1. Name of Property
Historic name: Jarratt House
Other names/site number: DHR Site #44PG0470; DHR #123-0114-0002; Sampson, Lavinia, House
Name of related multiple property listing: NA
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
Street & number: 808-810 Logan Street
City or town: Petersburg
State: VA
County: Independent City
Not For Publication: NA
Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
level(s) of significance:

 ___ national  ___ statewide  X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A  ___B  X C  ___D

---

Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

---

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

---

Signature of commenting official: Date
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____________________

Signature of the Keeper ___________________ Date of Action ________________

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [ ]
Public – Local [X]
Public – State [ ]
Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s) [X]
District [ ]
Site [ ]
Structure [ ]
Object [ ]
Jarratt House
Name of Property

City of Petersburg, VA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1
(The Jarratt House is a contributing building in the Pocahontas Island Historic District.)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC (Multiple Dwelling)


Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
VACANT: Not in Use


7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
Narrative Description

The Jarratt House is an evolved early 19th century double house, located within the Pocahontas Island Historic District (NRHP 2006; 123-0114), a community located on the north side of the Appomattox River in the City of Petersburg, Virginia. The dwelling is a contributing resource to the district. Built ca. 1820 as a rental property by John Wilder, the Jarratt House is a two-story, brick double house, each unit containing, on the ground floor, a side passage and chamber, and on the second floor, two chambers. The Jarratt House is the lone surviving brick Federal double house and the only antebellum building surviving on Pocahontas Island. The property has one contributing secondary resource: an early nineteenth- through mid-twentieth century archaeological site (44G470) that includes the footprint of the long-demolished rear wing of the building.

Summary Paragraph

The Jarratt House is located at 808-810 Logan Street, in the Pocahontas Island community of the City of Petersburg. The Jarratt House is the lone surviving brick Federal double house and the only antebellum building surviving on Pocahontas Island. The ca. 1820 dwelling is located in an urban neighborhood, on a small level lot, as it was when originally constructed. The dwelling is oriented to Logan Street, to the east of the dwelling. There is no sidewalk adjacent to the street, and there are no trees, shrubs, or other plantings on the lot. While the siting and orientation of the Jarratt House remain in their historic configuration, Pocahontas Island has lost many historic buildings, altering the historic setting of the residence and rendering it a rare survival.

The Jarratt House is a single pile, two-story, gable-roofed double house constructed entirely of brick. On the interior, there are two mirror-image dwellings units, each with a passage and chamber on the first floor and two chambers on the second floor. During the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, several additions were constructed to the back of the house but all have since been removed. The interior plan of the remaining building retains its original configuration. The Jarratt House went into decline during the 1990s after it was badly damaged in a 1993 tornado (which removed the roof), and has remained unoccupied since. In recent years, the City
of Petersburg has engaged in a series of stabilization, repair, and restoration efforts, which have greatly improved physical conditions in the building.

**Exterior:**
The Jarratt House is a single pile, two-story, six-bay, brick double-house, covered by a side gable roof covered with standing-seam metal (a recent replacement), with two exterior end brick chimneys. Each end chimney is flanked by a pair of small, four-light wood frame attic windows (the glass is no longer extant); the side elevations otherwise are devoid of fenestration. The brick foundation is laid in a three-course American bond, as are the side (north and south) and rear (west) walls. The east façade is laid in a more decorative Flemish bond, a typical treatment of the period that emphasized the publicly viewed elevation. The façade features a brick cornice constructed of header bricks projecting beyond the plane of the cornice to approximate a modillion cornice, while the rear elevation features a brick saw-tooth cornice. The mortar is an oyster-shell-based mix (though later repairs were made with sand-based mortar, with some recent repairs made with Portland-cement based mortar). Both the materials (brick and mortar) and the workmanship (the quality of the mortar joints) are of a higher quality on the east façade. As a result, the side and rear masonry walls deteriorated more extensively than the primary elevation, and have required more frequent and extensive repairs.

The east façade is six bays wide; on the first story, there are two window openings, and one door opening for each dwelling unit; on the second story, there are three window openings for each unit. Each of the façade’s two entries has a simple transom, though the glass is long gone. The front door to the south residential unit is a modern replacement, while the entry door to the north dwelling unit is original; both currently are boarded over for security. The surviving historic entry door (to the north dwelling unit) is a solid wood four-panel door (though in poor condition). The door to the south dwelling unit is reached by a wood step, while the north dwelling unit is reached by a brick step. Each of the two entry doorways is surmounted by a row of header bricks. All window openings are topped with jack arches. Most window openings no longer contain window sash and are boarded over. Two window openings on the second story contain wood-framed, six-over-six sashes. (A 1975 VHLC photo confirms six-over-six sash were on the second story, and recorded the presence of nine-over-six sash on the first story.)

The rear (west) elevation has four symmetrical bays that include two entries and two windows on the first story and four windows on the second story. The two entries have solid wood, four-panel doors that match the surviving entry door on the façade of the north dwelling unit. Both door openings are highlighted by jack arches. On the second story of the north dwelling unit, a window opening was converted to a door opening to gain access to the second floor of an addition of unknown date (the addition is no longer extant).

**Interior:**
The house is divided into a pair of two-story residential units, mirrored in plan, each extending the depth of the building. Each residential unit has an entry on the east façade and a secondary entry on the rear (west) elevation. There is no internal connection between the two residential units. The first floor consists of a single-pile, side passage plan on each side, providing access to
a single chamber. The front door of each unit opens into a passage while a larger room opens to
the side and extends to the side walls with chimneys. A stair located in the passage of each unit
leads to the second floor. The second floor has two rooms, a large chamber (corresponding to the
chamber below) and a small chamber adjacent to the stair.

