

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received OCT 5 1987
date entered NOV 19 1987

1. Name

historic Pine Slash (Preferred)

(DHL File No. 42-122)

and/or common Prospect Hill

2. Location

street & number 0.2 miles north of Totopotomoy Creek, 0.5 mile east of Va. Route 643, 0.8 mile southeast of intersection of Va. Route 643 and Va. Rt. 600 not for publication N/A

city, town Studley ☒ vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Hanover

code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☒ district	☒ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
	N/A	☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name William Talley Thomas

street & number P. O. Box 8628

city, town Richmond

☐ n/a
☐ vicinity of

state Virginia 23226

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hanover County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Hanover

state Virginia 23069

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(See Continuation Sheet #7)

title 1) HABSI

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date December, 1959

☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington, D.C.

state N/A

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

2. Division of Historic Landmarks

Survey File Nos. 42-25 and 42-26

1968 ☒ State

Depository: Division of Historic Landmarks
221 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

3. Division of Historic Landmarks Survey

File No. 42-122

1986 ☒ State

Depository: Division of Historic Landmarks
221 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Pine Slash is located on Totopotomoy Creek, near Studley, in eastern Hanover County. The property includes two contributing residences, one contributing historic outbuilding, two newer noncontributing outbuildings, and a noncontributing cemetery (site), on a tract of 138 cultivated and wooded acres.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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7.

Architectural Analysis

The primary feature of the property is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story building that was Patrick Henry's home for several years. The oldest section of the building, erected circa 1750, is an extremely rare example of vertical plank construction. Circa 1800, a large framed addition was erected on the south side of the building. The original exterior sheathing of the plank building is not known, but the patterns of nail holes on portions of the planking suggest a vertical board sheathing. The entire building was sheathed in beaded horizontal weatherboards after construction of the southern addition.

The exterior has an irregular composition. The original structure has a central doorway with a batten door and two asymmetrical windows on the facade (west elevation). The southern addition adds another door and window to this elevation. One dormer window is situated roughly above the door of the southern addition. The east elevation has two doors and two windows in an irregular pattern; several aspects of this elevation have been reframed. The north elevation is pierced by a cellar entrance and by a single six-over-six window in the gable end, lighting the attic. The south elevation has a single six-over-six sash window for the main floor and for the attic. The beaded weatherboard siding, which apparently dates from the time of the addition, has been replaced in several areas but many boards have survived. A milled wooden cornice is of unknown date. There are no gutters.

The original portion of the building is of vertical plank and braced frame construction. The primary structural elements are hewn sills, L-shaped corner posts, plates, and diagonal braces which are joined with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. Secondary posts flank the doors and windows. Within the framework of these members, the walls are comprised of vertical planks, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick and ranging from six to twelve inches wide, set side-by-side with chamfered battens nailed over the interstices. The planks are tenoned to fit channels in the sills, braces, and plates. All of the building's exterior walls and the original interior partition are of plank construction. A wide unmolded horizontal chair rail is applied over the planking at a 30" height.

The original building includes a hall and a chamber on the first floor, with two smaller rooms in the attic, and a partial basement. A single chimney opens into the chamber; the north room, the hall, does not appear to have been heated. The transverse partition is of plank construction with a single six-panel door centrally located. An enclosed corner staircase in the northeast corner provides access to the attic. The lower end of the stair's intermediate newel is fashioned as a fourteen-facet polyhedron pendant. The stair has a steep rise, corner

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7. Architectural Analysis

winders, and an attic balustrade composed of two wide boards set on the diagonal. The ceiling joists in these two original rooms are exposed, and appear to have always been exposed; they have beaded edges, and bear remnants of whitewash. The lower face of the attic flooring is also whitewashed. This is the plan most common in Virginia's rural seats of the 18th century; Dell Upton notes that, even with the wealthiest Virginia planters, the two-room plan house predominated in the period.

The cellar is reached by a doorway on the north elevation. This door is sheltered by a frame bulkhead that was constructed by the current owner. Most of the sills and floor joists have been replaced. The brick foundation walls have been patched and repaired in many phases, and original material and detailing are no longer evident. The basement space does not appear to have been finished.

The roof is framed of pit-sawn rafters which bear on a false plate resting on the ceiling joists. The rafters are joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints; collar beams are joined to the rafters with half-lapped joints. There is no ridge beam. While some of the roof sheathing appears to be original, the standing-seam metal roofing is relatively new. The attic space is divided by a simple framed partition; the attic room in the southern addition is not accessible from the original attic.

The southern addition to Pine Slash is of the more typical braced-frame construction. These walls were built for exterior weatherboard sheathing and interior lath and plaster finish. The building's original chimney appears to have been rebuilt when this addition was constructed; the stack has a corbeled cap. The chimney has a fireplace with a segmental brick arch in the south room, framed by a simple wooden mantelpiece, and a similar fireplace in the central chamber, with a simple mantel shelf. The chimney breasts are plastered in both rooms. A second corner staircase allows access to a single attic room which is finished with plaster and lit by a dormer window. The lathing in the southern addition is riven. Ceiling joists in the southern addition, as in the original portion of the building, are exposed, with beaded edges.

Window sash in the building is irregular, showing several different configurations and muntin profiles. One source suggests that all the existing sash was installed to replace original leaded casements. The first-floor window in the south elevation has wide muntins, while other sash in the building has narrow muntins. All of the old sash is of pegged construction. The window of the central room on the east elevation has four-over-four sash, while the remaining sash is six-over-six. There is one dormer on the west slope of the roof of the southern addition. This dormer has a four-over-four sash window and a gabled roof. One report indicates that the building had three dormers earlier.

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7. Architectural Analysis

Hardware in the building includes a mixture of wrought-iron strap hinges and surface-mounted H-L type hinges. Two wooden box locks and several wooden latches are in place on the batten doors, while several iron rim locks with porcelain knobs, typical of mid-19th-century construction, are found in the southern addition.

Although much of the building's exterior fabric was succumbing to rot, recent repairs have set Pine Slash in good condition. The repairs have helped insure the preservation of the structural framework and the interior features. The foundation has seen extensive repairs, with the brickwork parged and most of the sills and floor joists replaced. Much of the weatherboarding has been replaced. The interior, conversely, is remarkably intact. In two areas, portions of the plank walls have been removed and replaced with modern stud framing. The building has no plumbing, and only a very minimal electrical system with surface-mounted conduits has been installed. A flue in the chimney indicates that a wood-burning stove was once used in the central room.

The second residence on the Pine Slash property is a two-story building of braced-frame construction, sometimes called "Prospect Hill." The building, which is located on the site of the earlier main residence, was built circa 1830. The building has a gambrel-roof form that was common in the counties around Richmond in the early 19th century; Little Plymouth in King and Queen County is a comparable building.

Prospect Hill has a central-hall, single-pile plan, with a full basement. Two exterior end chimneys of irregular American-bond brickwork, have double shoulderings and corbeled caps. The primary north and south elevations are three bays wide, with nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows. Three shallow dormers with six-over-six sash pierce the lower slopes of the gambrel. A small gable-roofed porch on the north elevation shelters the central entrance, while the central shed-roofed porch on the south elevation has been enclosed. The east and west elevations have small single windows on each side of the chimney stack at the second-floor level. Most of the interior spaces and features are intact; the narrow stairway and the mantelpieces are of note. Hardware for ceiling-mounted paddle fans ("punkahs") is intact in one basement room.

Prospect Hill is in good condition. It has been renovated in recent years for contemporary use, with new electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems. The original weatherboarding has been covered on three elevations with aluminum siding. Storm windows have been added to most of the original windows. The ground floor of the south porch has been enclosed to accommodate a modern kitchen.

Other buildings on the property include a one-story brick carriage house, which may be contemporary with the second residence (Prospect Hill). The building's original brick walls of six-course American bond with random

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7. Architectural Analysis

glazing have survived in relatively good condition. It was remodeled for use as a tool shed circa 1960, with a frame wall built across the entrance, and a new roof. The farm's other outbuildings, including a kitchen, an ice house, stables, and servants' quarters, have not survived. The general location of these vanished outbuildings is a matter of living memory, and archeological investigations might verify the exact location and approximate configurations of these buildings.

A modern garage and a tool shed, both dating from the mid-20th century, are also on the property. A small cemetery with gravesites of the Jones family, who have dwelled at Pine Slash from 1797 to the present, lies southeast of the residences.

JW

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca. 1750 ; 1830 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pine Slash is primarily significant for the unique construction of its oldest original building, a mid-18th century dwelling. No other examples of colonial vertical plank construction have been identified in Virginia, and very few in the entire southeastern United States. The building's importance as an artifact, and as a primary document in the history of Virginia construction technology is immense. Pine Slash is also significant as Patrick Henry's home in the 1750s. The property includes the 18th-century residence; a second residence and a brick outbuilding, dating from the early 19th century; two structures dating from the mid-20th century, and a family cemetery associated with the Jones family, who have dwelled at Pine Slash since the late 18th century.

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8. Significance

Historic Context

Architecture: The original building at Pine Slash is an extremely rare example of vertical plank construction (also called "palisade" construction) in the Chesapeake region. The building is important evidence of alternative interpretations of timber construction in the Virginia colony. Variations on timber construction including plank, vertical log, horizontal log, and stovewood construction thrived in areas where timber was abundant, and where costs were entailed in milling and shaping, rather than in materials. Many buildings in New England were fashioned of vertical planks mortised into a sill; most of these New England examples date from the period 1680-1725. Carl Condit describes plank construction as thriving in New England from 1627 to 1860. Buildings of plank construction have also been identified in the Mississippi/Missouri region in the 18th century; and in Newfoundland over a much longer era, from the 17th into the early 20th century. One other example of plank construction in the Chesapeake region is the Wenlocke Christison House in Talbot County, Maryland, built circa 1670, and since moved. No other buildings of plank construction have been identified in Virginia. While the age and integrity of the structure establish its importance, the extreme rarity of vertical plank construction in the state and the region mark Pine Slash as an architectural artifact of the first importance.

While some popular sources suggest that Pine Slash was built in the late 17th century, Mark Wenger, architectural historian for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, dates the original building to circa 1750. Wenger cites the L-shaped cornerposts, the common rafters set on the false plate, and the simplistic character of the interior moldings and hardware as features inconsistent with construction of earlier periods. No attempt to confirm this date with dendrochronological or archeological testing has been made.

The southern addition to Pine Slash is also important architecturally because of its exceptional integrity. It is a relatively intact example of the braced-frame construction that typified most of the state's buildings in the antebellum years. The 19th-century residence, Prospect Hill, has architectural merit as well and adds to the significance of the property. The ensemble, including the two residences, the surviving outbuilding, and the potential archeological remnants, is of statewide significance.

History: The eminent Virginia orator Patrick Henry sought a living as a farmer and a merchant in Hanover County in the 1750s. He married Sarah Shelton in 1754. The Henrys occupied a house called Pine Slash, on land given as a dowry by Sarah's father John Shelton. When this house was destroyed by fire in 1757, the Henrys moved to the overseer's house on the property where they lived for several years. This is the building that survives. After several disappointing years as a farmer, Henry sold the

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8. Significance

property to John Syme. Henry embarked on a legal career and won great (and well-documented) fame in the Revolution.

Pine Slash, through subsequent transactions, passed to Joel Jones in 1797, and it has been the property of the Jones family to the present day. Washington Jones, son of Joel Jones, inherited the land in 1835, and deeded it to William Washington Jones in 1870. Pine Slash then passed to Lemuella Ella Jones Talley and B. T. Talley in 1902, and in 1941 to Nannie Talley Thomas and William Talley Thomas, the current owners.

JW

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #8)

Condit, Carl W. American Building: Materials and Techniques from The First Colonial Settlements to the Present. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1968.

Cummings, Abbott Lowell. The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property approx. 138

Quadrangle name Studley, VA

Quadrangle scale 1.24000

UTM References

A

1	8
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2	9	5	2	7	10
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4	1	6	9	9	7	10
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Zone Easting Northing

B

1	8
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2	9	5	4	10	10
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4	1	6	9	7	7	10
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	8
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2	9	5	2	7	10
---	---	---	---	---	----

4	1	6	9	6	1	10
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D

1	8
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2	9	4	6	4	10
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4	1	6	9	4	8	10
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E

1	8
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2	9	4	3	4	10
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4	1	6	9	6	10	10
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F

1	8
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2	9	4	2	8	10
---	---	---	---	---	----

4	1	6	9	7	8	10
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G

1	8
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2	9	4	5	1	10
---	---	---	---	---	----

4	1	7	10	5	5	10
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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet #9)

The boundaries have been drawn to include the immediately surrounding fields and woodlands which have been included in the Pine Slash tract since colonial times. This tract of land is the same land farmed by Patrick Henry during his ownership of the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Division of Historic Landmarks Staff

organization Division of Historic Landmarks

date November, 1986

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director

title Division of Historic Landmarks

date September 22, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Patrick W. Andrews
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/19/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1979.

"House Stands Where Henry Honeymooned." Richmond Times-Dispatch,
26 February 1950, p. 6-D.

Meade, Robert Douthat: Patrick Henry: Patriot in the Making.
Philadelphia and New York: J.B. Lippencott Company, 1969.

O'Dea, Shane. "The Tilt: Vertical -Log Construction in Newfoundland."
In Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture. Edited by Camille Wells.
Annapolis: Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1982.

Old Homes of Hanover County, Virginia. Hanover: The Hanover County Historical
Society, 1983.

"Pine Slash Remembered as Place Where Henry Farmed." The Herald-Progress,
1941, Vol. 61, No. 1.

Upton, Dell. "Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth-Century
Virginia." In Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture.
Edited by Dell Upton and John Vlach. Athens: The University of Georgia
Press, 1986.

Mark Wenger to Calder Loth, 13 October 1986.

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10. Geographical Data - - Boundary Justification

The acreage forms a natural elevated plateau bounded by two creeks, the northern one of which has been dammed for a pond. The boundaries include the likely archeological sites of slave houses and other early agricultural structures claimed by the owner to have stood in the fields to the north and east of the standing buildings. The boundaries also take in a portion of the pine slash lowlands from whence the property derives its name.

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 643, approx. 5500' SE of the intersection of said route with VA 606; thence extending approx. 2300' NE crossing service road and following E side of an improved light duty road; thence approx. 400' ENE to a point in the middle of the pond; thence approx. 2200' SE and ESE along the middle of the pond to a point at a northern tributary stream of Totopotomoy Creek; thence approx. 1500' following SSE and then SE along said stream to a point where it joins Totopotomoy Creek; thence approx. 4000' W following said creek to a point where VA 643 crosses creek; thence approx. 600' N along E side of VA 643 to point of origin.



Cemetery

PINE SLASH, Hanover County, Virginia

Sketch Map

Not To Scale

Map 1 of 2

 = Noncontributing



Tool Shed



Pine Slash



Garage



Prospect Hill



Carriage House

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Studley, VA

(scale:1:24000)
1964 (PR 1981)

PINE SLASH, Hanover County, VA Map 2 of 2

UTM References:

A-18/295270/4169970

B-18/295400/4169770

C-18/295270/4169610

D-18/294640/4169480

E-18/294340/4169600

F-18/294280/4169780

G-18/294510/4170550

