

VLR-3/21/72 NRHP-11/3/72

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: FAIRFAX	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON
HUNTLEY

AND/OR HISTORIC:
HUNTLEY

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
6918 Harrison Lane

CITY OR TOWN:
Alexander vicinity (William Lloyd Scott, Eighth District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: FAIRFAX CODE: 059

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Col. and Mrs. Ransom G. Amlong

STREET AND NUMBER:
6918 Harrison Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fairfax County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fairfax STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing south from its knoll across fields which decline in three terraces the mansion house at Huntley and its surrounding farm complex were built around 1820 in the architectural style of the Early Federal Period. Originally constructed in the shape of an "H" with the central bar rising to three stories on the south and two on the north, the main house is built of brick laid in common bond. The flanking wings which are one story lower than the one-room central section are comprised of two rooms. The regularity of design on both the front and the rear has been achieved by the use of a full basement which serves to compensate for the uneven grade of the hill.

From the front the broad central gable is crowned by two rectangular interior chimneys which run parallel to the roofline. The central gable which was once clipped, giving the impression of a hipped roof, is lighted by three bays with casements of nine panes each. Today the gable peak addition is hidden by shingle siding which fills the resulting pediment. The second story of the central section is topped by a mousetooth brick cornice that once marked the edge of the clipped roof. The first floor central section is sheltered by a three-bay porch addition that links the pedimented wings. The early quarried stone steps leading to the south entrance have been incorporated into the brick foundation of the more recent porch. Two glass lights are included in the six panels of the door on the southern side. This front entrance is framed by three-light side lights separated by slender, roundly reeded pilasters and surmounted by an elliptical fanlight with wooden tracery. The two bays which flank this entrance on the first floor porch have a four-over-four sash. The remaining windows on the ground and first floors are comprised of a six-over-six double hung sash. Set slightly into the brick of the house, the windows still maintain a large percentage of their early glass, and single panel shutters vented by fixed louvers continue to bound these apertures. The exterior hardware which includes shutter stops and a boot scraper at the north entrance is generally manufactured from wrought iron.

One of the most notable features of the house is the design of the one-bay pedimented wings. The wing elevation on the south includes a simple ground floor bay surmounted by the first floor windows which are set into recessed rectangular frames. The decorative simplicity of this recessed framing is often a hallmark of the Federal period and a variation of this device can be found again in the root cellar where the windows are emphasized by recessed arches. These side wings are topped by pediments enhanced by a molded cornice and enclosing louvered lunettes.

Windows on the east and west sides of the wings are spaced irregularly along the wall. On the east side two bays light the ground level and three bays break the wall of the first story. In recent years a frame addition with a brick foundation has been added to the rear portion of the house's three-bay west side. Although a molded cornice encloses the pediments, a mousetooth brick cornice similar to that below the southern gable peak is utilized along the sides of the roof.

On the north side of the house, the central recess has been filled in to form a hall and stairway on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor. Curiously enough, without this later stair addition, there remains no evidence of the means of access to the room on the second floor. The second floor addition is lighted by a double unit window and sheathed in shingle. Below on the first floor, the central entrance is surmounted by a

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1820

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on a tract of land adjacent to George Washington's Mt. Vernon property, Huntley was built around 1820 as a secondary house for Thomson Francis Mason, grandson of George Mason IV of Gunston Hall. Surrounded by a farm complex which includes springhouse, ice house, tenant houses, root cellar and necessary, Mason's house is built against a hill side overlooking the Hybla Valley and Potomac River. Although the house was never permanently inhabited by Thomson F. Mason who owned a number of houses in Alexandria including "Colross" his chief homestead, Huntley was constructed with a refinement and individuality very much in keeping with the Mason family's remarkable building tradition. Like many of the other Mason homes such as Gunston Hall and Hollin Hall, Huntley was most likely named for an ancestral home in England. An ancestor on his mother's side lived in a home in Scotland called "Huntly".

Born at Gunston Hall in 1785, Thomson Francis Mason grew up at Hollin Hall built by his father General Thomson Mason. After graduating from Princeton in 1807, Thomson F. Mason returned to Virginia and began his law practice in the region of Fairfax County. After his marriage in 1817 to Miss Elizabeth C. Price of Leesburg he began building at Huntley within the next few years. As one of the area's most prominent lawyers, Mason played an important role during the 1820's in the fight to separate Alexandria from the District of Columbia. Mason became increasingly involved in political activities and he served for two terms as the Mayor of Alexandria. Only six months before his death in 1838 he was appointed as Judge of the newly organized Criminal Court of the District of Columbia.

Although Huntley was built as a secondary residence, the high quality of the building's architectural design and detail suggests at least some reference to a trained architect. Thoughtfully suited to the irregular grade of the site, the design of the house, with its use of a versatile full-basement, compensates for the decline of the hill. Because the various components of the building come together to form an integral whole, it is unlikely that the design was simply derived from an assemblage of style manual motifs. The sophistication of design can be seen from the front and rear of the house where the main gable, once clipped, rises from a solid base created by two gabled pavilions, the outside roofs of which are skillfully merged into the design of the main roof. On the interior the use of the cornerblock as a vital part of the design of several of the rooms was stylistically up to date with some of the most advanced architecture of the times. A case has been made by Tony P. Wrenn, the author of Huntley, A Mason Family Country House, showing a strong resemblance between Huntley and the work of the architect George Hadfield.

See continuation sheet

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamlin, Talbot, Greek Revival Architecture in America, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1944.

Wrenn, Tony P., Huntley: A Mason Family Country House, ARVA Printers, Inc., Fairfax, Virginia, 1971.

Files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 46' 00"	77° 05' 49"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 46' 00"	77° 05' 38"				
SE	38° 45' 53"	77° 05' 38"				
SW	38° 45' 53"	77° 05' 49"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

DATE: MARCH, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James W. Moody, Jr.

Title Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date MAR 21 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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1.

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7.

segmental arched head and is flanked by two windows with segmental arch and soffit. The side wings on this north side are similar in design and construction to those on the south.

On the interior, the original exterior entrance on the north end of the house survives as the doorway from the hall to the central room. This doorway which is similar to the south entrance has a beaded keystone bisecting the arch of the fanlight on the interior side. This keystone design is not unlike those found in the work of the nineteenth century architect Asher Benjamin. Although the room's mantel is of comparable proportion to the mantel designs of Asher Benjamin, a certain provincialism can be detected with its emphasis on heavily patterned detail. The design includes an oval medallion flanked by reeded pilasters with intricate borders outlining the opening and the mantel. In the remaining rooms on the first floor the four mantels are executed with similar proportions but have simpler ornamentation.

Another example of fine woodwork is found in the principle room and the east wing. Here the architraves of the doors and the windows are ornamented with corner blocks. This architectural motif came into use during the early part of the nineteenth century through the work of the architect Benjamin Latrobe. In addition the woodwork and panelling of the doors, mantels, and windows in this central room appear to date from the period of the house's construction.

Although it can not be specifically dated, a good supply of early hardware, including carpenter-type locks, remains at Huntley. The house has also maintained its random width pine board floors. Mechanical saw marks cut a vertical pattern across the subflooring of the first floor central room and the supporting beams are hand sawn on one side and broad-axed on the other. On the ground floor concrete now covers the brick floors. Many of the fireplaces on this level have been filled up but the kitchen fireplace on the west side remains open.

The second floor room is sheltered by a tray ceiling, a type sometimes used beneath early hipped roofs. The mantels and molding on this floor are notably simpler than those used on the first floor. The ovolo curve found in the architraves of the second floor room was in wide use during the eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth century.

The Huntley estate includes many early nineteenth century outbuildings which increase the importance of this farm complex. Located some two hundred and seventy feet west of the main house is a two story brick tenant house. Capped by a gable roof with an interior chimney, the building runs approximately thirty-two feet long by twenty-two feet wide. When the structure burned in 1947 the interior was gutted and only the exterior walls survive unaltered. In recent years a bath and kitchen have been added to one end of this building.

Located between the tenant house and the main house, the combination necessary and storage house is divided into three sections comprised of a recessed two-bay central necessary flanked by two-bay storage rooms. Like most of the other outbuildings on the farm, this building is made of brick laid in common bond but here a mousetooth cornice similar to that on the main house

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encircles the edge of the roof. Each of the end rooms is entered by a beaded board door topped by a flat arch. The rooms are lighted by a window on the interior side of the door and by four diamond shaped ventilators, divided between the sides and the back. Hand wrought latches and rose head nails are among the surviving hardware. The interiors of the end rooms are unfinished while the necessary is finished with plaster and brick flooring is in evidence below the present concrete floore. These interiors, which include a child's toilet seat, date from varying time periods.

