

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Other names/site number: Dromgoole, Rev. Edward, House; (DHR #012-0004)
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 2578 Christanna Highway
City or town: Valentines State: VA County: Brunswick County
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national X statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A X B X C ___ D

Judith S. Gannon 6/24/2021
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- 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.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

FUNERARY/cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/ Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE/granite; WOOD/ weatherboard;
METAL: Tin; BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dromgoole House (historically known as Canaan) is located about 2.3 miles north of the border with North Carolina in Brunswick County, Virginia; an area almost as remote today as when the house was built. The house is a two-story, double-pile, gable-roofed, mortise and tenon timber frame dwelling built ca. 1796-99 in a Federal period vernacular style. A one-room single-story frame wing was attached to the main house by 1810. It is believed that this wing was an earlier dwelling or outbuilding on the property that was moved and attached to the main dwelling. The Dromgoole House floorplan merges a hall-parlor plan in the front (south façade) with a center-passage plan to the rear (north side). The unusual plan uses two side-by-side front doors, each entering separate front parlors. The two-story dwelling features brick chimneys laid in Flemish-bond with a glazed-header diamond pattern on the west chimney and a double row of glazed headers parallel with each shoulder on the east chimney. Most of the dwelling's original interior woodwork—doors, mantels, wainscot, flooring, trim—remain intact, giving the property a high degree of historic integrity. Original molded weatherboarding is currently obscured by plywood and Tyvek sheeting that was applied in 2010 as a temporary measure to preserve the remaining siding; it is being removed as restoration progresses. A 3-acre clearing in the 16-acre wooded tract contains the dwelling flanked by an extant dependency, the remains of the kitchen's stone foundation, and a family graveyard. The surviving dependency, identified historically as a spinning house and a workhouse, is a contributing building. Archaeological site

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44BR0345 encompasses the kitchen foundations along with identified features and visible remains from several other historic outbuildings and is considered a contributing site. The cemetery, outside the boundary of site 44BR0345, is also a contributing site. A twentieth century, concrete capped well, was built outside the period of significance and is a non-contributing structure.

The National Park Service (NPS) awarded the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) \$4.7 million in funding to provide recovery assistance to historic resources damaged by hurricanes Florence and/or Michael in September and October 2018 that are listed or are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.¹ Grant funds will be used to stabilize and secure the chimneys and foundation as well as complete an engineering and historic structures report for the Dromgoole House that was damaged during Hurricane Michael. The Dromgoole House has obtained a consensus determination of eligibility from the NPS and this nomination will be completed by the end of the grant period². Grant funds will first support the reimbursement of emergency stabilization that has been done to the property to keep the chimneys from collapsing. The funds will then support the hiring of architectural and engineering services to further evaluate the damage and then stabilize the masonry foundation and chimneys. The pre-development studies will be prepared prior to commencing preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation activities to ensure conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties." This grant will also support the hiring of a project manager to assist with the administrative elements of this project.

Narrative Description

Setting

Located in the southern piedmont region of Virginia, in southeastern Brunswick County, the Dromgoole House is in an area that maintains much of its historic rural character. The house, which cannot be seen from the public road, is surrounded by forest and is situated on high ground above Beddingfield Creek. Originally, the plantation that Reverend Edward Dromgoole named "Canaan" consisted of hundreds of acres and many outbuildings. Now the extent of acreage still associated with the parcel totals 16 acres. The majority of the acreage is wooded, young-growth forest to the south and west of the house and more mature hardwoods north and east extending toward Beddingfield Creek. The house is approached by a long drive extending from Christanna Highway (Route 46), the main north-south road through this region of Virginia and North Carolina. Most of the 3-acre cleared area surrounds the dwelling and contains all of the identified resources. The yard area closest to the house is grass with mature trees and shrubs

¹ The award from the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF) enables DHR to make sub-awards to private owners, non-profit organizations, and public administrators of impacted historic resources as well as administer survey and planning contract projects located in the 52 eligible counties and cities in Virginia that were identified in FEMA major disaster declarations 4401 and 4411.

² This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior or the National Park Service.

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at its periphery. There is evidence that the yard was terraced on the west side of the house just beyond the location of the kitchen foundation remains. The remnants of a boxwood allée lead to the south-facing front porch. The cemetery is located southeast of the main house in a wooded area at the edge of the cleared yard.

