

YLR: 1-18-72  
NRHP: 5-5-72  
NHL: 11-11-71

127-66

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: RICHMOND (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
GLASGOW HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
BRANCH-GLASGOW HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond (David E. Satterfield, III, Third District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in cit.) CODE: 760

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Leased for office space.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY: Angus Murdock, Director

OWNER'S NAME:  
William Byrd Branch of the Association for Pres. Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2705 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA  
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ENTRY NUMBER  
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in an area of Main Street which still maintains some of its early residential quality, the Branch-Glasgow House is a well-preserved example of a detached Greek Revival Richmond townhouse. More specifically the Branch-Glasgow House, which is constructed of lightly scored stucco over brick, incorporates two stories over a full basement. The deck-on-hip roof is pierced by four interior chimneys and the edge of the roof is skirted by a molded cornice with bead and reel and dentil courses.

The facade of the Branch-Glasgow House is composed of three bays on the main mass and a one bay wing recessed on the east side. The six-over-six sash windows are surmounted by lintels covered with low-peaked wood fasciae and are upheld by wooden lug sills. The centrally located Doric portico combines a simple molded cornice with a plain frieze and architrave supported by fluted Greek Doric columns. These columns are linked to pilasters by a cast iron grille decorated with open quatre-foil. The portico is raised high on a flight of granite stairs which are flanked by stepped podii with panel fronts. The granite stairs, which splay out slightly towards the bottom, end in a flat stone volute on the diminished last tread. Two iron boot-scrappers with open-volute ends are mounted on stone blocks on either side of the stair and a grey and white marble walk leads to the portico. The front yard is enclosed by a cast iron fence with an open crest work lower border and fluted posts topped with pine-apples.

Both side elevations of the main mass are two bays deep. The east however has a painted brick wing which projects out flush to the side walk, and which has a roof line slightly lower than that of the front of the house. The windows of the four second story bays and the three first story bays have segmental shaped header surrounds and wooden sills. There appears to have been some alteration in the first bay of the left side resulting in a seam to above the first floor window. Four cast iron coal chutes marked with "A.S.A. Snyder and Co., Richmond" or "Jos. Hall and Co., Richmond Iron Works." are staggered along the side. The opposite side of the wing that faces into the back yard has a door flanked by four windows on the first floor and three bays on the second floor. A wall attaches the left wing to a two-bay, two story brick carriage house which stands to the rear of the lot. On the ground floor, there are two gauged segmental arched vehicle openings with two segmental arched windows above.

To the rear, the Branch-Glasgow House, which was once characterized by at least a full one tier porch, has now been broken up by enclosed units. On the first floor is a three-bay porch raised on brick piers and divided by heavy Tuscan columns linked by a turned balustrade. The six-panel central door bordered by three-light side-lights is surrounded by an architrave with an overhanging cornice and a double band frieze. The tall sash window in the left bay has six-over-nine lights and three-panel moveable louvered shutters. The bay to the right is occupied by twelve-light French doors. On the second floor, which has a total of seven bays, two enclosed porches flank a recessed bay.

The interior of the Branch-Glasgow House displays the elegance of Greek Revival detail. The front hall is surrounded by a bold double band frieze supporting a deeply cut molded cornice which drops from the ceiling. The rooms, however, flanking the central hall have single frieze entablatures which are diminished versions of those in the hall. The stairway to the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1841

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1841 David M. Branch, a tobacconist by profession, built the Greek Revival house which stands at one West Main Street. The house was sold at auction the following year and in 1846 it was purchased by Mr. Isaac Davenport, one of Richmond's industrial pioneers. Davenport helped to build the Franklin Manufacturing Company, the first of the famed paper mills that came to Richmond. Upon Davenport's death in April of 1865, his daughter Griffen B. Davenport inherited the house and members of the Davenport family lived here until in 1887 it was sold to Frances T. Glasgow.

