(3-82) VLR-11/5/68 NRHP-10/1,	69 NHL-11/11/71 OMB NO. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84
United States Department of the Interio National Park Service	For NPS use only
National Register of Histor	·
Inventory—Nomination For	
See instructions in <i>How 50 Complete National</i> Register	
Type all entries-complete applicable sections	
1. Name	
historic Menokin (Lee, Franc	cis Lightfoot - Rome)
and or common Menokin	
2. Location	
	saw, Va. via County Rt. 690 to roadside 1.5 miles to house <u>—— not for publication</u>
city, town Warsaw vicini	y of
state Virginia 51	county Richmond code 159
3, Classification	
Category Ownership Status	Present Use
districtpublicoccupied building(s)privateunoccupied	ed commercial park
structure both workinpr	ogress educational private residence
site Public Acquisition Accessibleobjectin processyes: restri	entertainment religious cted government scientific
X being considered yes: unres	stricted industrial transportation
4. Owner of Property	military other:
name Mr. T. Edgar Omohundro	
street & number Rt. 2, Eox 697 (se	e continuation sheet 4-1)
city, town Warsaw vicini	¥irginia 22562 y of state
5. Location of Legal Descr	iption
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk's Offic	e, Circuit Court of Richmond County
street & number	
city, town Warsaw	state Virginia
6. Representation in Exist	ing Surveys
title National Historic Landmarks has	this property been determined eligible? X yes no
date 1971	<u>X</u> federal state county local
depositary for survey records National Park Se	rvice (see continuation sheet 6-1)
city, town Washington	State DC

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one	Check one X original site moved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Menokin, the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, is located off of county route 690, approximately 3 miles from Warsaw, in Richmond County, Virginia. Some of the property is currently in agriculture. The main house has been vacant for a number of years.

The original tract consisted of 1000 acres. In 1887, the farm was divided in half, and the property known as Menokin has remained at about 500 acres. Menokin is bounded on the southwest by Menokin Bay. The bay is an inlet of Cat Point Creek, which flows into the nearby Rappahannock River. The main house is situated on the edge of extremely hilly terrain. Directly behind the house and coming around to the west, are two artificial terraces, evidently part of the original plan. The ground past the terraces drops off sharply.

The area immediately to the north and east of the main house is relatively flat, and is currently being cultivated. At least one building, now removed, was formerly located in this area. Behind the main house, all the way to Menokin Bay, the land is wooded and contains numerous deep ravines. Although the bay cannot be seen from the main house, it is an important feature of the plantation.

Survey procedures included above-ground investigation with clearing of brush around buildings when necessary and limited test excavations for a preliminary evaluation of the kitchen and tenant house areas. Information on the nature of some of the farm outbuildings located in the survey came from interviews with Mr. T. E. Omohundro, one of the present owners of Menokin.

Structures that Contribute to the Property's Significance: Lee Period and Early 19th Century

1. Main House.

The main house, built about 1769 for Francis Lightfoot Lee and his wife, was constructed of sandstone, brick and stucco. Most of the exterior was stuccoed, with alternating standstone blocks around the window arches and at the corners to provide a decorative detail (Plan 1).

Examination of the main house revealed that, while a large part of the building was in a ruinous state due to neglect, portions of the house retained a good deal of integrity. These included the basement, parts of the front and back of the house, including details of the windows, corners and stone steps, and two first floor rooms, particularly the northeast room.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below community planning	landscano architectur	
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	1767-1770	invention	unknown	other (specify)
Specific dates	T101-T110	Builder Architect	UIIAIIOWII	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

<u>Summary</u>

Menokin, the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, was originally designated a National Historic Landmark under the Signers of the Declaration theme. It is therefore a property which has already been recognized as being associated with a person of national stature as well as of importance in Virginia politics during the colonial and early Federal period. In addition to its early association with Francis Lee, for whom Menokin was originally constructed, the main house is of interest architecturally. Although allowed to deteriorate, enough remains of the house in its original condition to provide information on mid-18th century building techniques. A third area of significance lies in the opportunity Menokin presents for historic archaeology, both with regards to the early period associated with the Lee occupancy and plantation phase and to its subsequent development as a Virginia farmstead after the Civil War. Over the years, Menokin evolved from a slave operated plantation to a farm worked with the assistance of black tenant farmers, a development which would be reflected in the archaeological and archival record.