The walls and ceilings of both residential units are finished with plaster over wooden lath from
mill-sawn lumber. The mantles (which are identical in all four rooms with hearths) have
unremarkable, machine-cut Greek Revival moldings. All doorways and windows are emphasized
by similar Greek Revival moldings. All of the large rooms have baseboards and chair rails
extending around their perimeters. In both residential units, the ceilings are plastered, while the
walls of the first-floor hallways are sheathed with large horizontal boards painted dark brown.
The staircases are also enclosed with this material. Small closets open beneath the staircases.
Throughout both residential units, the hearths have been closed up and stovepipes were inserted
into the chimneys and the hearth, though the stoves themselves are no longer extant. In the north
residential unit’s second-floor large chamber, the stovepipe is run directly through the exterior
wall, and not into the hearth.

The interior finishes in the two residential units are similar; the differences are largely restricted
to choices of paint colors. In the north residential unit, the first-floor large chamber is painted
light-blue, with a bright red mantel and dark trim. The second-floor large chamber above has a
red-painted mantelpiece and trim; the trim in the small chamber is black. In the south residential
unit, the first-floor chamber has vertical board paneling. In this chamber, the walls are painted a
very light blue while the woodwork is grey. Above it, in the second floor large chamber of the
south residential unit, the room is painted off-white with dark brown mantel and trim. The
landing of the south residential unit is painted off-white with yellow trim, and the small chamber
is a deep aqua blue with the same color trim.

The interior doors throughout both residential units are simple. The doors to the large chambers
on the first floors are paneled, matching the trim on the doorways and inside those chambers. All
other doors – including the closet doors on the first floor and all second floor doors – are wood
batten doors, originally attached with heavy strap hinges. On all doors throughout both
residential units there has been continuous reworking of knobs and hinges. Little remains of the
original hardware.

Additions:
Several frame additions were added to the rear of the house during the late nineteenth or early
twentieth century. These additions were plumbed (while the original, masonry portions of the
dwelling never were). Presumably, the additions were the locations of new kitchens and
bathrooms for the two dwelling units, replacing external dependencies which likely originally
serves these purposes.

Sanborn Company fire insurance maps record the presence of a single two-story addition and a
one-story addition to the rear of the Jarratt House on their 1915, 1951, and 1957 maps. A 1975
Virginia Historic Landmarks commission report does not mention the additions, indicating they were demolished between 1957 and 1975.

Archaeological Potential

The property has archaeological potential based on field testing undertaken to date, including identifying the locations of kitchen and other outbuildings typically associated with an early nineteenth century, urban parcel behind a double house. The Pocahontas Island Historic District nomination references some archaeological investigations as well. Previous archaeological excavations at the Jarratt House revealed considerable evidence of intact cultural features, including those associated with the initial construction of the house as well as features likely associated with the former frame additions on the rear elevation. The site associated with the dwelling has been recorded as site 44PG0470 at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.¹

Integrity

The Jarratt House retains integrity of location because it continues to occupy its original site. The integrity of setting within and around the property has been altered over time, in part due to a 1993 tornado that destroyed numerous buildings in the vicinity and damaged the Jarratt House itself. Rear additions on the double house that were recorded on Sanborn maps by 1915 were removed between 1957 and 1975. Historic period outbuildings also are not extant, although archaeological testing indicates potential to identify locations of resources such as a detached kitchen. The integrity of design, workmanship, and materials of the Jarratt House is largely intact. The double house’s exterior design is a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style, which is evidenced by the symmetrical fenestration, Flemish bond façade and three-course American bond side and rear walls. The workmanship of the brick walls is varied, with the Flemish bond façade more skillfully built than the side and rear elevations, which show evidence of repeated repair campaigns. The dwelling’s interior retains remarkably intact interior trim with minimal classical references. Although deteriorated, the wood flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, mantels, and trim are in situ. The property’s retains its integrity of association as a modest dwelling occupied from ca. 1820 to the late twentieth century. Documentary records directly link the dwelling to the history of the Pocahontas Island community, which was home to free persons of color (including Black and Virginia Indian residents as well as those with mixed heritage) during the antebellum era and continued through the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras in Petersburg. The property’s integrity of feeling is somewhat diminished by loss of integrity of setting and loss of historic-period additions that would have provided a fuller context had they remained.
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.

X 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 grave

☐ D. A cemetery

☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

☐ F. A commemorative property

☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Jarratt House
Name of Property

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Native American
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1820-1972

