

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

LISTED ON:  
VLR 12/16/2010  
NRHP 02/22/2011

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Virts, William House

other names/site number Beans, Uriah, House; VHDR File No. 053-0598

## 2. Location

street & number 38670 Old Wheatland Road  not for publication

city or town Waterford  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Loudoun code 107 zip code 20197

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

12/28/2010  
Date

Deputy Director Virginia Department of Historic Resources/State Historic Preservation Officer

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	buildings
3	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Domestic: secondary structure

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Domestic: secondary structure

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

Brick

roof: Metal

other: Wood

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

See Continuation Sheets

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**Narrative Description**

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.
- 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_\_\_

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1798-ca. 1930 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

Ca. 1798, ca. 1813, ca. 1930 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

In 1797 William Virts acquired a parcel of land in Loudoun County said to contain 134 acres from Israel Thompson's estate. His family's dwelling was a vernacular two-room-plan house made out of irregularly coursed fieldstones built circa 1798. The dwelling on William Virts's farm was renovated circa 1813. The resulting building was a two-and-one-half-story dwelling with six rooms made out of irregularly coursed fieldstones and dressed quoins. The Period of Significance begins in 1798 with the construction date of the two-room-plan house and ends when the last significant improvements were made to the dwelling under the ownership of John Orrison circa 1930.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See Continuation Sheets

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

See Continuation Sheets

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_ VDHR File No. 053-0598

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>269680</u>	<u>4340790</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The property, containing 3.00 acres of land known as the Boone Division of Land, is located at 38670 Old Wheatland Road (Pin: 413-29-3703-000). It is fully described in deed book 713 at page 371, among the records of Loudoun County, Virginia. The boundary begins at Old Wheatland Road (State Route 698), slightly southwest of the springhouse, then the line proceeds northwest with the course of the road a distance of approximately 350 feet to a point. The boundary line then turns north for a distance of about 250 feet to a point. The line then turns east for a distance of 150 feet more or less to a point. The boundary line then turns south for a distance of approximately sixty feet to a point. The line then turns east for a distance of about 410 feet and over the course of a perennial spring drain of the North Fork of Catoctin Creek to a point. The boundary line then turns south for a distance of 180 feet more or less to a point, being a corner of Old Wheatland Road and a 30-foot private access easement. The line then turns southwest with the course of the road and over the drain for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the place of the beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the current boundaries of the approximately three-acre tract surrounding the William Virts House and two secondary domestic structures. Once a part of a 145-acre tract of land once owned by Thomas Hutton, Israel Thompson, and William Virts, the property was successively reduced in size by various land sales until reaching three acres in 1984.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Roberto Costantino

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 06-04-2010

street & number 38670 Old Wheatland Road telephone 540-882-3163

city or town Waterford state VA zip code 20197

e-mail colonialcatoctin@gmail.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Information common to all photographs:**

**Name of Property:** William Virts House

**Location:** Loudoun County, Virginia

**VDHR File Number:** 053-0598

**Name of Photographer:** Roberto Costantino

**Location of Negatives:** Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Archives, Richmond, Virginia

VIEW OF: West elevation, looking northeast.

NEGATIVE NO: 24781:5

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 1 of 12

VIEW OF: Mantel, kitchen

NEGATIVE NO: 24783:1

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 7 of 12

VIEW OF: South elevation, looking northwest

NEGATIVE NO: 24781:12

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 2 of 12

VIEW OF: East elevation, looking southwest

NEGATIVE NO: 24784:22

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 8 of 12

VIEW OF: Latch on board-and-batten door, hall

NEGATIVE NO: 24782:2

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 3 of 12

VIEW OF: Springhouse north elevation, looking southwest

NEGATIVE NO: 24784:27

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 9 of 12

VIEW OF: Mantel, hall

NEGATIVE NO: 24782:5

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 4 of 12

VIEW OF: Springhouse wall plate. Looking northeast

NEGATIVE NO: 24784:28

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 10 of 12

VIEW OF: South elevation, porch frame, quoins, before shed, looking north

NEGATIVE NO: 24782:27

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 5 of 12

VIEW OF: Springhouse east elevation, looking northwest

NEGATIVE NO: 24785:13

DATE: March 3, 2010

PHOTO: 11 of 12

VIEW OF: Lintel, strap-iron bar, wrought-iron nails, basement front door frame

NEGATIVE NO: 24782:31

DATE: February 27, 2010

PHOTO: 6 of 12

VIEW OF: North elevation, looking southeast

Negative NO: 24785:19

DATE: March 3, 2010

PHOTO: 12 of 12

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

William Virts House

Loudoun County, VA

Section number 7 Page 1

**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH**

The William Virts House stands on a parcel of land containing approximately three acres situated about three-and-a-half miles southwest of Waterford on the north side of Old Wheatland Road (State Route 698) in western Loudoun County, Virginia. The three-bay dwelling is a well-built stone building with little ornamentation that combines simplicity of design with concern for permanence. The dwelling is characteristic of Federal-style architecture through adaptations of classical forms combined with typically American motifs. It contains two-and-a-half stories under a side-gabled, standing-seam metal roof with an interior gable-end chimney on the east elevation. Two late-twentieth-century front-gable dormers pierce the roof on the north side. The basement is built into an embankment with a southerly exposure near to grade. This level is what remains of the original stone dwelling here that was probably built under the ownership of William Virts circa 1798 constructed as a one-and-a-half story building made out of irregularly coursed fieldstones. It had a two-room floor plan with two entrances. Fenestration includes mostly six-over-six, double-hung-sash wood windows, but the first-floor windows of the stone dwelling have nine-over-six, double-hung sash. A one-story brick addition resting on a banked basement was added to the west elevation of the stone building in 1999. Also, the nominated property contains two contributing secondary domestic buildings. One of them is a one-and-a-half-story vernacular stone springhouse under a front-gabled standing-seam metal roof built circa 1813. The other one is a frame structure on a stone foundation enclosing one room under a front-gabled, standing-seam metal roof that was built circa 1840 and is currently used as a shed. The property's contributing resources retain a remarkable amount of their original form and fabric.

**Narrative Description**

The contributing resources of the William Virts House property are clustered on a slope near the head of a spring and perennial spring drain of the North Fork of Catoctin Creek. This house site is positioned in the middle of an historic larger lot of land said to have originally contained 134 acres. The first masonry dwelling on the property, now serving as the basement of the present house, probably belonged to William Virts. Constructed circa 1798 according to land tax records, the dwelling originally was a vernacular one-and-a-half-story, two-room-plan fieldstone house built into an embankment of earth with a southerly exposure near to grade.

This dwelling on William Virts's farm was probably renovated circa 1813 according to Loudoun County tax records. These changes included additional vertical construction with irregularly coursed fieldstones and dressed quoins, shifting room functions, the balance and placement of windows and doors, and the addition of a covered porch on the facade. The modifications of the dwelling are noticeable in the manner of stone construction, windows and doors, heavy partition framing, interior trim and ornamentation, and the hardware.

The William Virts House contains two-and-a-half stories and six rooms under a side-gabled standing-seam metal roof with an interior gable-end chimney. The building site allows external entrance into the dwelling on two floors from near to grade. Interior accessibility to the floors is provided by means of enclosed winder stairs located in the northeast corner of the building next to the chimney-fireplace system. The attic provides usable and habitable space. The dwelling is characteristic of Federal-style architecture through adaptations of classical forms combined with typically American motifs. The renovation of the dwelling reflects the acculturation of the William Virts family into the dominant Anglo-Virginian culture of the region.

It appears that the dwelling was repaired and the springhouse was renovated after the Civil War under the ownership of Uriah Beans circa 1871 and they were modernized under the ownership of John W. Orrison in the 1930s. Later, the then rundown and abandoned dwelling was renovated and further modernized with indoor plumbing under the ownership of



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

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**Loudoun County, VA**

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Section number 7 Page 2

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Randall D. and Mary U. Boone in 1976, nonetheless, while retaining much of its historic character. That year the dwelling was recorded by John G. Lewis as part of a Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey of Loudoun County. In 1999 an architecturally compatible addition was extended from the western wall of the dwelling under the ownership of Patricia and Roberto Costantino.

**Dwelling Exterior**

The William Virts House faces south toward Old Wheatland Road (State Route 698). The bearing walls of the dwelling were built into an embankment of earth on rock outcropping with a southerly exposure near to grade. The facade contains a central entrance from near to grade to the basement kitchen and an elevated central entrance from the porch to the first-story hall. The northern elevation contains a central entrance from near to grade to the first-story hall. This method of building with relatively direct entrance from near to grade into two floors is a distinguishing characteristic of many Germanic houses of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, but is not commonly found in the northern Piedmont region of Virginia.

The basement walls were built out of uncut fieldstones laid in irregular courses. The irregularly shaped stones in the walls required varyingly thick mortar joints to compensate for multiple uneven surfaces. The outside measurements of the basement are about twenty-six feet by twenty feet. The inside measurements are about twenty-two-and-one-half feet by sixteen-and-one-half feet excluding the mass of the interior-end chimney and winder stairs. The eastern and western gable-end elevations of the dwelling were without window openings except for one small attic window on each wall.

The basement formerly had two rooms with two entrances. One entrance would have opened to the kitchen, or main room, while the other would have opened to a multi-purpose room. One such entrance remains in place and provides access to the kitchen, currently the only room in the basement. The former entrance on the western side of the facade was partially filled with masonry and altered into a framed window opening around 1976. The remaining central entrance measuring about seventy-eight inches high by forty-three inches wide is reduced by a timber doorframe that is around four inches wide. This early doorframe was made from four pieces of mortised-and-tenoned and pegged heavy timber. It was fitted with a custom made antique-style door around 1976. A wood lintel reinforced by a strap iron bar secured with wrought-iron nails on the interior exposure of the front door supports the wall above the entrance.

The basement contains five windows. They are mounted in openings that are over deep sills to compensate for the thicknesses of the walls. The earliest window on the dwelling is an opening measuring thirty-six inches wide by forty-three inches high on the eastern side of the facade. The early window frame is about four inches wide and is mortised-and-tenoned and pegged construction. A double-sash glazed antique-style replacement window with six panes of glass over three panes of glass was fitted into this frame. The other window on the facade is a similar antique-style framed double-sash window with six panes of glass over three panes of glass in the place of the aforesaid entrance. The northern elevation has two fixed sash windows below grade in window-wells. Additionally, there is an antique-style hinged window with six panes of glass on the western elevation. The preceding three window openings were put in under the ownership of John W. Orrison in the 1930s.

Presumably, the upper stories of stone construction were built on top of the original dwelling circa 1813. The later vertical addition was built out of uncut fieldstones laid in irregular courses and dressed quoins. For additional stability, the new upper walls were built so that they were slightly thinner than were the walls of the respective underlying story. The inside measurements of the first story are about twenty three and three-quarter feet by sixteen and three-quarter feet less the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

William Virts House

Loudoun County, VA

Section number 7 Page 3

mass of the interior-end chimney and stairs. The inside measurements of the second story are about twenty-two feet by sixteen and three-quarter feet excluding the mass of the interior-end chimney and stairs. The highest quoin stone on the eastern end of the facade was imprecisely marked with figures resembling either the letters "BI" or "BC" (?). Another building stone on the second story of the northern elevation was informally marked with indistinct undersized symbols that resemble "JE1843V".