The sites of two buildings originally associated with the main house, i.e., the office and kitchen (Fig. 1), offer an opportunity to investigate the established location of documented pre-Revolutionary buildings. The remains of later buildings, including farm outbuildings near the main house and the tenant house, would provide information on the later development of Menokin as a farmstead. The known occupation of the tenant house dates to the early part of the 20th century (Omohundro 1985). Archaeological investigations there would provide comparative information on the lifestyle of black tenant farmers, an area in which there has been some recent archaeological work in other parts of the South (Orser 1985).

Francis Lightfoot Lee

Menokin was the home most associated with Francis Lightfoot Lee (1734-1797), a signer of the Declaration of Independence from the state of Virginia. Lee lived at Menokin from about 1770, shortly after his marriage to Rebecca Tayloe, until his death in 1797. During his lifetime, Francis Lee was active in all levels of government, serving at the local level, the Virginia House of Burgesses, and in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet 9-1.

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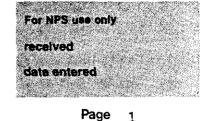
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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Menokin Continuation sheet

Item number 4 OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

Mrs. Dora O. Ricciardi 1204 South Washington Street Alexandria, Virginia 22562



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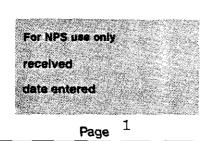
Menokin Continuation sheet

6-1

Item number 6

Historic American Buildings Survey 1934, 1940

Division of Prints and Photographs Library of Congress Washington, DC



OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form

Menokin

7 - 1Continuation sheet

Item number

OMB No. 1024-0018

Exp. 10-31-84

1

Page

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7

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The basement, for the most part, was in very good condition. There was very little evidence of termite damage in the beams, which were handhewn and appear to be original. The vaulted brick wine cellar, shown in the HABS plan of the basement (VA-156, no. 1), is still intact and in excellent condition.

The eastern half of the front of the house is standing. The windows and front door are intact. Also standing is the northeast corner which is formed of alternating dressed stones. The corners and the window arches form a contrast to the stucco used over most of the exterior. The northeast first floor room remains, with some of the original molding still in place. This was identified as the dining room in the HABS first floor plan (VA-156, no. 2).

The southwestern part of the house is also standing. Original exterior wooden roof beams are still intact here. There are also stone steps, leading from what was the rear entrance. Three-quarters of the southwestern room, identified as a bedroom (HABS-156, no. 2) is standing. The western wall has fallen, but part of the original brick chimney remains.

To the rear of the house, are at least two terraces, which formed part of the original plan of Menokin, providing level areas for a garden. That they were part of the original plan was confirmed by the fact that remains of the old kitchen were found on one of these terraces, which extended around the house to the west.

Original cut and dressed sandstone blocks which had fallen when parts of the house collapsed, are in piles on the sides of the house. Two original beams in fine condition were found on the ground, just below one of the in-place roofing beams. Handmade brick, used in the original construction was found both in the chimneys and on the ground. The parts of the house that are still standing, along with the cut stone, wooden beams, and handmade brick which were once part of the house, and which are, for the most part, still intact or usable, have the potential for yielding important information on building practices and crafts of the mid-18th century.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Menokin Continuation sheet 7-2

Item number 7

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

2

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Page

2. <u>Office</u>

The office is located to the northwest of the main house. Still standing in 1940, it is now in ruins. Originally the office was a two story building, with two rooms on each floor. One of two original dependencies, the office was built of sandstone, brick and stucco, complementing the style of the main house. The basement and portions of the north and south walls are all that remain in place. The remains of the office should be stablized and archaeological excavations be undertaken to uncover any artifactual evidence that may show light on the use of the building over time.

