

VLR-7/17/73

NRHP-8/17/73

Form 10-1000  
(Rev. 8-73)

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:          | Charles City |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |              |
| ENTRY DATE:      |              |

1. NAME

COMMON:

Margots

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1 mile south of southern end of Route 621.

CITY OR TOWN:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

First; Thomas N. Downing

STATE:

Virginia

CODE:

51

COUNTY:

Charles City

CODE:

039

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                     |  |   |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         | Vacant  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        |   |                                   |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Chester F. Phelps, Executive Director

STREET AND NUMBER:

Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries; 4010 W. Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Richmond

STATE:

Virginia

CODE:

51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Charles City County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Charles City

STATE:

Virginia

CODE:

51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969

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: Charles City

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

|             |   |                                    |  |   |                                |                                    |
|-------------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| DESCRIPTION | (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)                                       |                                |                                    |
| CONDITION   | <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

Margots stands on a wooded hill above the Chickahominy River in the sparsely populated northeast section of Charles City County. The site commands an unspoiled view of the river and a marsh, called Eagle's Bottom. The house has sustained alterations, but most of its fine exterior brickwork and some interior trim remain intact. The three-bay brick structure was one or one and a half stories above basement until raised by addition of a frame second story in the nineteenth century. Exterior dimensions above water table are 44'4" by 20'8". The center stair passage is flanked by single rooms with an interior-end chimney at the north end and exterior chimney to the south. With the exception of a portion of the north gable which is laid in Flemish bond, all brickwork is English bond. A unique feature of the house is the glazing of all headers on the east and west facades, resulting in a horizontal striated pattern. The full effect of this treatment is now diminished by a peeling coat of white paint. Random glazing is found on the gable ends, and a line of glazed headers follows the rake line of the original roof. The T-shaped chimney shafts are topped with caps consisting of four corbels. The sides of the exterior chimney are shouldered at the first and second story levels. An unusual feature of the upper shouldering is the splay carried around three sides of the chimney at the same level. In most eighteenth century examples, any splay of the face is placed above that of the sides. A chimney treatment similar to Margots' is seen at the George Reid House, an early eighteenth century frame house in Williamsburg.

The beveled water table is laid in alternating headers and stretchers. A similar course of beveled bricks is employed as weathering under the window sills. All door and window arches have been replaced, and some of the brickwork of the southern end has been rebuilt. Exterior doors, frames, and sash are modern replacements. An end door to the north room is also modern, but it may be in the location of an original opening.

The closed-stringer stair with pulvinated frieze is similar to other late seventeenth or early eighteenth century examples at the Keeling House in Virginia Beach and the Mason House in Accomac. The stair ascends to the second floor in three runs separated by two landings. The hand rail is not supported by balusters as in the Keeling House and the Mason House, rather, a rectangular center rail running parallel to the hand rail and stringer connects the posts. The rail of the main run is new, but an original rail survives in the short run above. Boarding below the stringer is modern replacement. A small four-panel door below the stair gives access to steps to the basement, and a larger door of the same form serves the south room. The entrance from the first floor hall into the north room and the north room closet are hung with two-panel doors. These four original doors retain their early floriated HL hinges. All mantels are replacements.

The major late addition to the house is the frame second floor, an alteration that resulted in the loss of the original roof framing. Crude modern shelters have been built above the west door and both end doors, and a frame single room was added to the east. Original brickwork was not removed in construction of this room and the second floor.

E.A.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <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 checked="" 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

Margots typifies the solidarity of the few surviving circa 1700 medium-sized houses of Tidewater Virginia, and it exhibits several features not found on other houses of the period. Although the construction date and early history have not been documented, the house can be attributed to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century on stylistic evidence.

The three-bay elevation with one exterior and one interior-end chimney is similar to other Virginia Houses of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, but the exterior chimney does not have the extremely robust appearance of most seventeenth century examples. The straited pattern of the glazed-header English bond on the principal facades is without parallel in the Commonwealth. The interior is distinguished by a fine closed-string stair with interesting period details.

Although the building's appearance has been defaced by additions of inferior quality, the exterior brick fabric is largely intact, and the interior retains some of its original trim. The building is unoccupied but is in basically sound condition.