The first story of the dwelling features two entrances. One entrance is centered on the facade while the other is similarly positioned on the northern elevation. The facade entrance opens from the elevated porch into the hall. This opening measuring about seventy-nine inches high and forty-two inches wide is reduced by an early timber doorframe that is about four inches wide. The mortised-and-tenoned and pegged frame holds a framed door with six raised panels measuring about seventy-five inches high by thirty-four inches wide. This door pivots on two early wrought-iron strap hinges that are suspended from wrought-iron hooks or pintels. The strap iron hinges measuring thirty-three inches long were attached to the door with early screws. The northern elevation entrance opens from near to grade into the hall. The old replacement door frame here is mounted with an old replacement six-panel door measuring about thirty-five-and-one-half inches wide by seventy-four inches high that swings on old plate hinges.

Both the facade and northern elevation of the first story of the dwelling each feature two evenly spaced window openings on either side of a central entrance. These four tall window openings measure about sixty-four inches high and thirty-five inches wide. The early window frames are mounted with double-hung, wood-sash windows measuring about fifty-seven inches high and twenty-eight inches wide. The upper sashes enclose nine panes of glass while the lower sashes enclose six panes of glass. The windows are over deep sills to compensate for the thickness of the walls.

The second story of the dwelling contains five window openings. The facade surrounds three evenly spaced double-hung wood-sash windows whereas the northern elevation surrounds two similarly spaced double-hung wood-sash windows. All of these frames and windows are antique-style replacement units with upper sashes holding six panes of glass over lower sashes with six panes of glass. The windows are over deep sills to compensate for the thickness of the walls.

The most conspicuous architectural detail of the dwelling might well be the big stone chimney on the eastern gable-end wall. The side-gabled roof underneath its height has a pitch of around forty-five degrees. The surface of the roof is made out of sheets of galvanized metal with standing seams that have been patched and painted black. The roof has almost no rake overhang. The cornice is without detailing and the eaves are enclosed with boards. The attic story features four windows. Each gable-end wall encloses a small framed hinged four-light window over a deep sill. These window openings are original to the house. Additionally, there are two framed double-hung, wood-sash windows mounted in dormers that were added around 1976 to the northern slope of the roof.

A shed-roofed, two-story frame replacement porch was built on the facade in the 1930s. The frame shed that stood as an extension on this porch has been demolished but the porch remains in place. Each floor of the porch accesses a central entrance to the dwelling. The porch is a braced-frame platform under a roof with winder stairs in its southwestern corner. The winder stairs lead from the restored concrete deck at the basement level to an elevated landing at the first story of the dwelling. The concrete deck was originally laid in the 1930s. There is an old board-and-batten hinged door to a small enclosure under the winder stairs. The surface of the elevated level of the porch is made out of replacement wooden tongue-and-groove floorboards. The surface space on each floor of the porch is about two hundred and sixteen square feet.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

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**Loudoun County, VA**

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Section number 7 Page 4

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The porch roof has a low slope. The surface of the roof is made out of sheets of galvanized metal with standing seams painted black. Its framework is largely hidden from view under a replacement ceiling. However, the lower end of the roof is open and overhangs the structure beneath it. It includes fourteen common rafters that measure about two by six inches.

In earlier times the porch was flanked on its western end by a frame shed on a stone foundation with a cellar, which was built in the 1930s. The shed was a relatively tall and narrow structure with two floors and two rooms under a roof with a low slope that complemented the adjacent horizontal form of the porch. Each floor of the shed enclosed one nearly square small room with a doorway on the eastern elevation and a double-hung, six-over-six, wood-sash window on the facade. The lower floor of the shed had a trapdoor that opened to the cellar. The cellar was sunk about five feet below grade while it was raised enough above grade to allow for the admission of light and air through a small fixed framed window opening with southern exposure. The cellar with a trapdoor is currently found under a building addition to the dwelling. It is a cool room with stone-built walls and an unfinished floor with a spring pump head.

In 1999 a compatible one-story, three-bay brick addition resting on a banked basement was added to the west elevation of the stone building. Fenestration includes six-over-six, double-hung-sash wood windows. The addition has an interior-end chimney and is topped by a standing-seam metal roof.

### **Dwelling Interior**

Originally, the basement included two rooms divided by partition framing--the kitchen, or main room, and a secondary multipurpose room. It presently consists of one room, the modified kitchen. The basement floor was formerly random-width, tongue-and-groove wooden floorboards nailed to floor joists suspended from deep pockets in the masonry walls. Presently it consists of a durable tile surface in a red brick hue that was laid down on concrete around 1976. Previously, concrete was strategically installed in the dwelling and outbuildings in the 1930s.

The basement formerly featured three interior doorways before some partition framing was removed around 1976. One of the two remaining doors is a well made early board-and-batten door that is positioned at the entrance to the partition framing that encloses winder stairs. This door was made from four parallel vertical boards that were bound to one another with two horizontal battens secured with screws. It is held in place with a latch. There are related doors and hardware in the partition framing enclosing the stairs on every floor of the dwelling house not counting the attic. The remaining door is an old replacement board-and-batten door to a closet under the flight of winder stairs.

The dwelling chimney-fireplace system includes two stone fireplaces and two flues positioned on the eastern gable-end wall. One fireplace is in the basement while the other is on the first floor. The basement fireplace has a stone hearth and was used for heating and cooking. Huge by modern standards, the firebox measures about seventy-two inches wide and fifty-four inches high and twenty-six inches deep. It is positioned off center on the eastern wall under a primitive manteltree. The back of the manteltree is rounded. It measures about one hundred and four inches in length by about twelve inches in height and up to about twelve inches in depth.

The dwelling encloses three flights of winder stairs. Each flight of stairs is made up of frame structures containing horizontal treads and vertical risers. The stairs are enclosed within partition framing on every floor of the dwelling in the northeastern corner of the interior, next to the chimney. The stairs display an abundance of wear and evidence of periodic repairs.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

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**Loudoun County, VA**

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Section number 7 Page 5

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Nine evenly-spaced exposed ceiling joists emanating from deep pockets in the walls support the floor above. Seven such joists are roughly finished partially squared oak beams with bark still attached, whereas the other two are rounded timber beams without bark. The hewed oak beams display a series of regularly spaced adze marks on their underside. They measure around ten to eleven inches in width by seven to nine inches in thickness. It is evident that the rounded beams were salvaged from elsewhere. The clearance in the basement under the overhead beams is around seventy-eight inches.

Plaster was used to finish the interior walls of the dwelling. Over the course of time these plaster walls suffered from wear resulting in the application of additional coats of plaster from time to time. Heavy partition framing was utilized on every floor of the building in order to separate rooms and to enclose the stairs in the northeast corner of the interior next to the chimney. These partitions are made out of one or two layers of thick random-width tongue-and-groove vertical boards between about seven inches and fourteen inches in width.

The first story of the dwelling contains two rooms--the hall and parlor. A two-layer-thick frame partition with a central doorway separates them. The first-story walls are enriched with high relief chair-rail molding with beading that extends around the rooms in tandem with a washboard with beading at the base of the walls. The entrances and windows are framed with well-matched ogee architrave trim.

The hall has a stone fireplace with a stone hearth that was used for heating interior spaces. Its firebox measures about thirty-six inches wide and thirty-one to thirty-four inches high and twenty-six inches deep. Spanned by a jack arch, it is positioned around the center of the eastern wall and is surrounded by a heavily carved Classical Revival mantelpiece that incorporates a shelf and cornice above a frieze decorated with fretwork and two fluted pilasters. This mantelpiece is original to the house.

The eastern wall of the hall encloses a hidden cabinet with a two-panel door framed with ogee architrave trim above the chair rail. The cabinet is mounted with an early lock-and-key mechanism and was intended for the storage of valuables, probably silver or china. The framed door measuring about sixty-three inches high by seventeen inches wide has two raised panels and pivots on a pair of iron side hinges made with two parallel legs in the form of an H and joined in the center by a pivot (H hinge). The door has a metallic knob or button above an escutcheon that surrounds a keyhole over a patent lock.

Additionally, the first story contains two early doorways in partition framing enclosing the winder stairs. There is an early board-and-batten door that is positioned at the entrance to the flight of stairs leading from the first story of the dwelling house to a landing on the second story. Meanwhile, the parallel entrance to the flight of stairs leading from the basement to a landing on the first story is without a door. Otherwise, the parlor contains two antique-style board-and-batten doors that were installed in improvised closet framing around 1976.

The first-story flooring consists of wooden random-width, tongue-and-groove floorboards with patina, possibly chestnut. They are fastened to the supporting structure with diverse nails. Most of these old floorboards are between nine and eleven inches wide. The clearance under the ceiling is around ninety-one inches under the plastered joists while it is about one hundred inches between them. It is evident that at least two ceiling joists evenly spaced on either side of the central frame partition support the second-story floor above. The partition is a heavy frame wall with a central doorway. It seems likely that there is a summer beam running along the length of the floor from one gable end to the other above the ceiling.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number 7 Page 6

---

The second story of the dwelling was reconfigured to include two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a hall around 1976. The varieties of walls are composed of plaster, drywall, or vertical-board partition framing. The old plaster walls on the outer perimeter of this floor are enriched with high relief chair-rail molding with beading that runs in tandem with a washboard with beading at the base of the walls. The windows are framed with well-matched ogee architrave trim. The drywall walls are decorated with washboards at the base of the walls.

There are two doorways on the second story that are original to the house. One of them is located at the entrance to the flight of stairs leading from the second story to a landing in the attic of the dwelling. The other is a parallel entrance to the flight of stairs leading from the second story to a landing on the first story of the dwelling. Both doorways are mounted with early board-and-batten doors. Also, there are seven framed doorways on this level that were built around 1976. Three of them are mounted with board-and-batten doors to close entrances to the bedrooms and bathroom. The remainders are mounted with similar doors to closets in the bedrooms.

The second-story flooring of the dwelling consists of wooden random-width tongue-and-groove floorboards with patina, clearly southern yellow pine. They were fastened to the supporting structure with nails. Most of these old floorboards are even wider than those on the first floor. The clearance under the level plaster ceiling is ninety inches more or less. The ceiling joists supporting the attic floor are hidden from view by the plaster ceiling. In 1976 John G. Lewis wrote that he observed a progression of pit-sawn joists that were mortised-and-tenoned and wood pegged to an adzed summer beam that ran the length of the floor from one gable end to the other and measured about seven inches by eight inches in width and thickness.

The attic was finished around 1976. The walls are composed of drywall. The attic flooring consists of milled southern yellow pine, random-width, tongue-and-groove floorboards. They were fastened to the supporting structure with diverse nails. Most of these floorboards are between nine and eleven inches wide. The attic contains two parallel board-and-batten closet doors. The clearance under the ceiling at its highest point beneath the roof structure is about eighty-three inches.