3. <u>Kitchen</u>

The kitchen, the second of the two original dependencies, had long disappeared. The current owner had no recollection of ever having seen it (Omohundro 1985). Its location was assumed to complement that of the office, and was established by transit measurement and limited excavation. Three test pits were opened up in the area where the kitchen once stood (Fig. 5).

Kitchen Unit 1, a 50 x 50 cm. test pit, was placed on a flat terrace area, parallel to the office and 80 feet from the transit datum. The unit was found to be squarely on top of the fallen kitchen since at 20 cm. depth it revealed a solid mass of brick, mortar, and sandstone rubble, as well as cut nails and glass. Ground clearing around Unit 1 revealed a low mound, about 8 by 10 meters in extent which must correspond to the kitchen ruins (Fig. 5).

Two other test pits were opened up in the kitchen area. Kitchen Unit 2 (1 x 1 meter) was placed on the edge of the low mound, 5 meters west of Unit 1. The top 6 cms. consisted of a humus level mixed with sandstone. Between 6 and 38 cms., the soil became a sandy silt mixed with mortar, sandstone building fragments, and charcoal flecks. Below 38 cms, a thin layer of dark midden-like soil with charcoal admixture was found, possibly signifying part of an occupation floor. Sterile, sandy subsoil was revealed at 46-50 cm. in depth. Many oyster shells were found in this unit, apparently used as part of the construction since many were found securely adhering to the mortar.

3

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Menokin Continuation sheet 7-3

Item number

7

Page

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Kitchen Unit 3 was placed 8 meters north of Unit 2, substantially outside of what is thought to be the kitchen ruin mound. This was confirmed by the fact that no mortar or midden-like soil was found in this unit. Between 0-30 cms. depth, a number of cut nails as well as small amounts of machine-made glass and 20th century ceramics were recovered.

The archaeological potential of the kitchen area appears very high. It is recommended that the entire kitchen area be excavated to determine the outlines of the building as well as to recover any artifactual evidence related to its existence.

Buildings and Structures That Contribute to the Property's Significance: Evolving Virginia Farmstead.

The following buildings and structures are considered to be contributing resources at Menokin since they document the continued agricultural operation of the property into the 20th century. All buildings and structures are shown on Fig. 4.

4. Meat/Milk Shed

The remains of a tin-roof farm building lay 19 meters northwest of the main house, in what is now an overgrown, wooded area. Mr. Omohundro identified it has having served both as a smoke house and a shed for storing milk. A stone foundation, which lay on a north-south axis and vestiges of a braced-frame floor still remain. This floor measure 14' by 10'. The building's tin roof, which lay to one side, measured 13'9" long by 10'8" wide. Cut nails were observed protruding from the interior roof beams, presumably for hanging meat. According to Mr. Omohundro's recollections and the construction techniques, the building appears to date from the late 19th-early 20th century.

5. Utility Farm Shed

The second of two outbuildings located near the main house, Building 5 is a 20th century wooden farm shed, constructed with wooden poles and planks. Five of the poles are still in place. These measured about 6'8" in height, and were found with cut nails drived into them. Steps consisting of two stones were located just south of the wooden poles. Dimensions of the building are approximately 14' by 9'3". A portion of wooden siding, probably one of the shed's walls, lay propped up against a nearby tree.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

7 - 4

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Menokin

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 4

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6. <u>Stable</u>

Building 6, a stable which was present during much of the 20th century when Menokin was run with horse-power, is shown in the 1934 HABS photo. The stable is no longer standing. Its approximate location in a plowed field east of the office is shown in Fig. 4. Excavation of this area may reveal the foundations of the stable as well as information on its date of construction.

7. Farm Shed

The remains of two similar wooden buildings were located in the wooded area running along the plowed field. The first of these buildings lies approximately 400 feet east of the main house. Both buildings measured approximately 14' by 20'. According to Mr. Omohundro, these sheds had been used for storing grain and had been moved from their original location in the plowed field.

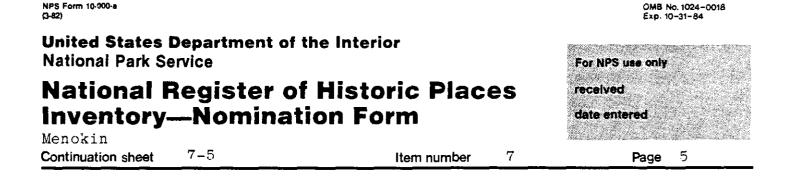
8. Farm Shed

The second of the two grain storage sheds was located some 500 feet east of the main house. Next to this shed was an early mechanical farm implement, of interest in the development of Menokin as a farmstead. This implement, known as a culti-packer, was used for packing down loose soil prior to seeding. The culti-packer consists of a cylindrical array of metal tubes and could be pulled behind either a horse or tractor.

9. <u>Tenant House</u>

Further south on the property, along a currently used farm road, is the fieldstone chimney of what was once a tenant farm house (Figs. 4 and 6). The house, originally a one-story wood and stone building, was lived in by a series of black families until the early 1950's (Omohundro 1985).

The first person that Mr. Omohundro recalled living in the tenant house was named Fairfax Thompson. Mr. Thompson lived in the house when Mr. A.H. Belfield owned Menokin (ie., prior to 1935). After Fairfax Thompson died, two families, one also named Thompson and other named Ball, lived in the tenant house up until the time when it was abandoned in the 1950's. One of the main responsibilities of the tenant was to oversee the cattle on the farm, an occupation when continued into the 1950's.



Mr. Omohundro recalled a spring not far to the east of the house, which provided all the water for its occupants. However, the exact location of this spring was not determined.

Two test pits were dug in the tenant house area in order to provide a preliminary assessment of the age of the building (Fig. 6). These limited excavations uncovered numerous domestic artifacts including tools, shell buttons, ceramics, and glass. The test pits did not reveal any artifacts which could be dated earlier than the late 19th century-early 20th century, so that the date of construction of the tenant house remains problematic. Further archaeological investigation of the tenant house is recommended as there is a high potential for gathering detailed information on the life-style of black tenant farmers.

The following structures were not given a number, but can be found on Fig. 4.

Well

A covered brick-lined well stands in front of the main house. It was used to provide water for both people and livestock on the farm during the 20th century. In order to water the horses and cows, a trough was once run from the well down to the stable (Building 6) (Omohundro 1975).

Old Road

An old farm road leading down to Menokin Bay from an area immediately east of the tenant house, was located during our survey (Fig. 2). It ran along one of the numerous ravines in the section of the property. This road most likely served as a prime means of transportation and communication with Menokin Bay and the Rappahannock, since the land directly behind the main house is much too steep for easy access to the water. A complete walkover was conducted along the length of the farm road. A kaolin pipe stem and two pieces of pearlware were found along this road, indicating that activity in this area probably dates back to the late 18th-early 19th century. Further investigation along this road may reveal further evidence of such activity.



The son of Thomas and Hannah Ludwell Lee. Francis Lee was born on October 14, 1734 at the Lee family seat of Stratford, in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Known to his contemporaries as Frank, he was one of eleven children. As a member of an influential and politically active Virginia family, Frank Lee took part in some of the most important political events of his day. One brother, Arthur Lee, served as one of three emissaries to France during the Revolutionary War along with Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane. Another brother, Richard Henry Lee, was a co-signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Left an orphan at a relatively early age, Frank Lee was privately educated at Stratford under the tutorship of the Rev. Mr. Craig, who also taught his younger brothers and sister. In 1750, he inherited Belmont, a plantation in Loudoun County, Virginia, and left Stratford to settle on his new estate. Frank Lee was one of the founders of Leesburg, when that town was established in 1757. He was named County Lieutenant (head of the local militia) and a member of the County Court (Dill 1977).

Lee also served as one of the two original Burgess from Loudoun County, representing the county during the years 1758 to 1769. During this period, Lee signed the Westmoreland Resolves against the Stamp Act, on Feb. 27, 1766, and served as a member of the Virginia committee of correspondence.

While serving in the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg, he met Rebecca Tayloe, daughter of John Tayloe of Mount Airy Plantation in Richmond County, Virginia. They were married in 1769, and as a wedding present John Tayloe gave his daughter 1000 acres of the property known as "Menokin", which lay close to the Mount Airy estate. This gift was confirmed by a deed written by Tayloe in 1778 (RCDB 2:501). In addition to the land, Rebecca Tayloe Lee was given 20 slaves "and their issue" (RCDB 2:501). Like neighboring plantations, Menokin was clearly meant to be a slave-operated establishment. John Tayloe also undertook to build the main house at Menokin for the newly married couple, as well as two flanking dependencies known as the office and kitchen.

Almost immediately after his marriage, Frank Lee was again elected a Burgess. Serving as a delegate from his new home in Richmond County, he remained in this position from 1769 to 1775. The call for the Virginia convention of August, 1774 was signed by him. He later served as a member of that convention as well as the succeeding one in March 1775. That same year he was chosen as a delegate fo the first Continental Congress, succeeding Col. Richard Bland (Armes 1936:162). NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Menokin Continuation sheet

8-2

Item number 8

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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Page 2

Francis Lightfoot Lee and Richard Henry Lee were the only brothers to sign the Declaration of Independence. Never a forceful public speaker, most of Frank Lee's work was done in committee. He served as a member of the committee which drew up the articles of confederation and was among those who advocated the free navigation of the Mississippi River.

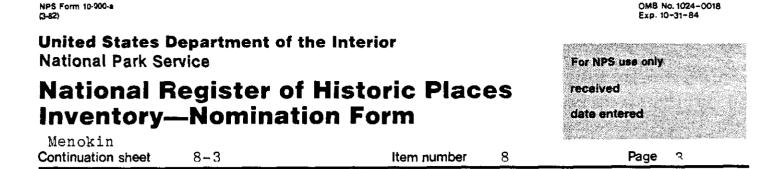
After returning from Philadelphia in 1779, Frank Lee was again called to public service, serving in the Virginia senate for a time. He then retired from public life and spent the remainder of his days at Menokin. The Lees had no children, but for many years provided a home for Portia and Cornelia Lee, the motherless daughters of Frank's brother William. Frank and Rebecca Lee both died in 1797 and are believed to have been buried in the Tayloe family cemetary at Mount Airy. Menokin was left to Ludwell Lee, second son of Richard Henry Lee (RCWB:9, Part 1:62).

Menokin During the Lee Period

The main house at Menokin was probably ready for occupancy in 1771 (Va. Hist. Soc. Bulletin 21:1). Its original plan was similar to that of other mansions in Virginia, including Kenmore, Fairfield, Harewood, and Locust Hill (Waterman 1946:308). Particular features of Menokin's facade, including the belt courses and window facings were also similar to the Hamilton Hall House in Edinburgh, Scotland (Waterman 1946:308). The design of Menokin appears to have been influenced by William Adam's "Vitrivius Scoticus", a well known architectural work published in 1750. The precise builder is not known, but may have been the same person who built Mount Airy, the estate of John Tayloe who commissioned the building of Menokin.

The interior of Menokin, particularly the original woodwork (recently removed for safekeeping) was described as a "complete exemplar of the period" (Waterman and Barrows 1968:152).

The main house and two associated outbuldings (the office and kitchen) formed the nucleus of the central residential area of the plantation (Plan 1). These two dependencies, however, were not ready at the same time as the main house. As of 1773, they were not as yet completed, for at that time John Tayloe stipulated in his will that the buildings were "to be finished at the expense of my estate" (Va. Hist. Soc. Bulletin 21:1).



During Francis Lightfoot Lee's occupancy, Menokin was a working plantation. Various crops were grown, including rye, barley, wheat, peas, and corn. Lee was also raising livestock at Menokin. A letter dated 1780 specifically mentions dairy cattle and poultry (Letter from F.L.Lee to Rebecca Lee, Nov. 13, 1780). Barns for the housing of horses and other livestock must have been present, as well as sheds for grain storage. While no specific mention of their existence or location has as yet been uncovered, the existence of these structures can be inferred from other records. Among these is the inventory taken at Menokin at the time of Francis Lee's death in 1797 (RCWB 9:84). This inventory lists among other items "100 bushels rye, 100 bushels barley, 10 bushels wheat, 20 barrels of corn, 67 head of cattle, 60 head of sheep, 5 horses, and 30 hogs".

