



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 078-5197

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No x

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes No x

1. General Property Information

Property name: Amon Richardson Estate

Property address: 311 Piedmont Ave

City or Town: Washington

Zip code: 22747

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Rappahannock

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building x Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 5.76

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural x

Briefly describe the property's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Amon Richardson House is located on a beautiful expanse of land in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains about a mile west of the Town of Washington along Piedmont Avenue (Route 626) The house faces north with a large open lawn devoid of trees or plantings except around the house. The house and associated outbuildings are accessed by a long grassy drive that stretches along the east side of the property. There are older growth trees and ornamental plantings around the houses with two large boxwoods that flank each side of the residence. The back side of the property is wooded and has not been farmed or cleared for fifty years.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Vernacular – I house

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: _____

If the builder is known, please list here: Amon Richardson

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1897

Narrative Description :

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

Exterior

The Amon Richardson House, constructed ca. 1897, is a two-story, three-bay, side gable I-House clad in original wood clapboard siding and covered with an original standing seam metal roof. There is one exterior stone and brick chimney off the east elevation and one interior brick chimney near the west elevation. The house is situated on a stone foundation. The façade features a centered one-story porch that covers the primary entry to the residence. The porch is flanked by two, one-over-one vinyl replacement windows. The second story features three symmetrically placed one-over-one windows. These are also vinyl replacements. The porch, sitting on concrete slab foundation, has a hipped roof supported by simple square posts with a simple balustrade with square balusters and rounded handrail.

The rear elevation features a projecting steeply sloped gable with a wooden attic vent. Also off the rear is a one-story addition situated on a foundation of concrete block. The one story addition features a mix of original and replacement windows and a centered entry. The entry is flanked by two six-over-six original windows. The windows on the second story rear elevation are all one-over-one vinyl replacements.

Interior

The interior of the house features a single-pile, hall parlor plan on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor. The front entry opens to a narrow center hall with a narrow stair, accessed towards the rear of the home, along the west wall. The stair features a chamfered newel post with a squared top, square balusters and a rounded hand rail. It continues along the west wall to a landing with another short flight of stairs to the second story hall.

The house has very little detailing except for the mantels in the first floor east parlor, now a kitchen, and the east bedroom on the second floor. The flooring on the first floor has been removed due to water damage and replaced temporarily with large sheets of plywood.

The rear addition was originally porch that is now enclosed for additional living space.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

There is a frame shed located just to the rear of the primary dwelling is a shed/garage .It is in a severe state of deterioration with some of its walls missing or close to collapse. Just to the west of the home is a small building that was constructed to protect the water pump. Also to the west of the house is a large concrete slab that likely constructed as a patio.

4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

The Richardson House was constructed ca. 1897 by Amon Richardson. Amon, an African American, was a farmer and grew corn and raised cows, hogs and chickens on this property. Amon was born in 1874 in Washington, Virginia. His mother was Amanda Richardson and his father was Joseph Richardson. His mother was likely born in Sperryville, she is listed as one of 312 free blacks in the community in the 1860 census. Prior to purchasing the home and becoming a farmer, Amon was listed in the census as a clerk, a builder and at one time he worked the Steel Mills in Canton Ohio. He returned home and married Harriet Fletcher and constructed this dwelling and began life as a farmer. He and his wife would go on to raise nine children in the home. The home is currently vacant but is still owned and maintained by the Richardson Family.



Amon Richardson
Richardson Family Collection

The Amon Richardson dwelling, a vernacular farmhouse situated in rural Rappahannock County, is important as it represents the presence of African Americans in this area and their contributions to the community. The house is a tangible piece of history that sheds light on the experience of one African American man and his family during the

tumultuous years of Jim Crow through the era of Civil Rights. The Richardson house was constructed in an area that was likely developed as an African American community outside of the Town of Washington , the county seat of Rappahannock County. It is located less than a mile from the Washington Rosenwald School (078-5187), recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Richardson property is being considered eligible under Criterion A; Ethnic Heritage and Social History as a well preserved example of a dwelling constructed by African American, Amon Richardson in 1897, during the beginnings of Jim Crow. It represents a cultural landscape little documented and understood in rural communities such as this one in Rappahannock County. The period of significance begins in 1897, the date of construction and continues through 1969 as it represents the lifeways of African Americans in rural communities during Jim Crow and throughout the Civil Rights era.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: _____ Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: _____