Significant Dates
1853
1862
1879

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The settlement at Pocahontas Island began during the mid-18th century and originally was a river community dominated by white residents. Pocahontas Island transformed into a largely African American residential and commercial neighborhood during the early 19th century and has substantial associations with Virginia Indian tribes. Petersburg had the largest free Black population in antebellum Virginia, and more free Black persons resided on Pocahontas Island than in any other part of Petersburg. The Jarratt House also is associated with Lavinia Sampson, a member of the Pamunkey tribe, who owned the property from 1853 to 1877. The property’s longest association was with the Jarratt family, a locally prominent Black Petersburg family, who owned the property from 1877 and 1991. The Jarratt House is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Ethnic Heritage: Native American, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. While the dwelling is in fair condition, the property’s overall integrity is quite good, and includes archaeological potential based on limited professional testing of the associated site 44PG0470. The period of significance is ca. 1820-1972 which encompasses the double house’s by John Wilder, its occupation by Lavinia Sampson, and it long ownership by the Jarratt family. Significant dates of 1853 and 1862 correspond to Sampson’s acquisition of the dwelling units, and 1879 is the date that the Jarratt family acquired the property.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage (Native American)
The Jarratt House is locally significant for its direct association with the influence of the Pamunkey tribe on the development of the City of Petersburg, and specifically Pocahontas Island. The level of documentation available concerning property owner Lavinia Sampson, a Pamunkey tribal member, offers insights into the kinship networks and financial progress made by the Sampson family from the 1830s to the 1870s. The Jarratt House was constructed at the order of John Wilder, a slave-owning, white merchant in Petersburg, who rented out both residential units of the Jarratt House to members of the Pocahontas maritime community, who were largely Black and included both free and enslaved individuals. After Wilder’s death, and a series of short-term ownerships of the property by white investors, Lavinia Sampson acquire the northern residential unit in 1853, and the southern unit in 1862. Sampson (born ca. 1805), was a Pamunkey Indian but, because of Commonwealth of Virginia policies of the time that offered no recognition to the continued presence of Virginia Indian tribes, she was identified in census records as a free Black woman. Her life and her ownership of the Jarratt House are significant for the insight they provide into the complicated cultural milieu of Virginia Indians in Petersburg and how the Commonwealth of Virginia’s policies responded.
Originally occupied by the Appamatuck tribe, Pocahontas Island is located on the north side of the Appomattox River, at a bend in the river near the falls at present-day Petersburg. The river to the south separated Pocahontas from Petersburg, while swamps, bluffs, and a diversion channel cut in 1915 (which transformed Pocahontas Island into an actual island) – separated Pocahontas from Chesterfield County. The geography has insured that the community – established in the mid-eighteenth century – remains isolated. Established as Whittontown, and later renamed Pocahontas, the settlement was first laid out ca. 1749. Initially named after Richard Whitton, a local landowner who surveyed and sold the land, the town was established during the February 1752 General Assembly Session. The name established by incorporation was Pocahontas, selected to commemorate the supposed descent of local landowner John Bolling from Powhatan’s daughter, Pocahontas. By the late-eighteenth century, the settlement became a densely populated residential and commercial enclave. From the 1830s to 1850s, the area’s population transitioned to become Black and was home to many former enslaved persons. In addition to its physical seclusion, Pocahontas Island’s transformation in the early nineteenth century from a majority-white community to a predominately Black community with particularly strong maritime associations has given it a history and character that are independent from the City of Petersburg. In the years before the Civil War, Pocahontas Island was one of Virginia’s largest communities comprised of free persons of color, including Virginia Indian and Black individuals and those of mixed heritage. While the population of Pocahontas Island declined in the twentieth century, the neighborhood has retained its character as a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood. The area experienced considerable damage as a result of a tornado that swept through Petersburg in August 1993, and the Jarratt House is one of only two antebellum structures (the other being the “Underground Railroad” house) that survive.

The Jarratt House was completed in 1820, under the ownership of John Wilder, on what was originally town lot 29. Wilder purchased lots 11 and 29 unimproved from John F. May in 1817. The rental value of the two lots increased in 1819 from zero to $80, reflecting the construction of a small dwelling on lot 11. In 1820, the rental value of lot 29 increased to $170, the same year that the land tax book reported the value of lot 29 as $1,312.50, reflecting the construction of “2 brick tenements,” the double-house known as the Jarratt House.

The 1810 U.S. Census identified John Wilder as a white male aged between 26 and 44, owning one enslaved person. Wilder became a successful merchant in Petersburg, and the house in Pocahontas was just one of his many investments. By the time of the 1820 census, Wilder was identified as a white male over 45. At this time, he owned eight male and six female enslaved individuals. His household also contained one free Black male under 14 years old. Given the reach of his business interests – his holdings included the ship Rebecca and schooner Nancy – and the thriving maritime endeavors in Pocahontas, it is possible that Wilder’s investments in Lots 11 and 29 may have provided housing for Wilder’s paid employees and/or enslaved workers owned by him.

John Wilder died around 1824, leaving his property (including Lot 29) to his brother Joseph G. Wilder. Presumably, the property continued in use as rental housing until Joseph Wilder’s death in 1840. In 1841, his executor sold Lot 29 to Henry H. Robinson, who subdivided the lot. In that
same year, Robinson sold the northern half of the lot (and half of the house) to William G. Wynn, and the following year, sold the southern half (and half of house) to Hugh Doner. In 1842, Doner sold his half of the house to John Finn. Wynn retained the northern half until 1853, when he sold it to Lavinia Sampson; she would acquire the southern half in 1862, reuniting the double house under common ownership. Although an enrolled member of the Pamunkey tribe, Sampson was misidentified in local records as Black.

An 1803 act passed by the Virginia General Assembly required every Black person or free person of color to be registered and numbered in a book to be maintained by the clerk of each Virginia county. The Commonwealth categorized as “Black” anyone with any measure of Black ancestry. This legislation dramatically affected Virginia Indian tribes, many members of which had intermarried with persons of African descent. Today, the classification of all people whose heritage included African Americans as “Black” is viewed as one of many attempts by Virginia officials to erase the continued presence of Virginia Indians across the Commonwealth. About 120 years later, Virginia’s 1924 Racial Integrity Act permanently altered the records of Virginia Indian communities to reflect this practice, as did the 1930 state law designed to clarify further who was “black” or “red.” Tribes faced continuing scrutiny and opposition from state officials who pursued racialist and eugenic goals through bureaucratic practices, such as methods for identifying race in census and vital records. Virginia tribes further were hampered by federal government policies that relied on census enumeration to determine if a person was Native American, as well as racist notions about what it meant to be a “full-blood” Indian. In response, Virginia tribes developed a range of strategies to retain cultural identity and tribal cohesion.

