Virginia Department of Historic Resources
PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Property Information</th>
<th>For Staff Use Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Name(s): &quot;ROTHERWOOD&quot;</td>
<td>DHR ID #: 081-00415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Date(s): 1742</td>
<td>X Circa □ Pre □ Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Address: 15470 Southampton Pkwy.</td>
<td>City: N/A Zip: 23829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County or Ind. City: SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY USGS Quad(s): WGS84/NAD83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acreage: 301</td>
<td>Setting (choose one): □ City □ Urban □ Town □ Suburban □ Rural □ Transportation Corridor</td>
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Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: Home sits majestically on a hill overlooking cultivated fields of corn, peanuts, and cotton with Black Angus cattle roaming in the pastures nearby. Some remaining old cedars line partially one side in the front and old fruit orchard remains in the rear. But for the trees cut, the house remains much as it was centuries ago.

Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: Just the outbuildings which may be as old or older than the home. At one time there was living quarters for as many as 350 workers, but site has not been discovered.

Ownership Category: □ Private □ Public-Local □ Public-State □ Public-Federal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Resource Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the current use? (if other than the historical use)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural style or elements of styles:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect, builder, or original owner:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of stories: 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are there any known threats to this property? No
### Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "a/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

#### Foundation:
Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.

- **Continuous brick, with some small section of back-block support.**

#### Structure:
Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.

- **Hand sawn lumber for structure in hipple roof design (pegged).**

#### Walls:
Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.

- **Wooden clapboard or siding, original to house, recently painted.**

#### Windows:
Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically)? Have the windows been replaced?

- **24 windows, being 14 up and 10 down. Windows are 6 over 6 panes in wooden sashes, with metal window weights. Vert. slide.**

#### Porch:
Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.

- **Front and back porches. Believed back porch enlarged.**

- **Front has 2 fluted round columns and back, 4 rect. columns.**

#### Roof:
Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.

- **Rolled Tin, and from attic, originally shingled.**

#### Chimney(s):
List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.

- **4 original chimneys, recently repaired with firebrick and gaslogs for the 8 fireplaces (1 per room).**

### Architectural Description of Individual Resource:
*(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

**PATTERNS:** Basic "4 OVER 4" pattern in rectangular mold. It has a central hall, front to back, with a slightly smaller hall upstairs with the four rooms down and up, off the halls.

**TYPES:** More Georgian in appearance and style. Front porch with rounded fluted columns and dental molding above the porch.

**FEATURES:** Originally some twelve (12) total buildings, to include the separate kitchen and barns. Now only six (6) remain.

- The home has a formal living room, dining room, parlor room and kitchen, made in the former dining room. It has the four (4) bedrooms upstairs, larger ones on the front of the house. A smaller room at the end of the upstairs hall, believed to be a cloak or storage room, was converted into a master bathroom.

**ADDITIONS:** PLANNED AS LIMITED AS POSSIBLE None to the outside of the home. The kitchen building was removed over forty (40) years ago, moved some four miles away. It is planned to bring it back.

The interior is the same, with the exception of adding the master bath upstairs and putting two (2) 1/2 baths in closets. Closets were added to most rooms, by the fireplaces in the late 1800s. We have added central heat and air conditioning.
REMODELINGS: Besides bathrooms, none other than re-plastering entire interior. Ceilings in upper four bedrooms were sheetrocked over existing ceilings and then plastered. Repaired sills around and underneath house. Masonry work around house with same old brick. Rewired electric system and added 200 amp service. Painted exterior with "Lifelong coatings of three (3) layers of paint. We did have to vent the bathrooms and put a drain line on the south side of the house. We painted the entire interior, and are having plaster molding in some downstairs rooms repaired. We repaired and cleaned the wideplank, original floors.

ALTERATIONS: There have not been any alterations other than those mentioned above. We do plan to repair the outbuildings still in existence.
Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property.
(Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

1. Greatest significant event would be the actual construction of this great home in the sheer wilderness some thirty-four (34) years before the Declaration of Independence was written. It was one of the first large homes on the southside of the James River in Virginia.

The house was the "Homeplace" of the Ridley family, one of the most prominent Virginia families, originally from the Isle of Wright County area. The patriarch of the Ridleys was Nathaniel Ridley (1675-80 – 1719) who was descended from Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London (1550). It is not known when the Ridleys came to the Commonwealth of Virginia. We do know that Nathaniel Ridley was granted lands in Virginia, including thousands of acres in what was to become Southampton County in 1747.

* The builder of the home was Nathaniel Ridley II (1705–10 died 1753) who was one of children, and it is believed from available records built it in 1742, the year he married. It is supported by the fact that it was completed by 1748.

Nathaniel Ridley II distinguished himself and family by being a Justice of the Peace in Isle of Wright County (1734) and was Sheriff in 1740, also, Vestryman in his Church.

Probably the most distinguished personage to live in the home was Thomas Ridley, son of Nathaniel Ridley II. Born in the home (1750 – 1815) he served in the Continental Army in the American Revolution, rising to the rank of Major and then fighting at White Plains, New York and gallantly at Brandywine, Pennsylvania, where, because of his gallantry, he was given a gold watch by a dying British Officer. He served two separate enlistments and commanded troops; serving at Yorktown. He was one of few officers designated in the Society of Cincinnati, being an original member. After the Revolution, he returned home to serve as a Planter, Justice of Peace, Vestryman in his Church (Courtland), Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly (1785–86 and 1786–87), appointed by the Governor as Colonel of the Virginia Militia for the County (1785) and then Senator (1790–1800).
2 The property passed out of the RIDLEY family in the late 1800's, owned by a WILLIAM SYKES, MD, a medical doctor who moved from Richmond, Virginia. The map of the property shows some ten to twelve dependencies at the home then.

