

VLR - 6/16/99 NRHP- 8/5/99
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Magnolia House
Hampton, VA

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: Scott House

Other names/site number: The Magnolia House: VDHR File Number 114-103

2. Location

Street & Number 232 South Armistead Ave.

City or Town: City of Hampton vicinity: N/A

State: Virginia code: 650 county NA zip code: 23669

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Catherine Henson 6/30/99
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

- ___ 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): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing
 1 0 buildings

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | 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
Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling
Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade

Sub: Restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation :

roof: Synthetic

walls: Stucco

other: Wood

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

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)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1889 Significant Dates: 1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property : .75

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| 1) 18 | 379,870 | 4,098,050 |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet.

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

11. Form Prepared By

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mr. Christopher L. P. McDaid
organization: N/A date:

street & number 285-23 Merrimac Trail telephone: (757) 253 - 0288

city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23185

Additional Documentation

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.)

name: John and Karen Glass

street & number 4002 Chesapeake Ave telephone: (757) 722 6881

city or town Hampton state: VA zip code: 23669

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 1

Magnolia House
City of Hampton, VA

Description:

Summary: The Magnolia House is located at 232 South Armistead Avenue in Hampton, Virginia, among other less grand late-nineteenth century structures. It is an exceptional example of the Late Victorian: Queen Anne style of architecture. The Magnolia House has an irregular floor plan, an asymmetrical facade, and a cross gable. A small two-room addition was added to the rear of Magnolia House in 1920 when Dr. William Knewstep maintained an office in the house (Hampton City Land Tax Records:1921). The structure displays a great amount of architectural detail on the facade with cornice line dentils, a bracketed cornice, elaborate gable ornamentation, an art glass transom over the raised panel double door, and most notably, the fourteen fluted Doric columns that support the five-bay wrap-around porch. The amount of well-executed architectural details is even greater within the house. Elaborate Corinthian column screens, fireplaces with slate backs, molded tile slips, fully cased windows, and an extremely detailed stairway clearly demonstrate that this house was built to be a showpiece and that it has retained a high level of architectural integrity.

Architectural Analysis: The Magnolia House is a large home that is classified as a Late Victorian: Queen Anne. It sits among other late nineteenth-century homes in what was once one of Hampton's wealthy residential neighborhoods. The Magnolia House sits on 0.75 acres of land surrounded by an ornamental wrought iron fence. The dominate landscape features on the lot are four magnificent magnolia trees. Originally a clapboard structure, the entire building was stuccoed in 1915 (Sanborn:1916). The facade of Magnolia House has five bays is asymmetrical and contains the gable end of the cross gable. There is a one-story porch that wraps around to include a portion of the southern elevation. The roof has a steep pitch. The first floor fenestration consists of two floor to ceiling nine-over-one double-hung sash windows, north of the raised panel double-door. The doorway has an art glass transom. South of the double door is a grouping of three one-over-one double-hung sash windows; above all three is a smaller rectangular fixed multi-pane window. The wrap-around porch is supported by fourteen fluted Doric-inspired columns that lack the traditional decorative elements on the frieze. The porch has cornice line dentils. The second floor fenestration is spaced similarly to the first floor, with six

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one-over-one double-hung sash windows, each with an additional four-over-four rectangular panel above. Two windows fill the space occupied by the double door on the first floor. There is a hipped dormer with a small eight-over-one double-hung sash window. The dormer allows light into an unoccupied garret or attic. The floor plan of the Magnolia House is a simple massed plan with several projecting irregularities. Most notable is the two-story bay that projects from the southern facing elevation. The 1920 addition to the Magnolia House has a regular rectangular plan.