Main House - Exterior

The Dromgoole House was built at the end of the 18th century for the Reverend Edward Dromgoole (1751-1835) after he “retired” as a travelling minister or circuit rider and settled down as a local preacher, planter and merchant in Brunswick County. Dendrochronological analysis performed in June 2018 has shown that the main structure of the house dates to the last years of the 18th century, from timbers felled in the summer of 1796, summer of 1797, the winter of 1797/8 and the winter of 1798/9.³

The dwelling is a two-story, double-pile (two-room deep), mortise and tenon heavy timber frame building with a one-room single-story wing on the back end of the east gable side of the main block (Figure 1). The two-story main block of the dwelling measures 35’ in length and 28’ 8” deep. This section was erected on a stone foundation with a cellar below. All of the exterior frame walls have brick fill or nogging in between the timbers from floor to ceiling on the first floor. The interior walls in the front (south) parlors have brick nogging as well. On the second floor brick nogging is also observed through some of the damaged plaster. Since most of the plaster survives on the second floor interior walls, it is not known if the nogging extends the entire height of the walls. The use of nogging in exterior walls was primarily for insulation and was used in interior walls for reducing sound between the more public spaces.⁴

The house’s standing-seam metal side-gable roof was originally covered with wood shingles⁵. The gable end of the roof is flush; the eaves are boxed by a Georgian-style cornice.⁶ Under the temporary building wrap is the original 8-inch ovolo molded edge weatherboarding. Windows are not symmetrically arranged. Many of the window sashes are damaged, however enough remain to show that the front and rear elevation sash were 9/9 double-hung on the lower story and 9/6 double-hung on the upper story. Most of the smaller gable end windows were 4/4 double-hung sash. Using remnants of the original sashes as the model, exact replacements have been crafted and await installation once all foundation repairs have been made.

³ Michael J. Worthington and Jane I. Seiter, “The Tree-Ring Dating of Edward Dromgoole House, Brunswick Co., Virginia” (Baltimore, MD: Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory, July 2018).

⁴ Willie Graham, Chapter 13, “Exterior Finishes”, pp. 191, *The Chesapeake House*, edited by Cary Carson and Carl Lounsbury. (The University of North Carolina Press, 2013)

⁵ An earlier wood shingle was discovered during stabilization and repairs that began after 2008.

⁶ Michael Southern, “The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeastern Piedmont,” in *Carolina Dwelling-Towards Preservation of Place: In Celebration of the North Carolina Vernacular Landscape*, ed. Doug Swaim. (North Carolina State University: The Student Publication of the School of Design, Vol. 26, 1978), 75.

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Figure 1, Southeast oblique view, 2006, Harvey Moseley, DHR archives collections

The one-bay, central front (south facade) porch that appears to be original to the house is supported by two square, paneled wood columns, topped with Doric style capitals. Matching square, paneled pilasters flank the entrance doors and complete the porch. The columns support a cornice with a paneled frieze on the inside and a simple frieze board on the exterior with crown molding. The porch has a hip roof covered with standing seam metal. The 1810 Mutual Assurance Society (MAS) policy shows porches on the front and back of the house. A 1960 photo shows the rear (north) porch (now gone) with a shed roof (Figure 2).

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Figure 2, Northwest (rear) elevation, ca. 1960, DHR archives collections

The house's four-bay south façade consists of two large heated rooms, each entered by a separate single-leaf door from the front exterior porch. Set close together, each entrance is surrounded by a double architrave. Only the east entrance's solid six-panel door survives. The front entrances and porch are flanked, asymmetrically, by the 9/9 sash windows. The north (rear) elevation has a single entry door, centered with asymmetrical windows flanking it. On both the north and south elevations, the second-story 9/6 sash windows are mostly in alignment with the windows or doors below them.

The west gable end has a tall, brick exterior end chimney of Flemish bond with evidence of shoulders, at the second floor level, that were originally tiled. The chimney is constructed on a stone base. It features a solid diamond shaped motif of glazed headers, centered between the shoulders (Figure 3). This chimney is off center to the gable peak to the south, and is flanked by sash windows, two 9/9 on the first story and two 9/6 on the second story. The second-story windows are aligned with the first-story windows. Asymmetrically arranged in relation to the offset chimney, the windows to the south of the chimney nearly abut the chimney. Below the first-story window on the north side of the chimney are the remnants of the exterior entrance to the cellar, the only known access to this space.

