

**DELISTED**  
3/17/01

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: NELSON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1976	DATE:

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:  
MIDWAY MILL

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SE end of Rt. 743

CITY OR TOWN:  
Midway Mills

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51      COUNTY: Nelson      CODE: 125

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) being restored

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Fred Thieberger

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2406 Stirup Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Nelson County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lovingson      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA

COUNTY: NELSON

ENTRY NUMBER: 10000000

DATE: 3/17/01

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Approximately twelve miles southwest of Lovington in Nelson County, adjacent to the James River Wildlife Management Area on Route 743 near the James River stands historic Midway Mill. Constructed in 1787, minor alterations to the fabric of the mill took place about 1810, but it has remained basically unchanged since then. The terrain around the mill is quite hilly and the mill stream has many branches in the area.

Said to have been constructed by master Italian shipwrights, the 4½-story masonry structure is best known for its magnificently dressed stone-work and fine interior joinery. The structure is rectangular in plan, of stone construction with granite lintels and sills on all the door and window openings. The stones are laid in uncoursed ashlar: each stone cut to evenly join the next. The mortar joints are well executed. The roof has frame gables and is covered with heavy slates. The facade is five bays in length with two entry doorways in the second and fourth bays. The doorways contain the original Dutch doors with rosehead nail studding. The end elevations are of two bays and three staggered bays on the fourth floor. The walls are three feet thick at their base and have splayed window reveals. The sash is twelve-over-twelve and appears to be original. There are four openings in the frame gable.

Although little remains of the mill's exterior water wheel, most of the early mill machinery is intact, but is inoperable at the present time. Much of the machinery, including the gears, is made of wood, and is of unusually fine craftsmanship. The wood framing of Midway Mill is also noteworthy. Huge handhewn beams constitute the main supporting means of each floor. All lumber is of top grade chestnut and other premium woods.

To the rear of the mill, there is a well-executed arched stone bridge over the old mill stream bed. The bridge has a fine keystone and is in good condition.

The Simpson House, located on a high hill overlooking Midway Mill is the longtime home of the Simpson family, operators of the Midway Mill (Simpson) Plantation during the nineteenth century. This late-nineteenth century house is wood frame, "T" shaped in plan on a brick basement. A tetrastyle porch stretches the entire length of the three-bay facade and the center bay projects. Elaborate bargeboards grace the end gables and the center gable. The windows have two-over-two sash.

At the present time, the Simpson House is undergoing a thorough restoration. Restoration work on the Midway Mill is to commence in the near future.

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J.F.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**II. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

**SPECIFIC DATES** (If Applicable and Known)

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Midway Mill is located on land that once was part of a large plantation owned by William H. Cabell, Governor of Virginia from 1805 to 1808. Cabell had the mill built in 1787. The name "Midway" was chosen because the mill was situated at the halfway point on the James River between Lynchburg and Richmond. It is said that the mill was constructed by master Italian shipwrights. A group of about twenty of these men had become stranded in Virginia following the cancellation of a ship construction project for which they had been brought over from Europe. The quality of the mill's stonework and joinery does show that the builders were highly skilled craftsmen.

During the ante bellum period the James River and Kanawha Canal passed in front of the mill, and the large stone structure became a familiar landmark for passengers. The canal traffic prompted the establishment of a small settlement at the mill, containing passenger station, post office, and general store. The mill's owner, William H. Cabell, at one time served as chairman of the James River and Kanawha Canal Company.

Midway Mill has remained basically unchanged following some minor alterations undertaken in 1810. During the War Between the States the mill became an important source of flour and meal for Virginians. Milling operations continued until about 1925 when competition and out-dated machinery rendered the mill non-profitable. Following its closing down the mill's various owners made minimum repairs to keep it from falling into ruin. The massive stone walls stand in generally sound condition, but many of the interior fittings are in disrepair.

Midway Mill remains one of the Commonwealth's few eighteenth century mills. The beautifully constructed building is evidence of the high standards maintained in the building arts of that period.

