garret above, facing south

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Captain Timothy Hill House
Accomack County, Virginia

N/A

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Photo #10:
Timothy Hill House, Interior corner with sections of original chinking

Photo #11:
Timothy Hill House, Main level ceiling planks and joists

Photo #12:
Timothy Hill House, Main level floor boards

Photo #13:
Timothy Hill House, Second level, facing SW

Photo #14:
Timothy Hill House, Second level, facing NE

Photo #15:
Timothy Hill House, Second level floor boards

Photo #16:
Timothy Hill House, Exterior wall corner with some original chinking, West elevation

Photo #17:
Timothy Hill House, Exterior wall carving of a schooner

Photo #18:
Timothy Hill House, Exterior wall carving of a sloop

Photo #19:
Timothy Hill House, Overall setting, facing SE

Photo #20:
Timothy Hill House, Overall setting, facing NW

Photo #21:
Overall property site, facing SE

Photo #22:
The Homestead House, North elevation

Photo #23:
The Homestead House, SE elevation

Photo #24:
Shed, West elevation

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheets.

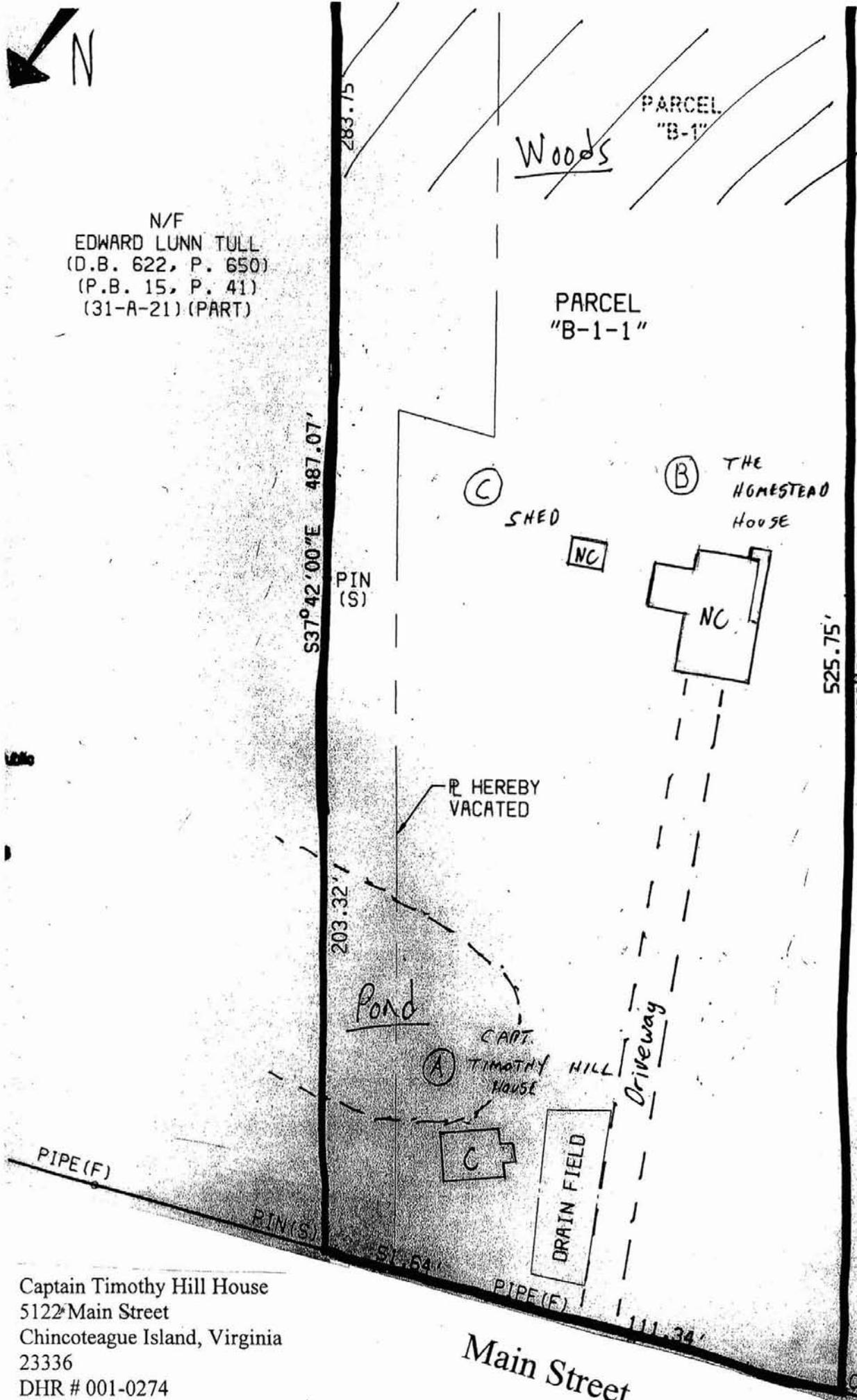
Narrative Description

See continuation sheets.



N/F
 EDWARD LUNN TULL
 (D.B. 622, P. 650)
 (P.B. 15, P. 41)
 (31-A-21) (PART)

N/F
 LAWRENCE T. WHITE
 JAMES L. CRITCHFIELD
 JOHN T. MILLER
 RICHARD W. YOUNG
 (D.B. 350, P. 18)
 (P.B. 18, P. 18)
 (30A7-1-1-235)



Captain Timothy Hill House
 5122 Main Street
 Chincoteague Island, Virginia
 23336

DHR # 001-0274
 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Main Street

Not to Scale

CONC. MON. (F)

High Hill House
on the Island,
County, VA
2274
Notes:
199768
see East Quad

