

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

Listed On:
VLR 1/18/1983
NRHP 5/16/1985

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic SCARBOROUGH HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (44AC4) (VHL D File No.01-64)

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number [redacted] X not for publication

city, town Davis Wharf X vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Accomack code 01

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. R.S. Nichols

street & number [redacted]

city, town Davis Wharf X vicinity of state Virginia 23345

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Accomack County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Accomack state Virginia 23301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Research Center for Archaeology VHL D File No.01-64
title Survey Form 44AC4 has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

Sept. 1966; May 1968; March 1978;
date March 1982 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records P.O. Box 368

city, town Yorktown state Virginia 23690

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

44AC4, an archaeological site dating to the second half of the 17th century and believed to have been associated with Colonel Edmund Scarborough, lies [redacted] in Accomack County, Virginia. 44AC4 is [redacted] of Davis Wharf [redacted]. The acreage nominated, which consists of a flat, open, cultivated field, includes [redacted] woods to the west, south, and east and is generally surrounded by wide expanses of open, cultivated farmland.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

In 1966, Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Nichols reported to the Virginia State Library's archaeologist the presence of archaeological remains [redacted] in an area traditionally believed to contain the site of Occohannock House, the home of Colonel Edmund Scarborough. At that time the site was designated 44AC4 and included in the state's official inventory of archaeological sites. An archaeologist from the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission's Research Center for Archaeology visited the site in 1978 and documented a discrete artifact scatter measuring approximately two hundred feet in diameter. He also recorded the presence of a subsurface feature, a possible barrel-lined well, reported by the property owners.

In March of 1982, staff archaeologists visited 44AC4 to delimit the site and assess its integrity. The site was found to encompass approximately 9½ acres, 3½ of which were in cultivation and the remainder in woodland which separated the field [redacted]. Site conditions within the cultivated field provided excellent surface visibility during the 1982 survey. An immature stand of wheat on the site permitted overall visibility of 75% or better. A controlled systematic surface collection was conducted over the surface of the site, followed by limited test excavations within those areas in which the greatest artifact concentrations were noted.

Telephone poles which bisect the site on a roughly north-south axis provided a baseline for the controlled surface collection (Figure 1). The southernmost pole was designated as the site datum point and benchmark. A grid was established, utilizing collecting units ten meters square. Each square was assigned a survey number and all artifacts except brick, shell, and fire-cracked rock were collected. Due to the presence of a dense shell midden on the southern end of the site (Photo I) and varying concentrations of both red and yellow Dutch brick throughout the site, densities of these artifacts were estimated and plotted, an approach which minimized the effects of surface collecting.

Several shovel-sized test pits were excavated in the central portion of the field where the heaviest concentrations of artifacts occurred. Three intact, rectangular subsurface features were encountered below a plow zone about twenty-five centimeters deep. Additional test pits delineated each of these features, which consisted of a large square pit (Feature A) measuring approximately eight meters by eight meters; a smaller feature (Feature B) measuring five meters along an east-west axis by seven meters north to south and located to the north of the previously described feature; and a very small square feature (Feature C) measuring three meters by three meters and located southeast of Feature A. The soils of Features A and C consisted of dark brown midden containing

