

VLR-9/21/76 NRHP 12/12/76

SEP 2 1976

Virginia Landmarks Register

53/105

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED DATE ENTERED

SET INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Woodburn

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Three miles southwest of Leesburg; south of State Route 704, .1 mile south of junction of State Routes 704 and 769; 1.1 miles northwest of intersection of State Route 704 and U.S. Route 15.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Leesburg

VICINITY OF

Tenth (Joseph L. Fisher)

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Virginia

51

Loudoun

107

3 CLASSIFICATION

Table with 4 columns: CATEGORY, OWNERSHIP, STATUS, PRESENT USE. Includes options like DISTRICT, BUILDING(S), STRUCTURE, SITE, OBJECT, PUBLIC, PRIVATE, BOTH, PUBLIC ACQUISITION, IN PROCESS, BEING CONSIDERED, OCCUPIED, UNOCCUPIED, WORK IN PROGRESS, ACCESSIBLE, YES: RESTRICTED, YES: UNRESTRICTED, NO, AGRICULTURE, MUSEUM, COMMERCIAL, PARK, EDUCATIONAL, PRIVATE RESIDENCE, ENTERTAINMENT, RELIGIOUS, GOVERNMENT, SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL, TRANSPORTATION, MILITARY, OTHER.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. W. Hugh Peal

STREET & NUMBER Woodburn

CITY, TOWN Leesburg,

VICINITY OF

STATE Virginia 22075

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Loudoun county Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leesburg

STATE

Virginia 22075

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Woodburn, located among the rolling hills of Loudoun County, contains a remarkably well-preserved collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century domestic, agricultural and industrial buildings representing several phases in the evolution of a large northern Virginia farmstead. The dwelling house, with its attendant outbuildings, stands on a rise looking south over a stable, a barn and a barnyard complex, an eighteenth-century mill and miller's house, and a log-and-stone house traditionally thought to have been the "patent house," or the original dwelling built to satisfy requirements of settlement on the land within a stated period after its patenting.

The main house is a two-story, five-bay, gable-roofed structure with an interior end chimney on the west end and with double interior and chimneys connected by a parapet on the east. Built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the south (front) and west sides and in four- and five-course American bond on the north and east sides, the house has an original seven-bay, two-story ell. The ell, too, is built of brick laid in four- and five-course American bond and projects off-center from the rear of the main house.

The basement windows in the main block have three-over-three sash, with nine-over-six sash employed on the first-floor openings and six-over-six sash used on the second floor and in the ell. All of the openings have gauged brick jack arches and louvred blinds. A Federal-style front porch with an elliptical arched soffit and supported on coupled columns was added in the 1940s to replace a Victorian porch visible in early photographs of the house. A molded brick cornice embellishes the eaves of the building, and a slate roof (at least the third roofing that the house has had) covers it.

The main house has a modified double-pile, central-passage plan, with a single large parlor to the west of the passage, rather than two smaller rooms. An open-well stair with an open-string, paneled spandrel, Greek-fret brackets and a round rail, horizontally scrolled at the newel, ascends in the passage, and another plainer stair is located in the southern of the three consecutive rooms in the ell.

The "big parlor" is embellished with a molded plaster cornice and a pedestal-type chair rail. The present mantel, an elaborate polished black-marble piece with a bolection molded surround and a molded shelf, dates from the early nineteenth century, but is not original to the house. It was installed at Woodburn in the present century.

The southeast room, or "little parlor," has a wooden chimney piece with an architrave surround and a paneled frieze, and entablature blocks, inset from the outside edges of the architrave, supporting a molded shelf. A cupboard with double three-panel raised-panel doors is set to the left of the fireplace. All of this work may be of twentieth-century origin as well. An arched opening leading to the room behind has been closed. The remainder of the house is decorated very plainly with some architrave trim and some symmetrically molded trim with bullseye blocks.

Near the house is one original domestic outbuilding--a smokehouse built of brick laid in five-course American bond and set on a stone underpinning. The rectangular, gable-roofed structure is embellished with a molded brick cornice and with lozenge-shaped vents created by the omission of alternate bricks. (see continuation sheet # 2)

# 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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES    1777 (Mill)  
                          1787 (Miller's house)                    BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Woodburn, in rural Loudoun County, possesses a strikingly handsome and well-preserved collection of stone and brick buildings dating from the late eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries. Its brick barn is the largest and finest known building of its type in the area. Originally the property of the Nixon family, this remarkably varied group of houses and farm buildings stands as a graphic reminder of the settlement of the northern Virginia area in the eighteenth century and of its subsequent flourishing early in the nineteenth century.

George Nixon first patented the land which comprises Woodburn in the mid-eighteenth century. It is thought that the log portion of the so-called "patent house" was built by him soon afterward in fulfillment of the customary requirement of building within a given interval after the receipt of a land grant. In 1777, Nixon built the larger portion of the frame-and-stone gristmill, as the date stone bearing his initials attests. Ten years later, he erected the stone miller's house near it, again placing an initialed date stone into the wall. The small stable to the north of these buildings may also date from his tenure. Woodburn, during this Nixon's life was apparently a substantial but unpretentious working farm and a center of rural industry.

Nixon's son or grandson George Nixon undertook major improvements to the property in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. It was then that he built the fine brick house (its local nickname, "Dr. Nixon's Folly", attesting to its relative grandiosity), the spring house, and the large, elaborate brick bank barn. Woodburn had become a plantation.

The property was subsequently owned for many years by Dr. Thomas H. Clagett and later by members of the Rogers family. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hugh Peal, bought Woodburn in the early 1950s.

DTU

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Templeman, Eleanor Lee, and Nan Netherton. Northern Virginia Heritage. Privately published, 1966.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission archives.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 240 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	27, 39, 1, 0	4, 33, 01, 2, 0	B	1, 8	27, 38, 8, 0	4, 32, 90, 0, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1, 8	27, 24, 5, 0	4, 32, 90, 3, 0	D	1, 8	27, 24, 8, 0	4, 33, 01, 7, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** The 240 acres comprising the Woodburn property are bounded by a line beginning at a point on the east side of State Route 769 .2 mile NNE of the junction of State Routes 769 and 704; thence extending 1100 feet SSE in a straight line along east side of State Route 769 to intersection with south side of State Route 704 at the junction of said routes; thence extending approximately 2600 feet northwest in a straight line; then running 2300 feet SSW in a straight line; thence extending approximately 4100 feet southeast in a straight line; then extending approximately 400 feet NNE in a straight line to intersection with west side of State Route 704; (See cont. Sheet # 3)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond,

STATE

Virginia

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmark Commission

DATE SEP 21 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	Virginia Landmarks Register
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1969, 1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Richmond Virginia

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

DESCRIPTION

Southwest of the house and roughly contemporary with it is the large forebay bank barn. This handsome building is also built of brick laid in five-course American bond. Its openings are bridged by jack arches of the same quality as those of the house and its surface is embellished by S-shaped anchor irons, lozenge-shaped ventilators, and a molded brick cornice. Perhaps the most unusual feature is the series of six round-headed brick arches which support the forebay. Later frame wings and a silo have been added. Typifying the area settled from the southern part of Pennsylvania is the use of the barn as one side of an enclosed barnyard walled in on the other three sides.

Between the house and the barnyard is the stable, a much smaller building than the barn but of the same building type. It is set on a stone cellar with a slightly projecting forebay supported at the gable ends by an extension of the end walls. The upper story is framed and covered with vertical siding, with weatherboarded gables.

Southeast of the house, farther down the hill, is the building known as the "patent house." It consists of three sections. Probably the earliest is the western end, a single-pen log structure, a story and a half high, with a brick-stacked stone end chimney. Old photos reveal that at one time the logs were exposed, although it is not certain whether they were originally uncovered. They are now clad with weatherboards. Adjoining this section is a story-and-a-half, single-cell stone wing with an interior end chimney and, at the east end, a small one-story stone addition of recent construction.

Near the patent house are the early mill and miller's house. The former has a stone ground story and a framed upper story covered with beaded weatherboards, and has two date stones. One reads I.H.M.H./1777 and the other G:N.X.N. [George Nixon]/1777.

A small addition, also built of stone and frame, was added early in this century, and was furnished with a date stone reading S.T.A. & SONS/JUNE 1902. The stone miller's house is three bays long and a story and a half high, and has an interior end chimney. There is a full-length front porch with the facade white-washed beneath it in the traditional fashion. A stone lean-to has been added in recent years. The original portion of the house is dated on the gable G.N./1787.

DTU

Woodburn's 240 acres of rolling countryside provide a just and pleasant setting for this brick manor house and its impressive collection of early farm buildings.

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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: (cont.)

then extending 200 feet west, crossing State Route 704; thence extending 2100 feet NNE in a straight line; then running 1600 feet northwest in a straight line; then 100 feet southwest, then 200 feet northwest to intersection with State Route 769 and point of origin.

USGS 7.5' quadrangles (scale: 1:24,000)  
Leesburg, Lincoln, Va. 1968 (PR 1972), 1970

WOODBURN, LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

UTM References:

- A - 18/273910/4330120
- B - 18/273880/4329000
- C - 18/272450/4329030 0.50
- D - 18/272480/4330170