In 1806, the General Assembly attempted to remove free Black Virginians from the Commonwealth by requiring any enslaved persons manumitted after 1 May, 1806, to leave the Commonwealth within a year, or forfeit the right to freedom and be sold by the Overseers of the Poor for the benefit of the parish. Starting in 1837, persons of color could petition the local courts for permission to remain in the Commonwealth. Among those who petitioned the court was Lavinia Sampson, who in 1841 was certified as a member of the Pamunkey tribe instead of being classified as a free Black or free person of color.

Sampson was listed as the head of a Petersburg household of one “free colored” woman in 1820. She was subsequently included with her son, John, in the list of free people of color in 1821. A year later, on 2 July 1822, she registered in Petersburg as the “daughter of Sally Major, near 5 feet 5 inches high, brown complexion, strait [sic] black hair, born free in the county of King William.” On 18 February 1841, the Hustings Court of Petersburg ruled that Lavinia Sampson’s

---

4 List of People of Color in Petersburg 1803, African American Narrative Digital Collection, LVA.
5 Register of Free Negroes, 1819-1833, no. 1170. The Pamunkey reservation, established during the colonial era, is located in King William County.
children John, Sarah, Charles, Rebecca, Thomas, and Henry Sampson did not have to register as “free Negroes” since they were descendants of an Indian.6

Despite her successful petition, Lavinia Sampson was listed as a “Black” woman in the 1850 census for Petersburg, and was recorded as owning $450 in real estate (three years before her purchase of the Jarratt House). The census also mentioned her children: John Sampson (28, Black, a boatman), Sarah Brown (26, Black), Charles Sampson (22, Black), Rebecca Hope (19, Mulatto), and Thomas Sampson (16, Mulatto). Also listed in another part of her house were John Hope (16, Mulatto), G. Lankson (8, Mulatto), M. Dunkin (8, Mulatto), John Terry (40, white) and L. Ruff (10, Black), all possible tenants at the Jarratt House.7 Lavinia Sampson also had children by John Dennis – her son Thomas, born in Petersburg about 1832, was called the son of John Dennis Sampson and Levina (sic) Sampson when he married in King William County.

In 1860, after her purchase of the northern unit of the Jarratt House, Sampson owned $3,400 in real estate in Petersburg. The 1860 census included family members (in the northern unit of the Jarratt House) as well as Elizabeth Norris (Mulatto, 13), Major T. Duncan (Mulatto, 17, a sailor), John O. Tyree (53, white, master of a schooner), and Edmund Stevens (43, Black, a sailor) in her household. Her son, now recorded as Thomas Dennis, as well as Colin and Martha Bland were living in adjoining households (possibly renting the southern unit of the Jarratt House).

By the time of the 1860 census, Sampson was recorded as owning $3,400 worth of real estate, and operating a small boarding house for sailors. In that year, Sampson lived in the southern portion of the double house. The northern portion was rented by Elizabeth Graves (identified as mulatto, no occupation, age 13), Major T. Duncan (identified as a mulatto sailor, age 17), Edward Stevens (identified as Black sailor, age 45), and John O. Tyree (identified as a white male and master of a schooner, age 53). Graves (no occupation) and Duncan, a sailor, were categorized as “Mulatto,” while Stevens was a registered Black sailor, and Tyree was a white male whose occupation was a master of schooner (or sailor for a schooner vessel).7 Sampson retained Lot 19 and the double house on it until her death in 1877.

Lavinia Sampson loaned three of her children money to buy lots in Petersburg: $50 to John in 1865 and $500 to Sarah in 1865. In 1874 she loaned $1,200 to Rebecca and her husband, John Hope, after moving with them to Cleveland, Ohio, where she died intestate in June 1875. All of her children defaulted on the loans and lost the properties.8 Additional heirs were:

- John S. Dennis, born about 1822, a Black boatman in Petersburg in 1850, recorded as Mulatto in the 1860 census for Petersburg along with Emma (25) and Robert (5). John Dennis died intestate in January 1867, leaving widow Emma Dennis and children Henry Dennis, Lavinia Dennis, and Sarah Dennis;
2) Sarah Brown, born about 1824, died intestate on 16 June 1867, leaving children: Catherine (wife of James Norris), Lavinia S. Brown and Timothy Brown (age 17 in 1882),

3) Charles, born about 1828, a Black man counted in Lavinia Sampson’s Petersburg household in 1850, perhaps counted a second time as “Mulatto” boatman Charles Dennis with $250 real estate, Mary Dennis (28, Mulatto) and Mary Stewart (12, Black) in Petersburg in 1850. Mary Dennis, a seamstress (40, Mulatto) who was counted in the 1870 census Petersburg household of Colin and Martha Bland, may have been Charles Dennis’s widow. Mary Dennis next was recorded as a 55-year-old “Mulatto” widow living by herself at 115 3rd Street in Petersburg in 1880;

4) Rebecca, born about 1831, a 19-year-old “Mulatto” was counted in the 1850 census for Petersburg. She and her husband John Hope were “Mulattos” counted in the 1870 census for Cleveland, Ohio, in 1870. He was a shoemaker with $500 in real estate owned with 60-year-old “Mulatto” Emelin (Lavinia) Samson (sic), all born in Virginia;

5) Thomas, born about 1834, a 16-year-old “Mulatto” counted in the 1850 census for Petersburg. He was called the son of John Dennis Sampson and Lavinia Sampson when he married Kizziah Sangton (Langston), daughter of James Y. and Nancy Sangton on 13 December 1855 in King William County. He and Kizziah were “Mulattos” counted in the 1860 census for Petersburg with John T. (2) and Anna Langston (5). Thomas Dennis died intestate before July 1881, leaving Kizziah Dennis as his widow and children Thomas, Theophilus (an infant), and Theodnell Dennis (an infant) [Petersburg Chancery case 1882-026].

