

VLR-6/16/81 NRHP-7/8/82

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

LISTED ON:
VLR 06/16/1981
NRHP 07/08/1982
For HCRS received
date entered

1. Name

historic Weaver House (Preferred)

and/or common Waller

2. Location

street & number State Route 614 N/A not for publication

city, town Cowie Corner X vicinity of congressional district Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

state Virginia code 51 county Greenville code 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

Garland M. Robinson; Garland M. Robinson, Jr.; Betty Mae Williams; Mrs. Willard M. Robinson, Sr.; Mr. Willard M. Robinson, Jr.

name c/o Mr. Willard M. Robinson, Jr.

street & number 247 28th Street

city, town Newport News N/A vicinity of state Virginia 23607

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenville County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Emporia state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1968, 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Weaver House, also known as Waller, is located on the east side of Route 614 in Greenville County. The flatness of the land immediately east of the Three Creek and Slagles Lake contributes to the house's imposing appearance. The two-story, single-pile, wood-frame residence was constructed between 1838-40 by Jarrad Weaver of Greenville County. It sits on its original Flemish-bond brick basement and has been covered by asbestos siding. The gable roof is covered with standing-seam sheet metal.

The facade features a hipped-roof porch with square columns that shelters the main (west) entrance. The entry opening is framed by a three-part architrave and retains its original paneled door. Fenestration consists of 9/9 hung-sash windows on the first story and 6/9 on the second story; all are framed by modern louvred shutters. Basement openings on either side of the porch have horizontal wooden grills. The rear (east) elevation has 6/9 hung sash without shutters. A one-story kitchen wing, added in the present century, has 6/6 hung-sash windows. The south elevation has a small pent with a 6/6 hung-sash window. Both the north and south elevations have small attic openings and Flemish-bond brick exterior end chimneys with stepped weatherings. The north elevation has a Flemish-bond brick bulkhead.

The interior has sustained minimal alterations. The central passage has a pedestal-type paneled wainscot that retains its original graining. The doors are framed by plain wooden architraves. It is believed that the original plan of the first floor was a hall-parlor plan, since the hall's north wall is a later addition. The architraves and chair rail on the partition are more severe than that found in either the north or south parlors. The enclosed, straight-flight stair is found in an opening between the hall and south parlor. Both the north and south parlors have Federal-style mantels, paneled pedestal-type wainscots, and chair rails. The woodwork in the north parlor retains its original grained finish. The second-floor chambers have Federal-style mantels and beaded chair rails. All second-floor woodwork has been repainted. A stair to the attic has been relocated, resulting in a change in the partition wall of the south chamber.

Of the original outbuildings, only a small wood-frame shed survives. Fields surround the house and give the property an agrarian setting.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property for the Weaver House consists of seven acres, off Route 614. The acreage is a fraction of the six hundred acres originally owned by Jarrad Weaver at the time the house was built.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1838-40 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Weaver House is significant as one of the earliest houses in Greenville County, a county in which early 19th-century houses are notably scarce. Established in 1780, Greenville County was slowly settled, and absentee landholding prevailed. President Washington, traveling through the area in 1791, noted in his diary, "From Petersburg to Halifax are but few good houses, with small appearance of wealth." The house was built on land formerly owned by the Waller family of Williamsburg for Jarrad Weaver between 1838 and 1840. Records reveal that prior to Weaver's purchase of the "Waller tract" in 1834, this property was worked by slaves as a supplementary farm for the raising of grain and livestock. The house has a number of features typically associated with Southside residences, including what was originally a hall-parlor plan, painted wood graining, and the rather late use of Federal-style woodwork. Weaver developed a successful plantation on this estate, while also holding a proprietary interest in one of the county's more prosperous antebellum mills.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A tract of land located on both sides of the Three Creek was purchased in 1776 by Benjamin Waller for 1,350 pounds from Augustine Willis of Brunswick County. The boundary description in Willis's deed cites, "to Uriah's Branch...up the Branch to the boundary of Henry Tazewell...along his line to another corner of said Tazewell." The Wallers and the Tazewells were prominent Tidewater families whose investments in the area typified a pattern of absentee landholding that obtained in Greenville County well into the 19th century. The Waller plantation was managed by Charles Williams, an overseer, who, according to Greenville County Personal Property Tax Records of 1782, was in charge of sixteen slaves, six horses, and thirty-five cows. In 1785 Benjamin Waller was granted "leave...to erect a mill on the Three Creeks where a Mill was formerly occupied by Augustine Willis." After Waller's death in the same year, the land was inherited by his son, William Waller, who sold the property to Henry Tazewell by 1795. On November 25, 1795, Tazewell, of Kingsmill, James City County, divided and sold "all that tract which he, said Henry Tazewell, purchased of William Waller on the north side of the Three Creek." The deeds were drawn on this date, one to John Hobbs for six hundred acres and the other to John Fisher for 1,100. The tract of six hundred acres is the one on which Jarrad Weaver later built the existing house.

