

VLR-5/18/82 NRHP-2/10/83.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See Instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Waverly

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 212 South King Street N/A not for publication

city, town Leesburg N/A vicinity of congressional district (10th) Frank L. Wolf

state Virginia code 51 county Loudoun code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<b>being considered</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Bruce M. Brownell, Trustee - Waverly Park Partnership

street & number 1137 Walker Road

city, town Great Falls N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22066

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Loudoun County Clerk's Office

street & number East Market Street

city, town Leesburg state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? y e s  no

date 1971, 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Waverly, a large rambling mansion originally built for Robert Townley Hempstone around 1890, is located on a four-acre lot at the corner of King Street (Route 15 south) and East First Street within the town limits of Leesburg, Virginia. It is centrally located on a spacious, tree-shaded lot surrounded by commercially developed property to the east, north, and west and a wooded tract to the south. The house is a fine example of a late 19th-century Victorian residence displaying features of both the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The 2½-story frame building is pine weatherboard and set upon a full basement of rusticated stone. Tall brick chimneys with recessed panels and corbeled caps rise above the steeply pitched, slate hipped roof which is surmounted by decorative metal cresting. A box cornice with molded trim surrounds the entire structure. Waverly basically consists of a square main block with an original rear service wing. Semi-octagonal bay projections are situated at each of the four corners of the main block. A single-story frame porch consisting of Tuscan columns supporting a denticulated full entablature extends across the front and partially across the north and south side elevations. A central full pediment above paired columns frames the main entrance which is composed of double doors flanked by sidelights with tracery. A graceful elliptical fanlight surmounts the entrance. A wide hipped-roof domer with a small porch extension is centrally located above the entrance at the attic level. Tall and wide double-hung 1/1 sash windows have full cornice heads above them.

The north and south elevations have semi-octagonal bay projections and hipped-roof domers. A full-length frame porch with square posts extends along the south elevation of the rear service ell. Entrances off the porch have two-light transoms above them. The fenestration at the rear (east) elevation features a Palladian window of stained glass.

The spacious interior of Waverly is divided into a wide central hall flanked by large, high-ceilinged rooms. The central hall features an offset area in which a monumental open-well stair rises to the second floor. A stained-glass Palladian window dominates the stair landing. The balustrade, composed of classical turned balusters, coils at the bottom of the stair. A square newel at the stair landing has fluted Ionic pilasters and is topped by a wooden finial. The parquet floor of the central hall is bordered by an inlaid dark wood pattern. A small vestibule featuring double doors with glass panels flanked by frosted glass sidelights serves as the main entrance leading into the central hall.

The front drawing rooms face the central hall and are separated by tall wooden sliding doors framed in architrave trim. All eight mantels in the house vary in design; however, the drawing room mantels are most elaborate. The north room mantel consists of a shelf supported by scroll brackets and fluted Composite pilasters with a full entablature. Dominating the room, a large mirror framed by decorative trim rises above the mantel. The south room mantel has a molded shelf above an elaborately carved frieze.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca. 1890

**Builder/Architect** John Norris and Sons - builders

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built for Robert T. Hempstone, a prominent Baltimore businessman, Waverly stands as a personal symbol of prosperity rarely expressed on such a scale of ostentation in the Victorian architecture of northern Virginia. At a time when the economy of Loudoun County still suffered from the devastating effects of the Civil War, fashionable late 19th-century dwellings such as Waverly were reserved for prominent members of society who usually had acquired their wealth elsewhere. Besides reflecting the prosperity of the owner, Waverly is a fine representative of the design talents and craftsmanship of the local building firm of John Norris and Sons.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The largest Victorian frame house in Leesburg, Waverly was built for Robert Townley Hempstone (1842-1913), a wealthy Baltimore merchant who retired from business in the 1890s and settled about a mile south of Leesburg. A native of Maryland, Robert T. Hempstone lived in Loudoun County during his youth and later enlisted in the Confederate Army. He served as special courier to Gen. George Pickett during the Civil War.<sup>1</sup> After the war "he engaged in active business in Baltimore until the nineties when he returned to Loudoun and retired to a now handsome farm which stands as a monument to his thrift and energy."<sup>2</sup>

Hempstone's retirement home featured an opulent display of Georgian Revival- and Queen Anne-style architectural details that were not usually combined in the architectural designs of the period in the Leesburg area. Designed and executed by John Norris and Sons, a prominent local building firm, Waverly was one of the firm's largest and most ambitious building projects. Although original architectural drawings and building specifications are unavailable, it is evident that the house has undergone little change or major alterations since its construction.