In 1879, following a lawsuit to settle the estate, the lot was purchased by John Fuller Jarratt, a formerly enslaved Black man. The parcel remained in the Jarratt family for over a century.

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage (Black)
The Jarratt House is important for its role in documenting the significant influence of the Black community upon the development of the City of Petersburg. This influence took many different forms, and changed greatly over time; the Jarratt House, and its evolving ownership, are excellent examples of that. The Jarratt House was initially built as a two-family rental property by John Wilder, a white, slave-owning merchant in Petersburg. Wilder never occupied the structure, but rented both dwelling units to workers in the maritime community based in Pocahontas. Most such workers were Black (both free and enslaved) and white, with most (including enslaved workers who “lived out”) residing in Pocahontas in rented lodgings. Subsequent to Wilder’s ownership, Lavinia Sampson (a member of the Pamunkey tribe who, because of Virginia policies of the time, was identified as “free Black” instead of Virginia Indian) purchased the Jarratt House and both occupied and rented it to tenants. After Sampson’s death, the property was purchased in 1879 by John Fuller Jarratt, a formerly enslaved Black man who worked as a member of Pocahontas Island’s maritime community. The Jarratt family owned the Jarratt House for 122 years, initially occupying it, and eventually renting it, until they donated it to the City of Petersburg in 1991.

99 LVA Chancery case 1874-033.
The Jarratt family traces their ancestry to Richard Jarratt (1779 – ca. 1840), described by Jarratt family historian Debbie Bell Jarratt as “one of the first free mulatto Blacks to be born on this [Pocahontas] island.” Of African and English descent, Richard Jarratt was a maritime tradesman who owned the cargo ships *Sloop Gayle* and *Jolly Sailor*. Jarratt and his wife Betsy Rollins Jarratt married in 1803; they raised five children on Pocahontas Island, including their son Alexander (1807-1869), and acquired Lot 29 and the double house that was to become known as the Jarratt House. The family’s free status is confirmed in the *Petersburg Register, 1794-1819*, in which “free negroes & mulattoes” who registered as such at the courthouse were documented. Alexander Jarratt spent his working life in the fishing and boating industry, including serving as a steward on a vessel that travelled between Petersburg and New York. The 1860 U.S. Census recorded that Alexander Jarratt owned $500 in real estate and $100 in personal property (possibly a boat). Around 1840 Alexander Jarratt married Nancy Fuller (b. 1820); they had at least eleven children, including John Fuller Jarratt (b. 1820).

John Fuller Jarratt followed his father and grandfather into the maritime endeavors that were so much a part of the history of Pocahontas Island, working as a fisherman in 1872, an oyster dealer in 1888, a pilot of a government tugboat named *C. B. Phillips* from 1869 to 1898, and a fish dealer at his own store in 1920. John Fuller Jarratt, according to *Scrapbook Memoirs*, met his future wife Cornelia E. Park (b. 1852) in 1863, when she escaped from enslavement in Warren County, North Carolina. Jarratt gave her shelter, and in 1872 they were married in Petersburg. John Fuller Jarratt purchased Lot 29 in 1879, following the death of Lavinia Sampson. Two of the children of John and Cornelia Jarratt survived into adulthood, including William Thomas Jarratt [Sr.] (1879-1956) and Norman E Jarratt (b. ca. 1891).

William Thomas Jarratt [Sr.] lived with his parents on Logan Street through 1910; during this time, he attended Virginia State College, and worked for 40 years at the Petersburg Elks Home, rising from a porter and janitor to assistant manager. William Thomas Jarratt [Sr.] married Mattie Dodson (ca. 1885-1969). They had one son, William Thomas Jr. (1915-1985); *Scrapbook Memoirs* indicates that they were still living on Logan Street when William Jr. was born. By 1920, the couple had moved to 440 North Carolina Avenue, Petersburg. In 1930 John Fuller Jarratt was a widower, living with his son William T. Jarratt Sr. on North Carolina Avenue in Petersburg. Upon his father’s death in 1931, William Thomas Jarratt Jr., inherited the Jarratt House, though he and his family continued to reside at 404 North Carolina Avenue. At this time, the Jarratt House again became a rental property.

As did his father, William Thomas Jarratt Jr. attended Virginia State College. As late as 1941, he lived on North Carolina Avenue with his parents, but in 1944, he married Anna Morse Booker (1921-2011), a schoolteacher, and moved to Newport News, Virginia, a city with robust maritime industries, where he worked as a “carrier.” After the conclusion of World War II, William Thomas Jarratt Jr. purchased two former army barracks from nearby Camp Pickett, dismantled them, and built a home for his family on a parcel given to him by his parents at 334 North Carolina Avenue, Petersburg. By 1948, they were living in this house.
William Thomas Jarratt Jr., became a contractor. Apparently building upon relationships his father established during his long career at the Elks Home, William Thomas Jarratt Jr., developed a professional relationship with a white banker, Bill Patton, from Petersburg. Patton helped Jarratt secure a $10,000 construction loan to build a house in Petersburg’s Battlefield Park neighborhood. Following that, Patton continued to collaborate with Jarratt, arranging for financing for the construction of homes for Black community members in Petersburg, at a time when discriminatory banking practices prevented many Black residents from purchasing real estate. William Thomas Jarratt Jr. became a successful contractor, building houses in the College Park subdivision and new commercial buildings such as the Bland Funeral Home, and rehabilitating important Petersburg landmarks including Centre Hill Mansion, the Siege Museum, First Baptist Church, and the old Norfolk and Western Railroad Station.