When her father died in 1916, Miss Ellen Glasgow inherited the house in which she had lived since she was thirteen years old. After publishing The Descendant anonymously at the age of fifteen, Miss Glasgow went on to write The Voice of the People which was the first of a series of novels that showed "her boldness in approaching realistically material which had too long been bathed in nostalgic sentiment." In 1938 Miss Glasgow was the sixth woman to be elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters and her last novel In This Our Life won her the Pulitzer Prize in 1942. The author's autobiography The Woman Within, published after her death, makes references to the Main Street residence. Not only was most of her writing done in this house, but Miss Glasgow once said that except for a farm house in Connecticut, her Main Street home was the only place in which she could write. In her study decorated with the paper she had imported from England, Ellen Glasgow drew on Richmond life as a background for much of her work.

After Miss Glasgow's death in 1945, her brother Archer Glasgow presented the house to the Virginia Historical Society. Finally in 1947 the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities purchased the Main Street house with money collected through contributions. Friends and relatives of Ellen Glasgow contributed generously to preserve the house as a landmark to this noted Virginia authoress. The William Byrd Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities presently leases the house for office space.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed Books: 40 p. 86; 45 p.305; 132A p. 415.  
 Files of the Valentine Museum, Houses, Richmond; West Main Street (Ellen Glasgow House).  
 Files of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Richmond, Branch-Glasgow House.  
House of Old Richmond, Mary Wingfield Scott.  
 Land Book: 1841.  
Old Richmond Neighborhoods, Mary Wingfield Scott.  
 Richmond Directories 1856-1892.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	37°	32'	34"
NE	°	'	"	77°	26'	42"
SE	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres.

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF; James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: October, 1971

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name James W. Moody, Jr., Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
RICHMOND (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

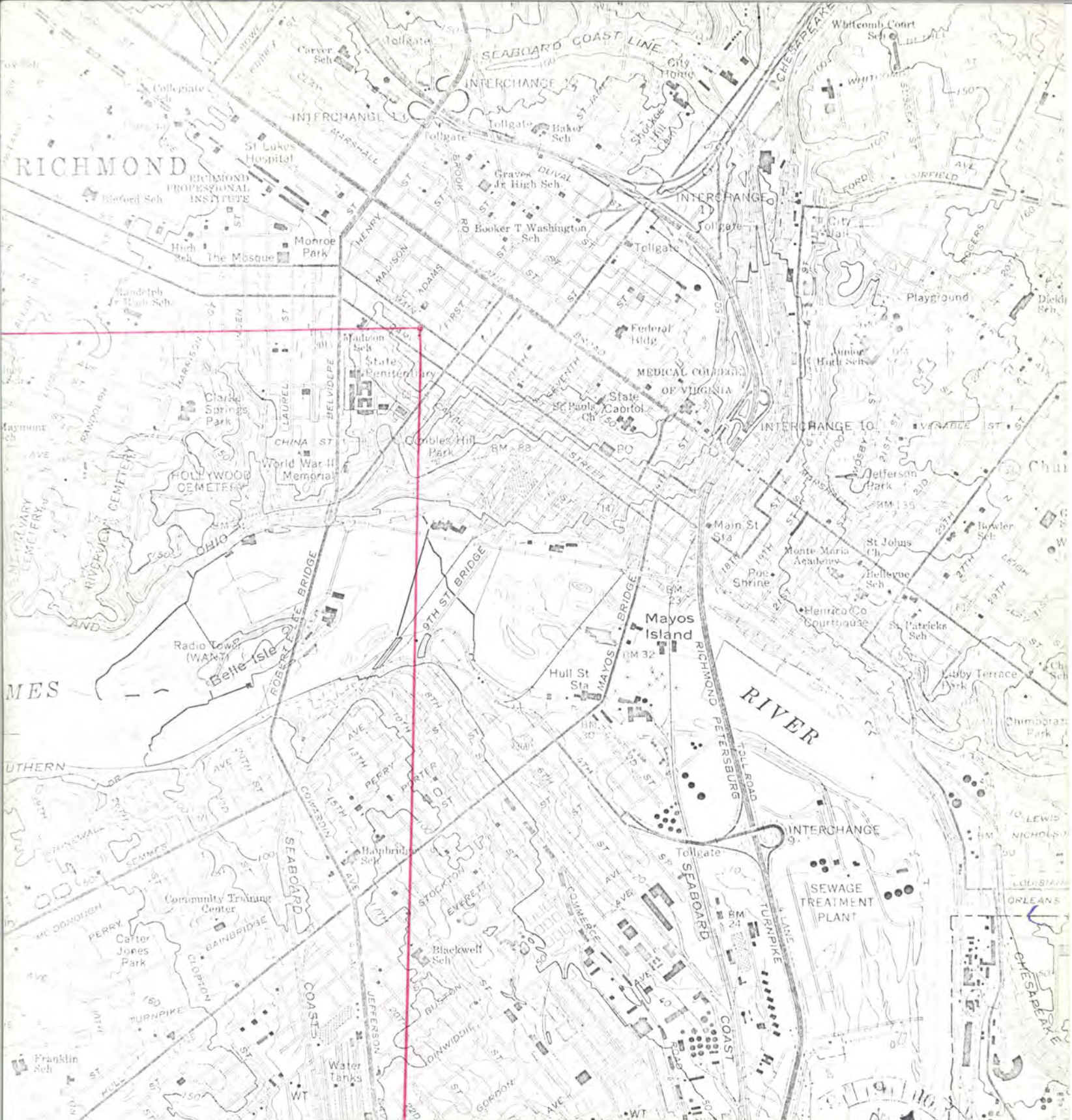
left rear of the hall has a mahogany rail ending in a fluid snail-like volute supported by a tapering post around which the bottom tread curves. The round rail is mounted on tapering balusters and the open stringers are decoratively cut. Panelled dados enclose the area beneath the stairs.

