Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Bowman's Folly is situated on an artificial mound which General John Cropper, Junior, had built so that the house would have an impressive location, whether looking from the house or toward it from the water. The two and-a-half story, gable roof main block of Bowman's Folly combines with its one and-a-half story eastern wings and outbuildings to form an extremely fine architectural group. The house features Flemish bond brick ends, each with an interior end chimmey. The frame fronts on the north and south display fine provincial detailing in the cornice with its dentils and modillions, the second story, central Palladian window, the five pedimented dormers with their arched openings, and the pedimented entranceway porch which features a smaller version of the roof cornice resting directly on slender Doric columns. The old frame kitchen has been connected to the main building by a low hyphen and a later frame wing.

The interior of the house features a central hall plan with two rooms on the first floor. These contain paneled dadoes consisting of narrow vertical insets, simple chair rails and cornices, and mantels using characteristically early-nineteenth century reeding in the central panel and pilasters of the framings.

The outbuildings include a frame dovecote raised on simple posts, and a frame privy complete with two small windows at either side of the entranceway, and raised wall paneling on the interior.

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Built circa 1815 by General John Cropper, Junior (1755-1821), the present Bowman's Folly replaces an earlier dwelling which burned. The land originally had been patented by Captain Edmund Bowman in 1664, and passed to John Cropper who had married Bowman's daughter. John Cropper, Junior, was born at Bowman's Folly in 1755. He served in the Revolution under George Washington at the Battle of Brandywine and was also a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, 1784-92, and the Virginia Senate, 1813-15.

Architecturally, Bowman's Folly is an excellent example of the provincialism, used here on a grand scale, which occurs on the Eastern Shore in interpreting stylistic features. The dormers and Palladian window greatly enhance the frame and brick form typical of the Shore, and the outbuildings, especially the privy, are extremely fine.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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6.	Virginia	Historic	Landmarks	Commission	Report	#01-2
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Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code:

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