

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Kempsville (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON  
Dragon Ordinary

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER .1 mile S of State Route 33; 1.3 miles ENE of intersection of  
state routes 33 and 609; N of Popopotank River.

CITY, TOWN Shackelfords VICINITY OF First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)  
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Gloucester CODE 073

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS                                       | PRESENT USE   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT            | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT              | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED      | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT                |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED    | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT                   |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                  | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL                   |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                     |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                    |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                        |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Cecil G. Moore  
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 21001 Denbigh Station  
CITY, TOWN Newport News VICINITY OF Virginia STATE 23602

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Gloucester County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Gloucester STATE Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
DATE 1959  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                     |                                       | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE                                 |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located along the Dragon Swamp near the junction of Gloucester, King and Queen, and Middlesex counties, Kempsville, popularly known as Dragon Ordinary, was probably built in the third quarter of the eighteenth century. It is a story-and-a-half, four-bay dwelling constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond above and below a beveled water table. Though now covered with white paint, some glazing shows through in an indiscernible pattern, and there are raking courses of headers in the gables. The window openings are treated with gauged brick jack arches and modern raised-panel shutters and are glazed with late nine-over-nine sash. The eaves are decorated with a modillion cornice, and the roof slopes are broken with four gabled dormers with six-over-six sash. Asbestos shingles conceal an original roof covering of riven clapboards which is complete above the collar beams and which is visible in the loft of the main house as well as inside the ell. The house is crowned by T-plan interior end chimneys.

A late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century common-bond brick wing set back from the facade projects from the north gable end. It is a story-and-a-half tall and two bays wide with a single dormer rising from the facade. In addition, a mid-twentieth-century brick ell projects from the rear of the house.

Kempsville's plan is that of a single-pile central passage house. The south parlor is slightly larger than the north chamber, and there is a single room each in the wing and the ell.

The most elaborate decoration in the house is that in the parlor. The chimney breast is fully paneled with simple raised paneling enriched only by a pair of thin fluted pilasters flanking the fireplace. To the right of the fireplace is a glass-doored domed cupboard. Its drum was reworked probably in the early nineteenth century, but its dome retains, substantially intact, rare mid-eighteenth-century block-printed wall-paper with black floral designs. The remaining three walls of the parlor are treated with a double-beaded chairboard, a molded wood cornice, and raised-panel window reveals, soffits, and bib panels.

The passage contains the open-string stair which has a turned newel, three symmetrical turned balusters per tread, scrolled brackets, a molded rail, and a single large triangular raised-panel spandrel panel.

In the chamber the windows are treated like those of the parlor, but the original paneled room end and closets were removed in the early nineteenth century. In their place was substituted a very plain Federal-type mantel with unadorned entablature blocks and a tablet resting on a simple architrave and supporting a shelf. The ceiling has been taken down and the joists exposed in recent years.

No early outbuildings survive.

DU

Justification of Acreage: The setting of the house remains largely unchanged from Colonial times. The house is situated at the end of a lane bordered by fields. Behind and to the south, the land is wooded and slopes down towards Dragon Swamp, one of the most unspoiled natural areas in the state.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)<br>Decorative Arts |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the handsome brick house now known as Dragon Ordinary stands in a wooded section of the Middle Peninsula near the intersection of the Gloucester, Middlesex, and King and Queen county lines. Its present name was probably derived from its proximity to the Dragon Swamp but the house was known in the early nineteenth century as Kempsville. Its handsome brickwork and T-shaped chimneys lend added interest to a house notable for its rare clapboard roof and for the rarer-yet fragment of mid-eighteenth-century block-printed wallpaper lining the dome in its parlor cupboard.

The destruction of Gloucester County's eighteenth-century records makes it impossible to document the early ownership or the exact construction date of Kempsville. However, in the early nineteenth century, Mutual Assurance Society policies for 1805 and 1815 described Kempsville (or Kemp's Ville) as a "Dwelling house--Brick body wooden roof passage through the middle of the house 50 feet by 21," and indicated that the house was owned by William Broaddus and then by his widow Elizabeth. No outbuildings stood within 30 feet of the house, but there was an apple orchard to the south.