Although formerly it was believed that either Benjamin Waller or Henry Tazewell built the existing house in the late 18th century, local records clearly indicate that the "Waller tract" remained in the possession of absentee landowners until the 1830s. John Hobbs, who acquired the tract in 1795, had been a property owner in Greenville County since it was formed in 1780. He operated a substantial plantation, which in the earliest records consisted of one white male over 21, one white male under 21, and twenty-one slaves. Until his purchase of the Waller tract he was charged with a total of 438 acres. In his will, written and probated in 1808, John Hobbs divided his estate into seven parts. Col. Edmund

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Weaver House, Greensville County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 8,9

Page 1

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received

date entered

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Lucas of Stony Brook, who was commandant at Fort Norfolk during the War of 1812, married Elizabeth Hobbs in 1784. After she had inherited her 120-acre tract in 1808, he gradually purchased and reassembled the Waller tract. Colonel Lucas died in 1812, and by 1817-18 all the tracts comprising "Waller" were sold by his heirs to Hubbard Wyatt of Walnut Grove.

Hubbard Wyatt continued the tradition of absentee landownership at Waller, adding the tract to his other very extensive county land titles. Wyatt died in 1825, and in the same year his executor sold to James Blanks of Greensville for \$2,000 "a certain tract called 'Waller' on the east side of the Three Creek...600 acres."

Blanks had been a landowner since 1795 and by this time had accumulated about twenty additional tracts. His will, recorded in 1828, bequeathed all his land and slaves to Martha Ann B. Wickham, a free woman of color, and her children. In 1829 the court "ordered...Jarrad Weaver (and others) to appraise the personal estate of James Blanks." The estate was not settled until 1833. His assets were then sold, and Jarrad Weaver purchased the then-600-acre Waller tract for \$1,800. The Land Tax Book of 1834 recorded this change of ownership: "600 acres Otterdams, 8 miles, NW, no buildings value." The Land Tax Book of 1838 records the first value of \$500, which increased to \$1,000 in 1840; this dates the completion of the house. At the same time Weaver acquired half interest in the nearby mill, which had been sold to John Fisher in 1795 and had been a part of the original Waller tract.

When Jarrad Weaver died in 1855, the inventory of his estate reveals that he had developed a prosperous plantation. He had carriages, modern farming equipment, and abundant crops of peas, oats, corn, and cotton seed; he also owned more than twenty slaves valued at \$11,650.

On December 31, 1855, Mary Weaver, widow of Jarrad, and their children sold to William F. Hobbs for \$3,300, "600 acres...on north side of the Three Creek...the land on which Jarrad Weaver died and from whom it descended." After a succession of owners, the property on December 17, 1881, passed to Montillons Robinson and Cadwallader Robinson, "the tract of land in the county of Greensville known as 'Weavers' containing 631 acres more or less." It has remained in the Robinson family to the present day.

VDS/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greensville County: Deed Books, 1-13; Land Tax Books, 1782-1877; Personal Property Tax Books 1782-1799, 1800-1815; Order Book, 1-9; Patents 34, pp. 152-3.
Wrenn, Robert. Clerk of Court, Greensville County, Emporia, Va. Telephone Interview, April 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brown, Douglas Summers, ed. Sketches of Greensville County, Virginia. 1650-1967. Emporia, Va.: Riparian Woman's Club, 1968.

Gilmer, General J. F. Confederate Map of Greensville County. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7 acres

Quadrangle name Purdy, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8
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2	7	5	6	4	0
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4	0	7	0	9	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on E side of VA 614, about 3,150 SSE of intersection of VA 614 and VA 615; thence extending about 700' E to W side of tree line; thence about 400' S along said side; thence about 650' W to E side of VA 614; thence about 450' N along said side to point of origin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date June 1981

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director date MAY 10 1982
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