The root cellar is in turn situated to the north west, between the necessary and the main house. Set over a full cellar, the ground floor of this building has been altered so that the exact use of the structure can not be definitely determined. Ventilators finished with brick and faced with quarried stone seem to have existed on both the front and the rear of the building. On the exterior, one window set into a recessed arch, similar in motif to the square used on the wings of the main house, cuts each wall surface. Inside the root cellar, roughly cut stone steps on the right side lead to the cellar below. The cellar walls are laid in three to one common bond brick. Opposite the stairs on this lower level a one step entrance surmounted by a stone lintel, leads down into the icehouse.

Sunk completely into the ground adjacent to the root cellar, the round brick ice house is capped with a hemispherical dome constructed of brick headers. At the top of the dome a stone lined square opening has been worn by the ropes used to procure the ice and the saw dust used in the insulation has formed an artificial floor.

Down the hill to the southeast of the main house stands a dairy or springhouse. Built into the hillside, this building is constructed of brick and topped with an arched roof. Another brick spring is found to the northwest of the main house. This cistern-type spring is contemporary with the springhouse down the hill. In addition at least two other springs or shallow wells dot the Huntley property.

Photographs of the farm reveal that a number of barns lasted into the nineteen fifties but it is doubtful whether any of these dated from the period of the main house's construction. The brick foundations of perhaps an early barn lie one-hundred and seventy-one feet west of the tenant house. This rectangular form measures approximately thirty-three by sixty feet.

R.S.

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Wrenn sums up some of his reasons in saying:

"The design evidence indicates that Mason did build well at Huntley and that he sought assistance in doing so. Huntley's similarities to other area structures designed by the architect George Hadfield are striking. In addition, of all the architects in the area at the time, Hadfield was most available and is believed to have already designed one house for the Mason family, Analostan. There is also good reason to believe that Thomson Francis Mason and Hadfield knew each other."

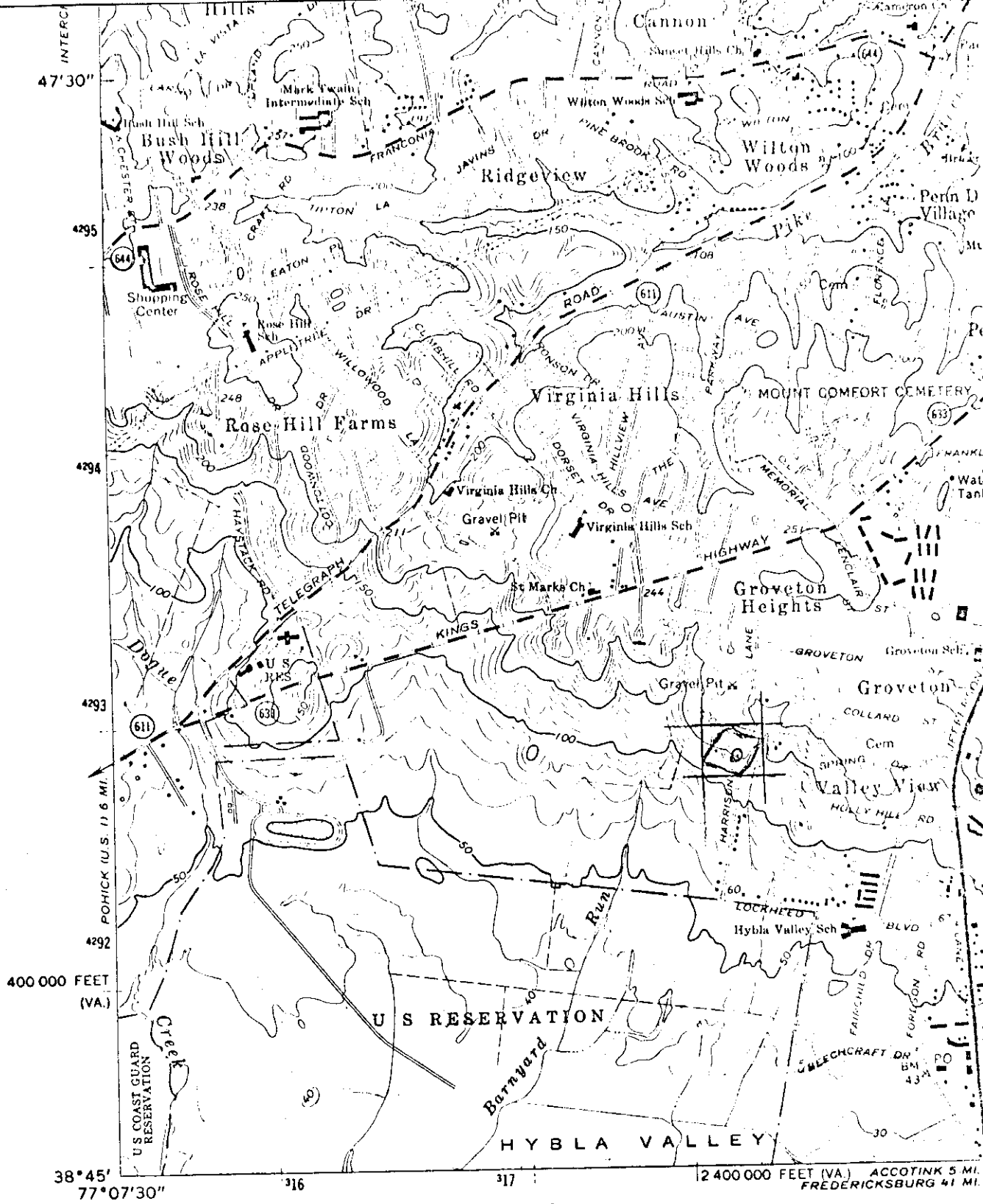
Hadfield came to this country from England in the 1790's to serve as superintendent of the Capitol. With Robert Mills he served as one of the architects of the Washington City Hall, and is also acknowledged to have been the architect of Arlington, completed in 1818.