The early history of Margots is indefinite as a result of destruction of most of Charles City County's colonial records during the War Between the States. The known ownership is complicated, and the property has been known by a variety of names since the late eighteenth century.

The first reference to what appears to be the Margots land is a patent issued to John Dansey in 1636 for 350 acres "a mile up Chickahominy River on the N. W. side called by the name Claye banke, the point butting S. E. upon the said river right opposite against the sunken marshes . . ." The patent is given as being in James City rather than Charles City County. This discrepancy may be an error in county name or the result of variations in the county boundary lines in the 1630's. A 1686 patent to Francis Dancy for 287 acres on the west side of the Chickahominy River may also refer to the Margots land.

The earliest owner who can be definitely established for Margots is Francis Hardyman Dancy, who owned 1325 acres there in 1732. A Francis Dancy is recorded as serving in the Charles City Committee of Safety in 1774, and he was probably a descendent of the seventeenth century Dancys previously mentioned. Deeds of 1794 from F. H. Dancy to Edward Dancy and from Edward Dancy to John Ballard describing 150 of the 507 acres surrounding the house refer to the property as "Margots." The deed makes reference to "all houses, gardens . . . and appurtences." The remainder of the 507 acres was deeded to Ballard in separate lots, and there are no references to buildings on the lots.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| Virginia         |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| Charles City     |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
|                  |      |

(Number all entries)

8.

In 1797, the 507 acres were sold to Turner Christian, clerk of the Charles City County Court, and it remained in the Christian family until 1836, by which time the property had increased to 704 acres. The entire tract was called "Clay Bank," although the Lamb family property to the south was also called by that name. The Eagle's Nest property is elsewhere referred to as "Upper Clay Bank." A boundary dispute in 1850 resulted in a survey of the property which is the basis for all surveys since. This survey, done by Lycurgus Lamb, is in the Charles City County Court House, Plat Book I, p. 101, 1850. Blake deeded Upper Clay Bank to David Hansford in 1854. Hansford immediately sold the property, then containing 730 acres, to Junius Lamb, who owned Clay Bank adjoining to the south. In 1864 Lamb deeded the 730 acres, then called "Gravel Hill", a name probably taken from a part of the property called "Gravelly Hill" in a 1794 deed. The property passed through various ownerships in the remainder of the nineteenth century, and by 1889 it had been enlarged by the addition of a 390 acre tract known as "Carey's." C. W. Beale purchased the land in 1933, and the house became known as "Eagle Lodge." In 1973 the property, including the early house, was sold to the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries by the Beale Estate.

E.A.C. MTP

**FOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Charles City County Records: Land Book, 1782-1787. Deed Book 4, pp. 172, 177, 299, 317. Deed Book 5, p. 21. Deed Book 8, p. 374. Deed Book 10, pp. 84, 478, 479. Deed Book 11, p. 498. Deed Book 15, p. 134. Deed Book 28, p. 494. Plat Book 1, p. 101.

Nugent, Nell Marion, Cavaliers and Pioneers, Baltimore, 1963, pp. 42-43, 88.

Peters, Margaret T., "Eagle Lodge", land title research ms. in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission archives.

William and Mary Quarterly, 1st ser., vol. 8, p. 270; vol. 12, p. 107.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |           |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------|-----------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               | LATITUDE  |         | LONGITUDE |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees   | Minutes | Seconds   |
| NW   | 37° 19' 02"             | 76° 53' 40"             |   |         |           |
| NE   | 37° 19' 02"             | 76° 52' 58"             |   |         |           |
| SE   | 37° 18' 07"             | 76° 52' 58"             |   |         |           |
| SW   | 37° 18' 07"             | 76° 53' 40"             |   |         |           |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 135 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: June, 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: Junius E. Fishburne, Jr.  
Junius E. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: JUL 17 1973

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: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Co. Hill  
18 58

High Wash  
18 37

4133  
4132  
4130  
4129  
4128

Tidal Flat  
CHICKAHOMINY

CHARLES CITY CO  
JAMES CITY CO

Bush

623

5

(NORGE)  
5658 IV SE

17'30"