

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLK 9/5/7
NRHP draft

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Pleasant (Architectural and Archaeological Complex)
other names/site number VDHR architectural file #090-0015 and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2. Location

street & number [REDACTED] not for publication
city or town [REDACTED] vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Surry code [REDACTED] zip code [REDACTED]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

9/29/05
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____
Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>	buildings
<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>21</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling, secondary resources, seasonal camp

[redacted] [redacted]

Agriculture storage, fields, gardens

Defense fortification

Landscape garden,swamp

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: multiple dwellings

Agriculture fields, animal facilities, outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof shingle

walls brick

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mount Pleasant (Architectural and Archaeological Complex)

Surry County, Virginia

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8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Archaeology

Settlement; and Other (event)

Period of Significance Middle to Late Archaic; Early to Late Woodland; 1620-1863

Significant Dates 1620, 1622, 1635, c.1750, 1801

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) John Hartwell Cocke II

Cultural Affiliation Late Woodland; Quiyoughcohannock

Architect/Builder Richard Cocke IV, John Hartwell Cocke II

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Mount Pleasant (Architectural and Archaeological Complex)

Surry County, Virginia

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Alderman Library-UVA, Mount Pleasant Foundation, JRIA

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10. Geographical Data
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Nicholas Lucchetti, Principal Archaeologist

organization James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc. date July 6, 2007

street & _____ telephone _____

city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23185

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of

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**Mount Pleasant
Surry County, VA**

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Description

Mount Pleasant is a ca. 292 acre farm comprised of 90 acres of fields, 180 acres of woods, and 14 acres of marsh located in Surry County, Virginia. Mount Pleasant's historic dwelling, constructed c.1760, is strategically situated on the highest point on the property, [REDACTED]

Once cultivated for centuries for agricultural purposes, the fields now are used as pasture and paddocks. There is a large freshwater cypress swamp at the eastern side of the property that winds inland to the center of the farm. The landscape around the manor house consists of two terraces from a 19th century formal garden on the riverside of the house and a smaller terrace on the landward side of the house. Currently both areas are lawn. A complex of 20th century farm buildings is clustered to the southeast of the manor house. There are three other 20th century dwellings on the property. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Archaeological surveys have identified Native American sites from the Middle Archaic (ca. 6500-3000 BC) through to the time of European contact. English settlement at Mount Pleasant began with the 1620 Pace's Paines settlement; it was then subsumed into a larger plantation belonging to the Swann family in the 17th century. Mount Pleasant became the property of Richard Cocks IV in 1730, and reached its zenith during the tenure of John Hartwell Cocks II in the first decade of the 19th century. The property passed to his in-laws, Nicholas and Sally Faulcon, then was sold out of the family in 1841 to Dr. George Wilson. Like many southern plantations, Mount Pleasant declined precipitously during and after the Civil War. A massive fire damaged the house in the late 19th century, and it was not until the 1960s that the house and grounds were restored.

Detailed Description

The James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc., (JRIA) has conducted ongoing archaeological research at Mount Pleasant since late 2000. The archaeological research consisted principally of surveying and testing with some selected area excavations. All the fields at Mount Pleasant have been surveyed. Following plowing and discing, a professional survey company divided the fields into 10 foot squares. A controlled surface collection resulted in the recovery of all artifacts within the 10' square collection units. Sites identified by controlled surface collection were further tested by excavating one or two test squares. Wooded areas on the property were surveyed by shovel testing and screening at 50foot intervals. The yard around the brick house was tested using geophysical prospecting, small test squares, and trenches. The c. 1803 kitchen and the cellared storehouse of the Swann period that lay beneath the kitchen were both completely excavated. The east half of the lower terrace of the c. 1803 formal garden was surveyed following removal of plowzone, and several features were tested. The remainder of the lower terrace and upper terrace were testing using transects of 3-foot test squares and test trenches. During the course of investigating the formal garden, two earthfast buildings (buildings constructed by placing posts directly in the ground rather than on a sill or foundation) were discovered and excavated. The buildings dating to the 1635-1706 occupation of the Swann family, who owned several hundred acres including the present-day Mt. Pleasant. The historical background and interpretation of archeological resources at Mount Pleasant is greatly enhanced by review of Surry County's colonial records and the collection of extensive Cocks family correspondence curated at the Alderman Library of the

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**Mount Pleasant
Surry County, VA**

Architectural Resources

Mount Pleasant, as it currently exists, is a two story brick house with a frame wing that was added as part of an in-progress restoration of the house and grounds by the current owners, Nicholas and Shelley Schorsch. The house is a product of several generations of improvements, disasters, and changes. By the time of Franz Von Shilling's renovation of the house sometime between his purchase in 1941 and a newspaper article in 1962 declaring his refurbishing of it, little 18th or 19th century fabric remained except for the brick walls. Still, the house is an extremely important architectural artifact for several reasons.

First among these is its association with John Hartwell Cocke II (1780-1866). Despite Cocke's prominence in the first half of the 19th century as a builder, patron of architect A. J. Davis, one of the first promoters of the picturesque style in Virginia, a noted abolitionist, an early proponent of scientific agricultural management, and an antebellum leader of the temperance movement, his social and architectural contributions are often overlooked by modern scholars and in contemporary popular literature. Nonetheless, his contributions in these areas were immense. The rebuilding of Mount Pleasant was the first of his many architectural endeavors that stretched over a lengthy life. Decisions that he made in the layout and appearance of the house and complex formed the underpinning for his later work, most of which took place at his Upper Bremo and Bremo Recess tracts in Fluvanna County.

A second reason for the importance of the house at Mount Pleasant is the amount of information embodied in the extant building about its ca. 1760 construction by Richard Cocke IV and the subsequent remodeling by his grandson in 1803, this despite the loss of much fabric. A combination of building accounts and surviving evidence, the latter largely read from the face of extant walls and charred remains of window jambs as well as archeological evidence, tells a compelling story about the building's development and level of refinement.

Finally, the house is a critical element of a larger neoclassical landscape, including the house, its setting, and the form of its terrace gardens, that survives partially intact. Archaeological excavations have revealed much about the character of the layout and features of the grounds, and efforts are underway to restore the landscape to its 1803 form.

By the 1830s Cocke abandoned his preference for classicism and became a very early and ardent supporter of more picturesque styles, particularly what recent scholars have called "Jacobethan Revival," and later, the Gothic Revival. Due to its early date, Cocke's 1834 remodeling of Recess for his son, John Cocke III, is one of his most remarkable creations. He described the inspiration for the design 10 years later in a letter to Charles Tyler Botts, editor of the *Southern Planter*: "The stile [sic] is copied from the only two specimens of the like building I ever saw—the well remembered, old six chimney House in Wmsburg once the property of the Custis Family—and Bacons Castle in Surry." The remodeling included brick facades, a cruciform plan, curvilinear gables, and diamond-stack chimneys. As such, it became one of the first revival buildings in Virginia to use native buildings as design inspiration.