organization: _____

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

Legal Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: _____

organization: _____

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

6. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager

name/title: _____

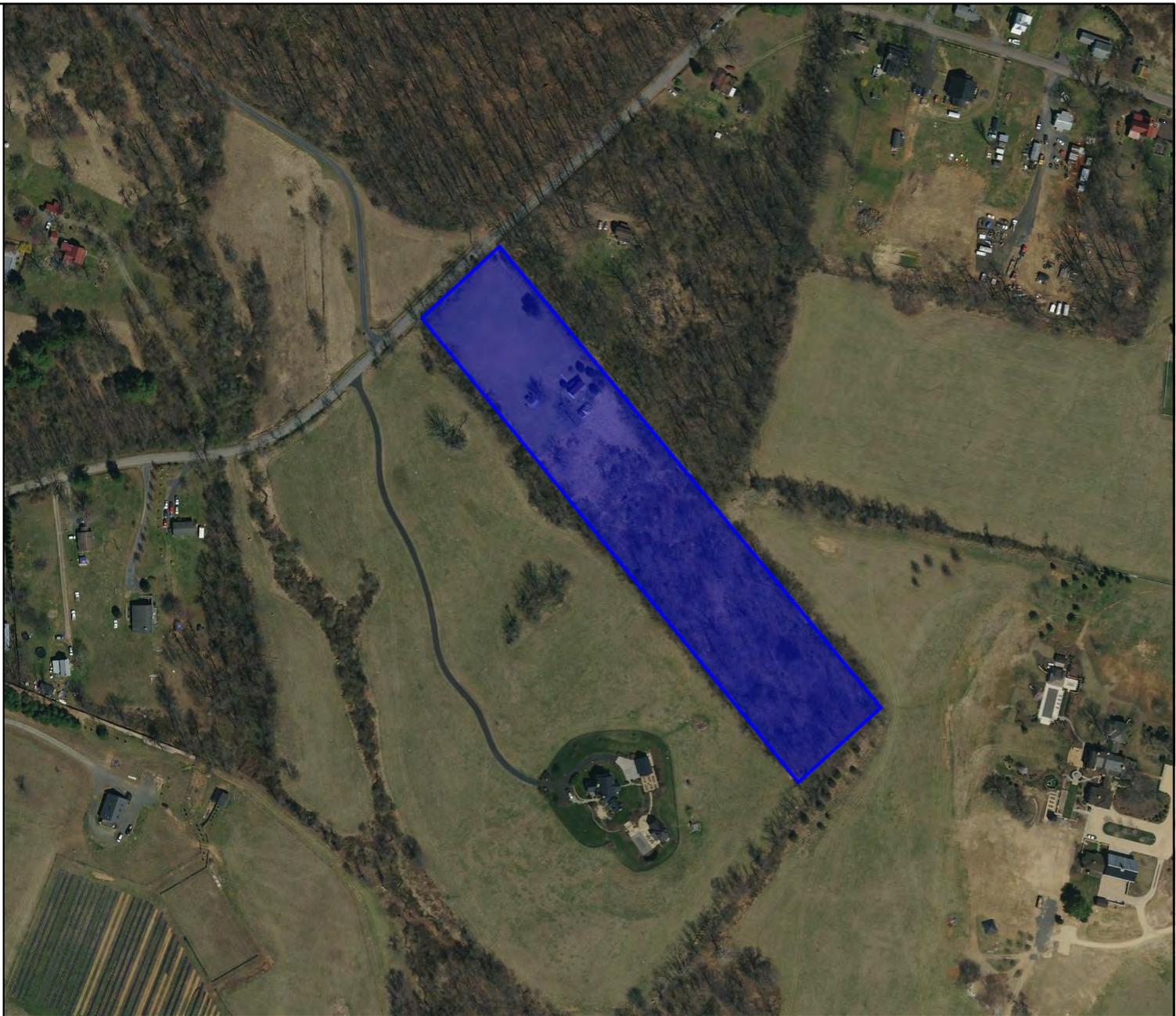
locality: _____

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

telephone: _____

Legend



Feet

0 100 200 300 400

1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet

Title:

Date: 8/30/2019

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

The Broadest Branches



A History of the Richardson Family in Washington, Virginia



**Amon Grimsley
Richardson**

Amon Grimsley Richardson was named after Daniel Amon Grimsley, who was born in April 3, 1840 near old Mt. Salem church in Culpepper. It's curious why Amanda would name her son after a confederate soldier.

Daniel was the son of Reverend Barnett Grimsley who performed many of the marriages in the county. Daniel Grimsley was a confederate soldier in the Rappahannock Calvary, Company B. He went from orderly to Sergeant to Major and Lieutenant-colonel of the Sixth Virginia Calvary. He wrote a book entitled "*Battles in Culpeper County, Virginia 1861-1865*". On May 23, 1862, he led a cavalry charge which historically may be one of the top charges of all time. Amon Grimsley's company practically destroyed a Federal regiment and captured its colonel, and nearly 75% of the men were killed or wounded. General Stonewall Jackson remarked that in all his military history he had never seen a cavalry charge so magnificent. Daniel Amon Grimsley became a leader in the community as well as a respected judge who married his cousin Bettie Browning in 1866.

Reverend Barnett Grimsley, was very well known throughout the county and was known to be a great orator and speaker. He pastored at the Mt. Salem church for several years. The white Fletchers and the white Harris families belonged to this church located in a vastly populated area of Rappahannock County. Areas included Fauquier, Culpeper, Washington and Gaines Crossroads. As people moved away and time went on it was abandoned around 1942. The structure of the building still stood as of 1982 and there were several attempts to restore it.

Reverend Grimsley also kept the County's Tax books in 1863, where gold was taxed at an 8% Tax rate. Gross income at the time was taxed at 5%. Retailers paid a "Soldier's Tax" of \$20. Physicians and lawyers were assessed a fee of \$50. Distillers and merchants paid a "Specific Tax" Produce was also taxed. Out of a total of 554 people there were only 15 citizens who paid taxes over \$1000. Richard Harris (The Harris-Fletcher Connection) was one of them.

Amon Richardson was a survivor. He was a jack of all trades who clerked in stores, was a butcher and builder. He worked in the steel mills in Canton, Ohio until he contracted typhoid.

Returning to Virginia, he met and married Hattie Fletcher. He was silent about much of his past and his son Chauncey had always been curious as to the family history, his father and their roots in Rappahannock County.

Amon built the four room house which still stands in Little Washington, Virginia on 9 acres of land. One section of the house burned down in 1926 or 27. On May 2, 1929 the year of the great stock market crash a tornado hit heavily in Woodville, it whipped through Amisville and had its effects on Little Washington.

His marriage to Hattie lasted well over 50 years. Neither Hattie nor Amon went farther than a second grade education according to the 1940 census. They worked the land which was their farm and land legacy of the Richardson family and raised 9 of 10 children