For HCRS use only

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

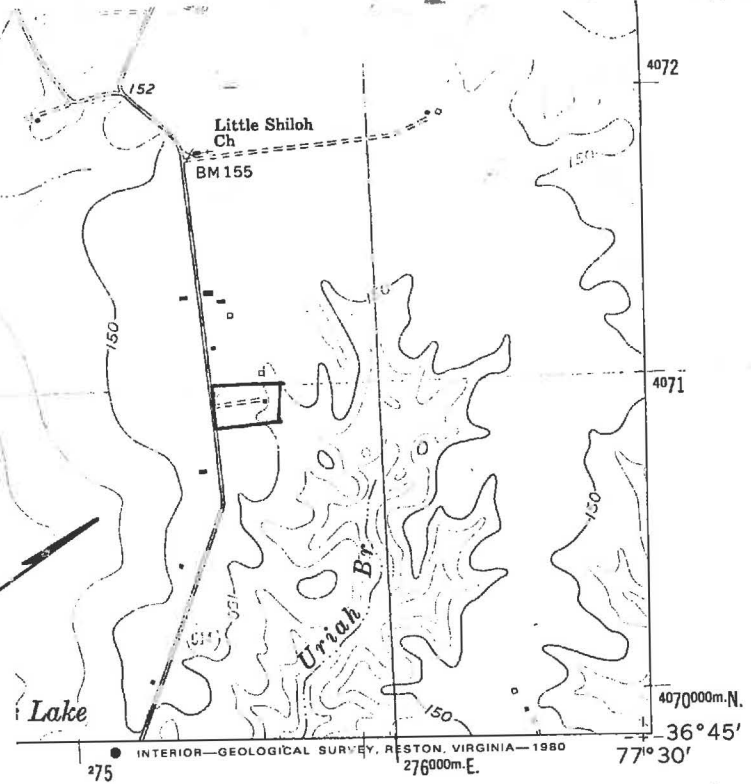
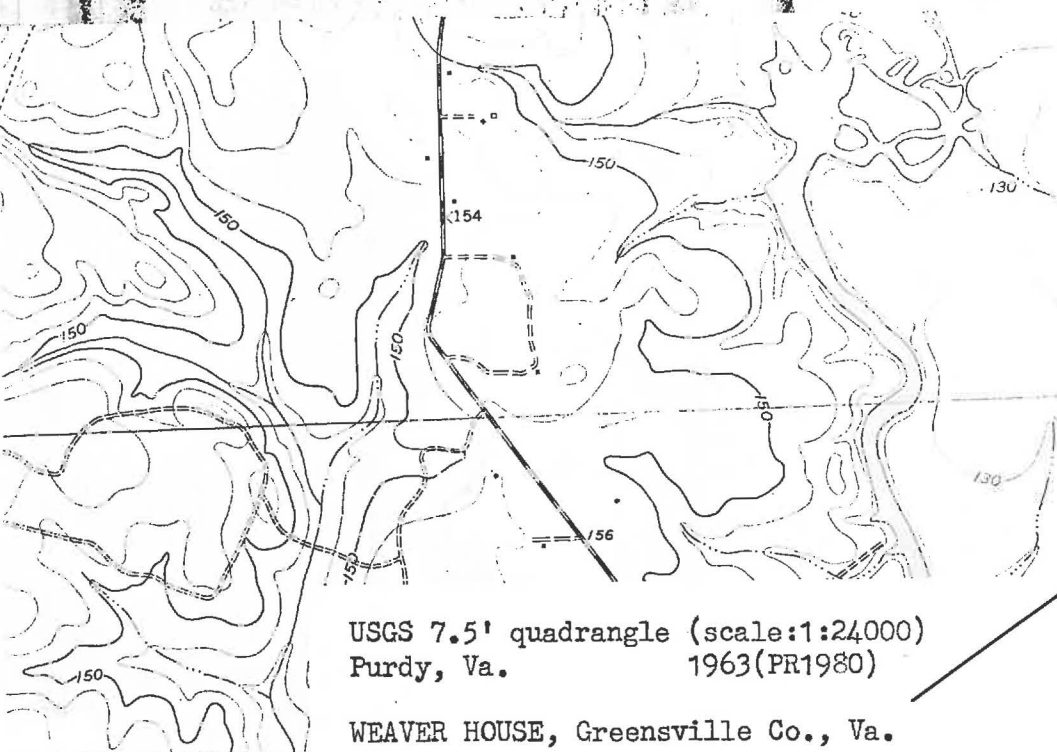
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

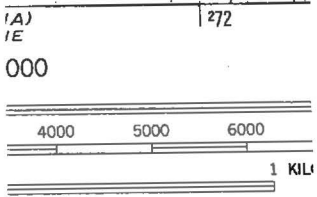


USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
 Purdy, Va. 1963(PR1980)

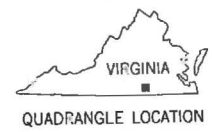
WEAVER HOUSE, Greensville Co., Va.

UTM References:

18/275640/4070960



L 10 FEET
 AL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Medium-duty _____ Light-duty _____
 Unimproved dirt =====
 ○ State Route

(ADAMS GROVE)
 5557 III NW

PURDY, VA.

N3645—W7730/7.5

1963
 PHOTOREVISED 1980
 DMA 5457 I SE—SERIES V834

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 VEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 ICES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 D SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST