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Form 10-300 (July 1969)				STATE: Virginia			
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC INVENTORY - NOMINATION FO				Prince Wi			
			ION FORM		IPS USE ONLY		
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3. CLASSIF	CATION		I I		1 200		
	CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
🗌 Distri	ct 🛛 🖾 Building	D Public	Public Acquisition:	X Occupied	Yes:		
🗌 Site	Structure	X Private	📋 In Process	🗌 Unoccupied	d Restricted		
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PRESENT	USE (Check One or N	More as Appropriate)					
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION	
	(Check One)
CONDITION	
ESCRIBE THE PE	Altered Unaltered Moved X Original Site
KIPPON LC	odge is a frame house of one and one half stories covered by
a gable i	roof with jerkinheads and dormers. The stone foundations have
been reir	nforced with concrete as well as brick and wooden piers and
the two o	original brick corner chimneys still define the original portion
of the bu	uilding between them. Additions were made on the west end
possibly	in the late-eighteenth century complete with brick chimney,
the gable	e roof being extended with the jerkinhead repeated at the end.
In 1924,	the two wings and the full-length porch between were added to
the south	n front. In spite of the many additions, the framing, chimneys,
part of t	the basement masonry as well as much of the beaded siding remain
from the	first half of the eighteenth century. Interior changes have
been made	but out of the five irregularly sized rooms in the original
rectangle	two retain their eighteenth century pine paneled walls. Although
horizontá	I widths vary, the paneling consists of a single rectangle below
and above	a molded chair rail. The elliptical arch of the fireplace
opening i	n the dining room has a marble surround with volutes above
but the m	mantel in the small room on the south uses fully-developed
	supporting a cornice shelf.
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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	X 18th Century	🕱 20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	,
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	le and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
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K Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	14N 8 19/1
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
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Communications	Military	Theater	REGISTEN
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

Richard Blackburn Black, fifth-great-grandson and namesake of the builder and original owner, came into possession of Rippon Lodge in 1952. Admiral Black, a polar explorer old-style who first visited the Antarctic with Richard E. Byrd's second expedition, purchased the property from the widow of Wade Hampton Ellis. Rippon had passed out of the Blackburn family when George Atkinson (died 1844) purchased it from the estate of Thomas Blackburn. It was subsequently held by Atkinson's son, then by his daughter, and finally by one Thomas Marron. Judge Ellis, a collateral descendant of the original owners, restored the Lodge to the family and to something of its original appearance, in 1924.

Although the many additions to Rippon Lodge tend to detract the eye from the original portions, considerable material remains in the earlyeighteenth-century block. The fine quality of the interior paneling is surprising in so small a structure. One of the most impressive features of the house is its site overlooking the alluvial plain of the Potomac with the river itself within view over the trees to the east. The charm and convenience of this situation attracted Englishmen from the first. Captain John Smith visited the site while it was still the seat of the Doeg Indians.

The earliest land patents in Northern Virginia were surveyed here, on the Occoquan estuary of the Potomac. When Richard Blackburn purchased his tract in 1737, it was part of a mature, densely settled, agricultural neighborhood. Blackburn came to Prince William County from Rippon, England early in the eighteenth century. He made his fortune as planter and builder: certainly building the first Falls Church, among the several significant structures attributed to him. He speculated in land, owned a grist mill, and co-founded several towns including Dumfries. Blackburn's social and economic activities were those typical of a member of the upper gentry.

Indeed the Blackburns are text-book models of Virginia's eighteenth-century leadership. Richard Blackburn was "Preferred by the Governor <u>/to posts of</u>/ command in the Colony as well as by the People who made him a Representative in the General Assembly. . . ." The interplay of democratic and aristocratic forces, implied in this contemporary epitaph, was --according to modern scholars-- a necessary element in the political culture which produced the Virginia Founding Fathers. Richard Blackburn's son and heir, Thomas, followed his father in service to the Commonwealth. Thomas Blackburn's generation of gentlemen planters lived to provide Virginia with leadership

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC	CAL REFERENCES					
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As the designated State tional Historic Preserva 89-665), I hereby nomina in the National Register evaluated according to forth by the National Pa level of significance of	ation Act of 1966 (Po ate this property for r and certify that it 1 the criteria and proc ark Service. The rec	ublic Law inclusion nas been edures set	National Reg	gister. A A	roperty is include	ly
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Form 10-300a July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE Virginia		
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	COUNTY Prince William		
	INVENTORT - NUMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY		
	(Continuation Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER	PATE	
(Number all entri	ies)	17/11/13/1 0009	1.1/2/11	

8. during the Revolution and under the Republic

Fifty years, and an Empire, passed between the deaths of Richard Blackburn (in 1757) and his son, Thomas. But their wills, in many ways interesting and informative documents, give evidence of little change in either the customary forms of inheritance or the social position of the family. There is some hint of entail--slaves certainly were attached to specific plantations; but little of primogeniture in the late-colonial document. The division of personal and real property between older and younger sons, and daughters, was comparable in both wills: the one written when Virginia was part of the Empire, the other when she was a Republican State.



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	Form 10-301	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		STATE Virginia					
	(July 1969)	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE							
		NATIONAL REGISTER OF HIST	ACES	COUNTY					
				Prince William					
		PROPERTY MAP FOR		FOR NPS USE ONLY					
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