Cocke's architectural works continued throughout his life. While his son Philip St. George Cocke was renovating Four Mile Tree—an adjacent Surry County farm to Mount Pleasant—he sent a drawing dated 1838 of a cottage for an overseer, based on the a plate from J. C. Loudon's *An Encyclopedia of Cottage Farm, and Villa Architecture* (London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green, and Longman, 1833, design XLII) in a style similar to the Recess remodelings.

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**Mount Pleasant
Surry County, VA**

Although it is unclear whether this design was ever executed, Philip did build a frame slave house or overseer's cottage with a similar plan and diamond-stack chimneys, albeit without brick walls and lacking the curvilinear gables proposed in his father's scheme.

In 1845 Philip hired New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis to design a new house for him in Powhatan County, executed as a grand Gothic Revival building. Davis and his style had become inseparable with the Cockes and two years later his father, John Hartwell Cocke II hired Davis to design a temple over a spring next to the canal at Bremo. Cocke continued with Davis' services the following year when he erected Temperance Hall in the town of Fork Union. While in his 70s Cocke joined his son Philip and the two once again engaged Davis to design for them, this time a cenotaph at Mount Pleasant memorializing their ancestry. The style chosen was Greek Revival, seemingly an odd choice for the trio who had long since given up on any form of classicism.

The Mansion at Mount Pleasant (contributing building)

In the middle of the 18th century a handful of brick houses were being erected in Surry County by the leading gentry of this generation of farmers. Richard Cocke IV built one of these at Mount Pleasant. Like the others, his was one story in height, had interior end chimneys, fairly plain brick detailing, and a clipped-gable roof. His was a two room, center passage plan, being slightly larger than the hall-and-parlor house erected on the Melville tract nearby, but smaller than the house that was raised on the neighboring plantation of Four Mile Tree that not only had a center passage, but had a double pile of rooms, even if the riverside rooms were not very deep.

Cocke's house had a cellar and a finished attic lit by dormers. Like Melville and Four Mile Tree, the walls were laid in a glazed-header Flemish bond pattern, at least with some openings capped with gauged-and-rubbed jack arches. Both the land and riverside facades were arranged with three bays—two windows flanking a central door, although the river façade was the product of a change during construction, since a secondary doorway had been planned from the hall (the western, first-floor room), but was changed to a window before brickwork was complete.

Subsequent alterations appear to have been superficial and it was not until John Hartwell Cocke II took control and began his expansion in 1803 that significant changes were made. As a 23 year old, the improvements the young Cocke envisioned were expansive. The house was gutted and enlarged, the interiors refitted in a more modern style, fashionable neoclassical furniture was ordered (some of it, at least, coming from Norfolk), and the domestic and work buildings were rebuilt and expanded to include a group of more than 20 resources.

First, the fenestration of the house was changed from three bays to five. It was raised to two stories, using glazed headers on the land front to match the appearance of the older house. The brickwork alterations required the gutting of woodwork inside and physical evidence suggests that the new work was conceptually more neoclassical than what had been installed by Cocke I. A parlor was fitted up in the old hall, complete with arched niches flanking the fireplace in a manner common to Southside in the early 19th century. Wainscoting and cornices adorned both this space and the stair passage, while all other rooms in the main block of the house (a first-floor dining room and two chambers upstairs) were given new chair boards, baseboards and mantels. A brick wing was added to the east that was two stories in height, set over a cellar. This served to house a secondary passage on the first floor to divide a new ground-floor chamber from the public rooms and upstairs included a smaller passage, a small bed chamber, and a wood-sheathed "storeroom" that ran the length of the addition on the riverside of the house.

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**Mount Pleasant
Surry County, VA**

New fireplaces were built in the form promoted by Count Rumford, and those in the older part of the house were infilled with smaller fireboxes made in a similar manner. The more prominent of these fireplaces, including those on the upper floor of the main block, were lined with rubbed bricks enhanced with a red-colored lime wash.

A few traces of surviving paint and limewashes on the brickwork and the building accounts by the undertaker Isaac Lever combine to suggest the varying level of wall and ceiling treatments throughout the house. Most of the first-floor rooms were papered, while those on the second floor were limewashed, as were all the ceilings.

Forms of doors and window jambs can be read from charred fragments of the originals and from ghosts on the brickwork, including the profiles of moldings left in various spots around the house. New porches were built on the land and river fronts, ghosts and foundation remains of which give the size and form of both. Cocke II enlarged his father's riverside garden and it is the terracing of his endeavors that are still visible today. In all, the evidence for the treatment of the house during Cocke II's tenure is the most complete of any phase before the 20th century.

In 1841 Mount Pleasant plantation sold out of the Cocke family when it was purchased by Dr. George Wilson, a resident of Norfolk. In 1848, the Wilsons moved to Mount Pleasant to run it as a farm and remodeled the house. The most prominent change was the removal of window seats in the parlor and dining room and the extension of the window jambs to floor level. This necessitated replacement of the window architraves and may have led to further stylistic improvements inside. The Wilson era is significant since he maintained farm accounts in the 1850s, giving a detailed view of how a large Surry county farm was being managed on the eve of the Civil War.

A catastrophic fire engulfed the house in the late 1890s as indicated by a significant reduction in the value of the property in the land tax records for the year 1898, and corresponding evidence of soot and fire damage in the building fabric. Within a couple of years the house was rebuilt with plain, Victorian interiors, complete with new framing and a new, one-story shed to replace the older brick wing.

Photographs of the house in the 1930s show that it had little maintenance over the intervening years and in 1941 it was purchased by Franz Von Schilling, an oil company executive who had the wealth to restore the house and improve the farm. Von Schilling removed much of the Victorian improvements except for some of the flooring, the stair and the front door, rebuilt the frame wing with a two-story one in brick and added another to the other end of the house. He extended the east wing with a frame addition for improved service and finished the house in colonial revival trim. It is unclear when the remodeling occurred, but certainly it was complete by the time an article was published in a newspaper in September 1962 stating that it was refurbished and was now furnished with antiques that Von Schilling and his wife had collected from around the globe.

It was the house that Von Schilling had remodeled that Nicholas and Shelley Schorsch of Pennsylvania purchased in 2000. A decision was soon made to restore the house to its period of most significance, that being the house that John Hartwell Cocke, II enlarged and remodeled in 1803. The house and grounds are currently undergoing restoration to that period. The quantity and quality of the architectural and archaeological documentation, the expertise of the artisans and consultants, the state of the art technology, and the financial resources devoted to Mount Pleasant make this restoration of the most accurate and high-tech restorations in the country.

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**Mount Pleasant
Surry County, VA**

Cenotaph

In or about 1852 John Hartwell Cocke II of Breemo (and formerly of Mount Pleasant) and his son Philip St. George Cocke of Belmead commissioned the noted New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1893) to design a cenotaph to record the Cocke family genealogy and honor the memory of their ancestors. Although the property had sold out of the Cocke family, the stone was nevertheless erected there in 1853, [REDACTED] A. J. Davis had a long connection with the Cocke family, having been commissioned by Philip St. George Cocke in 1845 to design Belmead, his home in Powhatan County, a temple for the senior Cocke at Breemo, and several other commissions over their two-decade association. Although known more for designs in picturesque and romantic styles, Jackson chose the severity of the Greek revival for the memorial. His sketch, calling for "Two pieces of American marble for a monument", survives in the Special Collections Department at the University of Virginia Library. The marker consists of a large pyramidal block of Cockeyesville, Maryland white marble on a low base. Although the block was professionally designed, the lettering was informally executed by the stone mason. The cenotaph is highly significant as a rare, antebellum genealogical memorial, for its association with the Cocke family, and for its unusual Greek Revival design by A. J. Davis. This is a contributing object on the property.