It is clear from the records that this is not Dragon Ordinary, a building which actually stood one-and-a-half miles away at Glens near the present intersection of U. S. Route 17 and Virginia Route 33. However, it cannot be determined whether the name Kempsville was derived from the construction or ownership of the house by the Kemps or merely from the heavy settlement of the area by members of that family, which the land books show to have been the case. When Broaddus acquired the 400-acre property in 1804, he did not acquire it from the Kemps who were neighbors for the land books record no consequent diminution of their holdings. Broaddus died in 1814, and his wife Elizabeth held the land until her death ca. 1837. At that time it passed to Edwin Broaddus who held Kempsville until at least the time of the War Between the States. It is interesting to note that the mid-nineteenth-century land books describe the property as being "in [the] forest," a description which is still applicable.

The house was renovated in this century and it is presently the property of Cecil G. Moore.

DU/MTP

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Freeman, Douglas S. Collections of Photostats. 68 items, 3 volumes. Virginia State Library.  
 Gloucester County Land Tax Books, 1782-1861.  
 Gloucester County Plat Book, entries dated 1831, 1836.  
 Mason, Polly Cary, compiler. Records of Colonial Gloucester County. Berryville, Virginia, 1946, 2 volumes. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 60 acres

UTM REFERENCES

E 18 355120 4158480

|   |      |           |              |   |      |           |             |
|---|------|-----------|--------------|---|------|-----------|-------------|
| A | 1,8  | 35,56,7,0 | 4,15,8,3,8,0 | B | 1,8  | 35,55,6,0 | 4,15,79,9,0 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING   | NORTHING     |   | ZONE | EASTING   | NORTHING    |
| C | 1,8  | 35,51,2,0 | 4,15,78,3,0  | D | 1,8  | 35,49,2,0 | 4,15,82,6,0 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING   | NORTHING     |   | ZONE | EASTING   | NORTHING    |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The acreage comprising the Kempsville property is bounded by a line beginning at a point (A) on the S side of State Route 33 nearly .3 mile ESE of the intersection of state routes 33 and 647; thence extending approximately 1100 feet generally SSW following W side of unimproved dirt road; then running a little over 800 feet in a straight line roughly paralleling northern edge of treeline on property to a small pond on the property; thence extending approximately 1000 feet generally westward following western edge of pond and intermittent tributary (see Continuation Sheet # 2)

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

August 1977

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.

FEDERAL REGISTER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE SEP 20 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Kempsville, Gloucester County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,9

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968, 1977 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Richmond, Virginia

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mutual Assurance Society Policies:

Reel 3 Vol. 31 - 2 #19 (1805)  
Reel 5 Vol. 43 #1906 (1815)

Nicholson, J. J. "The Land of the Life Worth Living—Gloucester's First  
Two Centuries." paper, 1971, VHLC files.

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CONTINUATION SHEET # 2

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Verbal Boundary Description, cont'd.

of Poropotank River; then curving northward approximately 1600 feet following treeline for first 200 feet, then following intermittent tributary of Poropotank River, to southern edge of a pond on the property; then curving 200 feet first NE then NW around eastern edge of pond; then extending a little over 800 feet ENE in a straight line roughly paralleling southern edge of treeline on property to southern edge of State Route 33; then running approximately 1500 feet ESE in a straight line following southern edge of State Route 33 to point of origin.

New Hope Memoria  
Ch

USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
Shackelfords, Va.

(scale: 1:24000)  
1965 (PR 1973)

KEMPSTILLE, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
UTM References:

- A 18/355670/4158380    B 18/355560/4157990  
C 18/355120/4157830    D 18/354920/4158260  
E 18/355120/4158480

