

VLR-5/20/75 NRHP-5/30/76

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <u>Virginia</u>
COUNTY: <u>Loudoun</u>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rokeby

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Rokeby

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2.4 miles southwest of Leesburg; .3 mile west of Route 650;
1.9 miles southwest of the intersection of Route 650 and Route 654.

CITY OR TOWN: (Leesburg vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Tenth (Joseph L. Fisher)

STATE: Virginia CODE: -51 COUNTY: Loudoun CODE: 107

3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY

(Check One) <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	OWNERSHIP Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" 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) _____ Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Coughlan

STREET AND NUMBER: Route I, Box 351

CITY OR TOWN: Leesburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Loudoun County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Leesburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) See continuation sheet

TITLE OF SURVEY: (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1358 Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <u>Virginia</u>	COUNTY: <u>Loudoun</u>	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DATE			

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rokeby is situated off Route 650 in the rolling farm lands of Loudoun County, just south of Leesburg. The large, mid-eighteenth-century house has been added to extensively, but retains many early features.

The original section is a two-story, five-bay brick building set on a low basement and is one of the few houses standing in Loudoun County that is built entirely in Flemish bond (both above and below the molded water table). The house originally had brick jack arches over the windows and a clipped gable roof with four free-standing interior end chimneys. A renovation in the mid-1830s resulted in the replacement of the arches with flat wooden lintels and the extension of the gables to meet gable-end parapets between the chimneys, also rebuilt. Further alterations to the exterior included the addition of a stone porte cochère. This was removed during a 1959 renovation which included the addition of a pedimented frontispiece doorway, louvered blinds, and modern six-over-nine and six-over-six sash.

The plan of the original section is double-pile with a central stair passage. The woodwork was altered both in nineteenth- and mid-twentieth-century renovations. The former is responsible for the architrave trim with bulls-eye blocks on the first floor, the plaster cornice in the entrance hall, and for some of the mantels, such as that in the northeast bed chamber with its symmetrically molded pilasters and entablature blocks. The latter resulted in the installation of most of the other mantels and incidental trim, as well as the division of several back rooms into bathrooms and dressing rooms. There is an interesting Colonial Revival mantel in the southeast (living) room on the first floor, consisting of a pair of fluted Roman Doric colonettes carrying entablature blocks with plaster figures in relief and surmounted by a molded shelf. The whole is highlighted by a central tablet enriched with an allegorical scene depicted in plaster relief.

The cellar is of particular interest. In the central passage at the front of the house is a vault with a barrel-vaulted roof and a brick tile floor recessed ten inches below the cellar-floor level. There is a central doorway into it, from which an iron door was reputedly removed during the War between the States. On either side of the doorway, which has a heavy wooden frame beaded on the inside, is a small window with three vertical wooden mullion bars set diagonally. In the southwest room of the cellar is the old kitchen. Its large fireplace is intact behind a one-brick-thick wall closing it off. The cellar walls are built of rubble stone to a height of about two feet above the floor, with English-bond brickwork above that.

An 1886 remodeling was principally confined to the addition of the brick rear wing, which was carefully matched in its details to the existing portion of the house. Probably dating from this period is the delicate Victorian stenciling which survives in the garret passage. When the 1886 wing was added, a portion of the cypress shingled roof then on the original section of the house was preserved under the valley of the ell roof and is still visible in the attic. Another interesting survivor recently discovered in the attic is the elaborate metal drain pipe head, dating from the early-nineteenth-century renovation. It is painted black and lettered in gold paint "B S [Benjamin Shreve] / 1836/ M E S" and has two large eight-pointed stars attached to it. (See continuation sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rokeby is Loudoun County's most distinguished example of mid-eighteenth-century Georgian architecture. The house also reputedly is one of the places where U. S. Government documents, including the Declaration of Independence, were stored when the British occupied Washington, D. C. in August and September of 1814. The interesting cellar vault is believed to be where the papers were hidden.

The mansion house at Rokeby was probably built sometime in the 1760s by Charles Binns, Sr., first Clerk of the Circuit Court of Loudoun County, shortly after he bought the 160-acre tract from Gatesby Cocke. Shortly after this, in 1762, he bought another 682 acres adjoining the original tract from Aneas [sic] Campbell.

In 1801, Binns' son William inherited that portion of the property on which the house stands, although he did not live there. It was during his ownership that the government documents were supposed to have been cached in the cellar vault at Rokeby. At the direction of Secretary of State James Monroe, Stephen Pleasonton, a clerk in the State Department, took the documents to a mill outside Washington. He thought them unsafe there so he loaded the papers into wagons and moved them again. "I proceeded with them to the town of Leesburg, a distance of 35 miles, at which place an empty house was procured, in which the papers were safely placed, the doors locked, and the keys given to the Rev. Mr. [John] Littlejohn, who was then, or had been, one of the collectors of the internal revenue," he wrote 34 years later.

Benjamin Shreve, Jr., bought the property in 1830 and in 1836 undertook the renovations which removed the former clipped gables and replaced the interior trim. From Shreve it passed to Robert Bentley, then to his daughter and then in 1886 to O. E. Breese. It was at this date that the name "Rokeby" first appeared. Breese made the additions to the rear, and his grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Nalle, added the porte cochère and made other minor changes.

Rokeby passed through several other owners until 1958, when Mrs. J. F. M. Stewart bought it and engaged architect Washington Reed, Jr., to put it in its present state. The current owners are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coughlan.

DTU

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Birchfield, James, "History Up For Sale," The Evening Star, Washington, D.C., January 15, 1971.
 Ingraham, Edward D. A Sketch of the Events which Preceded the Capture of Washington by the British, 1849.
 Templeman, Eleanor Lee and Nan Netherton. Northern Virginia Heritage, 1966. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Files.

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 50 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: May 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title: _____

Date: MAY 20 1975

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Loudoun	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

In 1959, remodeling was undertaken by Washington Reed, Jr., of Warrenton, Virginia. The only notable outbuilding is an elaborate Victorian Gothic frame playhouse or stable behind the main house.

-DTU

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Loudoun	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATIONS IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1969, 1975 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia code: 51

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References:

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A-	18	275840	4327880
B-	18	275530	4327830
C-	18	275190	4327540
D-	18	275190	4327900

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nearly fifty acres composing the Rokeby property are bounded by a line beginning at a point on the west side of State Route 650, 4800' south of the intersection of said route with State Route 654; thence extending approximately 2200' slightly southwest; thence extending approximately 1000' south; thence extending 1500' slightly northeast to the west side of Route 650; thence extending northward along west side of said route to point of origin.

The acreage being nominated represents the remaining portion of the original 160-acre tract, which survives intact. The land within the boundaries, with its gently rolling profile, streams, and pond, creates a fitting picturesque setting for the mansion house.