Foundations to 1803 Kitchen

In April 1806 Isaac Lever settled his accounts with John Hartwell Cocke, Jr., including those for work in December 1803 "To building a kitchen 42 feet by 16 feet." This is thought to be the building excavated just east of the main house in the landside yard by the James River Institute for Archaeology in 2006. Foundations for a reconstruction of Cocke's 1803 kitchen were raised in May 2006 and have been reconstructed to the level of the sills. Since an earlier building was discovered beneath the kitchen's remains, elaborate pilings and subterranean grade beams used as foundations were created to span and preserve in place the earlier archeological feature. The reconstructed foundations are made of clay brick laid, using lime mortar, in a Flemish bond pattern with light, random glazing. Plans call for the reconstruction of the one story-and-loft superstructure based on the archaeological discoveries and the Lever accounts. This building site is contributing to the Mount Pleasant property.

Well

The well has yet to receive much study, but holds the prospect of being early, at least the below grade portion. Extensive repointing of the header-bond brickwork above grade has obscured the character of the upper walls such that it is unclear how old this portion may be. Still, the lower few courses above grade appear to be older than the top of the walls and might date to the 19th century. A wooden cap dates to the Von Schilling era. This is a contributing structure within the Mount Pleasant property.

Since no extant building on the site save the main house is depicted on a site plan of Mount Pleasant measured and drawn by Williamsburg landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff in the 1930s, nor in an aerial photograph of the plantation shot in 1936, it is presumed that all other existing resources post date Franz Von Shilling's purchase of the property in 1941. Moreover, it appears that gross improvements to the house and farm did not occur in the 20th century until after the property was acquired by Franz Von Schilling, Jr. on 28 March 1941.

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Mount Pleasant
Surry County, VA

Reconstructed Barn

Arthur Shurcliff noted the site of an early barn south of the main house on his 1930s site plan of Mount Pleasant. Archaeological excavations in this area revealed that the barn that once stood here had a light footprint and left little to recover archaeologically. In an attempt to complete the landscape as it appeared in 1803 this barn was reconstructed. It is timber framed, covered in riven clapboards that have been tarred, and given a common rafter roof supported on tilted false plates. The roof is covered with round-butt shingles to match those on the main house. Due to its later reconstruction date, this is a **non-contributing** building.

Office of the Construction Manager (formerly a small car garage and workshop)

This building was likely erected in the 1960s to help facilitate farm operations. The walls are made of exposed CMUs and the roof is constructed as an asymmetrical gable. Unlike most other windows installed as part of the late 20th-century farm improvements, steel casement windows are used. A hinged door is located on the east gable for general access and a large sliding door provides vehicle access on the south façade. A small chimney for a stove flue was added against the inside of the rear, north wall, most likely in the 1970s. This is a **non-contributing** building.

Tree House

A large tree house was erected in a yellow poplar tree that sits on the edge of the cliffs overlooking the James River in front of the main house. It was constructed in 2006 for the use of the Schorsch children. It was designed by Tom Gavin, the construction manager for Mount Pleasant, and built under his guidance. The tree house is frame, includes two levels, and the upper portion is partially enclosed. This is a **non-contributing** structure.

Studio

In 2007 an artist's studio was built on the north lawn on the edge of the cliff, just east of the house. It is of frame construction with board-and-batten siding, stock 6-over-6, double hung windows and a pair of French doors opening onto a wooden deck that overlooks the James River. It has a gable roof covered with wood shingles. The building is lightly framed with minimal foundations so as to limit impact on potential archaeology in this area and so that the building can easily be relocated in the future. The building was designed by Tom Gavin, construction manager, under the direction of Shelley Schorsch and was constructed under his guidance. This is a **non-contributing** building.

Von Schilling Cottage

In the late 1940s or 1950s Franz Von Schilling, then owner of Mount Pleasant, built a guest house perpendicular to the main house on the land-front of the yard, just east of the main house. It was a frame, weatherboarded, pseudo Colonial, 1½ story building with steep-roofed dormers that cap the upper floor windows, giving the roofline a Gothic appearance. In 1999 the guest house was moved to its present site overlooking the river west of the main house and outside the boundaries of the early mansion yard. This house was retained in part as a memorial to Von Schilling's care of the property and to double as a guest house for the plantation. It was renovated at this time, including the addition of a tower on the land front and an expansion on the river side that gives the building a cruciform appearance. Renovation designs for the Von Schilling cottage were prepared by architect Terry Ammons of Studio Ammons, in Petersburg, Virginia. Expert House Movers relocated the building, with Roger Atkinson as the general contractor. This building is **non-contributing**.

East Outbuilding to Von Schilling Cottage

This frame building was designed by Terry Ammons as a support building to the moved Von Schilling cottage and was erected in 1999. It is covered in weatherboards, some of which were salvaged from renovation of the cottage. It has a gabled roof, exposed eaves and a board-and-batten door. Recently a shed for wood storage was added to the north. The building is located immediately to the north of the Von Schilling cottage on the east side of the yard and is **non-contributing**.

West Outbuilding to Von Schilling Cottage

This frame building was also designed by Terry Ammons as a support building to the moved Von Schilling cottage and was erected in 1999. It is covered in weatherboards, has a double-hung six-over-six window, and sits on a brick foundation. It is located north of the main house on the west side of the yard and is a **non-contributing** building.

Freestanding Fireplace at Von Schilling Cottage

A freestanding brick chimney was built in the back yard of the Von Schilling cottage in 1999 or 2000. It is a **non-contributing** structure.

Swimming Pool

An in-ground swimming pool was built east of the main house sometime between 1995 and 1997 by Mrs. Claude Ely and was enclosed by a brick serpentine fence on the west and a wooden picket fence on the other three sides. The pool is edged with blue stone and has a herringbone brick patio. The patio is raised to the south and here the material changes back to blue stone. The pool is set within a neatly tailored garden. It is a **non-contributing** site.

Pool Pump House (formerly a cattle feeder)

This began as an open-sided, roofed cattle feeder and dates to the last quarter of the 20th century. When the pool was installed this structure was remodeled as a pump house to service it. In its remodeled state, it is covered with vertical board siding, with sheet metal covering the roof and upper gables. This is a **non-contributing** structure.