2 In 1917, my Great Uncle, WILLIAM H. VINCENT, purchased the tract (map included) of some 820 remaining acres in 15 parcels. MR. VINCENT was a leading industrialist who owned the first home in Capron, Virginia (Historical Registry). Now some 301 acres remain of the original tracts.

3 The home and property has been in my Family since 1917. WILLIAM VINCENT to niece, IRMA VINCENT RAWLINGS, to her daughter, SARAH RAWLINGS JONES, to her husband, DR. DARDEN W. JONES, then, DARDEN W. JONES, JR. and EDGAR RAWLINGS JONES, the current owners.

Sources:

1 The Southampton Ridleys, Contributions to the Growth and Development of Southampton County by Kim K. Futrell, Program for the Southampton County Historical Society.

2 Map, 1917, Sykes conveyance to William Vincent

2 Family History, Darden W. Jones, DDS, Franklin, Virginia
"This is remembered also. Church Ridley once remarked that he didn't think he would ever live long enough to see two things—one was a man on the moon, the other was night baseball in Sebrell, Virginia. He saw both.

With the passing of Churchill Gibson Ridley, the line of Nathaniel Ridley is now extinct in Southampton County.

The Ridley legacy is a source of great pride to the family, and rightly so. At the same time, because the family chose Southampton County to be their home, this Legacy also becomes a pan of Southampton's legacy. The contributions to, and the effects of the Ridley family upon the life of Southampton is not adequately covered in a program of this kind. It was undertaken simply to draw attention to those who so willingly went about daily life, from the beginning to the present day, with a determination to make it a better place for future generations.

The slide portion of the program was as follows:

Number's 1-6 - The Ridley Plantations
Number 7 - John William Ridley
Number 8 - Old Schoolhouse- "Violet Hill"
Number 9 - Virginia Jordan Ridley of "Bonnie Doone"
Number 10 - Plantation Chair - "Bonnie Doone"
Number 11 - Epaulettes-belongs to Colonel Thomas Ridley, III.
Number 12 - "Aunt Lindy"- daughter of slave at "Violet Hill"
Number 13-15 - Confederate Money at "Violet Hill"
Number 14-15 - Davis-Ridley Clubhouse
Number 16 - Churchill Gibson Ridley at the clubhouse.

The oldest of the Ridley homes, spoken of as the "Ridley Homestead". Thought to have been built before 1748 by Nathaniel Ridley III, and Priscilla Applewhite Ridley. Also the home of Col. Thomas and Amy Scott Ridley, who were married in 1778, willed to Francis Thomas Ridley at his mother's death.

A large colonial style house, it had five chimneys, built of heavy timbers that were hand hewn and ripsawed, morticed and pegged, with lathes made of split or rived pine. It had 26 windows (8 by 10 panes - 18 per window), nine large rooms-four small ones, 11 ft. ceilings, carved handrail and balusters on single flight stairwell, doors of red pine, wood cornices, wainscoting and plastered walls, H&L hinges on doors with large colonial locks. The floors were made of wide & inch pine boards, sized from bottom, mantels were fancy and hand carved.

"Rotherwood" stayed in the Ridley family until 1850. Owned today by Dr. Darden Jones of Franklin, Va.

"Rock Spring"

This house is non-existent today. Built in 1787 by John Wright, purchased by Thomas Ridley II, 1809 (his wife Mary Blunt Wright was a niece of John Wright), Thomas II willed it to his son Robert Ridley in 1839. Robert Ridley sold it out of the family in 1873 to B. I. Worrell. W. P. Gillette acquired it from Worrell in 1903 with W. P. Gillette, Jr. obtaining it in 1932.

The house was two story, frame building with feather-edged and beaded weatherboarding. The timber was hand hewn and whipsawed with 19 windows but no shutters. It had six large very heavy paneled doors, with brass knocker on the front door. Chimneys very large, with ten rooms in the house, four on first floor. Wide hall downstairs, ceiling had 2-circles with grape designs in each, lamps hung from these. The cornices were wood and elaborate. One of the large rooms on first floor had two alcoves on either side of the fireplace, with cabinet in wall on each side. The second floor had six rooms, with front stairs leading to four, back stair led to other two. With wide flooring, the mantels were tall, elaborate, and hand made. All doors had H & L hinges.

An interesting note here: part of this house lives today, for Mr. and Mrs. Trent Fox, of Capron, Virginia, purchased the living room
**Legal Owner(s) of the Property**  (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>(Firm)</th>
<th>(Address)</th>
<th>(City)</th>
<th>(State)</th>
<th>(Zip Code)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DARDEN W. JONES, JR.</td>
<td></td>
<td>c/o 487 McLays Circle, Suite 1-B Williamsburg VA</td>
<td>23185</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDGAR R. JONES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>(Daytime telephone including area code)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jones <a href="mailto:edgarr@cs.com">edgarr@cs.com</a></td>
<td>(757) 564-3990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner’s Signature:</th>
<th>Date: August 3, 2005</th>
</tr>
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In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

**Contact person:** Above Contact

**Daytime Telephone:** (757) 564-3990

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>(Firm)</th>
<th>(Address)</th>
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<th>(State)</th>
<th>(Zip Code)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>(757) 564-3990</td>
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</tbody>
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**Notification**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department 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 or City Manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL W. JOHNSON, County Administrator</td>
<td>Southhampton County Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Loudacy)</th>
<th>(Address)</th>
<th>(City)</th>
<th>(State)</th>
<th>(Zip Code)</th>
<th>(Daytime telephone including area code)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courtland</td>
<td>23827</td>
<td>(757) 653-3015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**We are seeking this evaluation because of the most important historical significance.**

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes [X] No [ ]

Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes [X] No [ ]

IF MORE EXPLANATION