NPS Form 10-900 (Rev 10-90) OMB No 1024-0018

VLR-9/12/01 NRHP-4/01/02

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.			
1. Name of Property			
historic nameLaughton other names/site numberVDHR file # 32-96			
2. Location			
street & numberRt. 623N/A_not for publication city or townKents Storevicinity stateVirginiacodeVAcountyFluvanna_code065zip code23084			
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide _X_ locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official Date VIEGINIA DEPARTMENT of HISTORIC PEGAURCES			
State or Federal agency and bureau			
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)			
Signature of commenting or other official Date			

State or Federal agency and bureau

,

~F===#=================================
4. National Park Service Certification
I, hereby certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):
Signature of Keeper Date of Action
╺ ┸╤┺┖╤╾╤┲┲┲╤┲┲╤┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲┲
5. Classification
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) _X_ private public-local public-State public-Federal
Category of Property (Check only one box) _X_building(s) district site structure object
Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing 12_buildings 30_sites 00_structures 42_Total
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _0_
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)N/A_N/A

.

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ories from instructions)
Cat:		Sub:
<b></b>		Single Dwelling
	Funerary	Cemetery
	functions (Enter catego	pries from instructions)
Cat:	5	Sub:
	Domestic	Single Dwelling
	Funerary	Cemetery
<u> </u>	······	<i></i>
	·	
=======	*==***	≖≖ <b>≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈</b> ≠≈≈≈≈≈≈
7. Descri	-	
	······	
		er categories from instructions)
- <u></u>	Federal	
Materials	(Enter categories from	instructions)
	(Dittor catogorios nom	
found	lationBrick	
	Metal	
	Wood	
walls		
	Stone (ceme	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

=======================================
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- \_\_\_\_\_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- \_\_\_\_ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- \_X\_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- \_\_\_\_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- \_\_\_\_\_b removed from its original location.
- \_\_\_\_ c a birthplace or a grave.
- \_\_\_\_ d a cemetery.
- \_\_\_\_\_e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- \_\_\_\_ f a commemorative property.
- \_\_\_\_ g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture	
Period of Significance1785 -1950	
	N/A
Cultural AffiliationN/A Architect/Builderunkown	

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS)
<ul> <li>preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.</li> <li>previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>previously determined eligible by the National Register</li> <li>designated a National Historic Landmark</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #</li> </ul>
Primary Location of Additional Data
_X_State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency _X_Local government University Other
Name of repository:
10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property27.315
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing 1 17 754120 4198190 3 17 753670 4197940 2 17 753970 4197810 4 17 753680 4198170
See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

•

3232323423232323232222232232232222222324222222			
11. Form Prepared By			
name/titleDeborah D. Murdock			
organizationN/Adate14 Feb., 2001			
street & numberBox 65 telephone(804)-589-3083			
city or townKents Storestate_VAzip code23084			
Additional Documentation			
Submit the following items with the completed form:			
Continuation Sheets			
<ul> <li>Maps <ul> <li>A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.</li> <li>A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Photographs <ul> <li>Representative black and white photographs of the property.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)</li> </ul>			
Property Owner			
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)			
nameDeborah D. Murcock			
street & numberBox 65 telephone(804)-589-3083			
city or townKents Storestate_VA_ zip code _23804			
<ul> <li>Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).</li> <li>Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.</li> </ul>			

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Laughton Fluvanna Co., VA

## Section 7 Page 1

## 7. DESCRIPTION

Summary

Laughton (pronounced "Laff-ton," not "Lawton" according to Miss Kate Perkins, an elderly neighbor) is located in the northeast corner of Fluvanna County, Virginia. It is a fine example of a frame 18<sup>th</sup> century yeoman planter's house that was expanded to accommodate a growing family. Begun about 1785, it was enlarged near the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and in 1836, 1842, and 1976. Its most notable architectural feature is the unusual double shouldered Flemish-bond chimney featuring single diagonal lines of glazed headers parallel to the slopes of the lower shoulders. Situated on 28 acres amid open pastures and mixed woodland, the house is nearly a mile from the county paved road. Other farms surround it.

