

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP-9/15/70

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Northampton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Vaucluse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Vaucluse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: S end of Rt. 619, 1.8 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 619 and Rt. 657. (Bridgetown vic.)

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY Northampton	CODE 131
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. V. E. Minich Mr. + Mrs. David E. Elliott

STREET AND NUMBER:
Vaucluse Vaucluse

CITY OR TOWN:
Bridgetown Bridgetown

STATE Virginia VA	CODE 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Northampton County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Eastville

STATE Virginia	CODE 45
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936, 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE District of Columbia	CODE 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Northampton
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Vaucluse is a complex, ell-shaped structure, the main axis of which runs east-west with the ell running north. The original unit is probably the west end of the main block between the two chimneys and is frame with clapboarding on a Flemish bond foundation with a brick end wall also in Flemish bond. The gable roof has a modillioned cornice. The addition on the east continues, generally, the original design, complete with chimney in the brick end wall. The one-and-one-half story quarter kitchen with brick ends to the north of the main block is connected by a two-story ell, which was enlarged from a one-and-one-half story hyphen. Other frame additions to the east either have been enlarged from earlier structures or so altered as to appear recent. The long two-story square columned porch on the south was added by the present owner. Although some partitibh walls have been removed, woodwork remains from the first half of the nineteenth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <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 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

The property on which Vacluse is located was the home of the Upshur family from 1768 until 1855. The property was purchased in 1768 by Arthur Upshur IV, who left it to his son Littleton. It is thought that the brickended section of the house was built by Littleton Upshur about 1784. In 1812 the land was partitioned into eight parts according to value, and the house and thirty acres were inherited by a son, Abel Parker Upshur, who presumably built the addition to the house in 1829, while the annex connecting the house with the old kitchen was probably added in 1889.

Abel Parker Upshur (1790-1844) held many important positions in state and national politics. A practicing attorney in Richmond from 1810 to 1824, he returned to his birthplace, Vacluse, in 1824 and was elected to the Virginia legislature. In 1826 he was appointed a judge of the General Court, and three years later he was a member of the convention to revise the State Constitution. When John Tyler assumed the presidency following the death of President William Henry Harrison in 1841, Tyler called Upshur to Washington to serve as his Secretary of the Navy; during his two years in this position, Upshur was responsible for strengthening and reforming the navy. In 1843 he succeeded Daniel Webster as Secretary of State. He negotiated the treaty, formally signed on April 12, 1844, providing for the annexation of Texas as a territory of the United States. He also began negotiations on a treaty to annex the Oregon territory. His promising career was ended by an accident aboard the U. S. S. Princeton on February 28, 1844, for Upshur was among those killed when the "Peacemaker" cannon exploded. Upshur was succeeded as Secretary of State by John C. Calhoun, who revived the partisanship which Upshur had been able to reconcile, and thus doomed the treaty to defeat.

Vacluse's complex plan is the result of a long period of growth, and its development is difficult to pinpoint due to the stylistic insulation characteristic of the Eastern Shore. Although the interior has had some changes, the exterior retains most of the original style features which could date the first construction at about 1784, when Littleton Upshur inherited the property. The house is an important landmark on the Eastern Shore and is remembered as the birthplace and home of Abel Parker Upshur.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XIX. New York: 1936.
 Fielding, Fannie, "Vaucluse," The Land We Love, Vol. I. Charlotte: 1866.
 Hall, Claude H., Abel Parker Upshur, Conservative Virginian, 1790-1844.
 Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1963.
 Upshur, John Andrews, Upshur Family in Virginia. Richmond: Deitz Press,
 Inc., 1955.
 Whitelaw, Ralph T., Virginia's Eastern Shore, Vol. I. Gloucester, Mass.:
 Peter Smith, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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 ° 26 ' 17 "	75 ° 58 ' 58 "				
NE	37 ° 26 ' 17 "	75 ° 58 ' 02 "				
SE	37 ° 24 ' 37 "	75 ° 58 ' 02 "				
SW	37 ° 24 ' 37 "	75 ° 58 ' 58 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1,080 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:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: May 14, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth 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: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: May 14, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

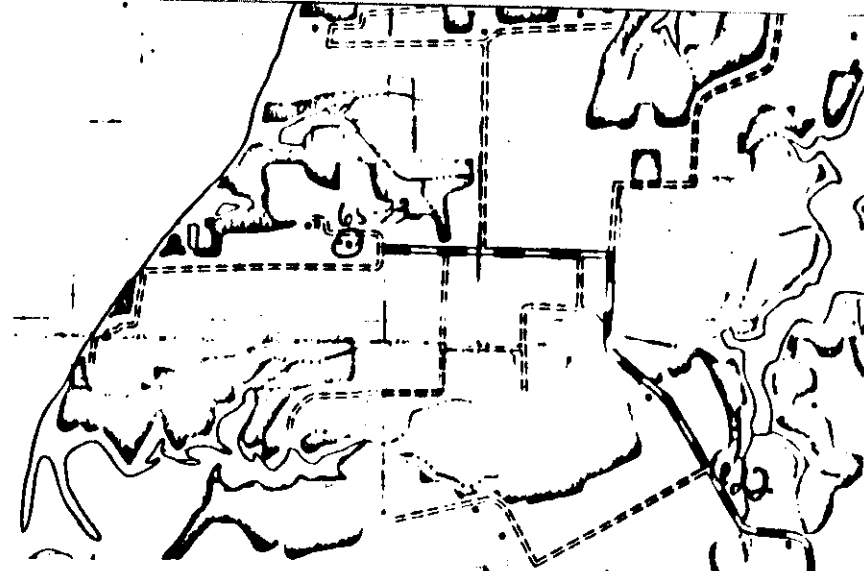
ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B A



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
Franktown, Va. (1943)

Vaucluse

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 26' 17"	75° 58' 58"
NE	37° 26' 17"	75° 58' 02"
SE	37° 24' 37"	75° 58' 02"
SW	37° 24' 37"	75° 58' 58"

C H E S A P E A K E