John Norris and Sons was a popular building firm whose carpenters, bricklayers, stonemasons, and other tradesmen were talented craftsmen who were responsible for building most of the prominent public buildings and private residences in Leesburg and its immediate vicinity. The firm was established by John Norris in the 1830s when he built a planing mill at the west end of the town of Leesburg. Originally known as John Norris, the business name changed to John Norris and Sons in 1850 and changed again to Norris Brothers in 1905. Under the management of John Norris and his son, Joseph Lafayette Norris, the versatile contractors designed and built numerous structures of various architectural styles such as the Georgian Revival Loudoun County Courthouse (1894), the Romanesque Revival St. James Episcopal Church (1900), and several Georgian Revival and

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Loudoun County Deed Book 6Z, p. 136 (1887); Will Book 3T, p. 211 (1913).  
 "Robert T. Hempstone" (obituary), Loudoun Mirror, Leesburg, Va., August 15, 1913.  
 Plaster, Emory. Leesburg, Va. Interview and notes, 1982.  
 Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives. David A. Edwards, unpublished manuscript.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.8 acres

Quadrangle name Leesburg, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on the SE side of US B-R 15, about 1400' NE of E exit ramp from US 15/VA 7, said point marking a corner common to this lot and the Tuscarora Hills subdivision; thence extending about 360' NE along SE side of B-R 15; thence extending 56' along the arc of a curve whose radius is 5701.58'; thence

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** (See Continuation Sheet #2)

state N/A code   county N/A code  

state N/A code   county N/A code  

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date May 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

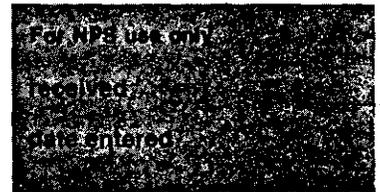
State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director date MAY 18 1982  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

<b>For HCRS use only</b>	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



WAVERLY, LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA  
Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7, 8

Page 1, 1

7. Description -- Architectural Analysis

It is flanked by paired, Ionic columns which support a full entablature with a mirror above. Handsome in composition, but less elaborate in detail, each of the other mantels features Colonial Revival characteristics. A chair rail and cove ceiling molding surround each of the main rooms. A dining room is located north of the stair hall, and a smaller room faces the dining room across the stair hall. Each of these rooms has a large bay projection making up the entire end of the room. A rear ell contains three service rooms on the first floor with a stair leading to servants' quarters above. The four-paneled doors of these rooms are framed in symmetrically molded trim with bull's-eye corner blocks.

Each of the second-floor rooms has a fireplace with decorative mantel, a private bath, and transoms over paneled doors. The turret room in the attic is the only finished room at that level. An enclosed stair to the attic rises from the second-floor hall. There is no access to the servants' quarters from the second floor of the main block.

Situated on a gradually sloping lot, the house is surrounded by several mature shade trees which also dot the front lawn. An elliptical gravel drive serves the front of the house. The entire lot is bordered on the east and north sides by a shrubbery hedge.

DAE

8. Significance -- Historical Background

Italianate mansions in the Leesburg area. John Norris's son, Lemuel Watson Norris, became an accomplished architect in Washington, D.C., and often designed buildings for his father's building firm.

After the death of Robert Hempstone in 1913, the house changed ownership several times during the 20th century. Besides serving as a residence, Waverly was also used as a restaurant in the 1950s and a private school in the 1970s. Despite its history of various uses, the building remains largely unaltered from the late 19th century.

DAE

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<sup>1</sup>"Robert T. Hempstone" (obituary). Loudoun Mirror, Leesburg, Va., August 15, 1913.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet #2

Item number 10

Page 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

extending about 375' SE, along S side of private drive; thence about 413' SW; thence about 391' NW to SE side of B-R 15, the point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to coincide with the 3.8-acre tract on which the building is situated. (No official lot number on record in Loudoun County Tax Assessor's Office.)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