The framework that supports the roof is no longer exposed to view; however, when John G. Lewis recorded this building for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in 1976, he described a series of paired rafters that supported the roof of the dwelling. He wrote they were pit sawn with dimensions in width and thickness of about four inches by three inches.

### **Dwelling Addition**

An addition to the dwelling in the Federal style with a rectangular footprint was telescopically added to the western elevation of the dwelling in 1999. The facade faces Old Wheatland Road (State Route 698). The addition is a two-story frame addition with a brick veneer under a side-gabled copper roof with an interior gable-end chimney. It complements the historical dwelling in terms of form, proportionality, texture, and character.

The brick veneer of the façade is laid in common bond with a sixth course of headers while the northern and western elevations are brick laid in stretcher bond. The window openings on the facade and northern elevation are fitted with framed double-hung, six-over-six, wood-sash windows under brick jack arches. The first story of the western elevation contains one framed fixed-sash window with four panes of glass. The gable-end wall contains two small fenestrations with fixed slanted slats on either side of the interior chimney.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number 7 Page 7

---

The concrete basement of the addition is submerged in the earth around the position of the old stone cellar. The first story is built into an embankment with a southerly exposure near to grade. The facade has two evenly spaced window openings on either side of a central entrance near to grade on the first story under three similarly spaced window openings on the second story. The northern elevation has two evenly spaced window openings on either side of a central entrance near to grade on the second story. Both entrances are framed and mounted with antique-style six-panel doors. The interior floors are laid with re-milled southern yellow heartwood-pine floorboards.

### **Springhouse**

The springhouse is a one-and-a-half-story stone vernacular building under a front gabled roof that was built circa 1813. It was built with thick fieldstone walls made out of uncut fieldstones laid in irregular courses and dressed quoins. The facade has an elevated entrance to the loft while the first story has an entrance near to grade on the northern elevation and four windows. The outside measurements of this building are about twenty-two feet by eleven feet while the inside measurements are about seventeen-and-a-half feet by seven-and-three-quarter feet. The springhouse is noteworthy because it retains nearly all of its historical form and function including the roof framework.

The springhouse was erected over a natural spring to preserve it from impurities and to serve as a larder and cool place for keeping milk and cheese. The partially submerged first floor of the springhouse was used as a dairy. It encloses a trough and shelves for keeping milk, butter, and cheese. The loft would have served as a workshop, smokehouse, or storage room. It contains a series of long unfinished wooden poles carried by wires hung from the roof structure that were used for the suspension of hams.

Both of the springhouse doors are early board-and-batten doors with hardware for lock and key. The entrance door to the loft is further reinforced with a single strap iron bar laid horizontally across it. All four windows of the springhouse are protected by six horizontal wooden bars and one pair of two-inch-wide strap iron bars, also encouraging ventilation. A concrete floor and trough was installed in the dairy during the 1930s. The pitch of the roof is about forty-five degrees. The surface of the roof is made out of sheets of galvanized metal with standing seams that have been painted black.

The dairy is a cool and airy room with four windows. This atmosphere provided the best safeguard for the preservation of clean water and dairy goods. A perpetual spring drives potable water out of the ground into a square pool in the southwest corner of the floor. The overflowing water is then channeled into long and narrow troughs that run along the inside of the southern and eastern walls of the springhouse before release near to grade around the northeastern corner of the building. The shallow water in the trough was for the placement of partially submerged vessels holding perishable goods. There is a square pocket on the inside of the western gable end wall next to the pool that was for the placement of a drinking vessel.

The loft is unfinished. This level contains two rooms separated with heavy partition framing made with random-width vertical boards. There is a doorway in the framing that measures about sixty-one inches in height by thirty inches in width. It is made out of two layers of vertically laid random-width boards between around eight-and-a-half to eleven inches wide. The floor of the loft in front of the partition is made out of random-width, tongue-and-groove floorboards with patina, possibly chestnut. The floorboards are affixed to the structure supporting the floor with varied nails. Meanwhile, the remainder of the loft was almost entirely without floorboards on the structure supporting the floor at the time it was first viewed by the present owners of the property in January, 1988. The inside of the eaves are filled with wooden boards

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number 7 Page 8

---

and plaster. It appears these improvisations were undertaken during the 20<sup>th</sup> century in order to reduce ventilation and use this space as a smokehouse for the preservation of meats, especially hams and fish, by concentrated exposure to enveloping smoke.

Originally, the eastern gable-end wall had an elevated entrance to the loft while the first story had an entrance near to grade on the northern elevation as well as three window openings. The springhouse was renovated most likely under the ownership of Uriah Beans after the Civil War circa 1871. Subsequently, the springhouse had a new elevated entrance on its extended western gable-end wall or facade and a new entrance near to grade on the northern elevation as well as four window openings. Additionally, the structure supporting the roof was rebuilt and extended to carry the elongated covering.

The masonry walls on the elongated western end of the springhouse seem to possess a more advanced quality, possibly, as the result of the use of more uniform tools. The eastern gable-end wall has a vertical rectangular seam in the stonework that marks the place of the original elevated entrance. Also, there are two long triangular seams in the stonework of the same wall that reveal that this building's former roof was more steeply pitched. Additionally, there is a long horizontal rectangular seam in the stonework under the wall plate on the northern elevation indicating masonry repair.

The interior of the springhouse has distinct vertical seams on its southern and northern masonry walls that mark the place of its extension. Most of the interior walls are plastered except on the western extension where they are simply whitewashed. The extension is discerned by the composition of the structure supporting the loft floor on top of the first story. Most of it is made up of rough timber beams except on the western extension where they are lumber ceiling joists.

The framework that supports the roof is dated circa 1871. It is made out of diverse wooden members including eight pairs of evenly spaced heavy timber rafters set in between two pairs of heavy timber principal rafters. A fascia board or rake is attached to the outside of the principal rafters with two-and-three-quarter-inch-long cut iron nails. The rafters are notched on their lower ends to rest upon the timber wall plates laid upon the tops of the masonry walls to receive these members. Additionally, purlins are at regular longitudinal intervals along the length of the roof across the backs of rafters. There are sixteen purlins on either side of where the rafters meet at the peak of the structure for a total of thirty two. The roofing surface materials are nailed to the purlins. The clearance in the loft where the rafters meet is around eight feet and ten inches.

The dimensions of the common lumber rafters in breadth and thickness vary between about two-by-four inches to about three-by-four inches. It is noticeable that these old rafters were sawn in an early sawmill that moved in a reciprocating motion. The dimensions of the two pairs of principal timber rafters in breadth and thickness are about three-by-five inches. The dimensions of each timber wall plate in breadth and thickness are six-by-six inches more or less. The dimensions of the great majority of the purlins in breadth and thickness are about two-and-a-half inches by one inch although a few are as much as seven inches wide.

### **Shed**

The shed is a simple frame structure on a stone foundation that was built circa 1840. It is presently used to store garden equipment and supplies. This structure previously housed seasonal farm servants under the ownership of John W.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number 7 Page 9

---

Orrison. It is possible that Uriah Beans maintained his year-round farm servant(s) here in an earlier frame structure on the same foundation. Previously, William Virts may have utilized the same foundation to house farm servants or slaves.

The shed encloses one room under a front-gabled roof and rests on a stone foundation. The shed is conveniently situated about halfway between the dwelling and the bank barn. The barn, which is now used as a dwelling, still exists in its original location but now serves as a dwelling on an adjacent parcel. The heavy lumber elements that make up the largest part of the braced frame shed and the principal rafters are around one hundred years old. The framework that supports the roof is made up of a mixture of parts that display an abundance of wear and evidence of periodic repairs. The pitch of the roof is about forty-five degrees. The roof is covered in sheets of galvanized metal with standing seams that have been painted black.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number 8 Page 10

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY**

Located in western Loudoun County, Virginia, on approximately three acres of land, the William Virts House was originally constructed circa 1798 by William Virts as a one-and-a-half-story, two-room-plan, vernacular stone dwelling on a banked site. Virts later expanded the house to two and a half stories circa 1813 and remodeled it in the Federal style. The three-bay, side-gable house has an interior-end chimney on the east elevation and is topped by a standing-seam metal roof. A two-story wooden porch was added on the south elevation circa 1930, and a one-story brick addition resting on a banked basement was added to the west elevation of the stone building in 1999. Although interior renovations have been made to the house over time, it retains remarkable integrity. The interior exhibits excellent craftsmanship as seen in the window and door moldings, chair rails, baseboards, mantels, doors and hardware, floors, and corner stairs on three levels. There are two contributing secondary resources on the nominated property including a stone springhouse, built circa 1813, and a frame shed on a stone foundation built circa 1840.

The William Virts House is locally significant under Criterion A for its representation of a pattern of settlement typical of western Loudoun County. The history of this tract of land and its buildings is strongly representative of the systematic settlement of the watershed of Catoctin Creek by diverse immigrants from Pennsylvania including ethnic British Quakers, German Lutherans, and Scots Irish settlers. Also significant under Criterion C for Architecture, the William Virts House is a rare example in Loudoun County and the Piedmont region of Virginia of a circa 1798 vernacular banked dwelling, a type more representative of many German vernacular dwellings in the nearby Shenandoah Valley, that evolved into a Federal-style house by circa 1813. This transformation represents the acculturation of the Germanic Virts family, which had immigrated from Pennsylvania to Virginia in the late eighteenth century, into the dominant Anglo-Virginian culture of the region by the early nineteenth century. The period of significance begins in 1798 with the construction of the original banked dwelling and ends in circa 1930 with improvements made including the two-story porch.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Originally, the three acres of ground containing the William Virts House and two secondary domestic structures were a part of a rectangular parcel of land said to contain one hundred acres situated on a drain of the North Fork of Catoctin Creek. Laid out by Quaker surveyor Amos Janney and traded by William Fairfax to George Griffith of Fairfax County dated May 1, 1743<sup>1</sup>, it was one of the two earliest leaseholds ever recorded on William Fairfax's Kittockton Tract. The other agreement made on the same day was for a lot of land said to contain 100 acres on a drain of the North Fork of Catoctin Creek traded to Jonathan Richardson of Fairfax County.<sup>2</sup>

George William Fairfax was the devisee of the great bulk of William Fairfax's Kittockton Tract by deed of gift executed in Fairfax County dated October 20, 1754. Loudoun County was created in 1757 from Fairfax County. The actual location of Griffith's survey can be ascertained through a deed of release from George William Fairfax to Israel Thompson of Loudoun County for a parcel of land containing 641 acres on the North Fork of Catoctin Creek dated December 10 and 11, 1759.<sup>3</sup> The boundary description for Thompson's lot of land specifically identifies the position of Griffith's survey.

George Griffith was an absentee owner or without legal heirs as his lot of land seemingly reverted under tenure to Fairfax. The location of Griffith's survey in the context of Israel Thompson's parcel is similar to the position of a lot of land under lease to Thomas Hutton of the County of Loudoun said to contain 134 acres from George William Fairfax dated 1765. Additionally, Hutton was in possession under the same terms of a neighboring lot of land on the north side of the North

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number 8 Page 11

---

Fork of Catoctin Creek said to contain about 81 acres. Thomas Hutton was a former Quaker with a wife and children lately from Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>4</sup> He was more particularly an Anglo-Irish Quaker<sup>5</sup> as was his neighbor Israel Thompson.<sup>6</sup> During the eighteenth century many Quakers from Pennsylvania and Maryland had settled in the vicinity of the Fairfax Monthly Meeting (Waterford, VA).

