

VLR 6/8/6  
NRHP 8/30/6

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 Hickory Hill  
other names/site no. 081-0022

**2. Location**

street & number 197 Hickory Hill Lane not for publication N/A  
city or town Glasgow vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Rockbridge code 163 Zip 24555

**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      nationally      statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 7/13/04  
Signature of certifying official Date  
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 Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the National Register  
     removed from the National Register Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
     other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>4</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  
domestic secondary structure  
agriculture agricultural outbuilding  
agriculture animal facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling  
domestic secondary structure  
agriculture agricultural outbuilding

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Federal Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
roof asphalt singles, metal, and slate  
walls brick and wood frame  
other wood, stucco

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

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**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** 1823-1944

**Significant Dates** 1824; 1878; 1929

**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**

**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**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property approximately 123 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing		
1	<u>17</u>	<u>633941</u>	<u>4169852</u>	2	<u>17</u>	<u>634337</u>	<u>4170016</u>
3	<u>17</u>	<u>634764</u>	<u>4169460</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>634205</u>	<u>4169069</u>

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: Donald J. Hasfurther date March 17, 2006  
 street & number: 197 Hickory Hill Lane telephone 540-258-1550  
 city or town Glasgow state VA zip code 24555

**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 Donald J. Hasfurther & (wife) Cameron F. Bushnell  
 street & number 197 Hickory Hill Lane telephone 540-258-1550  
 city or town Glasgow state VA zip code 24555

**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.

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**7. Summary Description:**

Hickory Hill was built in the Great Valley of Virginia, about seven miles south of Lexington, four miles northwest of Natural Bridge, and three miles west of the confluence of the North (now Maury) and James Rivers. It is located today off of Forge Road, named after Buffalo Forge, which was located 3 miles to the northeast. The residence is located on approximately 185 acres, 124 of which comprised the original property. There are three additional contributing structures on the property: a barn, a stable/carriage house, and a board and batten shed. The residence was built between 1823 and 1824. It was constructed of brick with three integral end chimneys. The bond is Flemish with glazed bricks on the sides of the house. The south side of the house facing Forge Road has a two-story Doric portico, with a medallion embellished with an applied cornucopia in the pediment. The residence has five bays across. The paneled doors on the front and back at the main level have their original locksets and are topped with fanlights. The original section of the house has molded brick cornices and a brick water table on all sides. There are lunette windows in each gable end lighting the attic. The interior of the house features elegant Federal style mantels, paneled wainscoting, and random width pine floors. Perhaps the most striking interior features are the spiral staircase in the entry hallway and the chandelier, installed by a subsequent owner near the staircase.

**Narrative Description:**

The residence at Hickory Hill was constructed on a knoll. The basement side facing Forge Road is above ground, while the front side of the building on the north is largely below grade. The house is of four over four construction. The two basement rooms that are above ground each have entryways, with the original paneled doors, placed under the portico. Both rooms have fireboxes, but one room has lost its fireplace mantel. The latter room has also been stripped of its plaster and reveals the original brick walls, brick arches over windows and door, and ceiling beams with pegs. The room with its Federal style fireplace mantel intact has wainscoting applied in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A staircase from this room leads to the main level. The remaining two rooms serve as storage and utility rooms.

Little remains of the original free standing kitchen except some interior and exterior brickwork. The kitchen was connected to the main residence in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A cistern outside of the kitchen provided the house with water. A second story was also added to the kitchen area in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It is entered from the exterior, as well as the main level.

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Formal Main Floor

The primary entrance on the main floor is from the north, opposite the portico and Forge Road. As below, there are four rooms, except that the spiral staircase occupies most of one room. There is also a center hall running front to back. The staircase is notable for its banister with mahogany veneer on the sides and a thick layer of mahogany, cut and placed in sections of one to two inches, on the top. The balusters are plain. There is elaborate scroll work on the side of the staircase, which continues under the balustrade on the floor above. A silver-plated, six canded chandelier, possibly from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, hangs alongside the staircase. A small room with windows lies behind the stairway.