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

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

Specific dates Various Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

44AC4, a multi-component historic site located [REDACTED] in Accomack County, Virginia, has been dated artifactually to the 17th and 18th centuries and is believed to be the site of Occohamock House, the manor plantation of Colonel Edmund Scarborough, Speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses at the assembly of 1645-46 and the Eastern Shore's largest 17th-century landholder. A map dated 1670 reveals the presence [REDACTED] at the location of 44AC4. Intact subsurface features and heavy artifact density at the site indicate that 44AC4 is essentially intact. Scientific archaeological excavation at the site, conducted in conjunction with historical research into the extensive documentary records of Accomack County, should yield new information about 17th- and 18th-century cultural patterns, data applicable to other areas in eastern Virginia for which the official records have been destroyed. As well, excavation should yield new insights into one of the Eastern Shore's more prominent colonial families.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest patent for land in the vicinity of the acreage nominated is dated August 1649, at which time a total of two thousand acres on the north side of [REDACTED] was nominally held by Edmund Scarborough, Jr., then only seven years old. The tract extended eastward to a little creek or gut east of an old Indian field, perhaps the same field identified as "Indian Dancing Grounds" on an 1818 plat of the property. Three years later an additional [REDACTED] were patented in the name of Littleton Scarborough, also the son of Colonel Edmund Scarborough. In 1650, Indian rights to the land called Occaha-nacke were bought by Colonel Edmund Scarborough, father of Edmund Jr., from Wachawampe (Okiawampe), an Indian leader who called himself the Emperor of the Eastern Shore. The transaction noted in the January 1656 will of Wachawampe, which states that he conveyed the land to the English out of his love and affection for them. His will also indicates that some Indians were still living in the vicinity of Occahamock in 1656.

According to local tradition, Colonel Edmund Scarborough made [REDACTED] his home, though he owned thousands of acres elsewhere. Supporting the tradition is a July 1654 court deposition by Mary, wife of Colonel Edmund Scarborough, which refers to the existence of the family home at Occohamock. The ca. 1670 map of Augustine Herrman, depicting Virginia and Maryland, indicates the location of the house at [REDACTED] the site of 44AC4 (Figure 2).

Colonel Edmund Scarborough was a colorful and controversial figure in the history of the Eastern Shore. He intermittently represented Northampton County and Accomack County in the Virginia House of Burgesses between 1643 and his death in 1671 and served as House Speaker in 1645-46. Ordered to be arrested by the James City court in May 1651 for participating in an illegal march against the Powhatan Indians, Scarborough again attracted the attention of the colonial government in 1652 when he illegally seized a New

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ames, S.M. County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton Virginia, 1632-1640. Washington, 195
Ames, S.M. Studies of the Virginia Eastern Shore in the Seventeenth Century. Richmond, 1940.
Kukla, Jon. Speakers and Clerks of the Virginia House of Burgesses 1643-1771. Richmond:
Virginia State Library, 1981.
Whitelaw, Ralph T. Virginia's Eastern Shore. Gloucester, 1968.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9.5 acres

Quadrangle name Jamesville, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Division Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Division date January 1983

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

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 Virginia Historic Landmarks Division

date April 12, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

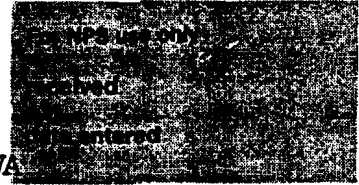
date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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SCARBOROUGH HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (44AC4), ACCOMACK COUNTY, VA



Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Archaeological Analysis

artifacts and shell. Feature B was filled with a lighter brown loam mottled with clay. The size and shape of Features A, B, and C suggest that they may have been cellars or storage pits.

A one meter by two meter test unit designated 44AC4/1 was dug into the north end of Feature A (Photo II) in an attempt to determine its function and relationship to the other features at 44AC4. Although testing revealed the feature to be straight-sided, thereby strengthening the hypothesis that the feature was a cellar (Photo II), probing around the perimeter of the feature failed to reveal any intact brick walls. Within the top layer of Feature A, several fragments of a German stoneware tankard were noted, which date to the first quarter of the 18th century (Photo III), suggesting that Feature A was backfilled at that time.

During the controlled surface collection three small circular deposits were noted on the surface of the site to the east of Features A, B, and C. A one by two meter test unit, designated 44AC4/2, was excavated near the edge of the largest of these features. Numerous fragments of butchered animal bones and shell were noted within the plow zone directly above this feature. Excavation was halted once the plow zone was removed and the feature's outline delineated (Photo IV). Some of the artifacts recovered within the plow zone above this feature include English white clay pipe stems with stem holes measuring 8/64 inch in diameter, suggesting site occupancy as early as 1628-1680; Staffordshire combed slipware; coarseware fragments with a mottled glaze; wrought-iron nails; and wine bottle glass. Because of the quantity of animal bone and shell, these soil disturbances are believed to be refuse pits.