Thomas Hutton's two lots of land fell within George William Fairfax's vast landholdings on the watershed of Catoctin Creek. Called Piedmont or Piedmont Manor, it was said to contain 17,296 acres more or less. Piedmont was remotely located and largely unimproved so the rental rates were low. Thomas Hutton's tenure was over his own lifetime as well as that of Mary, his wife, and John, his son, or the longest survivor of the three with options for additional lives. A tenant such as Hutton would have been in possession of a transferable indenture of lease subject to covenants and conditions, whereas landlord George William Fairfax retained his reversionary equity.

Thomas Hutton's larger southerly lot, said to contain 134 acres, was shaped like a vertical rectangle. A natural feature of this lot was an enclosed perennial spring drain, the waters of which meandered along its length through a bottom before release into the North Fork of Catoctin Creek. His northerly lot of land said to contain 81 acres was about the same shape, albeit smaller. In 1785 each lot was separately identified as having belonged to "Thomas Hutton's messuage".<sup>7</sup> Messuage is a Middle English legal term for a dwelling house, its outbuildings, curtilage, and adjoining land.

The contributing resources on the nominated property are clustered on a slope near the head of a spring and a separate perennial spring drain of the North Fork of Catoctin Creek. This place would have been positioned around the middle of Thomas Hutton's larger southerly lot said to contain 134 acres. None of these edifices were extant during Thomas Hutton's tenancy. However, the covenants and conditions of such an agreement required the lessee to build a dwelling of a minimum size of twenty feet by sixteen feet and the cultivation of fruit trees within three years time. It is likely that this site would have been the place of residency for the Hutton family. Their dwelling probably would have been a simple timber structure with a rectangular footprint and an extended chimney. Also, they would have had an enclosed structure for storing grain, hay, and other farm products, and for most likely sheltering livestock.

About one decade after their arrival, Thomas Hutton and family left Loudoun County for westerly places of habitation.<sup>8</sup> Both of Hutton's lease lots would come to be assigned to neighbor Israel Thompson although a certain Thomas Davis held a competing deed for the larger lot of land said to contain 134 acres of land bearing date in 1785. Thomas Davis and Israel Thompson were possibly closely related through marriage.<sup>9</sup> It appears that Thomas Davis actually resided here for some period of time.<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, it is clear that both of Hutton's former lease lots were ancillary to Israel Thompson's home plantation. Israel Thompson was a tanner by trade and a plantation master.<sup>11</sup> In 1754 he was married to Anne Richardson at the Sandy Spring Meetinghouse, Frederick County, Maryland.<sup>12</sup> Anne was the widow of the late William Richardson and the mother of two children. Her state of affairs was such that she controlled a small fortune.<sup>13</sup> Upon petition dated 1762, Israel Thompson was granted leave by order of the County Court to build a gristmill on his land on the North Fork of Catoctin Creek (Wheatland Mill).<sup>14</sup> Israel Thompson was a merchant who chiefly traded in wheat. He traded salt to places as far away as the fringes of the Ohio River Valley.<sup>15</sup> Israel Thompson was a slave owner.<sup>16</sup> He paid annual tithes for up to fifteen resident servants and slaves.<sup>17</sup> Israel Thompson owned another plantation situated about four miles away in a westerly orientation under Short Hill Mountain called "Cold Spring".<sup>18</sup> Moreover, he inherited his late father's plantation near Goose Creek Meetinghouse at the death of his sister Prudence.<sup>19</sup> In at least two instances, Israel Thompson was recorded as having provided accommodations to George Washington of Mount Vernon.<sup>20</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

Section number 8 Page 12

---

Israel Thompson died from natural causes on his home plantation at advanced age before February 9, 1795. He was survived by his second wife, the former Sarah Hague of Loudoun County and children from both of his marriages. The deceased's estate was both substantial and complex including plantations, lease lots, western lands on the Great Kanawha, Potowmack Canal stock, and human chattel.<sup>21</sup> His oldest son and administrator, Jonah Thompson of Alexandria, would advertise his late father's tanyard, curry shop, bark and millhouse for rents.<sup>22</sup>

Israel Thompson's final papers include his receipt for annual rental payments on six lots of land to Battaile Muse for Sarah Fairfax, widow of George William Fairfax (d. 1787), dated May 1, 1794. These grounds had supported his home plantation. In total Israel Thompson had paid accumulated annual rental payments in the amount of seventeen pounds and eight shillings and three pence to Sarah Fairfax for six lots of lease land counting 827 acres of land more or less.<sup>23</sup> More specifically, Israel Thompson paid annual rent for 134 acres in the amount of two pounds and sixteen shillings and eleven pence or at a rate of less than four and one quarter shillings per acres for "Acct Lease for Thos. Hutton".

It was the late Israel Thompson's will that his lease lots be disposed of by the executors of his estate for and in consideration of ready monies. In 1797 William Virts acquired assignment of that lot of land said to contain 134 acres from Israel Thompson's estate. It appears that he (Wm. Virts, William Virts) purchased the leasehold and improvements for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and seventy pounds and five shillings and sixteen pence current money.<sup>24</sup> The tax rolls indicate that the William Virts family made this lot of land their place of permanent domicile by 1798.<sup>25</sup>

William Virts was an American-born ethnic German farmer from yeomanry (b. 1771). He was at that time a husband to Barbara or Barbary and a father. William's father was Conrad Virts of Loudoun County.<sup>26</sup> His grandfather was William Virts of Loudoun County.<sup>27</sup> They had immigrated to Pennsylvania from Germany, before relocating in Loudoun County, Virginia. William Virts's family was joined with the New Jerusalem Lutheran Church (Lovettsville), Loudoun County.

In the intervening time George William Fairfax had died. The deceased's widow, Sarah Fairfax, inherited a lifetime estate including the rental income from Thomas Hutton's former lease lots. The deceased's nephew, Ferdinando Fairfax, inherited the reversionary interests over diverse lands including the aforesaid lease lots. Later, Sarah Fairfax by John H. Canby renewed an indenture of lease for William Virts (William Virts) over that lease lot said to contain 134 acres dated March 25, 1805.

William Virts's dwelling was a vernacular two-room-plan house made out of irregularly coursed fieldstones. It contained one-and-a-half stories under a side-gabled roof with an interior-end chimney. The gable-end bearing walls of the house were built into a slope of land on rock cropping with a southerly exposure near to grade. Such banked building sites are characteristic of many Germanic houses more commonly seen in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The remains of this sturdy primitive building serve as the partially exposed basement of the William Virts House.

William Virts's dwelling had an asymmetrical floor plan consisting of two rooms with two entrances and one window on the facade. Each room would have had an exterior door. The kitchen, or main room, contained a massive fireplace and stairs on the eastern end of the building. The fireplace was for heating and cooking. This was the principal multipurpose room of the dwelling. The interior life of the inhabitants of the dwelling would have centered in the kitchen. In this room food was prepared, cooked, and eaten. The smaller western room was a multipurpose room that was smaller and more private than the kitchen. It did not include a fireplace. It was not uncommon for houses with a two-room plan to have been built with unheated secondary rooms, especially on the lower Eastern Shores of Maryland and Virginia. These unheated secondary rooms were actually first-floor sleeping rooms and generally did not serve as formal sitting or entertaining

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number 8 Page 13

---

spaces.<sup>28</sup> The overlaying half story of the house was a garret immediately beneath the roof. Unlike most lofts, garrets were usually finished and designed for living or working.

Among the outbuildings on William Virts's farm was a stone and frame thirty-foot-square bank barn.<sup>29</sup> This masonry building was built into an embankment of land and featured a closed forebay with an eastern exposure. It contained two floors under a side-gabled roof. The lower level was fitted out with granary bins and stables and was served by an adjacent yard with a perennial spring drain. A ramp leading up the hillside provided access to the second floor of the barn with its threshing floor. The form and function of this building type was similar to a Pennsylvania barn.<sup>30</sup> The barn still exists and now serves as a dwelling on an adjacent parcel.

Some other improvements on William Virts's farm included secondary structures, two of which—a springhouse and a shed—are counted as contributing resources in this nomination. A stone wall remains intact along Virts's former northern boundary line. William Virts's farm was situated in the vicinity of the course of the turnpike road approximated in modern times by Charles Town Pike (State Route 9). Additionally, the right of way of the road leading from Jonah Thompson's Mill to Mahlon Janney's Mill cut across William Virts's farm; it is approximated in modern times by Old Wheatland Road (State Route 698).

Ferdinando Fairfax traded his interest over diverse lands counting the reversionary equity in the lease lot controlled by William Virts. In 1810 William Virts (William Vertz) purchased from Peter R. Beverly and Lovely, his wife, that lot of land underlying his indenture of lease renewal from Sarah Fairfax said to contain 145-1/2 acres and 20 poles more or less for and in consideration of the sum of \$ 1,893.12 or about \$ 13 per acre. Around this time William Virts was married to his second wife named Phoebe or Philibina.

The dwelling on William Virts's farm was renovated circa 1813. These changes included the construction of upper stories with irregularly coursed fieldstones and dressed quoins, shifting room functions, and the balance and placement of windows and doors. The renovation is noticeable in stone construction, windows and doors, heavy partition framing, uniform hardware, and interior trim and ornamentation. William Virts's renovated dwelling had a rectangular footprint with two-and-a-half stories and six rooms under a side-gabled roof and an interior-end chimney. The house site allowed external entrance into two floors of the dwelling. Accessibility to the floors was provided by means of enclosed winder stairs situated in the northeast corner of the building next to the chimney.

The renovation of the dwelling was practical as it provided the Virts Family with additional living space. The second story contained a new hall and parlor with four tall double-sash windows. The hall served as a reception room with two central entrances opening directly into it—one at grade and the other from a front porch. The parlor was a multipurpose entertaining and family sitting room that was smaller and more private than the hall. The third story contained two bed chambers and a disparate arrangement of five double-sash windows. The attic provided usable and habitable space. Meanwhile, the old main room, or kitchen, and secondary multipurpose room in the basement became a subordinate kitchen and pantry.

However, some aspects of the renovation were impractical as they served to embellish interior spaces with fashionable ornamentation meant to both please and confer status on the building's occupants. The hall and parlor were enriched with high-relief chair rail molding with beading running in tandem with baseboard with beading around the plaster walls. The four tall double-sash windows were surrounded with ogee architrave trim. The two entrances in the form of two raised six-panel framed doors were surrounded with ogee architrave trim. Additionally, the hall contains a hidden cabinet with a raised two-panel door in the plaster wall above the chair rail surrounded with similar ogee architrave trim. The hall

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

Section number 8 Page 14

---

features a fine Classical Revival mantelpiece incorporating a shelf and cornice above a frieze decorated with Greek fret flanked by two fluted pilasters.