William Thomas Jarratt Jr. and his wife Anna, had three children: Jocelyn Michelle Jarratt, William Thomas Jarratt, III, and John Fuller Jarratt. During William and Anna Jarratt’s ownership, the Jarratt House remained a rental property. After William Thomas Jarratt, Jr.’s death in 1985, the Jarratt House passed to Anna and their three children, who retained ownership of the property until they donated it to the City of Petersburg in 1991. The City of Petersburg remains the owner of the Jarratt House.

**Criterion C: Architecture**
The Jarratt House is locally significant as an example of a rare surviving early 19th century double house in Petersburg. It is the only surviving double house on Pocahontas Island, and the only antebellum building surviving on Pocahontas Island. The architectural design represents the masonry double house form, here erected as a tenement at the order of John Wilder ca. 1820. The building evolved to include a series of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century frame additions to the rear, which included indoor plumbing, kitchens, and bathrooms that replaced what mostly likely were detached kitchens and privies; the additions were demolished before 1975. The house embodies the economic and social development of Pocahontas Island, as an urban, maritime community with a predominately white population at the beginning of the nineteenth century that changed to a variegated community made up of free and enslaved Black persons, Virginia Indians, and individuals of mixed heritage by the middle of the nineteenth century. The Jarratt House stands out amongst Pocahontas Island’s (and the surrounding City of Petersburg’s) architectural resources due to the rarity of its survival as an early nineteenth century double tenement house.

The Jarratt House was completed ca. 1820, under the ownership of John Wilder, on what was originally lot 29. Wilder purchased lots 11 and 29 unimproved from John F. May in 1817. The rental value of the two lots increased in 1819 from zero to $80, reflecting the construction of a small dwelling on lot 11. In 1820, the rental value of lot 29 increased to $170, the same year that the land tax book reported the value of lot 29 as $1,312.50, reflecting the construction of “2 brick tenements,” the double house now known as the Jarratt House.
Jarratt House

Name of Property

City of Petersburg, VA

County and State

The two-story, six-bay, brick double house retains many of its original architectural elements and details. The primary elevation features a brick cornice constructed of header bricks projecting beyond the plane of the cornice to approximate a modillion cornice, while the rear elevation features a brick saw-tooth cornice. The front door (on the east façade) to the south residential unit is a modern replacement; the entry door to the north dwelling unit has an original, solid wood four-panel door. On the rear (west) elevation, the rear entry doors on both units are solid wood four-panel doors, matching the surviving entry door on the east elevation of the north dwelling unit. While most window sash have been removed, two window openings on the second story retain wood-framed, six-over-six sash windows. The interior retains its original plan on both floors of both residential units. The first floor consists of a single-pile, side passage plan on each side, providing access to a single chamber. A stair is located in the passage. The second floor contains two rooms, a large chamber (corresponding to the chamber below), and a small chamber. Each of the four large chambers retains its original, simple Greek Revival mantelpieces, along with base moldings, chair rails, and doors (though not door hardware). The stairs, along with their paneling, stringers, treads, and (with some damage) balusters and handrails, survive as well.

The double house form, while once a common building form in early nineteenth century American cities such as Petersburg has become a rare surviving form. At times constructed so that both dwelling units would be rented (as did John Wilder, and, in later years, the Jarratt family), or, so the owner would live in one half while the other half was rented out (as did Lavinia Sampson, and, in the early years of their ownership, the Jarratt family). While the double house form – built in both frame and masonry construction – were common features in the early American urban landscape, they have become rare, perhaps because the very modesty that made them attractive rental properties have pushed them out of favor in more recent decades. In Petersburg, for example, only nine nineteenth-century double houses (including the Jarratt House) survive, and only two of them (including the Jarratt House) are built of brick. Four of them are single-story, frame dwellings (431 Cross Street, 437-439 Cross Street, 411 Hurt Street, and 539 Grove Avenue). Another is a variant of the double house, 516 Grove Avenue, a single-story building that appears to be a double house, but has a tertiary entrance from the rear. Two surviving examples are two-story, frame dwellings (316 Low Street and 226-230 High Street). The only other extant brick double house is 132-134 S. Adams Street, a brick, two-story building with an English basement, and intended for tenants of far more substantial economic and social means than the tenants who rented the Jarratt House. (There are also masonry variants on the double house model, in which commercial buildings included stores or warehouses on the ground floor, and residences above. These were often three-story buildings, such as the Appomattox Iron Works, 26-28 West Old Street, and 102-104 Old Street, but these properly belong to a different type of building and do not directly compare with the Jarratt House.)

Although familiarly known as the “Jarratt House,” the property did not become associated with that family until 1879, when it was purchased by John F. Jarratt. The only substantial alteration to the Jarratt House since its construction were several frame additions added to the rear of the

10 Willie Graham to Marc Wagner, email, 27 August 2021.
house in the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century, during the ownership of the Jarratt family. These additions were plumbed (while the original, masonry portions of the dwelling never were). Presumably, the additions contained new kitchens and bathrooms for the two dwelling units, replacing external dependencies that likely originally served these purposes. Sanborn Company fire insurance maps recorded the presence of a single two-story and one-story additions to the rear of the Jarratt House in their 1915, 1951, and 1957 maps. A 1975 Virginia Historic Landmarks commission report does not mention the additions, indicating they were demolished between 1957 and 1975.  