J.F.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE

Alexander Brown, The Cabells and Their Kin.  
 "Midway Mills," Nelson County Times, Lovingson, Va., Thursday, May 1, 1969.  
 "Midway Plantation," Daily Progress, February 14, 1969.  
 "Petitions for Landmark," Nelson County Times, October 28, 1971.  
 Files of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 39' 57"	78° 43' 26"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 39' 57"	78° 43' 19"				
SE	37° 39' 51"	78° 43' 19"				
SW	37° 39' 51"	78° 43' 26"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION      DATE: January, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name: James R. Fishburne, Jr.  
 James R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
 The Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: January 16, 1973

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: APR 11 1973

ATTESSE:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 11 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY NELSON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 125	DATE APR 1 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: MIDWAY MILL			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: SE end of Rt. 743			
CITY OR TOWN: Midway Mills			
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Nelson	CODE: 125
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle Howardsville, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1968			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY NELSON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: MIDWAY MILL			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: SE end of Rt. 743			
CITY OR TOWN: Midway Mills			
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Nelson	CODE: 125
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSSTON; RICHMOND, VIRGINIA			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  VIEW OF MIDWAY MILL FROM THE SOUTHEAST.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: AND OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
SCALE:			
DATE:			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
NELSON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 1 1971	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

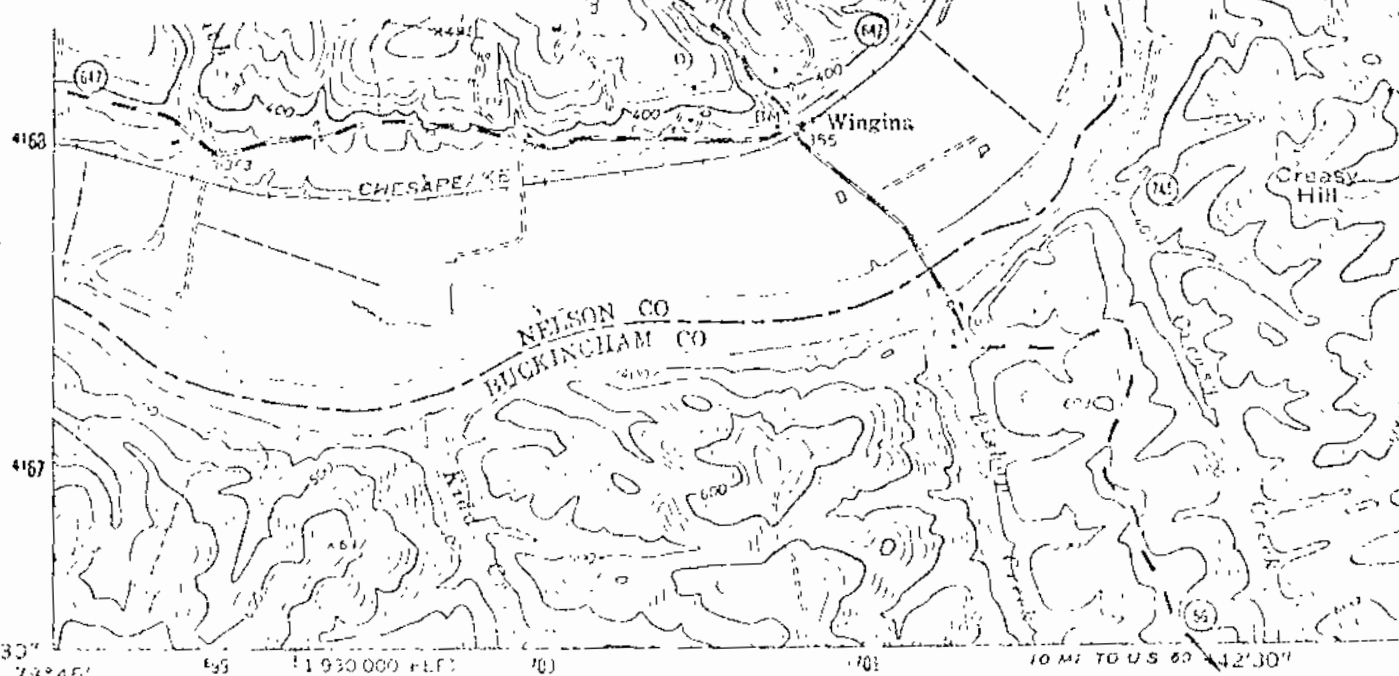
1. NAME			
COMMON: MIDWAY MILL			
AND OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
SE end of Rt. 743			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Midway Mills			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Nelson	125
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION; RICHMOND, VIRGINIA			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW DIRECTION, ETC.			
VIEW OF SIMPSON HOUSE FROM THE NORTHWEST.			



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
 Howardsville, Va. 1968

MIDWAY MILL  
 latitude  
 NW37°39'57"  
 NE37°39'57"  
 SE37°39'51"  
 SW37°39'51"

longitude  
 78°43'26"  
 78°43'19"  
 78°43'19"  
 78°43'26"



37°37'30" 78°45' 1:24,000 H.P.F. 10 MI TO US 60 42°30"

10-AUSTON 2523 III SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies

Control by USGS and USCGS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Published 1968. Revised from aerial