Likewise, the third story of the dwelling was fashionably decorated. The two bedchambers were enriched with high-relief chair rail molding with beading running in tandem with baseboard with beading around the plaster walls. All of the windows were surrounded with ogee architrave trim; three evenly spaced double-sash windows on the facade and two evenly spaced double sash windows on the northern elevation.

William Virts's vernacular dwelling house of old was thus physically altered into a mansion house. The transformation was symbolic of the acculturation of the Germanic Virts family into the dominant Anglo-Virginian culture of the Piedmont region of Virginia. Over the course of a couple of generations these ethnic Germans had modified their sense of identity manifest in a stylish dwelling characteristic of the Federal style of architecture by adaptations of classical forms combined with typically American design.

The 1815 tax rolls are among the most comprehensive records of landowners in Virginia prior to the Civil War. This register was implemented to raise monies to finance expenses related to the War of 1812. It reveals that William Virts (Virtz) owned one house assessed at a value of seven hundred dollars. His other taxable property included one chest of drawers or desk, five horses, and six heads of cattle. Also, there were supplementary entries for three resident white male residents above age sixteen and five resident white male residents above age twelve years.<sup>31</sup>

The personal property tax rolls of Loudoun County indicate the presence of a resident servant or laborer on William Virts's farm in 1806, 1808 and, possibly, 1810. They also reveal that William Virts was the owner of one chargeable slave in 1840, 1841, and 1845.<sup>32</sup> Likewise, William Virts's father, Conrad, was a slave owner. By his last will and testament made in 1821, Conrad Virts left a bequest of unspecified slaves to be divided amongst his children with the condition that they were not to be sold.<sup>33</sup>

On two occasions William Virts and Phoebe his second wife sold pieces of land having belonged to their farm. On June 23, 1815 they sold about four acres around the farm's southwestern boundary limits to Robert Braden for the sum of \$ 108.00. This ground was literally on the side of the turnpike road approximated in modern times by Charles Town Pike (State Route 9). On May 16, 1828 William and Phoebe Virts sold about eight acres and twenty poles of land around the farm's southeastern boundary limits to Jesse Tribby for \$ 146.36.

In 1853 William Virts's farm was indicated as "W. Verts" on Yardley Taylor's Map of Loudoun County.<sup>34</sup> William Virts died a widower on December 9, 1853. His remains are buried under a headstone in the New Jerusalem Lutheran Cemetery, Lovettsville, VA. On March 17, 1854 Jacob Virts and others sold the deceased's farm said to contain one hundred and thirty-six acres and three roods and ten and three-quarters perches of land to Albert J. Best and Elizabeth R. White for the sum of \$ 8,620.83-½ or at a rate of over sixty- three dollars per acre. The proceeds of the sale were distributed in equal shares to Jacob Virts; John and Mary Virts; Henry and Lydia Virts; Joseph L. and Eliza Virts; Charles F.M. Virts; Amanda C. Virts; Mary and Uriah Beans; and Jane and Daniel Figgins.

Bearing date April 30, 1856, Best & White sold the great bulk of that parcel to the late William Virts's son-in-law, Uriah Beans, for and in consideration of the sum of \$ 7,075.61. The deed of conveyance to Uriah Beans entered into the records of the County of Loudoun includes a state-of-the-art survey and plat.<sup>35</sup> The boundary description is a contemporary record of the given lot and its surroundings said to contain 112 acres and 1 rood and 6.96 perches of land. The survey explicitly utilized the position of the durable masonry springhouse as a point of reference in the boundary

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

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**Loudoun County, VA**

---

Section number 8 Page 15

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description. Meanwhile, Best & White had reserved a lot along the main road containing about twenty and one-quarter acres of land.

It seems that in earlier times some members of the Beans Family were Quaker. Varied persons with that sir name were affiliated with the Fairfax Monthly Meeting in nearby Waterford. Uriah Beans's wife, Mary Beans, was the daughter of William Virts and Phoebe his wife. Mary had been sponsored for christening by Phillip and Catharine Virts (Wertz) at the New Jerusalem Lutheran Church dated August 7, 1814. According to the U.S. Census of 1850, Uriah and Mary or Polly as she was nicknamed had three minor children named by decreasing age Ann (Zilla Ann), William, and Phoebe and one resident farm servant called Mack aged fifteen.<sup>36</sup>

On May 23, 1861 in a list of votes taken on an ordinance of secession for the Waterford Precinct, Loudoun County, Uriah Beans voted with the great majority of his peers for its rejection, albeit the ordinance was easily ratified in Virginia. It is known that Uriah Beans was a partisan on behalf of the Union, based on his claim for relief before the commissioner of claims after the conclusion of the Civil War.<sup>37</sup> Meanwhile, it looks as if Uriah and the late Mary's son, William H. Beans, was a partisan on behalf of Virginia and the Confederate States of America. On October 1, 1862, William H. (F.) Beans enlisted for service in Snickersville (Bluemont), Virginia, with the 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion Virginia Cavalry over the duration of the war.<sup>38</sup>

Before the Civil War, Uriah Beans's improved farm had been valued at the rate of sixty dollars per acre for the year 1859. Uriah then owned an unknown combination of seven horses, mules, asses, and jennets and an indefinite mixture of seventeen cattle, sheep and hogs. His household and kitchen furniture was valued at one hundred and fifty dollars while his only clock was assessed at five dollars.<sup>39</sup> After the Civil War, Uriah Beans's improved farm was valued at the rate of sixty dollars per acre for the year 1867. Meanwhile, Uriah owned an unknown combination of four horses, mules, asses, and jennets and eleven head of cattle, and two hogs. His household and kitchen furniture was valued at one hundred dollars while his only clock was assessed at five dollars.<sup>40</sup>

Uriah Beans repaired his buildings and structures after the Civil War. The springhouse was substantially enlarged circa 1871. Even so his improved land would simultaneously go down in value to the rate of fifty-five dollars per acre for the year 1872. Bearing date March 18, 1874 Uriah and his second wife Martha Beans sold four acres and one pole of land on the North Fork of Catoctin Creek to his neighbor Harrison Butler for the sum of three hundred dollars. Afterward, his land would continue to decrease in value to fifty dollars per acre for 1877 and forty-seven dollars for 1883.<sup>41</sup>

It seems that for the most part Uriah Beans was a resilient farmer in possession of a significant estate of land and personal property. He died at seventy-six years of age on March 31, 1884. The deceased left his wife, Martha J. Beans, all of his property for her use and the benefit of their four children until the youngest should arrive at the age of twenty-one years whereupon they could divide it amongst themselves according to law or leave it as it was. Besides, Uriah Beans had left his children by his first wife including Wm. H. Beans, Zilla Ann Wine, and Phebe J. McDaniel, the sum of one thousand dollars each for which he held a receipt, and which persons agreed to rescind all claims and demands against his estate.<sup>42</sup> The remains of Uriah Beans deceased and his first wife, Mary, would come to be buried side by side in the cemetery of Ketocin Baptist Church.<sup>43</sup>

Subsequently, the widow Martha J. Beans's family suffered further material decline as the rate for their improved land descended still further to thirty-four dollars per acre for the year 1891.<sup>44</sup> On April 1, 1896, Martha J. Beans and others counting Mary and John W. Hammerly; John A. Beans; Fanny R. Beans; and Ella J. Beans sold the late Uriah Beans's

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

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**Loudoun County, VA**

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Section number 8 Page 16

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farm containing 108 acres and 1 rood and 5.96 poles of land to John McGavack for the sum of \$ 4,331.49 or at a rate of about forty dollars per acre. McGavack had been in possession of a contiguous parcel of land since 1848.<sup>45</sup>

By any measure, John McGavack was then an old man of around seventy-two years of age.<sup>46</sup> He and Sarah Ann Wine McGavack his wife had at least eleven children.<sup>47</sup> It seems unlikely that John McGavack farmed this land; rather, it was rental property. The tenant or tenants here were sharecroppers as opposed to those who rented land for and in consideration of cash remunerations to the owner. There were instances when a share tenancy was a good arrangement as it readily afforded land for cultivation to those who for want of ways and means were unable to acquire land.

One such tenant here was Norman Mitchell beginning circa 1910. He was an African American head of household farmer. Norman Mitchell and Betty Redman Mitchell his wife were the parents of at least eight children including James Mitchell, Norman Mitchell, Charles Warner Mitchell, Joanna Mitchell Owens, Mary Mitchell Lucas, Julia Mitchell, Chrystell Mitchell Lincoln, and Maria Mitchell. The Mitchell family belonged to the Waterford Methodist Church. Some of their children may have attended the free Negro school in Waterford. The late Charles Warner Mitchell said that he was actually born in the contributing stone dwelling.<sup>48</sup>

Charles Warner Mitchell shared his memory of the terms of his father's early-20<sup>th</sup>-century share tenancy agreement roughly as follows: Norman Mitchell was provided with the use of some of McGavack's ground as well as a horse and plow for farming and sustenance in the manner of three-hundred-weight (pounds) of meat per year, one bushel of cornmeal per month, and one barrel of flour per month, for and in consideration of some related share of the agricultural crops produced on subject land.<sup>49</sup>

Norman Mitchell's parents were James (Jim) Mitchell and his wife was the former Anna Maria Moton. It had been their custom to court on Sundays when they enjoyed some free time. They were married in the integrated Waterford Methodist Church (date unknown). James was lately a Negro slave having belonged to Rodney Braden, whereas Anna Maria was lately a Negro slave of mixed race parentage having belonged to Oscar Braden. James Mitchell was said to have been a free Negro at the time of the commencement of the Civil War. The earliest remembered paternal ancestor (name unknown) was said to have been taken from a ship at sea by a party who proceeded to transport him to Virginia for sale into servitude until reaching thirty-two years of age.<sup>50</sup>

Betty Redman Mitchell's parents were Jim Redman and his wife the former Julia Brady. Originally, Jim Redman was from Hillsboro (died 1938). He would become a founding member of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church in the Brownsville section of Hamilton. Charles Warner Mitchell and his sister Joanna Mitchell Owens said that the Redman line was of multi-racial origins including roughly three parts "Maryland Indian" and one part African American.<sup>51</sup>

On November 15, 1913, John McGavack sold a parcel of land containing eighty acres more or less to a young farmer called John W. Orrison and his wife, the former Judith M. Grimmes, for \$ 4,500.00 or land and improvements at the rate of \$ 56.25 per acre. The deed of conveyance explicitly states that Orrison purchased all of that part of "Uriah Beans's farm" lying on the north side of the road leading from Wheatland to Waterford (Old Wheatland Road or Route 698).<sup>52</sup> The reference to an antecedent owner seems to confirm that John McGavack had been an absentee owner. Meanwhile, John McGavack had reserved the remainder of the old farm lying on the south side of the road including the headwaters of the perennial spring drain.