After the Jarratt House was donated to the City of Petersburg in 1991, remedial work began, beginning with the clearing of vegetation and the removal of debris. In 1993, however, a tornado struck the building, stripping off most of the metal roof and severing the connections between the second floor wall and the rear masonry wall. Following the tornado, the rear additions were removed, and a porch roof was demolished. In 2001, a roof replacement project was underway, replacing the roof decking, reinforcing rafters and joists, and installing new metal roofing. A 2008 survey noted masonry deterioration in the rear wall, which had wood boarding over the windows at the time. In 2011, an approximately 10-foot portion of the rear wall collapsed, caused by the deterioration of joists. Similarly, a major structural crack was identified in the south wall, and the north chimney began to lean badly. Shoring was installed, and the opening in the rear wall covered. In 2017, a historic structures report was compiled, and in 2019 a series of masonry and wood-frame floor joist repairs was completed.

The Jarratt House offers a perspective into the rich and complex evolution of Pocahontas Island’s heritage. The street grid, for example, is virtually identical to the one laid out about 1749. Most residences are aligned along the east/west Rolfe and Witten Streets and the north-south Logan and Sapony (sic) Streets. Warehouses, storehouses, and wharves once lined the waterfront of the Appomattox River. While most of those commercial structures have been lost, residences on Logan Street and the north side of Witten Street towards its east end retain a degree of that urban density. The evolution of Pocahontas Island during the first half of the nineteenth century from a typical white-dominated settlement to a largely African American residential and commercial neighborhood also is captured in the history of the Jarratt House. Petersburg had the largest population of free Black persons in antebellum Virginia’s cities, and more free Black people lived in Pocahontas than in any other part of Petersburg.

The devastating 1993 tornado destroyed or damaged many of the houses on Pocahontas Island. As a result, there are fewer dwellings in Pocahontas today, and the landscape is much less dense than it was. The existing residences – both the surviving historic residences and the newly constructed ones – retain the same street setback with modest front yards.

The Jarratt House went into decline in the 1990s after it was badly damaged in a 1993 tornado (which removed the roof), and has remained unoccupied since. In recent years, the City of Petersburg has engaged in a series of stabilization, repair, and restoration efforts, which have

---

11 The Sappony tribe today is based just south of the Virginia state line and has been recognized by the State of North Carolina.
greatly improved physical conditions in the building. The fact that the Jarratt House was nearly lost in the years following the 1993 tornado underscore the fragility of the building form, and the rarity of its survival.

Archaeological Potential
Associated with the Jarratt House is Site 4PG0470, which is composed of archaeological deposits and features with potential to yield information leading to a more comprehensive understanding of the construction and occupation of the property through time as well as its place in the larger history of Pocahontas Island. In 2006, professional archaeological investigation of the yard area to the north, south, and east of the Jarratt House confirmed that a multicomponent archaeological site containing both prehistoric artifacts and historic artifacts and features occupies the entirety of the existing lot. Soils are generally undisturbed, an unusual survival in such a densely occupied area, and multiple intact subsurface cultural features were documented. Careful placement and excavation of test units across the open lot resulted in recovery of artifacts confirming prehistoric occupation of Pocahontas Island as well as a range of historic artifacts consistent with the documented ca. 1820 construction and occupation of the Jarratt House.

Twenty-two test units, most two feet square, were hand-excavated across the house lot. Eighteen were sited in the open yard, with special attention to the locations of three earlier frame additions (since demolished) that projected west and south of the original building. One 2 x 3-foot test unit was excavated in the narrow aisle between the primary façade of the Jarratt House and Logan Street, two additional units were placed next to the foundation at the southeast corner and east elevation, and a large, irregularly-shaped unit was wrapped around the northwest corner of the building. All test units were excavated following natural strata, with all recovered soils screened through 0.25-inch metal mesh to ensure consistent recovery of small artifacts and fragments. Excavation of these units produced 9,545 individual artifacts, and confirmed both soil integrity and the presence of intact cultural features related to the occupational history of the Jarratt House. During excavation brick, mortar, and plaster fragments were weighed but not counted and are not included in the artifact total. Data from each test unit, including map coordinates, depth, soil color and texture, Munsell readings, and other information, were recorded on standard field documentation forms. All artifacts were retained and are curated at the Department of Historic Resources.

All test units were highly productive, exhibiting from two to five distinct and largely intact soil strata. Several of the test units also produced evidence of intact subsurface features associated with the construction and occupation of the Jarratt House. It is important to note that these features were identified in plan but not excavated, and remain available for further investigation. Test Unit 1, located in the north yard, contained both a posthole and a trench feature. Test Unit 2, also in the north yard, contained a posthole. Test Unit 6, located west of (behind) the standing building, was expanded by two additional feet to explore a large area of feature fill coinciding with the location of two of the Jarratt House additions. Test Unit 8, located in the west yard in the area of the third rear addition, contained a posthole and a straight-sided feature. Test Unit 10,
located in the north yard, contained a possible cultural feature. Test Unit 11, located adjacent to the east elevation of the Jarratt House, contained a section of builder’s trench and a posthole as well as a feature likely associated with construction of the existing sidewalk. Test Unit 12, which wrapped around the northeast corner of the building, also contained a section of builder’s trench and a later utility trench. Test Unit 13, located adjacent to the south gable wall, contained a section of builder’s trench and a large posthole with postmold as well as a third undefined feature. Test Unit 1, located at the west elevation, contained a section of builder’s trench along with three postholes and a postmold that may represent scaffolding associated with construction of the original dwelling or its later additions. Test Unit 19, located in the west yard, was almost entirely comprised of feature fill. Test Unit 20, also in the west yard, contained a linear feature. Test Units 21 and 22 contained partial postholes.