In addition, cabins would have been needed to house the slaves at Menokin. At the time of his death, Lee owned 48 slaves (RCWB 9:84). The location of the slave quarters is also unrecorded, but may be revealed in the future.

Post-Lee Period

Apparently Ludwell Lee never lived at Menokin and the plantation reverted back to the Tayloe family. It was occupied in the early 19th century by John Tayloe Lomax, son of Rebecca Tayloe Lee's sister, Elizabeth Lomax. John Lomax left Menokin about 1815 (Pearson 1968). According to Inventory Account Books of the period (Tayloe 1808, 1809), a number of slaves continued to live at Menokin. Other account books during the years immediately following the death of Francis Lee show that Menokin continued to produced corn and wheat, while oats and cotton were also being grown at this time (Boughton 1801).

In 1823 John and Ann Tayloe sold Menokin to Benjamin Boughton (RCDB 21:495) who owned the plantation until 1836, when he sold it to Richard Harwood (RCDB 24:334). In his 1836 Account Book for Menokin, Boughton makes specific mention of a barn, a barn shed, and 2 corn houses. The location of these structures is not known at the present time.

The acquisition of Menokin by the Harwoods saw the beginning of a long period of occupation of the property by branches of the same family. This ownership has lasted up until the present time. At some time during the Harwood tenure, an Episcopal academy was conducted at Menokin. Mr. A.H. Belfield, later an owner of the property, was one of the pupils.

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered Page 4

Menokin Continuation sheet

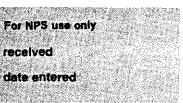
8 - 4

Item number

Evolving Southern Farmstead 1865-1940

Richard Harwood lived at Menokin until his death in 1872, at which time the property passed to his wife, Mary. The Civil War undoubtedly had brought about many changes in the operation of the farm, and the younger generation soon took over its operation. One of Richard Harwood's daughters, named Mary like her mother, married Richard Belfield. The Belfields took over the management of Menokin. In 1887, Richard and Mary Belfield sold Menokin to A.H. Belfield, who was either their son or nephew (RDCB 34:233). At this time the original 1000 acres comprising Menokin was divided in half. The deed reads "...being a portion of the Farm commonly called Menokin comprising 500 acres...".

The current owners of Menokin, Mr. T. Edgar Omohundro and Mrs. Dora B. Ricciardi are collateral descendants of A.H. They have never lived at Menokin, but spent some time Belfield. there in their earlier years, and recall the main house when it was occupied in the 1940's by elderly relatives. Mr. Omohundro was also able to provide information on the operation of the farm during the early part of the 20th century. Some of the farm outbuildings identified by Mr. Omohundro included a tenant house, milk and meat sheds, a barn, and grain storage structures. Both grain crops and dariy cattle were raised prior to the 1940's. The farm itself was run for many years in this century with horse power, the first tractor and other mechanized farm equipment coming into use at Menokin only in the late 1930's (Omohundro 1985).



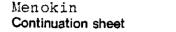
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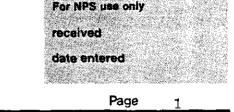
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OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

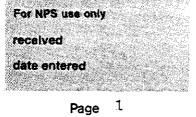
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

10 - 1

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Menokin Continuation sheet

Item number 10



Boundaries.

It is recommended that at this time, approximately 100 acres out of a total of about 500 acres now comprising the Menokin property be set aside for the Menokin Historic area. The entire Menokin property is located on the Montross and Tappahannock USGS 7.5' Quadrangles, while the proposed historic district (Fig. 1) is contained within the Montross USGS map. The proposed 100 acres is in the form of a rectangle, encompassing flat land now in agriculture, the wooded hilly terrain leading to Menokin Bay, and the shoreline of the Bay.