Sheep Shelter (formerly a cattle feeder)

This was formerly an open-sided cattle feeder that included a hay manger and a feeder and was set on a concrete slab. It was one of three on the property, including the structure that has since been modified into a pump house for the swimming pool and a rebuilt feeder in the field south of the main house. It dates to the last quarter of the 20th century. Recently the manger and feeder were removed and the building was resided to be used as a sheep shelter. The walls now are covered in vertical boards and the roof and upper gables are covered in sheet metal. Remodeling work on this building was undertaken by Al Mortimer, the estate caretaker. This is a **non-contributing** building.

Large Animal Shelter (formerly a cattle feeder)

In a field south of the road leading to the main house is a small building that was formerly used as a feeding shelter for cattle and included a manger and a feeder. It had opened sides and sat on a concrete slab. This building was similar to

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Mount Pleasant
Surry County, VA

two others on the property—one now being used as a pool pump house, the other as a sheep shelter. It dates to the last quarter of the 20th century. Recently everything below the roof except for the concrete slab was removed and posts were installed to create an open shelter for livestock. This is a **non-contributing** building.

Small Horse Barn

In 2006 a small horse barn (16' by 24') was erected next to a newly created outdoor riding ring. It is of frame construction with vertical board siding and has a sheet metal roof. This is a **non-contributing** building.

"Shed Row" (vehicle shed)

This building was erected by the Von Shillings as part of their farm improvements sometime between the late 1940s and the early 1960s. It is a frame, shed-roofed building with a small, shed overhang on the south front. In 2004, a 24-foot section of the west end of the building was removed and half of the removed section was then reused as a shed for a tenement elsewhere on the farm. This is a **non-contributing** building.

Caretaker's Cottage [REDACTED]

The caretaker's cottage, set east of the main house, has the appearance of 1940s/'50s work. It is frame with weatherboarded walls, double-hung six-over-six windows and is covered with a sheet metal roof. Rafter ends of a common rafter roof are exposed at eaves level, another detail that is common to most Von Schilling-era buildings. The cottage consisted of two one-room units set at right angles to one another and connected by a porch. At a later date the porch was enclosed and a shed was added to the east end. This is a **non-contributing** building.

Chicken Coop

Another building erected by Franz Von Schilling sometime between the late 1940s and the early 1960s is a frame chicken coop located north of the caretaker's cottage and east of the main house. It has weatherboard walls, the same double-hung windows as the caretaker's cottage, exposed eaves and a shed roof with a smaller shed overhang to protect the front. A board-and-batten door leads into the roosting room. An internal feed room is located adjacent to the roosting room. A large divided opening on the front original had removable panels—possibly of chicken wire—that have since been replaced with a fixed barrier to contain the fowl inside. This is a **non-contributing** structure.

Pole Vehicle Shed

West of the stable is a large vehicle shed made of creosoted earthfast posts that support a very light trussed roof. The roof and walls of this building are covered with 5V metal roofing sheets. This building was constructed in the 1970s or early 1980s for the storage of large farm equipment. It is a **non-contributing** building.

Stable

The stable is part of the same group of buildings constructed by Franz Von Schilling sometime between the late 1940s and early 1960s as part of general farm improvements. It does not show either on the Arthur Shurcliff landscape plan of the 1930s or on the 1936 aerial photograph of the farm. It is a frame building raised on brick piers covered with weatherboard siding. Exposed eaves and 6-over-6 double-hung sash windows links construction of this building to

a group of others scattered across the farm. Simple brackets support a deep roof overhang on the gables for protection of the hayloft. An original shed is located on the north side of the building, intended for the storage of farm machinery. The south end contained stalls, while the center was used for feed and the loft for hay storage. This is a **non-contributing** building.

River House [REDACTED]

In the 1960s or 1970s, Franz Von Shilling built a small, frame cottage on the banks of the James River. Ostensibly a guest house, it was also used for entertainments, including a wedding reception that included an oyster roast. This house has a more modern aesthetic than other buildings on the property and it is known that Franz Von Shilling had a hand in its design. It is a frame building covered in board-and-batten siding. The roof is gabled, but with an asymmetrical profile; its long, riverside slope lends the building a chalet-like appearance. A bank of six-over-six sash windows across the north façade provides a stunning view of the river. A brick chimney for a corner fireplace rises from the northwest corner of the room. The deck is a recent addition. The house has an open plan and is essentially one room—kitchen, sleeping, dining and living areas all share a single space. An appendage to the east gable contains the bathroom and has muntinless casement windows, set horizontally high on the walls. Whether this section is original is unclear. This is a **non-contributing** building.

Boat Pier

One of the first physical improvements made to Mount Pleasant after purchase by Nicholas and Shelley Schorsch in 2000 was the construction of a boat pier and a covered boat slip. The pier extends into the James River and is located near the River House. This is a **non-contributing** structure.

Boat House

Soon after construction of the pier, a small, frame boat house was constructed nearby. It is a **non-contributing** building.

Archaeological Resources [REDACTED]

Archaic Period

Mount Pleasant contains one site with a definite Archaic component and two sites with undetermined prehistoric components. Site [REDACTED] is a large multi-component site with evidence of Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Middle Woodland occupation. [REDACTED]

Sites [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are identified as having prehistoric components. [REDACTED] was reported by residents as a possible Woodland site, but testing in 1999 produced only flakes and no diagnostics. [REDACTED] has been attributed as unknown prehistoric [REDACTED]

Woodland Period

Documentary records indicate that Surry County, including the area now known as Mount Pleasant, was part of the territory inhabited by the Quiyoughcohannock Indians at the time of English contact. There are two sites at Mount Pleasant that have definitive evidence of Native American occupation during the Woodland Period (ca. 500 BC to AD 1600) immediately predating contact. Site [REDACTED] contained sherds of Native American pottery as well as Potts and Piscataway projectile points. Site [REDACTED] is a multi-component site that incorporates the manor house and surrounding grounds and garden. Along with the expected historic materials, archaeological investigations in the yards around the brick house have uncovered several arcs of small postmolds that are believed to be part of the footprints of longhouses, features characteristic of the heavily-occupied villages of the Late Woodland. [REDACTED]

Pace's Paines Period, c. 1620 - 1635

Historical information indicates that the first English settlement of Mount Pleasant was by Richard Pace who received a patent for 200 acres in 1620. In 1622, Chanco, a Christianized Indian living in the Pace household, warned Pace of an impending attack on English settlements by the Virginia Indians. Pace quickly rowed his boat across the river to Jamestown where he alerted the authorities. Thanks to Chanco's warning and Pace's timely action, Jamestown was spared a potentially devastating assault. The 1625 Muster of Virginia reveals that there were four separate households at Pace's Paines. Archaeological survey has discovered at least one of the Pace's Paines' sites in a field about 400' east of the manor house. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The artifact assemblage included many sherds of imported tablewares and containers, including Frechen (Bartmann) stoneware jugs, Midlands Purple butterpots, Iberian costrels (drinking jars), Iberian olive jars, English polychrome delftware, North Devon coarse gravel temper ware, North Devon fine gravel temper ware, Portuguese Merida-type ware, and Werra/Weser slipware. Other finds included very early kaolin pipe stems with 8/64-inch and 9/64-inch bore diameters, flint, an iron brigandine plate (originally sewed to a cloth form to create body armor), tenter hooks, a musket scourer, and marked tobacco pipe bowls. The artifact collection indicates that this site was occupied c. 1620-1635. The comparatively large size of the site, as well as the large and varied assemblage of domestic tablewares, storage items, and smoking paraphernalia, suggests that it may be the principal site of the Pace's Paines settlement.

Swann Period, c. 1635 - 1706

On March 1, 1638, Thomas Swann I inherited 1,200 acres of land on the south side of the James River that his father William Swann patented in 1635, including what is today Mount Pleasant. Swann served as burgess, sheriff, county justice, and colonel in the militia, and was also appointed to the Governor's Council. Upon Thomas Swann's death in 1680, his estate devolved to his son Samuel Swann, himself a holder of numerous local offices. Samuel Swann moved to Carolina and eventually sold the plantation in 1706. Archaeological work at Swanns Point Farm in the 1970's identified the location of the 17th-century Swann residence, site [REDACTED]

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JRIA's more recent excavations, however, found archaeological evidence that the Swann plantation was a sprawling affair that developed much of the current Mount Pleasant property. These include one large site, two earthfast buildings, a brick-lined cellar, and field ditches.

Site [REDACTED] was discovered by a controlled surface collection of the field south of the main house. The surface artifact assemblage, which covered an area of approximately 150' x 300', consisted of a dense concentration of artifacts including ceramic sherds such as Westerwald stoneware, creamware, Chinese porcelain, colonoware, and lead glazed earthenwares, all consistent with an occupation c. 1670-1800. Several personal artifacts also were recovered including glass beads and a thimble. One test square, excavated in order to explore a brick and mortar concentration, uncovered part of a large chimney base. Probing with a metal rod indicated the chimney base had a firebox that was 12' wide. The chimney base apparently was part of an earthfast building as there was no evidence of a brick foundation or piers. Significantly the orientation of the chimney base was northeast-southwest, a trait seen in the other resources that were found that predate the brick house. The size of the chimney base suggests that it is part of a prominent dwelling and therefore a major house site.

The historic component of Site [REDACTED] contained at least two, and likely three, other Swann-period resources. While investigating the terraced garden on the north side of the brick house, two earthfast buildings were discovered. An eight posthole, 18' x 23' earthfast structure was found in the lower terrace about 150 feet from the brick house. The building was unheated and had a door on the south side. A second earthfast building was uncovered in the upper terrace just 40 feet from the brick house. Measuring 18' x 50', this 13 posthole structure likely was a tobacco barn. Like the chimney base in the south field, both earthfast structures were not oriented north-south. A third possible Swann-period building was a brick-lined cellared storehouse that was found under the c. 1803 kitchen. Oriented northwest-southeast, this 18' x 24' structure had an intact cellar entrance, but no evidence of a chimney base. The builder's trench had no datable artifacts; however, its alignment indicates that it belongs originally to the Swann period. It continued in use until c. 1801 when it was razed to make way for a new set of outbuildings. The absence of a heat source suggests that it was not a dwelling, but perhaps a storehouse. JRIA also uncovered evidence of a Swann Period field system in the field immediately west of the manor house. Exploratory trenches uncovered sections of perpendicular ditches that ran northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest.

Mount Pleasant, c. 1709 – 1760

The first half of the 18th century is the beginning of the John Hartwell/Richard Cocke IV tenure at Mount Pleasant. Around 1730, Elizabeth Hartwell, whose father John purchased the former Swann plantation in 1709, married Richard Cocke IV of Surry County and received as dowry her father's acreage west of Mount Swamp which corresponds to modern Mount Pleasant. Richard Cocke IV was a successful planter who held several local offices. There are three archaeological sites associated with this period. Archaeological survey revealed that while site [REDACTED] was first occupied during the Swann period, it continued to be used throughout the 18th century. In all probability, site [REDACTED] was the location of the John Hartwell and Richard Cocke IV dwelling(s) prior to the construction of the brick house. It is very likely that a number of outbuildings are present on the site as well.

As previously mentioned, site [REDACTED] contains a brick-lined cellar beneath the c. 1803 kitchen, a structure probably used as a storehouse during the Swann and early Mount Pleasant periods. Site [REDACTED] was located in a field [REDACTED]. Situated along a ravine in the northwest corner of the field, the site was manifested by a

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surface concentration of wine bottle glass, Westerwald stoneware, creamware, and colonoware. Subsequent archaeological testing uncovered an earthfast building containing numerous small subfloor pits or root cellars, features that are most often associated with slave occupations. A test excavation in one of the subfloor pits produced colonoware, an unrefined earthenware also associated with slave occupations, and two complete wine bottles that dated to c. 1740. The surface artifacts, however, indicate that occupation of the site continued to the last decades of the 18th century.

Mount Pleasant, c.1760 - c. 1801

Richard Cocke IV died in 1772. Mount Pleasant then was bequeathed to Hartwell Cocke I, and later to John Hartwell Cocke I, who survived until 1791. John Hartwell Cocke II was only eleven when his father died, after which Mount Pleasant was managed by his uncle, Richard Cocke V. During this period, the nucleus of Mount Pleasant moved from site [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. Architectural evidence indicates that the brick house was built c.1760, while archaeological remains of at least two contemporaneous dependencies have been found. There are four archaeological sites that relate to this period.

Ground penetrating radar and archaeological survey revealed that, in addition to the brick house, site [REDACTED] included a at least two dependencies on the east side of the house, a small garden extending off the north side of the brick house, and the previously mentioned quarter site, [REDACTED] in the field west of the house. One of the dependencies at site [REDACTED] was the Swann period earlier cellared storehouse which continued in use until it was demolished c. 1801. Geophysical prospecting located a second cellared building approximately 30 feet west of the storehouse. A test square excavated into the second cellar produced artifacts indicating that it was backfilled in the late 18th century. Two cowrie shells (non-indigenous shells that have been found on several other slave quarter sites in Virginia) and a glass bead were recovered from the second cellar, suggesting that perhaps enslaved African-Americans occupied this second outbuilding which may have served as a quarter and/or kitchen. Fenceline postholes outlining a garden were found on the north side of the brick house. Extending north from either corner of the brick house, the fenceline enclosed a rectangular area measuring 50' x 60' with a gate at the north end that was centered on the doorway in the north side of the brick house.

Based on survey data, both previously mentioned sites [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appear to have remained in use to the end of the 18th century, the latter likely continued to be a slave quarter. Site [REDACTED] was evidenced by a small number of 18th-century artifacts were recovered during shovel testing in the woods at the south end of the Mount Pleasant property near the head of the Mount Swamp ravine. The site has tentatively been interpreted as an outlying slave quarter.

Mount Pleasant, c. 1801 – 1841

The period corresponds to a complete change in the nature and disposition of the buildings and landscape at Mount Pleasant. In 1801, John Hartwell Cocke II celebrated his 21st birthday and assumed control of Mount Pleasant. He soon embarked on a major renovation of the manor house and grounds at Mount Pleasant. The manor house was enlarged and a wing was added to the east side of the house. The earlier dependencies were demolished and a new set of outbuildings was constructed. In 1809, Cocke moved to Bremo in Fluvanna County and sold Mount Pleasant to his sister and her husband, Sally and Nicholas Faulcon, who held the property until 1841. There is available evidence indicating that the Faulcons made no substantial changes to John Hartwell Cocke II's Mount Pleasant.

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Archaeological resources of this period are primarily components of site [REDACTED]. In addition to the alterations to the manor house, one of the most significant modifications was the construction of a new set of outbuildings. The earliest outbuildings, which extended east from the manor house, were demolished and a new line was constructed that ran in a line from north to south. Thirty feet east of the manor house, the new line of outbuildings was headed by a probable smokehouse. Immediately south of the presumed smokehouse is a kitchen foundation which documents indicate was constructed 1803-04. The kitchen was built on top of the brick-lined cellar mentioned above. The excavation of the cellar produced a collection of artifacts that date to late 18th century including a plethora of fine, late 18th-century ceramics, notably rosso antico and black basalt teapots and a number of pieces of a matching set of Chinese overglaze porcelain coffee cups and tea bowls.

There were at least two, and possibly three, additional outbuildings in the line of dependencies. Twenty feet south of the kitchen, testing exposed part of the foundation of a small outbuilding that was seated on a one-brick wide foundation. About 60 feet south of the small outbuilding, two shell-mortared brick piers were uncovered that marked the 20 foot wide gable end of a building. Between these two buildings was a continuous brick foundation, but currently it is unclear whether the continuous foundation is a separate building or an addition to the pier building. A chimney base for another dependency was found about 80 feet west of the pier-supported outbuilding.

The small mid-18th-century garden on the riverside of the house was replaced by a large formal, terraced garden. Fenceline postholes were found enclosing a 210-foot square garden on the north side of the house. The only archaeological evidence of the formal garden on the upper terrace consisted of reworked gravel for the central garden path and postholes for fencelines. In contrast, detailed soil analyses by Virginia Tech scientists, comprehensive archaeological sampling, and partial open area excavation of the east half of the lower terrace revealed that it contained a series of long rectangular planting beds with a secondary north-south path. The core beds, which did not extend into the subsoil, are only partially intact. The surrounding border beds, however, were dug into the subsoil and are in an excellent state of preservation. The bottom of the border beds had different treatments. The north border beds on the east half of the lower terrace were paved with brick bats. The north border beds on the west half of the lower terrace had strips of wood placed in the bottom. The bottom of the south border beds on the east half of the lower terrace were simply subsoil. No other border beds have been tested. A small terrace also was constructed on the south side of the house at this time.

[REDACTED]

Mount Pleasant, 1841 - 1863

Archaeological survey suggests that, by the time Dr. George Wilson acquired Mount Pleasant in 1841, many improvements made by John Hartwell Cocke II had disappeared. While the c. 1803 kitchen and adjacent smokehouse were still in use, the rest of the structures in the line of outbuildings apparently were demolished. The house, kitchen and smokehouse continued in use through Wilson's tenure. Landscape features from this period that are depicted on historic maps and reported in Dr. Wilson's journal, but not yet archaeologically identified, include an ice house and orchards as well as the cenotaph installed by Philip St. George Cocke, son of John Hartwell Cocke II. Of unknown date is a road bed along the cypress swamp that leads to the James River.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

Mount Pleasant is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, C, and D. Criterion A is recommended for Mount Pleasant's association with the Uprising of 1622. By warning James Towne of a potentially devastating surprise attack by the Powhatan Indians, Chanco and Pace arguably altered the course of Virginia, and therefore American, history. Criterion B refers to the association with John Hartwell Cocke II, one of the most influential and progressive Virginians of his time. He was at the vanguard of agrarian reform, abolition, education, and architectural design in the early 19th century. The manor house at Mount Pleasant, built c.1760, is significant under Criterion C (architecture). Mount Pleasant is significant for Criterion D since archaeological investigations have documented sites that represent Native American occupation at Mount Pleasant from as early as the Middle Archaic (6,500 – 2000 B.C.) through Late Woodland and perhaps the Contact Period as well. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mount Pleasant was a prime area for early English settlement, and documentary and archaeological evidence indicate that Mount Pleasant has been continuously occupied during historic times and contains well-preserved and archaeologically significant sites from the 1620's through the Civil War.

Detailed Statement

English Foothold in the New World

The early history of Mount Pleasant is significant for both Criterion A and Criterion D. Mount Pleasant is the location of one of the earliest English settlements in Virginia. Archaeological survey confirms that Mount Pleasant contains one of the four households that comprised the settlement known as Pace's Paines, was named after the grant that was awarded to Richard Pace as an "ancient planter" by the Virginia Company of London c. 1620. In addition to the information regarding Pace's Paines reported in the Muster of 1625, other documents indicate that Pace's Paines was protected by some type of fortification. It is accordingly representative of early English settlement patterns in Virginia and adapting traditional English life styles to the frontier environment of the New World. Further, Pace's Paines played a key role in interaction between English settlers and Native Americans, particularly the Quiyoughcohannock. By warning the Jamestown settlement of the impending Uprising of 1622, the Native American servant Chanco and Richard Pace made an inestimable contribution to the course of American history by securing the future of the fragile Virginia colony. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The archaeological record of the Pace's Paines site at Mount Pleasant has the potential to answer a host of research questions about English settlement by a small planter, as opposed to the Virginia Company of London period settlements established by affluent planters and corporate "particular plantations." Archaeological research at Pace's Paines could provide information on how a small frontier farmstead was organized and arranged, how a small planter was equipped or outfitted, what was the nature of his possessions in quantity and quality, what types of fortifications, if any, were practical for a small planter, what was the quantity and quality of armaments present, what was the makeup of a small planter's sustenance in a frontier environment, how much did small planters' rely on interaction and trade with Virginia Indians, and many other questions.

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During the Late Woodland/Contact Period, early European chroniclers document that Mount Pleasant was in the territory of the Quiyoughcohannock Indian tribe that was part of the Powhatan Chiefdom. With their principal weroance village situated only ten miles west of Jamestown Island, near Claremont in Surry County, the Quiyoughcohannock were one of the first native groups the English encountered when they sailed up the James in May 1607. They would also prove to be among the settlers' best allies, at least until the pressures of English settlement grew too strong. While visiting the Paspahugh, whose village was near the confluence of the James and Chickahominy rivers, the Jamestown colonists were visited by the Quiyoughcohannock weroance Pepsicuminah (often referred to mistakenly by the English as "Rapahanna"). George Percy recorded their first memorable encounter, "*He [Pepsicuminah] rose and made signs to us to come to his town; he went foremost, and all the rest of his people and ourselves followed him up a steep hill where his palace was settled. We passed through the woods in fine paths, having most pleasant springs which issued from the mountains. We also went through the goodliest cornfields that ever was seen in any country. When we came to Rapahanno's town, he entertained us in good humanity.*" During the early years of the Jamestown settlement, Pepsicuminah maintained good relations with the newcomers while other native groups proved less hospitable. As John Smith himself remarked, the weroance of the Quiyoughcohannock was an "*honest, proper, good, promise-keeping king,*" who "*did always at our greatest need supply us with victuals of all sorts, which he did notwithstanding the continual wars which we had in the rest of his country, and upon his deathbed charged his people that they should forever keep good quiet with the English.*" Unfortunately, the tenor of Anglo-Quiyoughcohannock relations eventually degraded, as the English began expanding beyond Jamestown and establishing settlements on the south shore of the James River, within the tribe's traditional territory.

After the reorganization of the Virginia Company of London in 1618-1619, English settlement exploded along the James River that included a 1620 patent to Richard Pace for 200 acres on land that later would become Mount Pleasant. The 1625 Muster of Virginia listed four separate households at Pace's Paines headed by the household of John Proctor and his wife Alice, who were credited with three servants, two houses, and an assortment of arms. In addition, there is a court record that describes the circumstances of the death of a Proctor's maidservant whose body was found "*about two stones cast of the houses within the fort*" at Paces Paines. Archaeological survey has located in the field to the east of the house a relatively extensive site [REDACTED] dating from c. 1620 to c. mid-1630s which is thought to be the Pace/Proctor site. Ultimately, the early period of English expansion along the James River culminated in bloodshed. On March 22, 1622, a well-coordinated Indian uprising caught the newcomers almost totally unprepared, resulting in the deaths of over 350 settlers. According to contemporary accounts, a Christianized Indian named Chanco (probably a Quiyoughcohannock) provided advance warning of the attack. Chanco, who was living with Richard Pace on the south side of the James at his plantation Paces Pains, told his master of the Indian plot in the pre-dawn hours of March 22nd. Pace reportedly rowed across the James in the dark to warn the Jamestown colonists, thus sparing them from the slaughter witnessed in the more outlying settlements.

In the wake of the 1622 uprising, the English launched punitive expeditions against the Quiyoughcohannock and those other groups that had participated in the attacks. Though they burned their villages and seized their crops, the English were not immediately successful in displacing the Indians from their traditional Southside territory. But eventually the flood of English settlers into the James River Valley proved overwhelming to the native peoples, whose numbers were dwindling in the face of sporadic fighting and European disease. By the 1630s, the Quiyoughcohannock were gone, their fate unrecorded by the English who were busy transforming their Surry County lands into profitable tobacco plantations. After thousands of years of occupation, the Native Americans south of the James had virtually vanished.

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Evolution of the Plantation

Mount Pleasant is significant under Criterion D as the property contains a virtually unbroken record of the evolution of the Virginia plantation. The frontier settlement of Pace's Paines, which utilized only a small portion of the Mount Pleasant property for a relatively short time, was succeeded by the development of the property by the Swann family, who owned Mount Pleasant from 1635 until 1706. The Swanns were one of 17th-century Virginia's influential families, and especially prominent on the southside of the James River. Archaeological work in the 1970's located the site of the principal Swann residence [REDACTED] on the modern day Swanns Point farm that adjoins Mount Pleasant, however recent archaeological surveys at Mount Pleasant has discovered that there was extensive use of the Mount Pleasant land in the second half of the 17th century that represents the beginning of the development of a major 17th-century plantation.

Thomas Swann I inherited 1,200 acres of land on the south side of the James River that his father William Swann patented in 1635. Swann became a colonel in the militia and was appointed to the Governor's Council. By 1640 Thomas Swann I had been appointed the official tobacco viewer for the area and, in 1652 when Surry County was formed, he became high sheriff, an indication that he was a county justice. During the 1640s and 1650s, he served several terms as a burgess in the colony's assembly, representing James City County and then Surry. Historical records indicate that Thomas Swann commissioned a number of buildings in the 1650's, and it may be that the 17th-century structures at Mount Pleasant were built during this time. Upon Thomas Swann's death in 1680, his estate devolved to his son Samuel Swann who eventually sold the estate in 1706. After passing through two owners, the property was acquired in 1709 by John Hartwell of Surry County. Around 1730, John Hartwell's daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married Richard Coker IV of Surry County. Elizabeth had inherited virtually all of John Hartwell's Swann's Point real estate. Surry County records reveal that Richard Coker took an active role in public life. In 1746 he was appointed the county's official surveyor and he was designated as Surry's keeper of the standard weights and measures. Between 1744 and 1747 Richard Coker IV represented Surry County in the House of Burgesses. Architectural evidence indicates that the earliest part of the standing brick manor house at Mount Pleasant was built during Richard Coker IV's tenure at Mount Pleasant, probably around 1750. Archaeological evidence suggests that at this time the core site at Mount Pleasant [REDACTED] included a small garden extending off the north side of the brick house, at least two dependencies on the east side of the house, and a quarter site [REDACTED] in the field west of the house. The Hartwells and the Cokers, prior to the construction of the brick house, likely lived in the dwelling found at site [REDACTED] in the field south of the brick house. Archaeological survey revealed that while this site began during the Swann period, it continued to be used throughout the 18th century.

Richard Coker IV died on March 5, 1772. In addition to Mount Pleasant, Coker bequeathed to his eldest son and primary heir, Hartwell Coker I, the plantation called Bremo in the fork of the James River, noting that it had been given to him by his own father who had patented the acreage on December 15, 1725. Although the date of Hartwell Coker I's birth is uncertain, he was a mature married man at the time of his father's death in March 1772 and had a grown son, John Hartwell Coker I, who was almost 23 at the time. Hartwell Coker I died soon after his father, his will was presented for probate in August 1772. John Hartwell Coker I, the eldest son of Hartwell Coker I and his wife, the former Ann Ruffin, was born on November 26, 1749, and survived until February 9, 1791. Sometime prior to 1775 he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Richard and Sally Skipwith Kennon of Mount Pleasant in Chesterfield County. Real estate tax rolls for Surry County reveal that in 1782, John Hartwell Coker I was in possession of two

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tracts of land, one of which comprised of 1,327 acres located on the western part of the acreage known as Swann's Point and was sometimes was called Mount Pleasant. It is likely that John Hartwell Cocke I succumbed to a sudden and severe illness or some sort of a serious injury, for he prepared his will on January 29, 1791, a little over a week before he died. He named his only surviving son, John Hartwell Cocke II born on September 19, 1780, as his principal heir. Of special interest are the expenditures Richard Cocke V made on the Mount Pleasant property, presumably on behalf of his young nephew, John Hartwell Cocke II, who was only eleven when his father died. It appears that much expenditure was linked to improvements that Richard, functioning as his late brother's executor, made to property, such as building two brick chimneys, underpinning the porch, bricking a well, and digging and bricking a new well.

John Hartwell Cocke II and Mount Pleasant

When John Hartwell Cocke II turned 14, he was sent to the College of William and Mary. He attained his majority in 1801 and, sometime prior to 1804, married Anne Blaus Barraud, the daughter of Dr. Philip Barraud of Norfolk. Personal property tax records for the period reveal that John Hartwell Cocke II typically had between thirty and forty slaves on his Surry County property, who were age sixteen or older, and ten or less who were under sixteen, which made him one of the three largest slave owners in Surry County. In the years 1801-1804 Mount Pleasant was extensively renovated. The brick house was expanded from one and one-half stories to its current elevation and an east wing was added. Archaeological investigations have shown that the original outbuildings were razed at this time and a new set of outbuildings were constructed following a new landscape plan. Beginning with a smokehouse off the east side of the manor house, there were at least three more dependencies built in a line extending south from the smokehouse. Another major change was the complete redesign of the landscape with the creation of a formal garden on the riverside of the manor house line where archaeological investigation has revealed fenceline postholes outlining a 200' square area that enclosed two terraces. The lower terrace was composed of narrow rectangular planting beds with border beds that were dug into subsoil and paved with either brick bats or wood strips. In contrast to the lower terrace, the upper terrace likely was a lawn. A terrace also was added to the landward side of the house.

By 1810, John Hartwell Cocke II had relocated to Bremo in Fluvanna County. While he was living there he became a member of the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors and during the War of 1812 he attained the rank of brigadier general. At his estates in Fluvanna County, he dedicated himself to agricultural reform and practiced crop rotation, terracing, deep plowing, and using fertilizer to maintain and improve the soil. He campaigned against tobacco cultivation and on a personal level, found the consumption of tobacco and alcohol morally repugnant. Cocke insisted that tobacco planters' preoccupation with tobacco forced them to use slave labor and to purchase meat and corn for their own tables and feed for their livestock. Cocke was among the conservative reformers, both North and South, who formed benevolent societies to give permanence to the changes that were occurring in religious denominations. Cocke fervently believed that slave labor was evil and he became an ardent abolitionist. However, he did not believe that blacks and whites could live together in harmony, and like James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and others, advocated the colonization of American blacks in Africa. In pursuit of that goal, he was involved in the establishment of the American Colonization Society, which transported fewer than seven thousand freed slaves to Liberia, in West Africa. Cocke freed many of his own slaves, those he considered capable of supporting themselves in Africa and leading a Christian life. Cocke suffered ostracism for his beliefs and as time went on, became increasingly devout.

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The following are some of John Hartwell Cocke II's accomplishments:

- Leader of Liberian colonization movement and representative of the southern Whig position between slavery and outright abolition. He put into place the unique strategy of educating and training selected slaves (in Virginia and Alabama plantations) for freedom and passage to Liberia. He successfully "educated" many of his slaves, then freed 14 and sent them to Liberia. He was vice-president of National Colonization Society.
- Leader in the temperance movement and was the vice-president of the Virginia Temperance Convention from 1830-34.
- Leader in the anti-tobacco movement, campaigning against tobacco cultivation both on medical/moral grounds, as well as its soil-ruining effect as a staple crop. He experimented extensively with soil improvement and practices that could substitute for profitable tobacco cropping.
- Instrumental in the formation of higher education in Virginia and was a founding member of the Board of University of Virginia.
- Active in interior improvements in Virginia and was a member of Board of Virginia Public Works and Virginia James River and Kanawha Company which built the James River Canal.
- Leader in southern agrarian reform, his major contributions were as a progressive large landowner who experimented, practiced and proselytized the use of soil improvers (marl, plaster, manure) and crops that would make money, revitalize the soil and make slavery unnecessary. He was first chairman of the Albemarle Agricultural Society, corresponded with reformers and wrote articles in Edmund Ruffin's Farmers Register and John Skinner's American Farmer, and was president of United Agricultural Society of Virginia.

Mount Pleasant in the 19th Century

On July 25, 1809, John Hartwell Cocke II and his wife sold to Nicholas Faulcon (the grantor's brother-in-law and husband of his sister, Sally) 1,127 acres on the James River. Through this deed, the western part of the Swann's Point tract, the acreage that John Hartwell Cocke I had occupied personally and was known as "Mount Pleasant," came into the possession of Nicholas Faulcon and his wife, the former Sally Cocke. On the same day that Cocke sold the western part of their Surry County property to Nicholas and Sally Cocke Faulcon, he conveyed to his sister, Mary Kennon Cocke, a 1,130 acre tract "called and known by the name of Swann's Point. During the War of 1812, British naval vessels occasionally ventured up the James River and in the summer of 1813 they raided some homes along the south side of the James River. A letter written by Colonel William Allen of Claremont on July 1, 1813, reveals that on June 29th, he went to Four Mile Tree, where he had learned that the British had landed and were "destroying all the Stock of sheep and cattle they can find." They reportedly "took from Four Mile Tree and Mount Pleasant this morning 26 head of sheep and the Fowls, destroyed the furniture at Four Mile Tree and Mount Pleasant."

In 1820 when tax assessors commenced making note of the value of the buildings that stood upon the parcels they assessed, Mount Pleasant was said to contain improvements which assessed value was \$2,254. That assessment remained constant through 1839, at which time there was a major revision in the county's tax base. That Mount Pleasant's structural improvements were elaborate can be seen in the fact that during this period the buildings at Bacon's Castle were worth \$2,781 and those at Chippokes were worth only \$1,300. Upon the demise of Nicholas and Sally Faulcon, in 1841 John N. Faulcon of Surry County, who identified himself as Nicholas Faulcon's executor, sold his late uncle's real estate to Dr. George Wilson. The property being transferred included Mount Pleasant, which was

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described as 1,127 acres that abutted north upon the James River, south upon Jack's, east upon Swann's Point (then the land of Edwin White), and west upon Philip St. George Cocke's plantation, Four Mile Tree. [REDACTED]

Between the time of the assessor's visit in 1850 and his return in 1851, George Wilson apparently made some significant improvements or repairs to his buildings at Mount Pleasant, for their assessed value rose from \$1,271 to \$1,800. The tax assessor failed to note why he had revised his records, although the analysis of other Surry County properties' tax records make it clear that the change was *not* attributable to a revision in the tax base. The assessed value of George Wilson's buildings remained constant at \$1,800 through 1856. During 1853, 1854, and 1855 Dr. George Wilson kept a daily diary in which he made comments about the weather, his crops and farming practices, family matters, and everyday happenings at Mount Pleasant. In 1854 Wilson said that a vessel had arrived with some pieces of marble for Philip St. George Cocke, who intended to erect a cenotaph "in the grave yard of his family, that is on this plantation." Later Wilson wrote that Philip St. George Cocke's men were erecting the cenotaph in "the old burying ground attached to this Farm." He said that it was "the most singular memorial of the dead I have ever seen - there are a number of names inscribed in the stone: but very few of them mentioned were buried here: it is more a genealogical cenotaph than anything else."

During early 1861 or 1862, George Wilson, who had become ill, returned to Smithfield in Isle of Wight County, to be nearer his kin. On April 2, 1863, George R. Wilson, who identified himself as George Wilson's executor, conveyed Mount Pleasant to Alexander Aldrich. The farm was described as 642 acres that adjoined the land of Joseph S. Graves [REDACTED] James D. Wilson [REDACTED] and the land of Edwin White, then owner of the farm known as Swann's Point.

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Geographical Data

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The following information is the same for all photographs:
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Digital images stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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