John Orrison's lot of land constituted a small farm. He was an old fashioned farmer who used horses in harness to plow, disc, harrow, drill, plant, cultivate, mow, and rake his land. The Orrison farm was primarily concerned with growing small

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

William Virts House

Loudoun County, VA

Section number 8 Page 17

grains, animal husbandry, dairying, and keeping an apple orchard. John W. Orrison had a reputation for being knowledgeable about the care and breeding of draft horses, particularly the Belgian horse. His horses were sometimes prize winners at local agricultural fairs and were an irregular source of income. The supply of well broken, draft-type horses suitable for farm work was limited; however, they were declining in popularity.<sup>53</sup>

John and Judith Orrison invested thirty-four years of arduous labor into their farm and way of life. They renovated their six-room stone dwelling house. They arranged for construction of a concrete deck around its south side and built a two-story braced-frame porch and frame addition on a stone foundation with a root cellar. They obtained electrical service, updated the foundation of the barn with concrete supporting structures, and arranged for the installation of a concrete floor in the springhouse. Still, there was no indoor plumbing at the house until about 1976.<sup>54</sup>

On December 2, 1946 an advertisement appeared in *The Blue Ridge Leader*, Hamilton, Virginia, offering for sale the subject lot of land; "Excellent small farm, near Purcellville, eighty acres fine land, six-room stone-frame house (in) nice condition, electricity, stone barn, bus service to D.C., \$ 13,650."<sup>55</sup> Shortly afterward, John W. Orrison and Judith M. Orrison sold their farm to Elmer G. Pauley and Charlotte May Pauley for \$ 13,200 or one hundred and sixty-five dollars per acre for the land and improvements dated May 2, 1947.

Afterward, John W. Orrison sold his personal property on the premises thereof, on the road from Waterford to Wheatland, at a public sale that commenced at 11 AM on Wednesday, May 14, 1947. Robert L. Wright was the auctioneer and G.W. Donaldson served as clerk for the event. Lunch was provided by the Arnold Grove Methodist Church. Again, an advertisement calling attention to the public sale had been placed in *The Blue Ridge Leader* dated May 1, 1947. It included an inventory of John W. Orrison's personal property items listed for sale. These goods were catalogued under headings for livestock, farm implements, harness, and household goods.<sup>56</sup>

The 1947 sale of this land and personal property by John W. Orrison and Judith his wife to Elmer G. Pauley and Charlotte May his wife effectively marks the practical end point of its history as a self-supporting agrarian entity. The horse power driven small farm of yesteryear had given way to modernity. The lifestyle such a farm had required of its occupants was no longer sustainable. The land would continue to be farmed but without the personal commitment of earlier times. Numerous small and medium size farms in this locality were undergoing similar changes. In the process many agricultural workers were effectively marginalized.

The William Virts House is comparable to a few other historical houses in western Loudoun County. John G. Lewis, who recorded the nominated dwelling for the Virginia Landmarks Commission in 1976, found the material and woodwork of the home to be very similar to the "Copeland Homestead", near Hillsboro.<sup>57</sup> The dwelling somewhat resembles the "Tavener House" off of Wright Lane once acquired by Robert C. Oliphant from John M. Virts of Loudoun County.<sup>58</sup> The previous feature on the William Virts House of two exterior doors on the first-story facade, one opening directly to the kitchen, is also found in an old stone house situated on the east side of the Berlin Turnpike (State Route 287) near Purcellville.<sup>59</sup> Otherwise, the banked house site feature is found in another early stone house on Old Wheatland Road commonly called "Catalpa Grove".<sup>60</sup>

### Archaeological Potential

Although archaeological investigations have not been done at the William Virts property, there is potential to yield information as related to locations of former buildings and to the material culture as related to the domestic and agricultural lifeways of the property.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

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**Loudoun County, VA**

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Section number Bibliography Page 18

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number Bibliography Page 19

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

William Virts House

Loudoun County, VA

Section number Bibliography Page 20

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

---

Section number Bibliography Page 21

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

---

**Loudoun County, VA**

---

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Section number Additional Documentation Page 22

**Additional Documentation**

Attachments 1 and 2. Deed book entries for areas of the Virts property, 1796-1805.

Attachment 3. Plat of property upon transfer to Uriah Beans, April 30, 1856.

Attachment 4. Plat of property under Boone ownership, 1976.

Attachment 5. Photo of Virts House, circa 1950.

Attachment 6. Survey of Virts property under Morris ownership, 1976.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

William Virts House

Loudoun County, VA

Section number Endnotes Page 23

**Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Fairfax County, William Fairfax to George Griffith, Deed Book A, Part 2/ Folio 334, May 1, 1743.

<sup>2</sup> Fairfax County, William Fairfax to Jonathan Richardson, Deed Book A, Part 2/ Folio 337, May 1, 1743.

<sup>3</sup> Loudoun County, George William Fairfax to Israel Thompson, Lease and Release, Deed Book A/ Folio 508, December 12, 1759: Fairfax County, George William Fairfax to Israel Thompson, Lease for Lives, Deed Book D/ Folio. 20 (missing), February 19, 1755.

<sup>4</sup> Rachel Kathryn Onuf, Friends Historical Library, Archivist, letter to Roberto Costantino, December 1, 1992: Nancy P. Spears, Friends Historical Library, Genealogist, letters to Roberto Costantino, January 27, 1992; June 11, 1992 (with the Minutes of Goshen Monthly Meeting,, August 18, 1755 - January 19, 1756).

<sup>5</sup> Albert Cook Myers, *Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania, 1682-1750*, Swarthmore, 1902, reprinted (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1994), 303.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, 303, 329.

<sup>7</sup> Loudoun County, Thomas Hutton to Thomas Davis, Partially Proven Wills and Deeds Book 01/ Folio 337, September 12, 1785: Loudoun County, Thomas Hutton to Israel Thompson, Deed Book Z/ Folio 323, September 13, 1785.

<sup>8</sup> Thomas Hutton and family ultimately settled in the vicinity of Westland Monthly Meeting in western Pennsylvania. On January 7, 1791 the Goshen MM reinstated Thomas Hutton in membership with the Society of Friends for his transgression of outgoing in marriage after receiving a personal apology dated October 9, 1789. This resulted in a letter of inquiry NPS Form dated August 28, 1790 to Westland MM where about he had been living for quite a few years. He was as a consequence granted a certificate of removal for Westland MM dated March 11, 1791. Afterward, he was formerly received by the Westland MM dated May 28, 1791. Thomas Hutton is said to have died in Pike Township, Washington County, PA, in 1802. N.P. Spears [letter to Roberto Costantino, 6/11/1991]: (copies Minutes of Goshen Monthly Meeting, August 28, 1790; January 7, 1791; March 11, 1791).

<sup>9</sup> Grace L. Tracy and John P. Dern, *Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Early Settlement of Frederick County, Maryland 1721-1743* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1989), 83.

<sup>10</sup> *Loudoun County Land Taxes 1782-1850* (V Ref Microform 929.375528 Lou), Fiche # 17, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

<sup>11</sup> Fairfax County, Lawrence Washington, Administrative, Will Book I, Part 2/Folio 539.

<sup>12</sup> Henry C. Peden, Jr., *Quaker Records of Southern Maryland* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1992), 33-35.

<sup>13</sup> Frederick County, MD, Administrative Accounts, Liber A/ Folio 79, March, 1755.

<sup>14</sup> Loudoun County Court Order Book A/ Folio 584, 1762.

<sup>15</sup> Boyd Crumrine, *Virginia Court Records in Southwestern Pennsylvania: Records of the District of West Augusta and Ohio and Yohogania Counties, Virginia 1775-1780* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., Inc, 1974), 200, 207.

<sup>16</sup> Loudoun County, Joseph Richardson to Israel Thompson, Deed Book K/ Folio 283, January 22, 1774.

<sup>17</sup> *Loudoun County Tithables 1758-1799* (V Ref Microform 929.375528 Lou), Fiche #17: *Loudoun County Personal Property Tax 1782-1850* (V Ref Microform 929.3775528 Lou), Fiche #17, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

<sup>18</sup> Fairfax County, Abel Janney to Israel Thompson, Deed Book D, Part 2/ Folio 398, December 1, 1756: Loudoun County, Israel Thompson deceased to Theopolus Harris, Deed Book 2C/ Folio 353, July 29, 1796.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

William Virts House

Loudoun County, VA

Section number Endnotes Page 24

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<sup>20</sup> Fairfax Harrison, *Landmarks of Old Prince William: A Study of Origins in Northern Virginia in Two Volumes* (Berryville, VA: Chesapeake Book Co., 1964), 512: Archie Butler Hulbert, *Washington and the West* (New York: The Century Co., 1905), 27-28.

<sup>21</sup> It was Israel Thompson deceased's will that the black girl residing in his family named Hannah be free on November 1, 1797. And, that a molatto boy named William would be freed when he arrived at the age of twenty one years. Loudoun County, Israel Thompson, last will and testament and codicil, Loudoun County Will Book E/ Folio 87: Loudoun County, Israel Thompson, Administrative, Will Book E/ Folio 303: Loudoun County, Israel Thompson, Administrative, Will Book F/ Folio 327: Loudoun County, Israel Thompson, Administrative, Will Book F/ Folio 392: Loudoun County, Israel Thompson, Administrative, Will Book F/ Folio 396.

<sup>22</sup> *The Alexandria Gazette*, January 31, 1798.

<sup>23</sup> Receipts, vouchers and a remarkable first hand account of Israel Thompson's family with Quaker symbolism entitled *Births and deaths of my children with some remarks*. Israel Thompson deceased, final papers, Loudoun County Circuit Court, Archives, Leesburg, VA.

<sup>24</sup> Loudoun County, Will Book F, Folio 308, 328.

<sup>25</sup> *Loudoun County Land Taxes 1782-1850*.

<sup>26</sup> Loudoun County, George William Fairfax by George Nicholas to Conrod Virts, Deed Book Q/ Folio 87, March 2, 1787.

<sup>27</sup> Loudoun County, George William Fairfax to William Vertz, Deed Book I/ Folio 135, November 27, 1772.

<sup>28</sup> Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 17.

<sup>29</sup> The modified barn is currently situated on a neighboring parcel of land along with an old shed at 3700 Old Wheatland Road.

<sup>30</sup> Robert F. Ensminger, *The Pennsylvania Barn: Its Origin, Evolution and Distribution in North America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992).

<sup>31</sup> Loudoun County Personal Property Tax 1782-1850: Loudoun County Land Taxes 1782-1850.

<sup>32</sup> *Loudoun County Personal Property Tax 1782-1850*.

<sup>33</sup> Loudoun County, Conrad Virts, Last Will and Testament, Will Book O/ Folio 15, June 7, 1821.

<sup>34</sup> Yardley Taylor, Map of Loudoun County, Virginia, Thomas Reynolds and Robert Pearsall Smith, Philadelphia, 1852, reprinted (Lincoln, VA: A.M. & W.L. Janney, 1976).

<sup>35</sup> Loudoun County, Deed Book 5-N/ Folio 119, April 30, 1856.

<sup>36</sup> *Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States 1850, Roll 957, Virginia, Loudoun and Louisa Counties*, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy No. 432.

<sup>37</sup> *M2094: Southern Claims Commission Approved Claims 1871-1880*, Virginia National Park Service, Virginia Genealogical Society, and National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., 2005.

<sup>38</sup> John E. Divine, *35<sup>th</sup> Battalion Virginia Cavalry* (Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1985).

<sup>39</sup> Loudoun County, Land Book 1859, Circuit Court, Archives, Leesburg, VA.

<sup>40</sup> Loudoun County, Land Book 1867, Circuit Court, Archives, Leesburg, VA.

<sup>41</sup> Loudoun County, Land Book 1872, Land Book 1877, Land Book 1883.

<sup>42</sup> Loudoun County, Uriah Beans, Last Will and Testament, Will Book 3-G, p. 41, April 2, 1880.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

William Virts House

Loudoun County, VA

Section number Endnotes Page 25

<sup>43</sup> The Ketoctin Baptist Church, Free Baptist Church, Ketoctin Church Road, Purcellville, VA with headstone for Uriah Beans, 7/17/1807-3/31/1884, and, headstone for Mary Beans, Wife of Uriah Beans, 6/24/1814-2/8/1759.

<sup>44</sup> Loudoun County, Land Book 1891, Circuit Court, Archives, Leesburg, VA.

<sup>45</sup> Loudoun County, Elizabeth Saunders to John McGavack, Deed Book 4-O/ Folio 83, December 10, 1848.

<sup>46</sup> *Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States 1850, Roll 957, Virginia, Loudoun and Louisa Counties*, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy No. 432.

<sup>47</sup> John Divine, letter to Roberto Costantino, October 20, 1993.

<sup>48</sup> Interview with Charles Warner Mitchell and Joanna Mitchell Owens by Roberto Costantino, 1993.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 8-W/ Folio 284, November 15, 1913.

<sup>53</sup> Interview with Leslie T. Orrison by Roberto Costantino, September 7, 1991.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> *The Blue Ridge Leader* (Hamilton, Virginia), December 2, 1946.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid. May 1, 1947.

<sup>57</sup> Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission VDHR Survey File No. 53-598, John G. Lewis, October 10, 1976 ("Copeland Homestead" VFHR File No. 53-357).

<sup>58</sup> VDHR File No. 53-358.

<sup>59</sup> VDHR File No. 53-342.

<sup>60</sup> VDHR File No. 53-622.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**William Virts House**

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**Loudoun County, VA**

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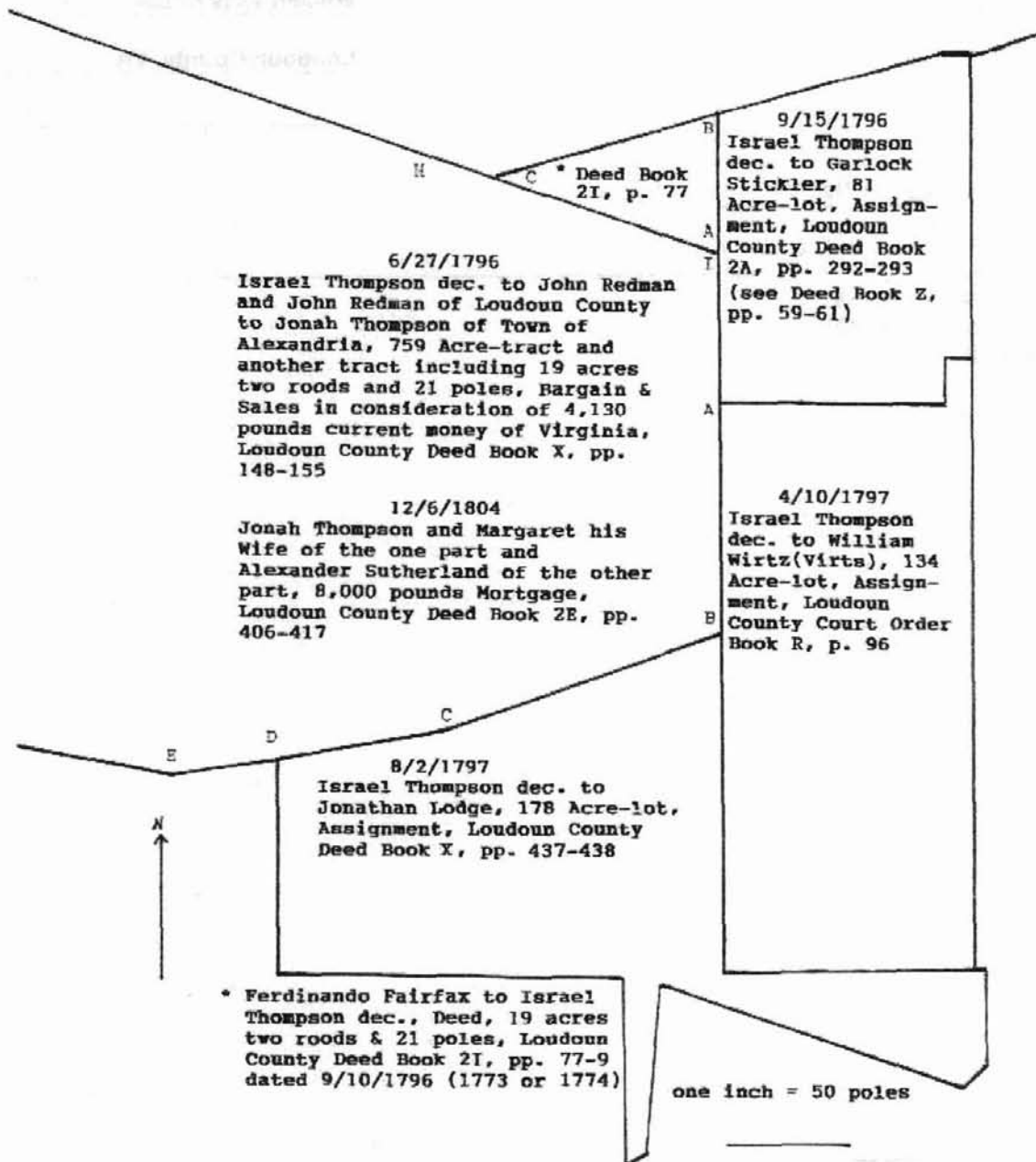
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Section number   Endnotes   Page 26

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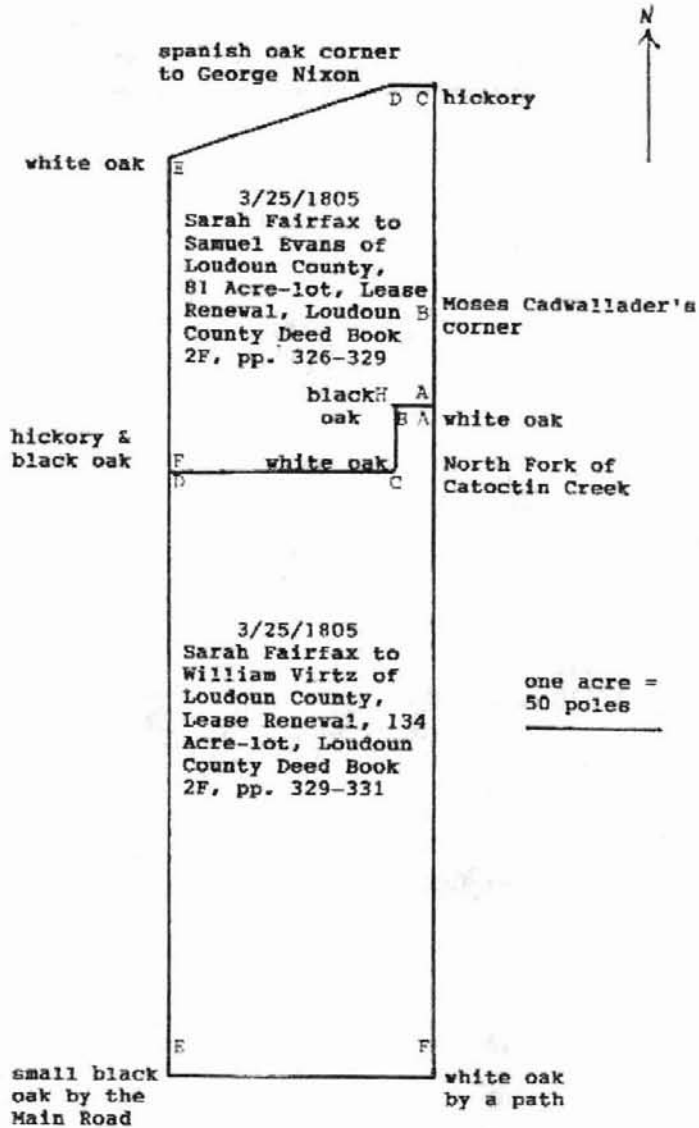
ATTACHMENT 1

William Virts House, Loudoun County, VA



ATTACHMENT 2

William Virts House, Loudoun County, VA



ATTACHMENT 3

William Virts House, Loudoun County, VA

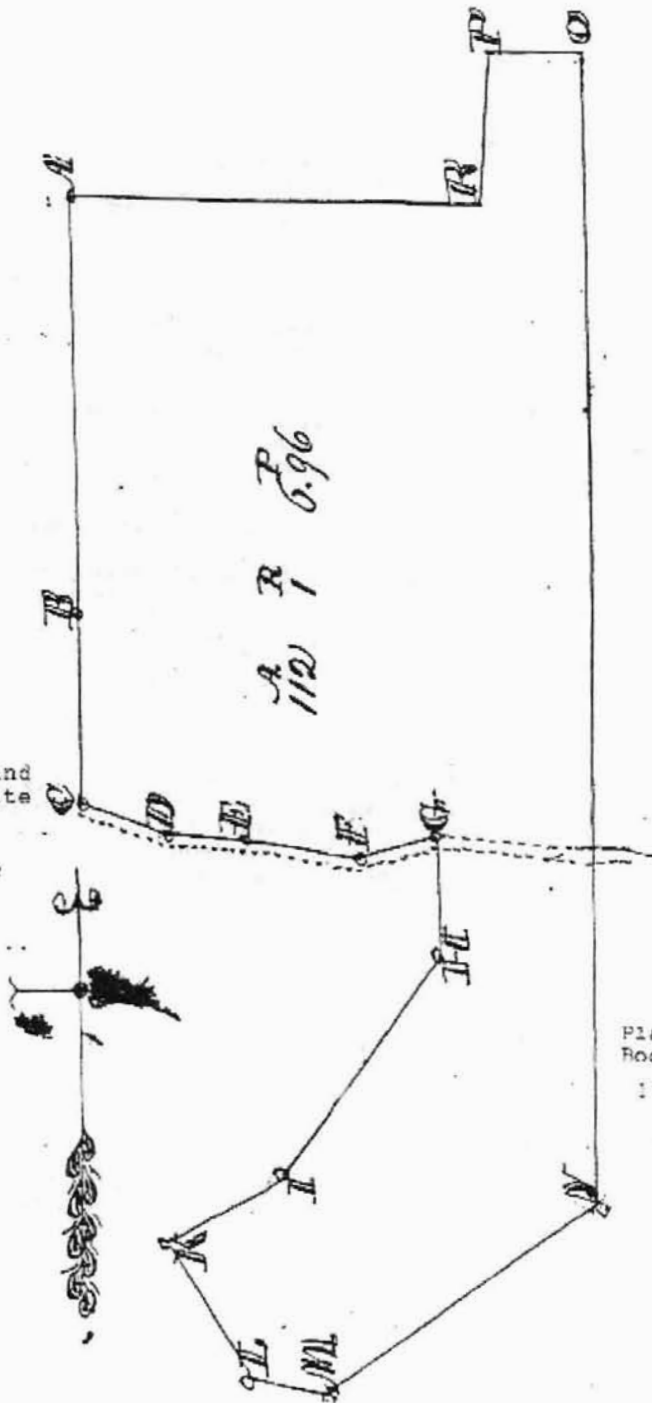
April 30, 1856

Albert J. Best and  
Elizabeth R. White  
to Uriah Beans

Bargain and Sale  
\$ 7,075.61

Certified by...