The hallway has refined arched woodwork in the entryway, which may have been added as a Greek Revival improvement in the 1840s. There is also some indication that the staircase was modified at that time. The front and back exterior doors in the hallway have six panels and original hardware. The iron locksets on both doors are 10"x 6"x 2.5" and have brass knobs and keys. The fanlight above the front door has 13 panes of glass, while that above the door leading to the portico has 14 panes. Ceilings are 10' 3" high. The interior brick wall that runs alongside one wall of the stairs leading to the basement is roughly 13" thick, while the brick wall that runs one side of the center hallway is roughly 9" thick.

The parlor, which is off the front entryway, is entered through an elaborate arched entranceway some six feet wide. There is an enclosed secondary staircase from this room to the next level, located above the stairway from below. While the steps are still there, the stairs have been closed above with the addition of a 20<sup>th</sup> century bathroom. The parlor has its original paneled wainscoting and Federal style mantelpiece. An unusual feature of the parlor is a window in the shape of a semi-oval, which sits atop the wainscoting on the left side of the fireplace. The window has two sashes, each with two panes, hinged in the middle so they may open into the room. Originally, they opened to the exterior. Today, they access the 20<sup>th</sup> century addition.

Two additional rooms, which now serve as library and living room, have mantels and paneled wainscoting. The interiors of both rooms have fine trim with bull's eyes around the doorways and windows. The doorway trim leading from the hallway is plain in comparison. This would again suggest that changes were made in the house, probably in the 1840s, in accordance with the style of that period. The Federal style mantel in the library resembles the mantel in the room below, while the mantel in the formal living room is the most elaborate in the house, again perhaps having been added in the 1840s. The living room has a ca. 1870 brass chandelier, converted from gas to

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electricity. It has six etched glass globes and hanging crystals and was installed in the early 1990s by the present owner. The room has two windows on the portico side of the house and two windows on the west side of the residence. Windows on the primary floor are nine over six, while the windows on the floors below and above are six over six. The sashes are wood, double-hung. There is some surviving period glass.

Upper Floor and Attic

The upper floor consists of a center hall and three principal rooms. Each room has retained its Federal style mantel. The largest of these rooms adjoins a smaller room that sits behind the curved wall of the staircase. From the hallway, a door with original hardware leads onto the upper floor of the portico. Another door leads from the hallway up stairs to the attic. The lunette windows in the attic are wood replacements of original windows, fitted precisely into the original window openings. The attic rafters have vertical saw marks, are numbered with Roman numerals, and are mortised and pegged together.

Exterior Detail

The Forge Road side of the residence has a two-story Doric portico. At its base, the portico rests on four square columns of stucco over brick. At present, the first floor of the portico is reached by two sets of stairs that meet at a landing in the center. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century photos show a single stair climbing to the portico from its center. There are four columns on the first floor of the portico. The center two are of brick with stucco and the outer two of wood. The four columns above are wood. The latter columns support the pediment. In the center of the pediment is an oval-shaped medallion with an applied cornucopia. The medallion would have been installed from the attic.

The brick surrounding the front door on the north side of the building reveals the outline of what was a porch. The well-preserved columns from the porch are in storage in an outbuilding. They do not appear to be original to the house and may have been added during the Greek Revival period when other changes appear to have been made to the house. Pictures taken of the house during the 1930s show that this porch had already been removed by then. Similarly, while the hardware still exists around the windows, exterior shutters had also been removed by the 1930s. Several of the exterior shutters exist and are stored in an outbuilding.

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The molded brick cornices and water table illustrate the refinement of the exterior construction. Writing in 1929, the owner of the house, a direct descendant of the original owner, states “that tradition has it that it was built of brick brought from England in a sailing vessel.”<sup>1</sup> In reality, the brick would have been fired on the property or nearby. They are not uniform, and display some cracks and other blemishes typical of bricks made in a less sophisticated setting.