Contributing sites include a boxwood alley nearly 20 feet tall leading to the front door, the remains of the foundation of an outdoor kitchen incorporated in an herb garden and the Shepherd family cemetery east of the house. A handsome granite wall encloses the cemetery. Non-contributing structures include a small guesthouse and a shed located in the south yard built in 1976 to house the propane generator that provided electricity to Laughton for three years.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet Laughton Fluvanna Co., VA

## Section 7 Page 2

Narrative Description

The east façade or front of Laughton presents the  $18^{th}$ -century, two-bay 1 ½-story portion and a threebay, two-story section added by 1836. In the 1½ -story part of this elevation, the brick foundation is laid in English bond. The pine siding is beaded. The cornice is bexed which, along with the English-bond foundation, shows evidence of a 5-foot extension on the south end. The two dormers are  $19^{th}$ -century additions. The roof is triple-seam metal that dates from the 1930s. The two firstfloor windows are six-over-six pane double-hung sash. Except for three transom windows, all of the sash in the house was replaced in 1976 by custom-made sash.

The 1836 two-story wing was joined onto the north end of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story house. It was built on piers that were filled in during the 1976 restoration with a three-course American bond foundation. Five steps to a wooden porch built in 1994 reach the entry just off center in this façade. A four-pane transom surmounts the double doors of three panels each.

The most prominent feature of the south elevation is the chimney laid in Flemish bond with double paved weatherings. Enhancing the brickwork are queen closers and some diapering. Some bricks show evidence of years of knife sharpening and Shepherd family initials are carved into several bricks. Next to the chimney is a door to the outdoor kitchen. Flanking the chimneystack on the second floor are two side-sliding gable-end windows of four panes each.

Several additions extend westward from this portion of the house. The first is 1 ½-story and, based on some of the interior woodwork, is probably 18<sup>th</sup> century. The piers under this wing were replaced with a three-course, American bond foundation in 1976. A wooden porch built in 1987 serves the entry door in the center of this wing. There is one window of four-over-four sash. The 19<sup>th</sup> century chimney that serves this wing has been encapsulated by the next addition done in 1842.

The 1842 room is one story and features single windows on the south and north sides. One more one-story room was added in 1976. Roofing material for the whole house is metal except for the 1976 bathroom/mud room roof that is asbestos shingles. All the siding is beaded pine of various ages.

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Laughton Fluvanna Co., VA

## Section 7 Page 3

The oldest room in the house is the southeast room now used as a dining room. It is about  $15 \frac{1}{2}$  by 20 feet. Some major re-framing took place in the l8th century or early  $19^{th}$  century perhaps to accommodate a new, massive brick chimney. Possibly the present chimney was erected behind an earlier daub-and-wattle chimney and the room extended to it. The clues are in the floors, ceiling beams and bracing, all of which were extended by 5 feet. The floors are heavy pine planks. The exposed beams are beaded including those in the extension. One evidently held vertical members that would have been the south wall of the house. The bracing in the east and west walls is repeated in the extension. The fireplace opening is large (53 x 42 inches high) and contained a piece of a crane until 1976. There is no mantel. The walls are plastered above pine wainscoting. The northeast corner is sheathed floor-to-ceiling in flush horizontal beaded pine boards. This paneling is also in place under the small, steep closed-string stair that ascends the north wall. Perhaps at one time the whole room was sheathed in this manner before the wainscoting, plaster walls and plaster ceiling were done. In 1976 plaster was removed from the ceiling to expose the beaded beams.

West of the dining room is another room (the kitchen) probably dating from the  $18^{th}$  century and accessed by a batten door. This room is approximately 15 by 16 feet and also has exposed beaded beams that show a possible extension of about 3 feet. The plaster was removed from these beams in 1976 at which time it was revealed that the ceiling and beams originally had been whitewashed. This room has pine wainscoting, beaded picture rail, pine mantel, two windows (one on the south side and one on the north side) and a batten door leading to the outdoors. On either side of the fireplace are door openings; one leads to a pantry, the other down two steps to a room added in 1842. This one-story room has pine wainscoting, two four-over-four windows and a pine mantel. A two-tiered Morso wood stove is vented in this room's chimney and provides heat for this wing. The four corner vertical members are "hog-troughed," (each vertical member chinked to provide a 45 degree angle). Mortises, tenons and pegs were revealed when the framing was exposed during the 1976 restoration. The sills still showed the numbering pattern in Roman numerals for uprights to be inserted. The number four is written "IIII." The ceiling was raised several feet to its present height of 10 ½ feet. A batten door leads to the 1976 mudroom/bathroom that is floored in ceramic tile. All the other floors in the house excepting those in the dining room are tongue-and-groove pine.

