VLR-2/19/74 NRHP-7/18/74

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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S E E UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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	Norfolk (city)	
	FOR NPS USE ONLY	

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DESCRIPTION							
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CONDITION		(Check On	1e)		(Che	ck One)	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Boush-Tazewell House is a large Late-Georgian town mansion located in the suburban area of Norfolk on a lot overlooking the Elizabeth River. The house originally stood about three miles to the south in downtown Norfolk on a similar site overlooking the harbor. It was completely dismantled and re-erected around 1902. The move was carefully undertaken-most of the original materials, as well as some later additions, were preserved.

The two-story frame house is five bays wide and two bays deep and is covered by a deck-on-hip slate roof. The balustrade that enclosed the deck does not survive. The east or water front is dominated by a two-level, tetrastyle pedimented portico supported by slender Tuscan columns on both levels. The west or land front features a dwarf pedimented tetrastyle portico sheltering the entrance. Both porticos as well as the eaves are ornamented with modillion cornices. The first floor windows have nine-overnine light sashes while those on the second floor have six-over-six sashes. The original exterior shutters have been removed and placed in storage. The central door on the river fronthas sidelights and a transom above but the land front entrance has only a transom. The present weatherboards are not original; the originals probably were beaded.

Two interior chimneys are on each side of the house. Both sides have a two-story, two-bay wing which are later additions. Each of the wings has on its river front a one-story Greek Revival porch supported on square columns. The south porch is glazed to form a conservatory.

The main house has a typical center hall plan with the hall flanked by pairs of rooms. On the south are two parlors while the library is located in the northwest corner and the dining room in the northeast corner. Separating the library and dining room is a wide elliptical arch with richly ornamented architrave trim. Set in the arch is an unusual set of folding doors which are original. The bookcases in the library formerly were located in a library outbuilding when the house was on its original site. They were placed in their present location when the house was moved.

The central hall features a less ornamented elliptical arch than that between the north rooms. At the east end of the hall is the original stair with its slender base-and-column balusters and molded handrail. The walls and ceilings throughout are plastered. The wide board floors are original, but those in the dining room have been overlaid with a later one. The two marble mantels as well as several doorways are mid-nineteenth century additions.

The first floor plan is repeated on the second floor except that the four bedrooms are slightly reduced in size in order to provide for a narrow north-south cross hall that leads to the two wings. Except for the one in the northeast chamber, all the second floor mantels are mid-nineteenth century. The north wing contains the kitchen with servants' quarters above. The south wing has a single large room on the first floor that serves as a conservatory. Above are additional bedrooms.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. Except for some changes in Electricity was installed in 1913 sound and currently is undergoing	woodwork the house is little altered. and baths in 1914. The house is structurally a major renovation.

8 . s	IGNIFICANCE			
	PERIOD (Check One or More as Ap	propriate)	•	!
	☐ Pre-Columbian	16th Century	S 18th Century	20th Century
	☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
	SPECIFIC DATE(5) (If Applicable	and Known) 1783-84		
	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check	One or More as Appropris	ite)	
	Abor iginal	Education	(X) Political	Urban Planning
l	Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi.	C Other (Specify)
j	Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	local history
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1	Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
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	☐ Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
	Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boush-Tazewell House survives as an outstanding and rare example of a formal, Late-Georgian town mansion, and is associated with several prominent Virginians. The house was erected in 1783-84 for John Boush, grandson of Samuel Boush, first mayor of the Borough of Norfolk. John Boush was active in civic affairs serving as Clerk of the Norfolk Court and Alderman of the Norfolk Borough. He later was elected mayor of the city and also held the positions of Clerk of the Navy Board of War and State Auditor. His house was the first important private residence erected in the city since its devastation during the Revolution.

Following Boush's death in 1791 the house was inherited by his second wife, Frances Moseley Munford Boush, who later married Conway Whittle, Norfolk merchant and importer. In 1810 the house was acquired from Whittle by Littleton Waller Tazewell (1775-1860). A native of Williamsburg, Tazewell was a nephew of the first Mrs. John Boush, Anne Waller, daughter of Judge Benjamin Waller of Williamsburg. In 1812 Tazewell married Anne Stratton Nivision, eldest daughter of John Nivison, Recorder of the Borough of Norfolk and one of the founders of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Littleton Waller Tazewell is remembered for his distinguished career in both state and national affairs. He represented James City County in the House of Delegates from 1796 to 1800. In the latter year he replaced John Marshall in the House of Representatives after Marshall was appointed Chief Justice. Tazewell also served as Judge Advocate in the Court of Enquiry concerning the Chesapeake Affair in 1807. In 1817 he served with former Presidents Jefferson and Madison as one of the Commissioners to select the site of the University of Virginia. From 1824 to 1832 he was United States Senator from Virginia, and in 1834 he was elected Governor of Virginia. While he lived in Norfolk his house was visited by such notables as Lafayette, Henry Clay, John Tyler, Andrew Jackson, and John Randolph of Roanoke.

Following Tazewell's death in 1860 his family continued to occupy the house until 1894 when it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Clarico Freeman. The Freeman's decided the house should be moved as the neighborhood had become highly commercialized and undesirable as a residential area. A contractor named Emory was employed to carefully dismantle the house and re-erect it on its present site. The new site, some three miles to the north, at the mouth of the Lafayette River, was chosen for its similarity to the original which overlooked the harbor.

Like the Boushes and the Tazewells, Mrs. Freeman was a descendant of

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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the Waller family of Williamsburg. Born Emma Blow, she was the granddaughter of George Blow, Sr. of Tower Hill, Sussex County, who married Eliza Waller, daughter of Robert Hall Waller of Williamsburg. The present owner of the Boush-Tazewell House is the granddaughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Freeman.

Although moved, the Boush-Tazewell House stands little altered since it was first erected. Among its outstanding architectural features are its two-level portico (an early use of this form), its carefully porportioned elevations, and fine interior woodwork.

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	Colonel W. H. Stewart, <u>History of Norfolk County</u> , <u>Virginia and Representative Citizens</u> , p. 586.													
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