Boundaries of the proposed historic area are given as UTM references from the Montross USGS 7.5' map. Starting at the northwest corner on Menokin Bay at Northing 4208100 Easting 341200, proceeding to the northeast in a straight line about 2500 feet through a hilly wooded area crossing the 50 and 100 ft. contour lines to the northeast corner at Northing 4208500 Easting 341800. From there continuing southwest over level farm land, approximately 1500 feet, crossing the dirt road leading to Rt. 690, to southeast corner at Northing 4207900 Easting 342000; then continuing southwest of the old road in a straight line through wooded hilly terrain once again crossing the 50 and 100 ft. contour lines, approximately 2500 feet to the shore of Menokin Bay at Northing 4207500 Easting 341300; then returning to northwest about 1500 feet along west shore of Menokin Bay to the beginning.

This acreage encompasses all structures located during the 1985 survey of the property as well as the land leading from the main house down to the Bay which forms part of the scenic quality of the property. The structures include the Menokin planation house, the remains of the two original dependencies, terraces in back and to the side of the main house, the well, farm outbuildings, the tenant farm house, and the old road leading to Menokin Bay.

It must be stated that documents from the 18th and early 19th century indicate that other buildings such as slave quarters, a slave cemetary, stables, and other old farm buildings were present at Menokin. There is also a strong possibility that docking or warehouse facilities existed at Menokin Landing. Although no maps have come to light to indicate their location, the remains of these buildings may well be found during future investigations of the property. At that time, the boundary of the historic area should be enlarged to encompasses such findings.

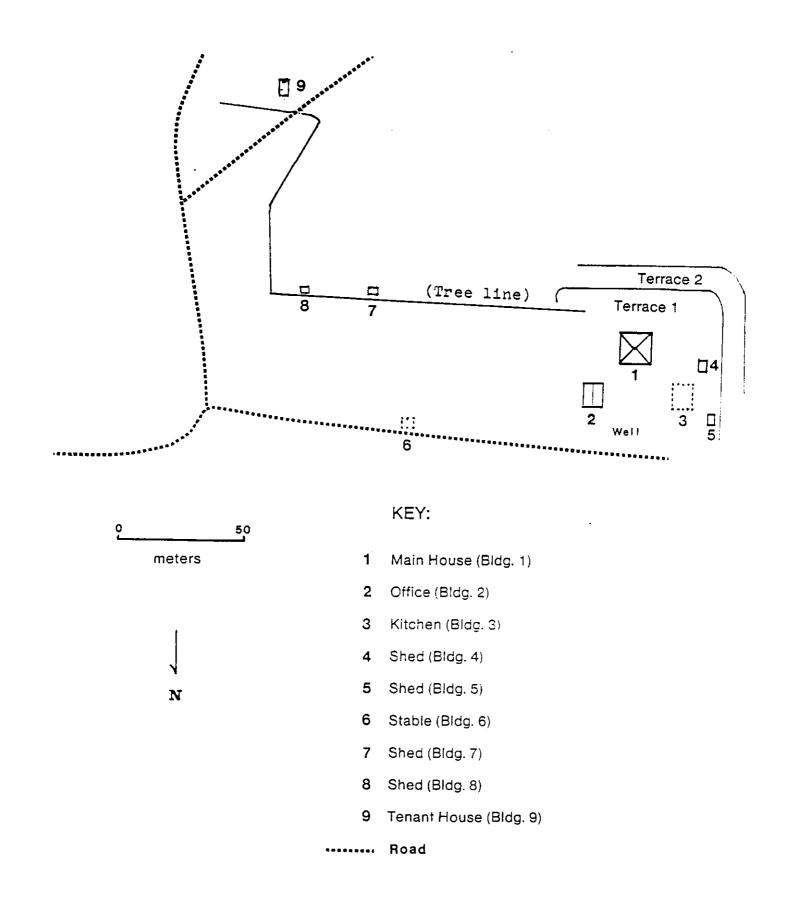


Fig. 4. Plan of Main House, Office, and Kitchen at Menokin, with associated small farm buildings (Buildings 1-9).

