

VLR-12/17/74 NRHP 4/3/75

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Fredericksburg (city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE 4/3/75

1. NAME

COMMON:  
The Chimneys

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
623 Caroline Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fredericksburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

COUNTY:  
(in city)

CODE:  
630

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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) Charitable agencies' offices

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY: Ronald E. Shibley, Executive Director

OWNER'S NAME:  
Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 162, 623 Caroline Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fredericksburg

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Municipal Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fredericksburg

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

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

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957

Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Fredericksburg (city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

## 7. 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
	(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

The Chimneys is located on the southeast corner of a busy intersection on Caroline Street at the southern edge of Fredericksburg's business district. Behind the house, once the residence of a Scottish merchant, the remnants of a garden survive on terraces leading to the Rappahannock River, after the fashion of the townhouses of many Scottish merchants in colonial Virginia.

The large (approximately 50' by 34'), two-story, hipped-roof building is supported on a stone basement and has massive brick exterior end chimneys laid in Flemish bond. Differences in the construction of the north and the south portions of the cellar, and in the decorative details throughout the house, suggest that the house was built in two sections, but no discontinuities can be found in the framing of either the attic floor or the roof.

The southern half of the weatherboarded west, or main, front is two bays long with nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-nine sash in the smaller second-floor windows. On the northern half of the façade, three small nine-over-nine windows in the second floor inserted as a result of the division of this room into smaller compartments in the 19th century are centered over two extremely large first-floor windows with six-over-six sash. All of the windows, as well as the entrance doorway, are framed by louvered blinds. A large entrance door with a five-light transom is bracketed by two attenuated pilasters supporting a balcony, a recently installed reproduction of that on Federal Hill, another eighteenth-century house in Fredericksburg. A later doorway opens onto the balcony. Surrounding the house is a modillion cornice with scrolled modillions. A later one-story brick ell at the rear received a frame second story sometime before the Civil War, as war-time photographs attest, and a small, one-story wing has been added to the southern end of the house.

The house has a simple central-hall, double-pile plan. In the north end are end-wall fireplaces, and the southern end features corner fireplaces. The stair is in the central passage and rises from the river front to the street front.

The highlight of the interior is the woodwork in the two southern rooms; that in the front (southwest) room is the most elaborate featuring raised-panel wainscoting and a chair rail with Wall-of-Troy fretwork. The room's architrave door casing is surmounted by a full entablature with consoles and a latticework frieze. A modillion cornice is broken out over the windows which also have latticework friezes. The room's main feature, however, is its handsome chimney piece. Over a simple architrave surround a pair of consoles support an elaborately molded mantel shelf to which a top element with a rope-mold edge was added probably early in the nineteenth century. A flush overmantel panel with double crossettes is enriched by a Greek-key border and floral carving both in the crossettes and in the corners of the panel itself. Carved swags, bosses, and garlands envelop the whole, and a spiral motif under the panel is partly obscured by the added shelf. This distinctive overmantel is obviously an earlier work by the same craftsman who decorated Federal Hill, previously mentioned.

(see continuation sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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 DATE(S) (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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chimneys, so named for its two enormous stacks, is an important example of this historic city's Georgian architecture and forms a vital visual termination to the group of early buildings which makes up the Caroline Street business district of Fredericksburg. Erected in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, this house contains some exceptional woodwork, most notably in the southwest room which has latticework window heads and a garlanded overmantel. This distinctive trim was probably executed by the same unknown craftsman who decorated the dining room of Federal Hill, another outstanding Fredericksburg house of the period.

The Chimneys is located on land formerly owned by William Gooch, the colonial governor, and was probably built by John Glassell soon after he bought the plot in 1771. It was standing in its present size by 1796, as a Mutual Assurance Society policy of that year shows. Glassell returned suddenly to his native Scotland at the outbreak of the American Revolution and may have left the interiors unfinished, which possibly accounts for the differences in the woodwork and the suspicion that the house was built in two stages. After the war, the house was let to a series of tenants by Glassell's agent, and it was not until 1814, when The Chimneys was acquired by John Mundell, that the house was again owner-occupied. Following Mundell's occupancy, the house passed through a series of owners. It was purchased by Major Claiborne Wiglesworth in 1818, by Fayette Johnston in 1830, and changed ownership again in 1843. The Chimneys is presently the property of the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc., and is used for offices. The setting is protected by an open-space easement granted to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in March, 1974.

DTU

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Goolrick, John T. Old Homes and History Around Fredericksburg. Richmond: Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1929.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

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	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 18' 03"	77 ° 27' 28 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date DEC 17 1974

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

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

Date 4/3/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Fredericksburg (City)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1967 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia (code: 51)

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

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Fredericksburg (City)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

The rear (southeast) room also has raised-panel wainscoting, but only a simple dentil cornice. The chimney is embellished with an architrave fireplace surround below a pulvinated frieze with a flat central tablet, a dentil cornice broken out at both ends, and a later shelf with rope mold similar to that in the front room. The overmantel consists of an unusual raised-panel arrangement with a large square central panel surrounded by thirteen smaller ones.

A plain flat panel wainscot surrounds the center passage. The stair displays sawn and carved scrolled brackets with simple turned balusters, three to a tread. The banister is echoed by a chair rail ascending along the wall.

The north end of the first floor is in the form of a double parlor, representing a series of alterations from the original form. The rooms contain a conglomeration of Greek Revival, Tuscan, and other mid-nineteenth-century trim, including much enlarged window openings.

On the second floor, the two southern chambers contain mantels whose original designs incorporate the rope-mold edged shelves added to the first-floor woodwork. The north rooms have woodwork very similar to that in the rooms below them.

Under the hipped roof are three massive king-post trusses. These support a system of principal purlins and common rafters which give the roof its form.

DTU

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24,300)  
Fredericksburg, Va. 1966 (PR 1971)

THE CHIMNEYS

Latitude

Longitude

38° 18' 03"

77° 27' 28"

