

VLR-1/20/73 NRHP-1/24/74

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: Gloucester
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME:
COMMON:
Gloucester Woman's Club (Long Bridge Ordinary)
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester Court House
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First; Thomas N. Downing
STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Gloucester CODE: 073

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	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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Woman's Club	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Gloucester Woman's Club
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester Court House
STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Gloucester County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester
STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 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

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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	<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

The Gloucester Woman's Club is a well-preserved and well-maintained frame, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay colonial structure set in a conspicuous location in the historic community of Gloucester Court House. The building is placed against the side of a small hill allowing the basement floor to be at grade level on the west side. The original portion is laid out in a single-pile, side-hall plan with a brick exterior chimney at the south end. A nineteenth-century lean-to containing a stair from the basement to the first floor is located at the northwest corner of the west side. The lean-to is connected to a wooden gallery set on masonry piers, which extends around the southwest corner. Another lean-to addition, located on the south end, is connected to the gallery's east end. This lean-to contains a modern pantry on the basement level and a dressing room on the first floor. A low modern addition containing a kitchen is attached to the south lean-to at the basement level.

The gable roof of the original portion and the early additions were originally covered with wood shingles, but now are covered with twentieth-century slates. The simple gabled dormers appear early and may be part of the original fabric. The eaves on the south side feature a simple box cornice of typical eighteenth-century design. The present redwood siding is a modern replacement. Several original sashes remain; those on the first floor of the west side are in the best state of preservation and have the characteristic wide muntins and small panes of glass.

The building's interior features much significant original woodwork, as well as trim dating from the mid-nineteenth century. The most important survival is the handsome closed-string stair leading from the first floor to the second. The stair is ornamented with turned balusters and molded handrail. Also in the stairhall is the original beaded chairboard and baseboard. Of great interest are the building's two original batten doors, one in the main entrance and one in the basement. The basement door is in two sections and forms a chevron pattern when closed. The basement room trim is largely nineteenth century and includes a paneled mantel and wainscoting. Except for the simple Greek Revival mantel, the trim in the first floor room is original and features wide-board wainscoting, architrave trim, and sections of a heavy molded cornice. The original roof framing is intact and consists of the standard mortised rafters without ridgepole, and peg-jointed collar beams.

The building is set in handsome landscaped grounds, featuring traditional Virginia planting. The grounds contain an eighteenth-century style garden laid out in 1966 according to the designs of the late Alden Hopkins, landscape architect of Colonial Williamsburg.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		<u>Local history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The headquarters of the Gloucester Woman's Club, known today as Long Bridge Ordinary, stands as a fine example of mid-eighteenth century Virginia vernacular architecture. Situated at the junction of two early roads, one leading to historic Ware Neck and Mathews County, and the other to Gloucester Point, the diminutive structure with its picturesque outline has long been a familiar landmark to Tidewater travelers. Important architectural features of the building include an exceptional closed-string stair with molded handrail and turned balusters, early batten doors, and some especially well-preserved colonial window sashes.

The destruction of the Gloucester County records during the War Between the States has made documentation of the building's early history and ownership nearly impossible. However, architectural analysis of the construction and details confirms the tradition that it is of mid-eighteenth century origin. The belief that it was constructed as a public house known as Long Bridge Ordinary stems from a twentieth-century interpretation of a sign found in the Rising Sun Tavern in Fredericksburg stating: "1775 Notice will carry passengers to Hornet-Nest - Iron Bridge Gloster C. H. Call at the house." A re-interpretation of this sign indicates that "Iron Bridge" (perhaps meaning "Long Bridge") and "Gloster C.H." are two separate places, not a building located within the settlement of Gloucester Court House.

Even though it cannot be definitely established that the building was constructed as an ordinary, its distinctive plan suggests that it was designed for commercial rather than residential purposes. The large single room found both in the basement and on the first floor are more common to mid-eighteenth century commercial structures such as shops and ordinaries than to dwellings. Also, the conspicuous location of the building at the junction of two important early roads indicates a trade-oriented function.

According to the historical records of the Gloucester Woman's Club, the building actually was being used as a store in the 1830's by George B. Taliaferro. At that time it was included in the surrounding Edge Hill Farm. An 1841 notice in a Richmond newspaper advertising the auction of Edge Hill Farm states the property is "... one of the best locations in the lower county for a physician, and is a very good stand for a merchant or for any person wishing to engage in the manufacture of gigs and carriages." The purchaser at the 1841 sale is not known.

By the 1870's a blacksmith shop was in operation on the property, and in the 1880's a Mrs. Clements was using the building as a dressmaker's shop. The Gloucester Agricultural Association, Inc. acquired the building and fifty acres of the farm in 1913 and held county fairs on the property for the next several years. It was during this period that the basement was rented as a meeting place for the newly formed Gloucester Woman's Club.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Gloucester	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.