Evidence for prehistoric occupation of the area presented in the form of a limited assemblage of lithic artifacts, including quartz and quartzite flakes and other debitage as well as fire-cracked rock. Three diagnostic artifacts were recovered: one quartz Guilford projectile point (Middle Archaic, 6,000 – 2,500 BC) and two quartz Halifax projectile points (Late Archaic, 2,500 – 1,200 BC). No prehistoric features were identified.

Of the 9,545 artifacts recovered from the Jarratt House site, 61.69 percent (5,888) were domestic items, 3535 of which were fragments of glass hollowwares (jars, bottles, table glass, and other containers). Among the recovered ceramics were several (92, or 5.49 percent) whose terminal manufacture dates predate the building’s ca. 1819-20 construction. These include examples of Delft (1607-1800), Westerwald (1607-1775), Jackfield ware (1740-1780), Staffordshire iron-glazed wares (1680 – 1740) and Faience (1775-1800). The presence of these items is likely associated with pre-19th century occupation or use of the property or an adjacent property. The great majority of ceramics (1534, or 91.53 percent) recovered from the site presents a mean manufacture date of 1840, generally consistent with the first documented appearance of the Jarratt House in local records. This part of the assemblage is largely represented by various types of whiteware (1805 – 1900), pearlware (1780 – 1840), yellowware (1830 – 1900) and creamware (1762 – 1820). Pennsylvania coarsewares (1740 – 1840), post-medieval London coarseware (1607-1900), Chinese porcelain (1607 – 1850) and American stonewares (1730 – 1900) round out the domestic ceramics assemblage. Other domestic items include several fragments of both locally-made earthenware and white ball clay smoking pipes, copper alloy and milk glass buttons, kaolin marbles, and porcelain doll parts.

Architectural items, including nails, roof slate, and window glass, totaled 3,572 artifacts (37.42 percent), with nails totaling 1,954 or 20.47 percent of the total assemblage. The majority (723) were wire, a technology invented in the 1850s but not common in Virginia until the end of the 19th century. Cut nails, originally produced around 1790 but not in common use until the early 19th century, were a close second at a total of 622. Although 10 hand-wrought nails were also recovered, this extremely limited amount appears to indicate no significant structures on or near the property prior to 1800. Taken as a whole with the domestic assemblage, however, there is ample evidence of occupation beginning with the construction of the brick tenement ca. 1819 – 20 and continuing through the 20th century. The presence of multiple intact features, including
builder’s trenches and cellar or midden features, located around and behind the Jarratt House serve to confirm the integrity of both the soils and the archaeological record of this property. As investigation was halted upon plan exposure of these features, they remain intact. Additional archaeological investigation is likely to produce information that expands our understanding of the construction and physical evolution of the Jarratt House, one of the oldest and most significant buildings on Pocahontas Island. The lack of comprehensive documentary evidence for the owners and tenants of this building may also be augmented by additional archaeological investigation, as the assemblage represents the combined behaviors of all residents of this house over nearly two centuries of occupation. Further investigation and analysis may also help to address larger issues of social and economic status, ethnicity, and patterns of consumption and discard.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Beers, F.W. 1877 *Topographical Map of Petersburg, Dinwiddie County, Virginia*. Copy at Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Petersburg, Virginia.


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

Sections 9-end page 22
Jarratt House
Name of Property

City of Petersburg, VA
County and State

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # __________
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # __________
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # ___________

Primary location of additional data:

_X__ State Historic Preservation Office (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
_X__ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: __Virginia Department of Historic Resources; City of Petersburg__________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #123-0114-0002 and 44PG0470

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .21 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: 
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 37˚ 14’ 15” Long: 077˚ 23’ 56”
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [ ] NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The eastern (primary elevation) boundary of 808-810 Logan Street is Logan Street, the northern boundary is with a vacant lot at 812 Logan Street, the western (rear elevation) are with the rear of lots associated with properties on 230 Rolfe and 223 Whitten Streets, and the southern boundary is the rear yard of 225 Whitten Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries of 808-810 Logan Street those designated by the City of Petersburg as parcel # 007040017, and are also those historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Bryan Clark Green
organization: Commonwealth Architects
street & number: 101 Shockoe Slip, Third Floor
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code:23219
e-mail: bgreen@comarchs.com
telephone: 804.640.5040 x1135
date: July 2022

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

• Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

• Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: The Jarett House

City or Vicinity: City of Petersburg

County: NA  State: VA

Photographer: Bryan Clark Green

Date Photographed: 19 April 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 27. Jarratt House, Petersburg, VA. East elevation (primary), view to west.

2 of 27. Jarratt House, Petersburg, VA. East and north elevations, view to southwest.

3 of 27. Jarratt House, Petersburg, VA. West elevation (rear), view to east.

4 of 27. Jarratt House, Petersburg, VA. South and east elevations, view to northwest.


15 of 27. Jarratt House, Petersburg, VA. South unit. Passage. View to west.


18 of 27. Jarratt House, Petersburg, VA. South unit. Passage. View to southeast.


Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460
ENDNOTES

Jarratt House                          City of Petersburg, VA
Name of Property                      County and State

The Jarratt House
808-810 Logan Street
Petersburg, VA 23803
Parcel: 007040017
DHR ID: 123-0114-0002
Lat: 37° 14’ 15”
Lon: 077° 23’ 56”
National Register Nomination

DISCLAIMER: This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. The information displayed is a compilation of records, information, and data obtained from various sources, and City of Petersburg is not responsible for its accuracy or how current it may be.
AERIAL VIEW
Jarratt House
City of Petersburg, VA
DHR No. 123-0114-0002

Historic Boundary