Throughout the house the architraves of the doors and the windows are treated in a similar manner. On the first floor the entablature consists of molded cornice with a double band frieze divided by a thin course of molding and guttae. The aperture is flanked by two delicately carved, elongated pilasters with Tower of the Winds style capitals and panels cut with incurving volutes and inverted palmettes. The architraves of the second floor are decorated with flat molding which ends in rosette-filled corner blocks. Many of the windows have solid panel interior shutters.

Some of the most notable features of the interior decoration are the elaborate ceiling ornaments which appear in the rooms of the first floor. These circular motifs range in design from tulip bouquets alternating with swaying acanthus leaves to a flat petalled rosette surrounded by palmettes to simply a flat rosette. Fireplaces decorated with black marble heated the rooms of the first floor and white marble was used on the second floor. Most of these were filled with decorated cast iron interior units. In the northwest room of the first floor an early gilt mirror with cornerblock motif still hangs over the mantel and a glass chandelier from the days of the Davenport family remains.

The most positive trace of Miss Glasgow's former presence is the unusual wall paper in her northwest study located on the second floor. Imported from England, the paper was so highly prized by the author that she went so far as to insure its preservation in her will. The paper depicts in an almost Impressionistic manner the red tile roofed houses of the Mediterranean.

6. Historic American Building Survey Inventory  
1957 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

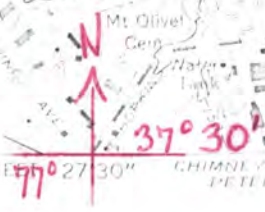


U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Richmond, Va. 1964

GLASGOW HOUSE

Latitude  
 37°32'34"

Longitude  
 77°26'42"



2 300 000 FEET  
 1:25000  
 CHIMNEY CO  
 PETERSBURG

INTERCHANGE B 25'  
 5.17 MI