The club purchased the building and nearly an acre of land from the Association in 1919, making it the permanent headquarters of the organization. Since that time the building has been thoroughly renovated and the grounds improved with handsome landscaping. The saving and use of the building by the public-spirited club set an important early example in the adaptive preservation of an historic landmark.

CCL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Advertisements, Richmond Enquirer, Vol. 37, No. 74, January 7, 1841.

Archives of Gloucester Woman's Club., Gloucester C. H., Virginia.

Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Houses, The Mobjack Bay Country, 1955.

"The Long Bridge Ordinary, An Architectural and Historical Examination," unpublished MS by Collier C. Harris, 1968, copy on file at 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° 24' 44"	76° 31' 12"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 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: October, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Title _____

Date NOV 20 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

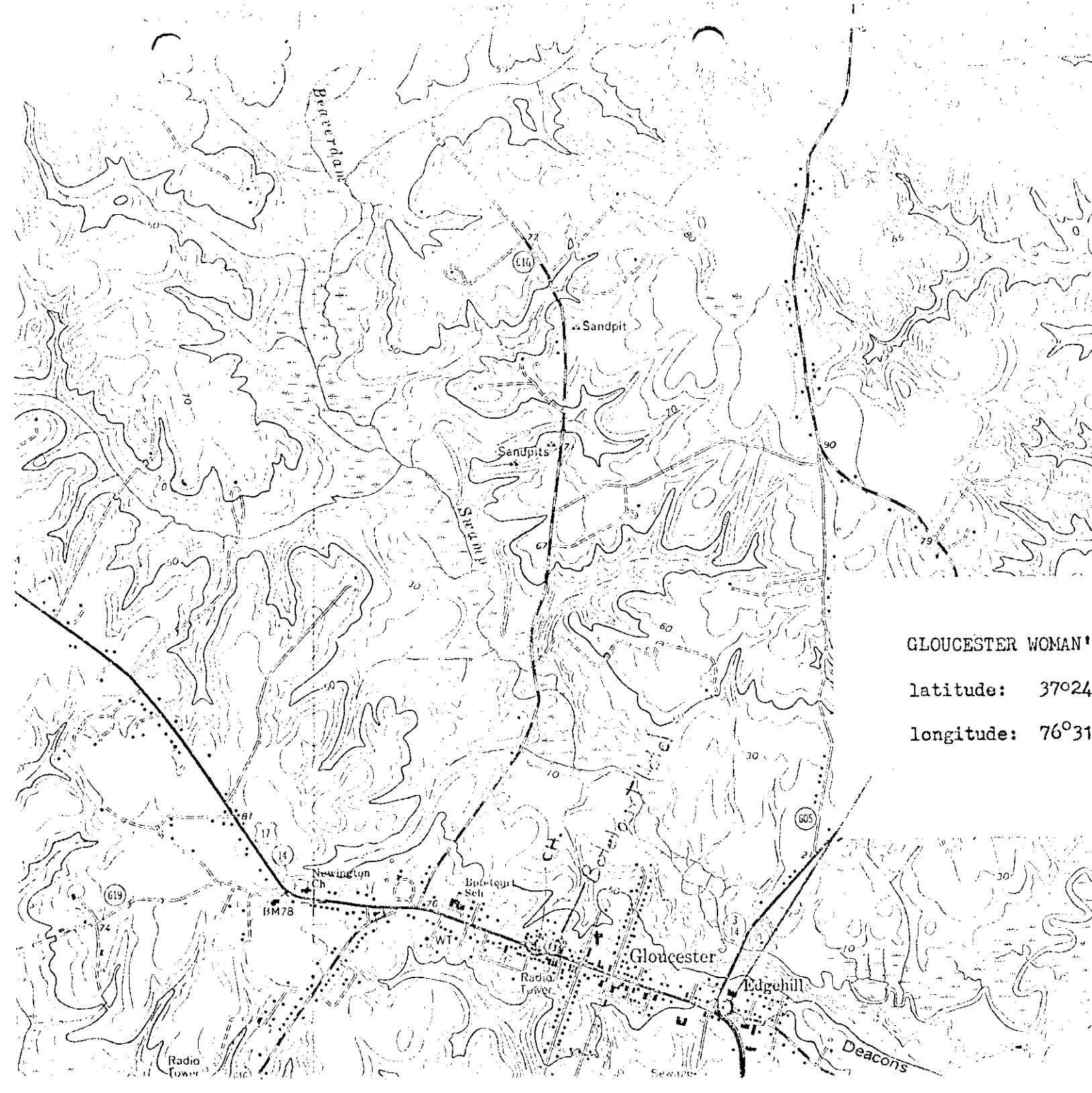
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6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1959 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 11



1146
1145
SE 2 2 MI. (WARE NECK)
VA 74 14 MI. 5758 IV NW

GLOUCESTER WOMAN'S CLUB

latitude: 37°24'44"

longitude: 76°31'12"

1142
25'