As a relatively high number of prehistoric artifacts were observed within the large, dense shell midden along the southern end of the field, a third test unit, 44AC4/3, a one meter by one meter square, was placed in the woods adjacent to the midden in order to determine whether the midden contained an intact prehistoric deposit. Testing indicated that the midden may have originated as a prehistoric shell refuse deposit destroyed by subsequent historic period occupation. A creamware plate base and cut nail were recovered in the lowest level of the test unit.

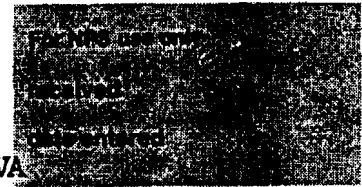
The results of the controlled surface collection and limited test excavations at 44AC4 revealed the locations of at least six archaeological features which research indicates are likely to have been associated with Scarborough family occupation commencing during the second half of the 17th century. Artifacts recovered from 44AC4 include locally made pipes (1620-1680), Dutch brick dating to the 17th century, and sherds of North Devon gravel-tempered earthenware which dates to the 17th and 18th centuries. The recovery of creamware, Staffordshire combed slipware, Buckley ware, and stoneware manufactured by William Rogers of Yorktown, all of which date to the 18th century, suggests with other evidence that the site was occupied from the mid-17th century through the third quarter of the 18th century. The absence of pearlware and other later dated artifacts suggests that 44AC4 was abandoned after the third quarter of the 18th century. This coincides with documentary research on the Scarborough family who were absentee landowners from ca. 1752 until the early 19th century, at which time a new residence, Hedra Cottage, was constructed elsewhere on the property.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Continuation sheet #2

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Archaeological Analysis

The main structure at 44AC4 possibly consisted of a post-in-the-ground frame building, an architectural form common to eastern Virginia and Maryland during the 17th century. The presence of considerable quantities of terra cotta roofing tiles recovered during the 1982 surface collection indicates that the site may have been occupied by an individual of affluence. The presence of yellow Dutch brick fragments suggests that the site occupant preferred this imported building material over locally made brick. Numerous questions important to material culture may be addressed by future archaeological excavations at 44AC4.

JMW

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

England ship in the Chesapeake Bay, having erroneously presumed it to be Dutch. A prosperous merchant, he was heavily involved in the shipping industry and owned many trading vessels singly and in partnership.

In 1653, upon being barred from holding public office in connection with his outspoken royalism, Scarborough departed from the colony, leasing to William Bunton of Boston the three thousand acres patented in the names of his sons. The 1653 lease noted that the land was conveyed to Bunton for a period of fourteen years, at which ^{time} young Edmund would achieve his majority. Although no record has been found of the lease's cancellation, it is known that Scarborough resumed occupancy on his home acreage in 1654. In 1655 he was named surveyor general of the colony, an office he held until his death.

In 1659 Colonel Scarborough led three hundred men on a raid against the Assateague Indians, a military maneuver in which he was supported by the Governor and Virginia Assembly. Later instrumental in the formation of Accomack County in 1663, he also conducted a raid into the Annessex-Manokin area of Maryland, claiming that land for Virginia. In 1668, he negotiated a settlement of the Virginia-Maryland boundary. In 1670 he was arrested by Governor William Berkeley for leading an attack on peaceful Indians, tried at Jamestown, and finally barred from civil and military office. He died seven months later.