Dependencies

Hickory Hill was built not only as a residence, but as a working farm. There would have been numerous dependencies on the nearly 700 acres owned by Reuben Grigsby. (As late as the 1930s, a WPA building survey identifies numerous outbuildings, including a smokehouse, a springhouse, several shops, a “buggy house” and a barn).<sup>2</sup> Of the original dependencies, a massive barn remains. A cornerstone on the barn reads “Wilson 1800”. As such, the barn may include portions of an earlier barn, built when the property was owned by James Wilson. Or perhaps the cornerstone of Wilson’s barn was saved and affixed to the limestone foundation of the present structure. The barn is hewn heavy timber frame construction. The timbers are numbered with Roman numerals and mortised and pegged. The present roof is standing-seam tin. Between the barn and the residence are the remains of a period dependency, now under a 20<sup>th</sup> century garage. A partial stone foundation, some brick, and a massive hand-hewn log remain.

A stable/carriage house lies near the residence. The limestone foundation perhaps supported an earlier stable. The bottom floor of the stable contains a portion of the original horse stalls with hardware. The wood appears to be chestnut. The present structure is light frame with a slate roof. It was likely constructed in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A ca. 1900 shed of board and batten construction also sits on the property. Other structures include a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century cottage, a 20<sup>th</sup> century brick garden house (likely once a pump house), and a metal hut for machinery storage. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph shows a white picket fence along the driveway on the portico-side of the property. A resident of Hickory Hill in the 1950s described a patio on the portico-side with old benches, where reportedly the carriage would let off passengers.<sup>3</sup>

The WPA survey notes the existence of a “piece of tin near the front door” which reads “Insured, Virginia Fire and Marine, Richmond 1832.”<sup>4</sup> While it is now lost, other interesting documentation still exists. Among the visitor notes written in the lime mortar near the portico-side entrance door, one is dated August 25, 1855. Another pencil notation on a piece of wood nailed to a horse stall in the stable reads 1907, and appears to record an animal breed or birth.



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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Summary**

Hickory Hill is one of the so-called “Seven Hills of Rockbridge County”, seven Valley homes built between the 1770s and 1830s by the Grigsby, Greenlee and Welsh families. Records indicate that Hickory Hill was built during the years 1823-1824 by Reuben Grigsby. Reuben Grigsby was born June 6, 1780, at Fruit Hill, his father’s home four miles northeast of Hickory Hill. John Grigsby, who had served under the command of fellow Virginian Lawrence Washington during Britain’s war with Spain, moved to the Valley of Virginia from Tidewater Virginia during the Revolutionary War and settled in the Buffalo Creek area of Rockbridge County. Reuben was the last of 14 children and the only one to be born in the Valley. Prior to his death on February 6, 1863, he distinguished himself both in the local community and the Commonwealth of Virginia. He served as a Captain in the Virginia Militia, Sheriff of Rockbridge County, Trustee of Washington College, Rockbridge Representative to the Virginia House of Delegates, and Elder in the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church.<sup>5</sup> He and his wife Verlinda and other Grigsbys are buried in the church’s cemetery, roughly two miles from Hickory Hill. Hickory Hill was subsequently owned by Admiral Benjamin Franklin Day, as well as Col. Robert and Chauncey McCormick, both ancestors of Reuben Grigsby.

**Justification of Criteria**

Hickory Hill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level, under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, because it exemplifies some of the best details of early 19<sup>th</sup> century Shenandoah Valley architecture. While the builder is not known, the building’s construction was likely influenced by locally renowned builders Benjamin (Sr.) and Samuel Darst and John Jordan. It is eligible because of its rare architectural form, quality of detail and high degree of historic integrity. In addition to the residence at Hickory Hill, the barn has special architectural merit and is likely one of the oldest such buildings in Rockbridge County. The property’s period of significance begins with the beginning of the construction of the residence in 1823 and ends in 1944 when ownership of the property by the McCormick family ended.

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**Narrative History**

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“Soldier John” Grigsby

Reuben Grigsby (1780-1863) was a descendant of a Scotch-Irish immigrant from Ulster, who settled in Virginia in the early 1660s in St. Paul’s Parish in Stafford County (now King George County.)<sup>6</sup> Reuben’s father, John Grigsby, was born in 1720 in Stafford County. In 1740, “Soldier John” accompanied Lawrence Washington, brother of George Washington, to Carthagen (now in Columbia) as part of the Virginia militia under the command of Admiral Vernon. The expedition against the Spanish occurred during the administration of Governor Gooch. John Grigsby also commanded a company of Thirteenth Regiment of the Virginia Line during the early years of the American Revolution.<sup>7</sup>

In 1779, John Grigsby, his wife Elizabeth (Porter of Orange County), and other family members crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains into the Valley of Virginia. He was preceded to the Valley by his son James, from whom he purchased “460 acres in the Forks of the James River” on November 2, 1779.<sup>8</sup> When he arrived at “Fruit Hill”, he was nearly 60 years of age and the father of 13 children. His last child, Reuben, was born there on June 6 of the following year. John Grigsby died April 7, 1794, and was buried in the cemetery of Falling Spring Church, where the family worshipped.

Reuben Grigsby

Reuben Grigsby grew up at Fruit Hill and attended Washington College after his father’s death. He was commissioned a captain in the Third Regiment of Cavalry, Virginia Militia in 1815. From 1811 until 1816, he served as Member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Rockbridge County. On February 26, 1817, he married Verlinda Alexander Porter, his first cousin, then living in Orange County.<sup>9</sup> Prior to his marriage, Reuben Grigsby had begun acquiring land south of his father’s home. On December 4, 1809, he purchased 354 acres in “the forks of James River” from Frederick Baker of Frederick County, Maryland.<sup>10</sup> On June 1, 1812, he purchased 236 acres for a price of “five hundred and ninety pounds” from James Wilson.<sup>11</sup> (The cornerstone on the old barn at Hickory Hill reads “Wilson 1800”, indicating that a building, if not part of what became Grigsby’s barn, stood there well before the construction of Hickory Hill). In the contract, Wilson reserved a quarter of an acre for an existing graveyard. On September 2, 1816, he purchased additional tracts totaling some 71 acres from Frederick Baker’s brother, Peter Baker.<sup>12</sup>

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Following his marriage, Reuben Grigsby’s accomplishments continued. From 1817 until 1827, he was a justice of Rockbridge County. He was a trustee and visitor of the Ann Smith Academy, and from 1830 to 1845, a trustee of Washington College in Lexington. He was treasurer of Falling

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Spring Church, and, in 1845, served as High Sheriff of Rockbridge County.<sup>13</sup>

Reuben Grigsby built the home at Hickory Hill between 1823 and 1824. There is some indication that the Grigsbys lived in a residence not far from the Hickory Hill property called “Five Chimneys” as they were building their new home. (That property exists today on Fancy Hill Lane, close to the Seven Hills property of the same name). Tax records show that in the early 1820s Reuben Grigsby owned 679 acres with buildings valued at USD 400.<sup>14</sup> In a letter to his nephew Hugh Blair Grigsby, dated November 15, 1824, he discusses having moved into Hickory Hill.<sup>15</sup> In 1825, his tax valuation increased to USD 1,795.25. The tax document notes that “Valuation altered on a ct of building.”<sup>16</sup>

In 1817, the year of his marriage, tax records show that Reuben Grigsby owned seven slaves above the age of sixteen, as well as six horses, mares or colts.<sup>17</sup> This figure did not change significantly for sometime. In 1825, the first full year at Hickory Hill, records show that he owned one slave abovetwelve, six slaves abovesixteen, and seven horses, mares, or colts.<sup>18</sup> By 1846, he was in possession of seventeen slaves above sixteen and eleven horses. That year, records show that he also owned a “4 wheel pleasure carriage and harness”, valued at \$280, and one “metallic clock.”<sup>19</sup> Land records in 1857 show the inclusion of property improvements of \$2,000 “on account of building.” This very well may have been the construction of the carriage house, expansion of the barn and other improvements.<sup>20</sup>