On the second floor of the 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-story portion are two bedrooms; the one over the dining room has two dormer windows and two gable- end windows. There is no fireplace opening. The bedroom over the kitchen has a fireplace, pine mantel, and two small gable-end windows. All the walls in this part of the house are two-coat plaster over blue board.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Laughton Fluvanna Co., VA

### Section 7 Page 4

The two-story 1836 section is comprised of a stair hall and parlor downstairs and a bedroom and bathroom upstairs. At either end (east and west) the hall has double doors with transoms. The walls feature the original plaster, pine wainscoting and picture rails. The open-string stair ascends on the south wall in one straight run. The newel posts, rail and balusters were missing and were replaced in 1976 made from pine from Boswell's Tavern in Louisa County, Virginia. There is a four-panel door on the south side under the stair that leads down two steps to the 1 ½-story wing. The six-panel door opposite leads into the parlor that has a chair rail, picture rail, four six-over-nine-pane windows and the original mantel. The two-flue chimney serving this wing is a replacement erected in five-course American bond in 1978 by master brick mason John Gray. The floor had partially collapsed in this room. In 1985 the joists were rebuilt, old plaster removed and walls and ceiling wall-boarded.

Upstairs is a hall leading to a bedroom with picture rail, original mantel and four six-over-six windows. The smaller hall bedroom has been converted into a bathroom. A small (24 x 38 inch) opening covered by a two-panel door connects this second story to the dormered bedroom in the 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ -story wing. (It takes a very agile person to pass safely through this opening and not fall down either set of stairs.)

Above is an attic accessed by a ladder stair moved from an outbuilding at Bacon's Castle in Surry County. The attic floors are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick planks of pine about 1 inch wide. There is one four-pane window in the south gable end.

A non-contributing shed in the south yard was built in 1976 to house a propane gas generator that provided electricity until 1979. The other non-conforming building is a small two-story guesthouse built in the field west of the dwelling in the 1990s. There are three contributing sites. The first is the ruined foundation of an outdoor kitchen now incorporated into the design of a simple herb garden. The second is the alley of American boxwood that in places stands about 20 feet high. It leads from the hall door of the east front of the house and ends in a broad expanse of lawn.

Further east is the Shepherd family cemetery, the third contributing site. It is approximately 60 by 60 feet and is enclosed by a sturdy granite wall erected in 1882. There are at least 13 members of the Shepherd family buried here, the earliest being David Shepherd, the founder of the family, in 1823. In the 1980s a descendant did some restoration work on several of the grave markers.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet Laughton Fluvanna Co., VA

OMB No. 1024-0018

## Section 7 Page 5

The following graves have been recorded:

David Shepherd, b. June 9, 1760, d. March 20, 1823.

Polly Rosetta Baskett Shepherd, wife of David Shepherd, b. June 1, 1770, d. May 13, 1843.

Martin Baskett Shepherd, b. Sept. 5, 1801, d. Aug. 14, 1883.

Mary Farrar Shepherd, b. Dec. 1, 1802, d. Feb. 23, 1869.

Thomas Shepherd, b. March 23, 1808, d. March 27, 1883.

Sarah Shelton Shepherd, first wife of Thomas Shepherd, d. 1837.

Sallie Ann Holland Shepherd, wife of Thomas Shepherd, b. April 3, 1817, d. October 20, 1893.

D. Shelton Shepherd, b. July 20, 1832, d. Aug. 1856.

Martha Winston Shepherd, b. August 1832, d. August 1858.

Thomas J. Shepherd, Died April 13, 1874 aged 42 years.

John N. Shepherd, b. Jan. 5, 1834, d. Aug. 15, 1866.

Sallie T.Gray, b. March 9, 1842, d. Aug. 29, 1865, married Nov.6, 1860.

Lucy Alice Shepherd, b. March 12, 1853, d. May 17, 1884.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet Laughton Fluvanna Co., VA

#### Section 8 Page 6

#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Laughton, located in northeast Fluvanna County, qualifies for the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture. It is a fine example of a small frame18<sup>th</sup>-century planter's house. It was built close to the Three-Notched Road, one of Virginia's most important arteries in the colonial period. Many small 18<sup>th</sup> century plantation houses in this area, including several other Shepherd houses, were enlarged to accommodate expanding families. Laughton exhibits this evolution in a more picturesque way than most. Of particular note is the handsome double-shouldered chimney of Flemish bond with paved weatherings and modest diapering. The cemetery located on a rise just east of the house is unusually large and is enclosed by a robust stone wall.