The Magnolia House has a central passageway floor plan, therefore upon entering the Magnolia House one enters a living hall which is typical of Queen Anne homes. The hall is separated from the rooms that flank it by matching fluted Corinthian column screens with full entablature of a vine-decorated frieze and egg-and-dart molding on top of the capitol. The room to the south of the formal living hall has an ornate floral ceiling medallion and an irregular floor plan; all of the windows have cased openings with fluted casings and turned corner blocks. In this room there is a large fireplace with a bas-relief lion's head in the fire back and blue and white tiles with decorations which include lions, flags and an urn. The over-mantle of this fire place is a dark stained wood that has been machine-turned into an elaborate piece. From this room one proceeds to another room by traveling east through a doorway with two Corinthian demi-columns. The focal point of this room is the fireplace. The apron is of dark tan and brown tiles, and the slip is a molded metal with a floral motif. The fireplace heater has a scene of three stags in a woodland setting.

From the main living hall to the north there is a room of irregular, though roughly rectangular, floor plan that is separated from the living hall by another fluted Corinthian column screen with full entablature and the same vine motif frieze and egg-and-dart molding. As is the case with all of the windows in the public spaces of this structure, the windows have fluted casing with circular turned corner blocks. The most notable feature in this room is the fireplace and chimney piece. The fireplace heater has a bas-relief copy of "Morning" by the Danish sculptor Thorwaldsen (Lichten:78) with the slip consisting of a blue, white, and yellow tiles with a ribbon and foliage motif. The ribbon and foliage motif is embossed on the frieze above the fireplace

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heater. The passage from this room into the room to the east is a decorated with the Corinthian demi-columns with full entablature; this room can also be entered from the living hall through a doorway. The transom of this doorway is an art glass representation of a magnolia. In this "Magnolia Room" is one of the simpler fireplaces in the structure. The apron of this fireplace has a light and dark tile checkered pattern and this mantle piece is has two turned columns that support the mantelshelf; resting on the mantelshelf is a simple wooden chimney piece that includes several small shelves and a rectangular mirror.

The living hall contains a closed string staircase with three runs that leads to the second floor. The staircase has turned balusters and highly-detailed newel posts. Two of the decorative motifs which are present throughout the first floor are manifested in the staircase. The newel posts that anchor the stairway to the living hall have the turned rosettes and fluting similar to the cased windows elsewhere in the structure. The capitols of the posts have been detailed with the egg-and-dart molding that is found on the entablature of the column screens. The remaining newel posts are treated in a like manner, with the exception of the rosettes; they are only on the bottom set of newel posts. The balusters of this stairway continue the fluted motif of the window casing and newel posts. The newel posts are topped with two magnificent finials. These finials have a high degree of detailing and appear to represent the closed bud of the magnolia tree.

After traveling up the closed string stairway, one enters the central hall of the second floor. This central hall runs east-west. The main hallway and two eastern most rooms are all that are currently open to the public and these retain a high level of architectural integrity. The front room on the second floor has cased windows, a decorative arch with floral brackets and a fairly simple fireplace which has an ornate pieced work fireplace-heater. The next room, to the west, on the second floor also has fluted cased window with turned corner blocks and a simple fireplace with an ornate piece work fireplace heater. It is apparent that the second floor of this house was designed to be much less ornate than the first floor. This is consistent with the idea that the first floor would be used as public space for entertaining and impressing guests and neighbors, a tradition in Virginia since the early colonial period.

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Magnolia House
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The rooms of the Magnolia House that have not been addressed in detail on the first floor are now the commercial kitchen and office. The five rooms on the second floor are not currently open to the public and have not received any rehabilitation. Although no rehabilitation has been performed the rooms on the second floor and the office they have much of their integrity; much of the original woodwork and configuration from earlier in the structures history are intact. The kitchen has been adapted to the requirements of a modern commercial establishment Another area that has received no rehabilitation is the attic or garret space behind the hipped dormer on the facade.

The Magnolia House is a Late Victorian: Queen Anne that was built to be a showplace for the Scott family. Despite having once been greatly subdivided into separate apartments, the Magnolia House has maintained as exceptional level of architectural integrity. The Magnolia House is an exceptional example of the Late Victorian: Queen Anne style of architecture.