Connection with the Chandler, Darst, Jordan and McCormick families

Through his education and stature in the Rockbridge Community, Reuben would certainly have had contact with the other influential members of the Lexington/Rockbridge community. This undoubtedly included Benjamin Darst, Sr., Darst’s son Samuel and son-in-law John Chandler, and local builder John Jordan. The Darst family came to the Valley from Switzerland via Pennsylvania. Benjamin Darst, Sr. (1760-1835) was an influential member of the community, whose skills including pottery making, brick making, and construction. His son Samuel (1788-1865) and John Chandler, who was married to Samuel’s sister Polly, also played important roles in the building trade in Lexington, as did Samuel’s partner John Jordan.<sup>21</sup> The buildings they constructed in Lexington are historic landmarks today and include “The Pines”, “Beaumont”, “Little Stono” (DHR ID# 081-0079), “Stone”, the Rectory, and Washington Hall, (Washington College) as well as the now

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demolished Ann Smith Academy.<sup>22</sup> Whether or not Reuben Grigsby would have employed any of the builders or their workman in the construction of Hickory, it is clear that he would have learned from their work. Indeed, Hickory Hill, more so than other “Seven Hills”, has the refinement of the

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finer homes in Lexington built in the period 1816-1824.

The closeness of the families was later sanctified in marriages. Two of Reuben Grigsby's daughters married grandchildren of John Chandler and Polly Darst Chandler: Lucy Maria Grigsby to Norborne E. Chandler and Reubenia W. Grigsby to Dr. Samuel Temple Chandler. In letters, the couples' children would describe their visits to the "Seven Hills", including Hickory Hill, and their thoughts concerning "Uncle Reuben."<sup>23</sup>

Another of Reuben Grigsby's daughter, Mary Ann, married William Sanderson McCormick, brother of Cyrus McCormick. The McCormicks moved to Chicago prior to the Civil War to commercialize the reaper which they had invented in Rockbridge County. Like Reuben Grigsby, Cyrus McCormick was a trustee and benefactor of Washington College. (McCormick's statute stands on the grounds of Washington and Lee University). Mary Ann Grigsby McCormick would move back to Virginia following the death of her husband in 1865.<sup>24</sup>

Death of Reuben Grigsby

Reuben Grigsby died on February 6, 1863, at Hickory Hill. He and his wife Verlinda were buried near his parents at Falling Spring cemetery. The Grigsby family had played an important role in the settlement of the Valley of Virginia. Reuben and Verlinda had eleven children. A son, Lucien Porter Grigsby (1820-1893), was the last Grigsby to own the residence at Hickory Hill. He received the residence and 340 acres in the settlement of his father's estate in 1874. According to the settlement map, another 314 acres would go to daughters Emma J. Grigsby Herbert (1833-1898) and Elizabeth Jane "Bettie" Grigsby (1827-1905). The remaining 48 acres went to daughters Mary Ann Grigsby McCormick (1828-1878) and Hannah Francis Grigsby Hamilton (1825-1887).<sup>25</sup>

The period following the Civil War was a difficult one. The residence at Hickory Hill was sold in 1878 to settle Lucien Grigsby's debt. Lucian Grigsby, a soldier in the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry who was wounded at the First Battle of Manassas, moved to West Virginia, where he reportedly took his own life on October 9, 1893, in Mercer County.<sup>26</sup> Other family members settled in Illinois, Kentucky and Texas.

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Subsequent Owners of Hickory Hill

From 1878 to 1894, the property went through 4 owners (George W. Pettigrew in 1878, J.S. Brown in 1878, Horace Brown in 1882, and C.W. Irvin in 1892) before it was acquired by Admiral

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Benjamin Franklin Day in 1894. Day reportedly commanded the last naval vessel fully powered by sail and was present at Ford's Theater at the time of the Lincoln assassination.<sup>27</sup> The property remained in Day's ownership until 1925. Upon his death, it was acquired by H.F. Thomas. On March 5, 1929, it was sold to the West Side Court Corporation.

