

57-8,9

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Mathews	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Poplar Grove Mill and House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Tide Mill and Poplar Grove

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: .1 mi. NE of East River, .5 mi. SW of intersection of Rt. 14 and Rt. 613, 1.1 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 613 and Rt. 614.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Mathews CODE: 115

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
		Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Mill - vacant	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
James Morrison Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1123 Crest Lane

CITY OR TOWN: McLean STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Mathews County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Mathews STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 22.50

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Mathews	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #57-8, 57-9  
1968  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: ~~760~~ 45

**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The tide mill at Poplar Grove is a two-story frame structure with a gable roof built on a narrow mole which separates a small lagoon or mill pond from the bay. The action of the tide, causing water to flow between the lagoon and the bay, turned the large mill wheel at the side of the building, some of whose original mechanism survives on the interior. Out of operation since 1912, the mill stood in poor condition until a recent thorough restoration. The sluice or race has been dammed up, and the water now flows from the lagoon to the bay through another channel.

The earliest portion of the Poplar Grove house, across the lagoon, is a small one and-a-half story gambrel roof cottage which has been incorporated into the present five section house as an end wing. The central portion of the house is a late-eighteenth century temple-form building fronted by a later Ionic portico.

The beautiful setting of Poplar Grove, with its broad lawns, large old trees and fine view across Mobjack Bay, has changed little in the past century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

A tide operated mill has existed at Poplar Grove since colonial times; however the present structure replaces the original mill which was burned during the Civil War. It is believed that corn was ground at the Poplar Grove mill for General Washington's troops when they camped nearby. At one time these ingenious structures were common throughout the Chesapeake Bay region but the Poplar Grove mill is the only such mill remaining in Virginia, and continued in operation until 1912.

Across the small lagoon from the mill is the Poplar Grove house, residence of the millers. The earliest portion of this rambling structure was probably built for John Patterson before the Revolutionary War. The house derives its name from the many poplar trees which Patterson planted. Patterson's granddaughter, Captain Sally Tompkins, the famous woman Confederate officer, was born at Poplar Grove in 1833.

The central portion of the Poplar Grove house was built in the late-eighteenth century by Richard Billups, a noted local builder known for his individual style.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Houses: The Mobjack Bay Country, New York: Bonanza Books, 1955.

Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia, Garden Club of Virginia, Richmond: Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1962.

Lancaster, Robert A., Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1915.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
*Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody Jr., Director* DATE

ORGANIZATION:  
*Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission*

STREET AND NUMBER:  
*9th Street State Office Building*

CITY OR TOWN:  
*Richmond*

STATE:  
*Virginia* CODE  
*45*

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