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Magnolia House
Hampton, VA

Statement of Significance:

Summary: The Magnolia House in Hampton, Virginia, should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it meets the requirements of Criterion C. The Magnolia House “embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type.” The Magnolia House is a well-preserved local manifestation of an architectural movement that started in the mid-nineteenth century in England and spread throughout the English-speaking world. The majority of the elements of the Late Victorian: Queen Anne style of architecture are present at the Magnolia House and the level of integrity is exceptionally high. The integrity of this structure is not merely that it has its original structural members, but that it has the majority of its original fittings and fixtures. Fireplace slips, moldings, window casings, fire backs, and the most impressive Corinthian columns and demi-columns are all testament to the level of integrity the Magnolia House possesses. The Magnolia House has integrity in material but also in style. The hallmarks of the Late Victorian: Queen Anne style are a living hall, “robust, busy and asymmetrical exteriors, often with contrasting materials and/or textures between levels; gabled, hipped or mansard roofs [and] dormers, scrollwork brackets, and trim, porches, bay, and oriel windows, turrets and exuberant carvings;. . . U.S. and Canadian examples also include exuberant wood shingle, stone, stucco, and clapboard buildings” (Bucher:367). Magnolia House was built with and maintains the majority of these elements.

Built in 1889 by the Scott family, the Magnolia House was a part of a period of economic growth after the Civil War. Reconstruction had ended and the promise of the New South was beginning to be realized in Hampton. While the Magnolia House sits among other Victorian homes, none were originally as grand, nor have any maintained the same exceptional level of integrity.

Historical Background: The city of Hampton, Virginia sits on Chesapeake Bay. Its origins are in the Native American village of Kecoughtan that was visited by Captain John Smith and his men. Hampton was one of the earliest settlements in Colonial Virginia and played a major role in the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century history of Virginia. The nineteenth century brought the Civil

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Magnolia House
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War and almost the destruction of Hampton in a fire set by the Confederates. After the war Hampton and the rest of Virginia began a slow recovery.

Cora Francis, native of Baltimore, married William Walker Scott on 25 May 1887 at Fort Monroe on Old Point Comfort, Hampton, Virginia. Two years later, on 12 January 1889, Cora F. Scott purchased an empty parcel of land from J.M. Willis and his wife Nannie for the sum of \$555.00. The deal came with the stipulation that within two years the Scotts would need to build a house worth at least \$1,000. The 1890 property tax for Elizabeth City County shows that the lot purchased from J.M. Willis was assessed for a total of \$1,300.00: \$300.00 for the land and \$1,000.00 for the building (Hampton City Records).

William Walker Scott, son of Joseph Wingfield and Emmaline Carlyle Scott, was born in York County on 27 February 1865 (Daily Press: 4 April 1933). Joseph Wingfield Scott was a Virginia pilot who was rumored to have piloted a blockade runner to take food to Confederate troops in Petersburg. William Scott continued in the family trade and became an apprentice of the Virginia Pilots' Association. William Scott served as a Chesapeake Bay Pilot for forty-five years before retiring in 1928 (Daily Press: 26 July 1976).

William Scott became notable through his chain of theaters on the Peninsula. His first motion picture theater, the Apollo at 6 South King Street, was operating in 1917 (Hills:1917). By 1919, the America at 12 East Mellen Street in Phoebus was showing motion pictures to whites on the lower floor and to blacks in the balcony (Hills:1919) In 1920, Hampton had two new theaters featuring vaudeville: the Scott at 40 East Queen Street and the Lyric at 136 West Queen Street. The Lyric was for blacks in the segregated South (Hills:1920). Soon all of these theaters were presenting motion pictures.

Although moving picture theaters existed in Hampton as early as 1912, William Scott owned all of the theaters that were operating in Hampton in 1921. The Apollo was renamed the Rex in 1941 and operated through the early 1950s (Hills: 1912-1950).

The Scotts were a family of note in Hampton and the family home was their showcase. There are accounts of the Scotts sitting on the large wrap-around porch singing and basically being seen by the neighbors. The same accounts also describe that the interior of the Magnolia House was

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Magnolia House
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full of objects on display. "A large white frame structure with a spacious porch where the Scotts harmonized in song, the residence was a storehouse of artistic Victorian furnishings including such items as statuettes of goddesses, poised on one foot with an arm outstretched" (Daily Press: 12 June 1967). The Scotts built the house to showcase themselves and their accumulated wealth.

William Scott died at his home on 24 April 1933. Cora F. Scott remained in her home until her death 7 February 1950. After Mrs. Scott's death, the Magnolia House was subdivided into five apartments with little substantive change to the building. The modifications needed to make the apartments were done in the simplest manner possible. Paint and drywall were placed over architectural elements rather than going to the effort and expense of removing and disposing of the elements.

The Scotts were a successful entrepreneurial family in late nineteenth century Virginia and as has been the case in Virginia since the seventeenth century, the wealth and social status that the family achieved was visibly demonstrated in their house. The Magnolia House is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style that swept the nation in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The hallmarks of the Late Victorian: Queen Anne style are a living hall, "robust, busy and asymmetrical exteriors, often with contrasting materials and/or textures between levels; gabled, hipped or mansard roofs [and] dormers, scrollwork brackets, and trim, porches, bay, and oriel windows, turrets and exuberant carvings; . . . U.S. and Canadian examples also include exuberant wood shingle, stone, stucco, and clapboard buildings" (Bucher:367). Magnolia House was built with and maintains majority of these elements.

There are two overarching themes in the history of stylish American Architecture: first that the styles are imported from the British Isles roughly ten to twenty years after their introduction; and second, that the forms and styles that were executed in brick and stone on massive scales in the British Isles were copied in the United States in wood and at a much reduced scale. The Queen Anne style started in England during the early 1870s with the work of J. J. Stevenson in London. The style was used for public buildings and private residences until the end of the nineteenth century and was associated with public reform, progressive attitudes and the arts. In the late

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1870s the form came to the United States published in a popular magazine (Dictionary of Art).

Until the beginning of the twentieth century the Queen Anne style was extremely successful in American domestic architecture and the Magnolia House is an example of this trend. The addition of the classical elements to the Magnolia House are most likely an attempt by the Scott family to adopt the cultural authority of the classical tradition. In Virginia the Neo-Classical tradition has held a special significance since the eighteenth century. The Late Victorian: Queen Anne house the Scotts built allowed them to express their up-to-date style. The classical elements anchored the house and the family in a long tradition of classical architecture in Virginia and the English-speaking world.

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Section 10 Page 10

Magnolia House
Hampton, VA

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary is shown as the property line on the accompanying map entitled "Plat of the Property of Joe L. Crosswell, Jr."

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes all land currently in association with the Magnolia House.

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Section Photo Page 11

Magnolia House
Hampton, VA

All photographs are of :
Magnolia House
Hampton, Virginia
VDHR File Number 114-103
Christopher L. P. McDaid, photographer

All negatives are stored with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

27 FEB 1999
View of facade looking west
NEG. NO. 17448
Photo: 1 of 9

27 FEB 1999
View living hall looking northwest
NEG. NO. 17450
Photo: 7 of 9

27 FEB 1999
View of facade looking west
NEG. NO. 17448
Photo: 2 of 9

27 FEB 1999
View of column screen looking south
NEG. NO. 17450
Photo: 8 of 9

27 FEB 1999
View of elev. looking north
NEG. NO. 17448
Photo: 3 of 9

27 FEB 1999
View of Fireplace looking southwest
NEG. NO. 17450
Photo: 9 of 9

27 FEB 1999
View of elevation looking east
NEG. NO. 17448
Photo: 4 of 9

27 FEB 1999
Detail of facade looking west
NEG. NO. 17449
Photo: 5 of 9

27 FEB 1999
View of gable end looking west
NEG. NO. 17449
Photo: 6 of 9

CITY OF HAMPTON, VA
MAG 1:24,000
ZONE 18
Easting 379 870
Northing 4,098,050