In a letter dated May 3, 1929, from the McClung-Kinnear Realty Company of Lexington, Virginia, to Chauncey Brooks McCormick of Chicago, the company describes the property to the next prospective buyer. According to the letter, "the fine old Colonial House with its hand carved mantels and arches, the inlaid spiral stairway, heating plant for hot water...would cost to build over \$15,000." The letter describes the barn as one of the finest in the county with all modern equipment, "such as hay fork, rope and pulleys, sile, feed grinder, granaries for both wheat and corn...." The letter further refers to a "machinery shed, fine stable, tool house and smoke house."<sup>28</sup>

On June 10, 1929, the property was purchased by Col. Robert R. McCormick and his cousin Chauncey B. McCormick.<sup>29</sup> Col. McCormick (1880-1955) was editor-publisher of the *Chicago Tribune* at the time he co-owned Hickory Hill. He was the grandson of William Sanderson McCormick, a brother of Cyrus McCormick, and of Joseph Medill, who became editor and co-owner of the *Tribune* in 1855. Through this position, Medill helped to elect Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Medill also served as Chicago's post-Fire mayor.<sup>30</sup> Chauncey McCormick (1884-1954) was then head of International Harvester, the successor of Cyrus McCormick's reaper company. He was a noted philanthropist and also served as president of the Art Institute of Chicago.<sup>31</sup>

Chauncey McCormick, as his cousin Robert, was a grandson of William Sanderson McCormick and Mary Ann Grigsby McCormick, and thus a great grandson of Reuben Grigsby. He was also the great grandson of Chauncey Brooks of Baltimore. On June 14, 1934, Col. McCormick transferred a portion of his share in the property to William Grigsby McCormick of Dade County, Florida, "for and in consideration of love and affection."<sup>32</sup> The remainder went to Chauncey McCormick. The property left the ownership of the McCormick family on November 8, 1944, when it was purchased by a Dr. Insley of Roanoke, Virginia.<sup>33</sup>

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Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> McCormick, Chauncey, letter, May 20, 1929.

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Rockbridge County, Virginia

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- <sup>2</sup> Moore, Rada, WPA Survey, May 22, 1936.  
<sup>3</sup> Clayton, Sarah, personal communication, March 2006.  
<sup>4</sup> Moore, WPA Survey.  
<sup>5</sup> *Richmond Enquirer*, February 10, 1863.  
<sup>6</sup> Beard: 15-21.  
<sup>7</sup> Darst: 352.  
<sup>8</sup> Darst: 352.  
<sup>9</sup> Nicholson: 85.  
<sup>10</sup> Deed Book G: 20-21.  
<sup>11</sup> Deed Book H: 65.  
<sup>12</sup> Deed Book K: 91.  
<sup>13</sup> Darst: 356-357.  
<sup>14</sup> Land Survey Book, 1821-1825.  
<sup>15</sup> Grigsby Letter to Hugh Blair Grigsby  
<sup>16</sup> Land Survey Book, 1821-1825.  
<sup>17</sup> Property Book, 1817.  
<sup>18</sup> Property Book, 1825.  
<sup>19</sup> Property Book, 1846.  
<sup>20</sup> Land Survey Book, 1857-1860.  
<sup>21</sup> Darst: 22-81.  
<sup>22</sup> Lyle: 78-88.  
<sup>23</sup> Darst: 46-47.  
<sup>24</sup> Smith: 25.  
<sup>25</sup> Deed Book 00: 89.  
<sup>26</sup> Driver: 181.  
<sup>27</sup> News-Gazette, June 23, 1965.  
<sup>28</sup> McClung-Kinnear Realty letter to Chauncey McCormick, May 6, 1929.  
<sup>29</sup> Deed Book 1928, Deed 150: 339.  
<sup>30</sup> Smith: 3-8, 14-17, 30.  
<sup>31</sup> Chicago Historical Society Website.  
<sup>32</sup> Deed Book 1934, Deed 161:416.  
<sup>33</sup> Deed Book 1944.