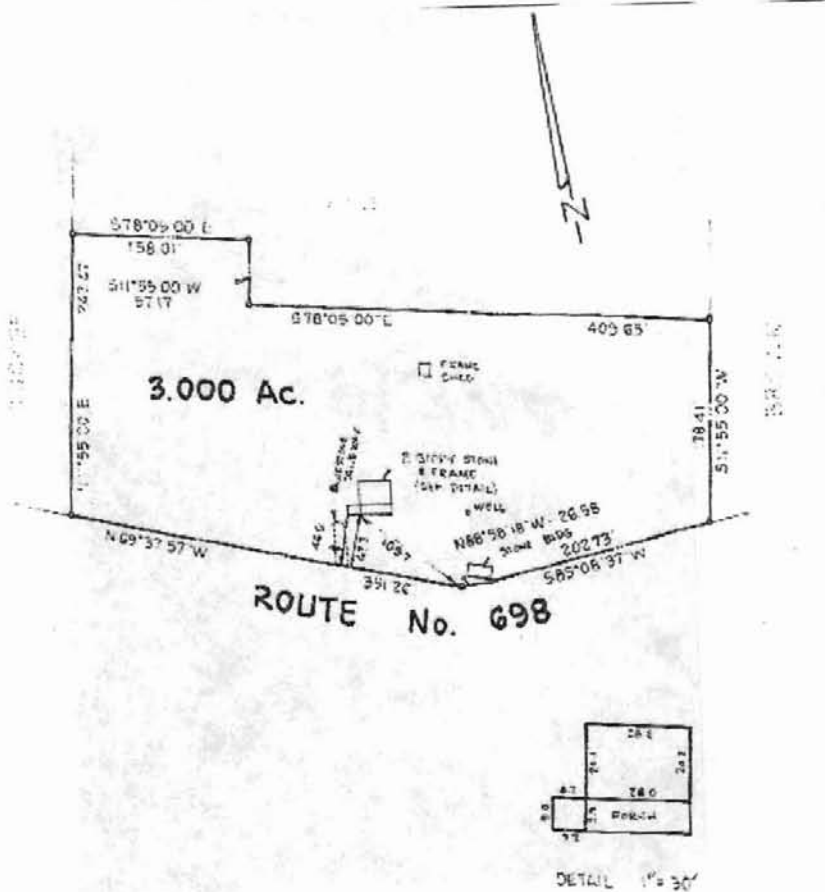
Noble L.  
Braden



Plat from Deed  
Book 5N, pp. 119-22  
1" = 475'

ATTACHMENT 4

William Virts House, Loudoun County, VA



HOUSE LOCATION  
LAND OF  
**RANDAL D. & MARY U. BOONE**  
CATOCTIN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT  
LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
MARCH 28, 1984  
SCALE 1" = 100'

KEN W. ERICKSON  
LAND SURVEYING  
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA



**ATTACHMENT 5**

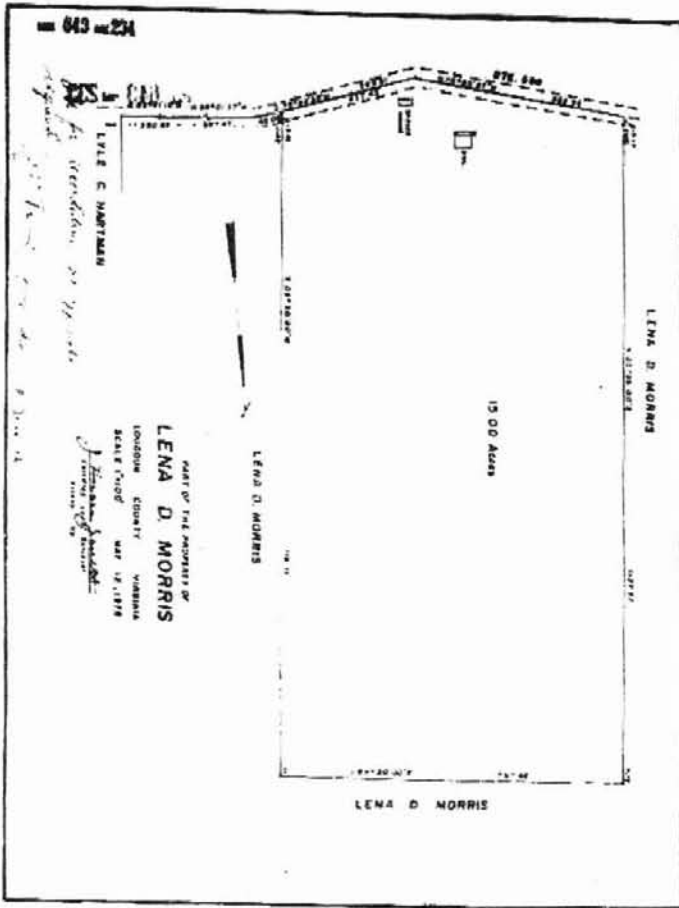
**William Virts House, Loudoun County, VA**

**Photograph circa 1950**



ATTACHMENT 6

William Virts House, Loudoun County, VA





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Department of Planning  
1 Harrison Street, S.E., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000  
Telephone (703) 777-0246 • Fax (703) 777-0441  
E-mail dop@loudoun.gov

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**LOUDOUN COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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September 27, 2010

Marc Christian Wagner  
Register Program Manager  
Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Dear Mr. Wagner:

The Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee (HDRC) has reviewed the nomination for listing the *William Virts House (inclusive of the Spring House and Shed)*, in the National Register of Historic Places. The William Virts House is a physical record of a common historic theme in the north-western part of Loudoun County: The Anglo-American acculturation of Loudoun residents of diverse ethnic origins. The unadorned, sturdy architecture of the original stone structure with its two entrances reminiscent of traditional German architecture, and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Federal style addition chronicle the prosperity and the cultural shift experienced and expressed by the Virts family. The fact that the separate construction events and the interior woodwork that was added during the 1813 addition are so well preserved makes this resource uniquely significant.

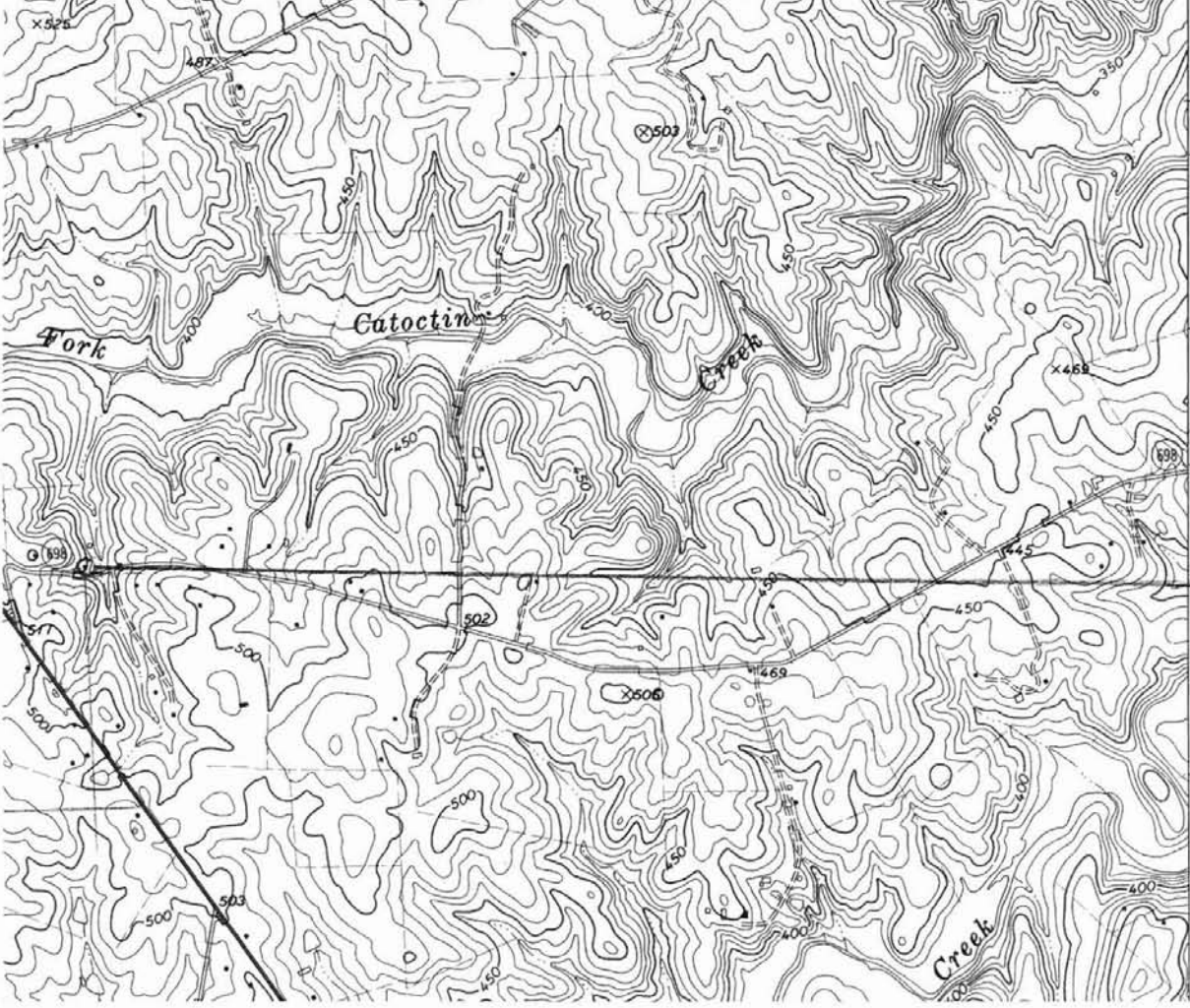
The HDRC is pleased to support the nomination for listing the *William Virts House (including the Spring House and Shed)* in the National Register of Historic Places. The HDRC would specifically like to note the breadth and quality of archival research conducted for this Nomination which adds greatly to the interpretation of this historic resource. Please forward this letter of support to the State Historic Preservation Office Director and other decision-making Boards as appropriate. On behalf of the Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application.

Sincerely,

Leah, Thayer Ferguson, Chairman  
Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee

cc: Loudoun County Board of Supervisors





4342  
4341  
(WATERFORD)  
5400 II NE  
4340

WILLIAM VIATS HOUSE  
LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA  
DHA FILE NO.: 053-059  
NAD: 1927  
QUAD: PORCELLVILLE, V  
UTMS:  
18/269680/434079C