Historical Background

In March of 1785, David Shepherd purchased 225 acres "on the waters of the great Byrd Creek" from Bishop Toney and Sarah his wife for 200 Pounds. The tract came with appurtenances.<sup>1</sup> Members of the Shepherd family were well-established planters in the area from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century on. The personal property tax records from 1786 show that David Shepherd was taxed for one adult Negro and one horse.<sup>2</sup> He was farming 225 acres. By 1788 David had acquired a cow. The 1815 tax records show Laughton valued at \$600. Shepherd served as Sheriff of Fluvanna County from 1812 to 1814 and for many years was a Magistrate.

Shepherd died in 1823. His will and inventory list many items including 5,000 shingles, a loom and a cotton gin. He gave his wife, Polly Basket Shepherd, a life estate and requested that his two youngest sons be properly educated. As a result, there is a continual accounting in the public records submitted by the executors until Polly's death in 1850.<sup>3</sup>

Son Thomas purchased the property from his father's estate in 1834 but had to sell it at auction in 1872.<sup>4</sup> Thomas' brother, Benjamin Armistead Shepherd of Houston, Texas, made the highest bid and acquired not only Laughton, but also a piano and one-quarter interest in the Tellurium Gold Mine located near the Goochland County line.<sup>5</sup> The stone wall around the family cemetery was funded by Benjamin in 1883. Many years later, his granddaughter, Sallie Gray Shepherd Perkins, endowed the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas in memory of her grandfather.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet Laughton Fluvanna Co., VA

### Section 8 Page 7

Eventually, the property passed to Shandy Shepherd who sold it in 1920 to T. P. Harvey. This sale was disputed in 1922 by Sallie Gray Shepherd Perkins and court papers declared "the place in bad shape, the buildings being in bad condition and open land practically all grown up."<sup>6</sup> In 1935 Sallie and her husband Malcolm Perkins were able to take title to the property and they are credited with saving the house by replacing the original shingle roof with a new tin roof. The 1937 WPA report mentions many outbuildings: outdoor kitchen, a dairy, an icehouse, a school- house and two tobacco barns in the vicinity of the house. None of these buildings survives.<sup>7</sup> The 1920 disputed deed specifically mentions fourteen box tree of which twelve remain leading to the front door.<sup>8</sup>

In 1946 Dennis Perkins acquired Laughton, built a shed along the south side and used the interior for hay and corn storage. In 1975 following months of constant badgering Perkins sold the house and 27.315 acres to the Murdock family who began a careful restoration which continues today.

#### **ENDNOTES**

- 1. Fluvanna County Deed Book O.S. 2, pages 48.
- 2. Fluvanna County Personal Property Tax records, 1786 to 1815.
- David Shepherd's will and inventory are recorded in Fluvanna County Fiduciary Accounts Book #3 (1823 - 1900) pages 2 to 8. The accounting continues until 1850 following his widow's death (page 43). The will does not appear in the will indexes.
- 4. Fluvanna County Deed Book O.S. 10, page 559.
- 5. Fluvanna County Deed Book O.S. 21, page 90.
- 6. Chancery cause of S. H. Shepherd vs. F. T. Shepherd, an insane person, in the Circuit Court of Fluvanna, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1922, ended 1935. Chancery Book 9, page 63.
- 7. Works Progress Administration draft report prepared by Mr. R. E. Hannum, September 7, 1937.
- 8. Fluvanna County Deed Book 22:276.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet Laughton

OMB No. 1024-0018

# Fluvanna Co., VA

#### Section 10 Page 8

## **GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Laughton is identified as parcel 46B of Tax Map 23, Fluvanna County, Va., and further described on a plat of 27.315 acres dated December 16, 1993 by Robert L. Lum Certified Land Surveyor.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The 27.315 acre piece includes the dwelling, cemetery and the two non-contributing buildings and is the complete parcel owned by Deborah D. Murdock.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet** 

> Laughton Fluvanna Co. VA

Section \_\_ Photo List\_\_ Page \_\_\_9\_\_

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of Property:	Laughton
Location of Property:	Fluvanna County, VA
Date of Photographs:	July, 2000
Negative Number:	VDHR # 19224
Photographer:	John G. Zehmer
Photographs filed:	Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

Photo 1 of 7: Side view looking north

Photo 2 of 7: Front looking west

Photo 3 of 7: Stair, 1785 section of house

Photo 4 of 7: Beaded ceiling joists

Photo 5 of 7: Mantel in 1835 section

Photo 6 of 7: View of cemetery, house in distance Photo 7 of 7: View inside cemetery