In the early 1660s, Scarborough had begun to patent land on the seaboard side of the Eastern Shore in the vicinity of the area called Gargaphia. He undertook various industrial enterprises on his southernmost tract, named "Arcadia" and later enlarged and expanded his undertakings onto Gargaphia itself, owned by a widow, Mrs. Anne Toft. During this period, he engaged in saltpan making at Gargaphia and Occohannock House, an enterprise evidenced at the latter site by a 1669 court order mentioning the mendings of the salt pans there. Several years earlier, he had enjoyed a monopoly on salt production for the Eastern Shore. As the owner of slaves and the employer of a tanner, four shoemakers, and two coopers in 1662, Scarborough may have engaged in other industrial activities at Scarborough Gut besides salt-making.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Colonel Edmund Scarborough died intestate and heavily in debt. His home property [redacted] legally owned by his son Edmund Jr. since 1649, became the latter's actual possession. In May 1673, Edmund Scarborough, Jr. repatented both the two thousand acres he had initially been credited with in 1649, plus an additional three hundred and fifty acres found therein by surveys [redacted] patented in 1652 on behalf of his brother, Littleton, who had subsequently died.

Edmund Scarborough, Jr., like his father, was prominent in court life. He served as a justice at an early date, became sheriff in 1680 and lieutenant-colonel for Accomack County in 1699, and was surveyor for Accomack and Northampton counties. He married twice and had at least nine children.

Edmund Scarborough, Jr. bequeathed 832 acres in 1712, including the family homeplace, to his eldest son, also named Edmund, one of two sons he named after himself. The elder son, however, was dead by 1715 and the 832 acres became the property of the younger Edmund. In 1725, he, in turn, gave it to his own son, Edmund, to be his at his father's death. The son, however, predeceased his father and in 1752 when the elder Edmund Scarborough, a resident of York County, died, the Occoharmock Creek property became the possession of a younger son, William.

William Scarborough's son, Edmund, acquired the home property in 1800. This Edmund bequeathed his Occoharmock Creek land to a younger brother, William M.K. Scarborough.

Commencing in 1809, the large tract was subdivided by William M.K. Scarborough. An 1818 plat of the property shows William Scarborough's house, a building named Hedra Cottage, but reveals no structures standing in the vicinity of 44AC4 at that time (Figure 3). An 1821 plat prepared after William Scarborough's decease depicts the ninety-five acres and house, then owned in part by his widow as her dower right. At that time the acreage encompassed by 44AC4 lay within the bounds of the heirs of Americus Scarborough, deceased (Figure 4).

The archaeological remains at 44AC4, which represent mid-to-late 17th- and 18th-century occupation, are believed to be the home of Colonel Edmund Scarborough and his son and heir, Edmund, Jr. Local tradition maintains that during the 18th century the Scarborough family lived at a house site now occupied by the early 19th-century Hedra Cottage. The absence of artifacts postdating the Revolutionary War suggests that the Scarborough family may have relocated to the present cottage site by that time. It should be recalled that the Edmund Scarborough who inherited the property by 1714 was living in York County at the time of his death in 1752. Thus, it may be that no one was living on the property between the third quarter of the 18th century and the early 19th century, when Hedra Cottage was built by William M.K. Scarborough.

The Scarborough House site contains great potential for future archaeological research. Because the Scarboroughs were one of the wealthiest and most influential families on Virginia's Eastern Shore during the 17th and 18th centuries, the archaeological remains associated with their occupancy would constitute a reference point at the upper end of the socio-economic scale, facilitating the interpretation of data recovered from sites linked with individuals from other levels of colonial society. The research value

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

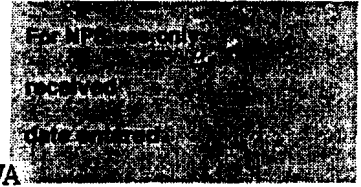
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SCARBOROUGH HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (44AC4), ACCOMACK COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #4

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

of the Scarborough House site is enhanced by the completeness of Accomack County's official records documenting the socio-economic status of the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore.

Occupation at 44AC4 spans a period in which Virginia underwent substantial social, political, economic, and cultural changes. Archaeological excavation at the Scarborough House site could yield new and otherwise unavailable research data on how these changes were accepted and molded in one of eastern Virginia's more remote areas. As well, new insights could be gained on 17th-century industrial enterprises.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Boundary Justification

Boundary Justification: The boundary has been drawn to encompass the ^{test} excavated area as well as the possible sites of fencelines, outbuildings, and other features associated with the Scarborough House.