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**10. Geographic Data**

**Additional UTM References**

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
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Hickory Hill  
Rockbridge County, Virginia

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5 17 633824 4169547    6 17 634058 4169684

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is identified by tax parcels 16-A, 16-B, 16-C, 16-D (minus upper 51.35 acres not originally part of Hickory Hill property), and 14-A (plus an additional 8 acres paralleling Hickory Hill Lane). The UTM's points follow each exact corner of the nominated boundaries in Zone 17 and are identified specifically as: 633941E, 4169852N; 634337E, 4170016N; 634764E, 4169460N; 634205E, 4169069N; 633824E, 4169547N; 634058E, 4169684N.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel consists of only the original Hickory Hill property of approximately 123 acres.

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**Photographs**

All photographs are of:       **Hickory Hill**, Rockbridge County, Virginia  
Photographer: Bruce N. Hasfurther    Date Taken: February/March 2006  
Negative No. 22845, 22846, 22847    Location of Negatives: VDHR, Richmond

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**Hickory Hill  
Rockbridge County, Virginia**

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1. VIEW OF: North of farm from Forge Road. Neg. No. 22846
  2. VIEW OF: North (back) elevation. Neg. No. 22847
  3. VIEW OF: East elevation. Neg. No. 22846
  4. VIEW OF: South (front) elevation. Neg. No. 22846
  5. VIEW OF: West elevation. Neg. No. 22846
  6. VIEW OF: South elevation, front door. Neg. No. 22846
  7. VIEW OF: North elevation, pediment w/cornucopia. Neg. No. 22846
  8. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, hall stairway. Neg. No. 22845
  9. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, stairs and chandelier. Neg. No. 22847
  10. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, parlor. Neg. No. 22845
  11. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, library mantel. Neg. No. 22845
  12. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, living room. Neg. No. 22847
  13. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, hallway and front door. Neg. No. 22845
  14. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, back door. Neg. No. 22845

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15. VIEW OF: Second floor, interior, bedroom. Neg. No. 22847
16. VIEW OF: Second floor, interior, bedroom. Neg. No. 22847
17. VIEW OF: Second floor, interior, bedroom mantel. Neg. No. 22845
18. VIEW OF: Attic, interior, rafter w/Roman numeral. Neg. No. 22845

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**Hickory Hill  
Rockbridge County, Virginia**

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19. VIEW OF: Basement, interior, dining room mantel. Neg. No. 22845
  20. VIEW OF: Basement, interior, ceiling w/pegged beams. Neg. No. 22845
  21. VIEW OF: Basement, interior, doorway w/brick work. Neg. No. 22845
  22. VIEW OF: First floor, interior addition, window to parlor. Neg. No. 22846
  23. VIEW OF: North and east elevations, carriage house. Neg. No. 22846
  24. VIEW OF: Basement stable, interior, carriage house. Neg. No. 22847
  25. VIEW OF: North elevation, barn. Neg. No. 22846
  26. VIEW OF: South elevation, barn. Neg. No. 22846
  27. VIEW OF: Barn, interior, timbers w/pegs and Roman numerals. Neg. No. 22846
  28. VIEW OF: South of farm w/Blue Ridge Mountains. Neg. No. 22846
  29. VIEW OF: West elevation, storage house and machinery hut. Neg. No. 22847
  30. VIEW OF: North elevation, cottage and garage. Neg. No. 22846
  31. VIEW OF: South elevation, garden/ pump house. Neg. No. 22847

#081-0022  
HICKORY HILL  
ROCKBRIDGE CO.  
VIRGINIA  
UTMS ZONE 17

1. 633941E  
4169052N
2. 634337E  
4170016N
3. 634764E  
4169460N
4. 634205E  
4169069N
5. 633824E  
4169547N
6. 634058E  
4169684N