Throughout the years Huntley was run as a highly productive farm by its various inhabitants and owners. In the twenty years following Thomson F. Mason's death in 1839 the house remained in the possession of Mason's wife. At the end of this period the estate was transferred to Mason's sons John Frances and A. Pendleton to be held as security on a debt to a family friend Benjamin King. King finally acquired the property at a public auction in 1862. Only six years later Albert W. Harrison and Nathan W. Pierson took over the title and split their claim in 1871. Showing great interest in community affairs as well as in farming Harrison was a regular participant in the monthly meeting of the Woodlawn Farmers Club. In 1871 Harrison is recorded as sole owner of the farm. A correspondent for the Syracuse Journal was travelling in the area in 1875 and supplies a good picture of Huntley following the War: "The house stands boldly on a hill spur, looking over broad acres of corn, rye, wheat, oats, and fertile meadow-- a site to see. Beyond, in plain vision, rolls the Potomac. Vessels of many kinds--by sail and by steam--are going to and from the city of Washington."

Following Albert Harrison's death in 1911 the property was in the possession of his heirs. During the 1930's the area of Huntley was considered for a proposed air junction of Graf Zeppelin airships but these plans were discarded with the growing distrust of these floating ships. The last of the Harrisons passed away in 1946 and the house and land were sold to August W. and Eleanor S. Nagel. During the short time that the Nagel's owned the house they had the Arlington architect Edward M. Pitt prepared drawings of the building. In less than three years the house was sold to Colonel and Mrs. Ransom G. Amlong.

Tony P. Wrenn summed up the significance of Huntley when he wrote: "Whatever the derivation of the mansion house at Huntley, it survives as a notable example of early nineteenth century architecture; as an example of a farm or country house of an early nineteenth century city dweller; as a Mason family house and as part of a well sited and relatively complete complex. When considered together, these factors make Huntley an important architectural landmark."

R.S.



(BELVOIR)
5561 II NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, NCPS, and WSSC
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Revised 1965

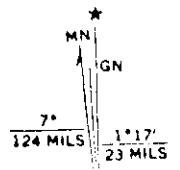
U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Alexandria, Va.-D.C.-Md. 1965

Huntley
latitude longitude
NW38°46'00" 77°05'49"
NE38°46'00" 77°05'38"
SE38°45'53" 77°05'38"
SW38°45'53" 77°05'49"

from USC&GS Chart 560 (1965)
for navigational purposes
American datum
coordinate system, north zone,
reactor grid ticks, zone 18,

landmark buildings are shown
and fence and field lines where
possible. This information is unchecked

2 400 000 FEET (VA.) ACCOTINK 5 MI.
FREDERICKSBURG 41 MI.



UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET