VLR-5/18/82 NRHP-8/26/82

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

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Shady Grove, a handsomely proportioned and detailed Federal farmhouse, is situated on Route 650, two miles east of Gladys. The l_2^1 -story, 52' x 40' structure is executed in Flemish bond on the facade and three-course American bond on the remaining walls. The house was built in 1825 by Paulina Cabell Henry, daughter of Dr. George Cabell of Point of Honor in Lynchburg. The interior is arranged in a double-pile, center-passage plan and features an elaborate carved provincial mantel based on a parlor mantel in Point of Honor.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Shady Grove is dominated by a gable roof and is set on an English basement. Its facade is laid in Flemish-bond brick, and its side and rear elevations are executed in three-course American bond. The main entrance is located on the south elevation and consists of a semicircular-arched doorway that retains its original double doors. The doorway has fluted pilasters and a fanlight window with intersecting Gothic-type tracery. The carved extrados of the arch has fluting and gouge work which features small stars and circles. A beaded keystone is applied to the top of the arch. The doorway is sheltered by a small pedimented porch. The porch is supported on four chamfered square posts, a balustrade with square balusters, and a dentiled cornice. The tympanum has shiplap siding. Both the rear (north) and east elevations also have porches, although each porch lacks the dentil cornice and balustrade and has only two posts. The rear porch is currently without steps. Entrances to the English basement are found on the side (east and west) elevations. The single door on the west elevation is contained within an enclosed porch covered by a gable roof.

Fenestration on the first story consists of 9/9 hung-sash windows within molded architraves flanked by louvred shutters. The openings are topped by one-course jack arches consisting of ordinary as opposed to gauged bricks. Wrought-iron scroll shutter holders remain in place. The English basement windows on the facade have 3/6 hung-sash in molded architraves flanked by shutters. The tops of the openings also have jack arches. The basement windows on the rear elevation lack the shutters and jack arches and have 4/4 sliding-sash windows to the east of the entrance. The remaining basement windows have horizontal bars. A 6/6 hung-sash window on the east elevation is a later modification. The attic story has gabled dormers on the north and south elevations with 6/6 hung sash; the dormers are embellished with pilasters and have dentil cornices. The attic openings on the east and west elevations have 6/6 hung-sash windows. Both the east and west elevations have semi-exterior end chimneys executed in varying courses of American-bond brick. The finely molded brick chimney caps are original. Both the north and south elevations have a wooden Doric cornice with dentils and holes bored in the plancer as recommended in Asher Benjamin's The American Builder's Companion of 1806.

Shady Grove has a central passage that runs north and south and a lateral passage running east and west. The main passage contains the principal stair. The open-string stair has square balusters, scroll-sawn brackets, and a paneled spandrel and is broken by a landing. Its turned newel is circled by balusters. A molded chair rail parallels

8. Significance

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Shady Grove, a Campbell County landmark, was built in 1825 by Paulina Cabell Henry on land inherited from her father, Dr. George Cabell of Point of Honor, Lynchburg. The house derives its significance as an example of the interpretation of highly sophisticated and academic architectural embellishments by country craftsmen. It appears that Paulina Cabell Henry was attempting at Shady Grove to duplicate the richness of detailing found in her childhood home, Point of Honor. The resulting interior work, the product of an unidentified artisan, is naive in its execution, possessing a charm and vitality not found in more academic counterparts. Like the interior work, Shady Grove's exterior has an elegance and formality that transcend its provincialism.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land on which Shady Grove stands was purchased by Dr. George Cabell of Point of Honor from Dudley Jones in 1823. Cabell died the same year, and according to the terms of his will recorded in December 1823, his estate was distributed equally among his children with his wife maintaining her residence at the Lynchburg homestead. His daughter, Paulina Cabell Henry, who in 1814 had married Alexander Spotswood Henry, son of Patrick Henry, received 820 acres "on Mollys Creek" in Campbell County. It would appear that the couple had been residing with the Cabells at Point of Honor. Thus, a change in the Mollys Creek property value in 1825 is not surprising, as it records for the first time a building valuation of \$4,000. Moreover, Alexander Spotswood Henry's name appears for the first time in the Campbell County Personal Property Tax Book in 1825.

The couple's timing was prudent since George Cabell's widow, Sarah, died in 1826, and their youngest son, William J. Lewis Cabell, inherited Point of Honor, soon bringing his bride to the Lynchburg home. The residence William inherited was among the most fashionable in Lynchburg with most of its interior woodwork based on plates in Owen Biddle's The Young Carpenter's Assistant, published in Philadelphia in 1805 and subsequently sold in Richmond.

For her new home, Shady Grove, Paulina Cabell Henry attempted to copy the Biddle-inspired parlor mantel in Point of Honor. The resulting work, similar in the arrangement of its elements, appears as an almost folk interpretation. The compote in the center tablet of the Point of Honor mantel is rendered as a basket of fruit, whereas Shady Grove's is far more stylized, similar to decoration on Pennsylvania German frakturs. Likewise, the pineapples are exaggerated and stylized, as is the surrounding carving. Although the carving lacks the refinement of the Point of Honor mantel, it does possess a spirit and vitality unmatched in the area. Removed from his bookish source, the carver relied on his sense of composition and scale to achieve a most fitting mantel for Paulina's best parlor at Shady Grove.

9.	Major Bib	oliographica	l Refere	ences (See Co	ontinuation Sheet #2)
Bidd	amin, Asher. <u>Th</u> le, Owen. <u>The</u> Y	he American Builder Young Carpenter's As The Cabells and The	's Companion ssistant. Pl	Boston, 1806. niladelphia, 1805	
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SHADY GROVE, CAMPBELL COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey 1967, 1981 State Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 221 Governor Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. Description -- Architectural Analysis

the stair rail. The hall contains a paneled wainscot topped by a molded chair rail; the panels of the chair rail are defined by applied beading. The hall doors are framed by molded architrave surrounds with turned corner blocks. A secondary, closed-string stair is found in the northeast chamber. The stair has been blocked by plywood. The southwest parlor is the most elaborate room in the house, with its focal point being its carved mantel. The mantel consists of paired engaged colonettes that support an entablature. The frieze has carved pineapples and swags that flank a basket of grapes and strawberries. The remaining composition has tassels and a guilloche that runs across the mantel shelf. The mantel is based on a mantel in the parlor of Point of Honor in Lynchburg, which is in turn adapted from Plate 22 of Owen Biddle's The Young Carpenter's Assistant. The room contains a paneled and fluted wainscot, again with applied beading as in the hall. The door and window surrounds have molded architrave trim with turned corner blocks. Those on the door frame have carved flowers within the corner blocks. The northwest parlor is less elaborate and has a Federal-style mantel, a paneled wainscot, and molded architrave trim framing door and window openings. The rooms east of the hall are similarly treated. The second-floor chambers are less elaborate than the first. The rooms have baseboards, molded chair rails and architrave surrounds, and Federal-style mantels. The basement has been extensively renovated and houses a modern kitchen.

A one-story, wood-frame, weatherboarded smokehouse located to the east of the main house is all that remains of Shady Grove's early domestic outbuildings. A small complex of later farm buildings is located to the north of the main house. The complex includes three barns, a car and truck shed, and a general purpose shed. A two-story, wood-frame barn is located to the northwest of the main house.

Little in the way of 19th-century landscaping survives at Shady Grove. The house stands in a yard of tall trees amid the gently rolling countryside of Campbell County, its brickwork providing a strong color contrast to the open fields. The family cemetery is across the road and contains the Henry family graves.

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8. Significance -- Historical Background

In contrast to the parlor mantel, the rest of the house, interior and exterior, is rather restrained. It stands chiefly as an elegantly proportioned and detailed example of provincial Federal architecture, part of a body of works found from central Virginia through Kentucky and Tennessee.

Paulina's enjoyment of her new home and its architectural embellishments was short-lived; she died in 1833, survived by her husband and ten children. Throughout her life the title to Shady Grove had remained in her name, and upon her death the estate passed into a rather complicated division among her husband and children. One reason that the property never was formally transferred into Alexander Spotswood Henry's hand is suggested by his profligate life style. Ruth Early, in her Campbell Chronicles of 1927 describes Henry:

He owned a fine library to which he devoted much time and attention and this caused him to be regarded as a gentleman of leisure, hence there originated, in his own community, the saying "clerking to Captain Henry," intended to convey the meaning that the person to whom it was applied was without apparent occupation.

Henry's rather careless life style ultimately took its toll, and by the late 1830s he found himself unable to pay his accumulated debts, resulting in the loss of Shady Grove by the Henry family in 1838. The deed of conveyance to Richard Morgan was officially recorded on November 10, 1841.

Richard Morgan owned the 820-acre Shady Grove tract until 1862 when it was sold to William C. Perrow for \$7,536, at which time the tract was reduced to 628 acres. According to the United States Census of 1850, Alexander Spotswood Henry, aged 62, was residing in Lynchburg, his occupation listed as "none" and with no property of value. Three children, aged 18 to 25, were living with him, the remaining seven children scattered throughout Southside and western Virginia.

The property is presently owned by Hugh H. Dotson of Campbell County.

VDS/RCC

9. Bibliographical References

Campbell Co. Deed Books 11,21,22-24, 33; Land Tax Books 1807-1843; Personal Property

Tax 1810-1832.

Early, Ruth H. Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches. Lynchburg, Va., 1927; reprint ed. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1978.

Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives. Lynchburg file #118-14, Point of Honor; Charlotte County file #19-27, Red Hill.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

¹Ruth Early, <u>Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches</u>. (Lynchburg, Va., 1927; reprint ed. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1978), p.427.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

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SHADY GROVE, CAMPBELL COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #3

Item number 9



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9. Bibliographical References

Virginia Historical Society. The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. Richmond, 1894-1979, Vols. 5, 35.

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SHADY GROVE, CAMPBELL COUNTY, VA Continuation sheet #3

Item number 9,10



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9. Bibliographical References

Virginia Historical Society. The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. Richmond, 1894-1979, Vols. 5, 35.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - Verbal Boundary Description (cont'd)

about 900'NE; thence cont. NE to 690' contour; thence following said contour about 1,600' NE; thence about 150'SE to point of origin. <u>Justification</u>: The nominated property of Shady Grove consists of 27 acres on both sides of VA 650. The property includes the house and its outbuildings as well as the Henry family cemetery on the east side of VA 650. The tract is a fraction of the original estate of Paulina C. Henry that consisted of 820 acres. The 820-acre tract was the same upon which the house was built and remained with that acreage until 1862 when it was sold to William C. Perrow. The boundaries follow the natural contour lines that elevate the house site above the neighboring farmlands.

9. M	lajor Bibl	iographica	al Refere	ences (See Conti	nuation Shee	t #2)
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