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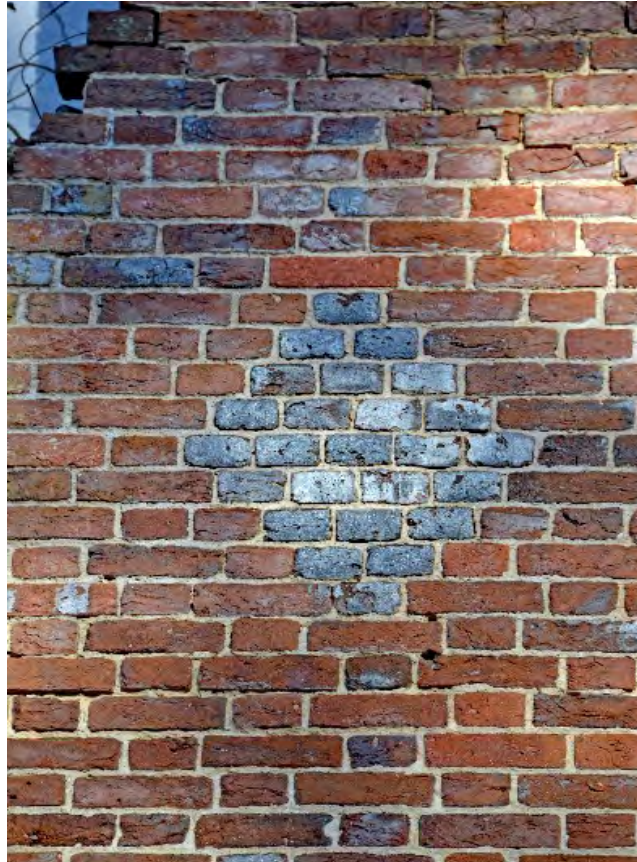


Figure 3, West chimney detail, 2017, Carl Lounsbury, DHR archives collections

The east gable end façade also has a tall brick Flemish bond exterior end chimney on a stone base, however, it is offset from the gable peak more to the south than the west chimney is. It has remnants of tiled shoulders at the second story and features a double row of glazed header diapering at the shoulders. There are sash windows on the first and second stories immediately to the north of the chimney stack. It is on this elevation, to the north side of the chimney and window, that the one-story wing was attached to the main block. The wing covered an original window opening. On the interior, the original window frame with trim was left in place and the opening framed with lath and covered with plaster (Figure 4).

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Figure 4, Northeast chamber, second floor, original window opening enclosed when the wing was added on the east elevation, Elizabeth Lipford, DHR archives photograph, 2021.

The single-story, one-room wing was attached to the main house between 1805 and 1810 and has a Flemish bond brick foundation and standing seam metal gable roof. The wing has an entry door on the south façade, which is six-paneled with HL hinges. To the right of this door was a 4/4 double-hung sash window. The north side of the wing had a single window, off center, 6/9 double-hung sash. Molded-edge weatherboards from the main house run behind the wall of the added wing, offering further evidence of its later addition to the main house. The interior flooring is cut out to accommodate a fireplace hearth but there is no evidence of it ever having had a chimney in its current location; a doorway (to a closet no longer attached) was located where the fireplace would have been. There has been speculation that the one-story wing may have been moved to the main house from a site about 40 yards east of the principal structure where a fieldstone chimney remains. Measurements of this chimney and of the wall framing and floor of the wing indicate a near perfect fit. The room evidently served as a kitchen in the twentieth century.

Main House – Interior

The cellar extends under the entire main block of the house and has walls that are mostly stone with some brick sections. A portion of the north wall has collapsed and is undergoing repair and reconstruction. The floor is dirt and the space has low headroom. The cellar contains a lot of stone and brick debris from collapsed sections. There is evidence that a portion of the cellar space is a remnant of an earlier cellar and that the Dromgoole House was built on the remains of an earlier house. A north-south brick wall of English bond (lower half) and 3:1 common bond (upper half) partially divides the space, supporting the bearing wall above. This partition wall has an opening about the same size as the foundation window openings, as if it was a vent to a former crawl space or was part of an exterior wall. The inventory of the house at the time of Reverend Edward Dromgoole's death in 1835 refer to items in the "old cellar" and the "new cellar," a possible hint that the old cellar is the remnant of an earlier house (the west side) and was expanded to the east during Edward's lifetime. At the terminus of the brick partition wall

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are the remnants of a brick and stone support pier, which has the configuration of a former chimney base. . Two other brick piers with a slightly curved brick apron wall between them in the west portion of the cellar may also be remnants of an earlier cellar or modified configuration of the space. The stone walls in the western half of the cellar appear to have had brick veneer walls of 3:1 common bond added later, perhaps to create a more functional space (Figure 5). The center partition wall, the brick veneer walls and piers have paint and some pargeting on them, indicating the space may have been a finished workspace at one time. In contrast to the statement above, this later configuration of the space may be the “new cellar” referred to in the inventory. Evidence of an exterior pent with shed roofed entrance survive on the west wall, on the north side of the chimney. The hewn joists and principal beams that support the house above are visible overhead in the cellar. Also visible is the underside of the original gauged floorboards. Modern wood posts have been added to support failing floor joists.



Figure 5, cellar, portion of brick veneer wall with pargeting and paint, Elizabeth Lipford, DHR archives photograph, 2021

The two-story house is framed with pit sawn and hand hewn timber with mortise and tenon joints, secured with pegs. The two-story corner posts are channeled, also known as guttering, an eighteenth-century technique used to assist in the creation of finished plaster corners. Wrought nails are found throughout the minor framing members and woodwork. Earlier in the twentieth century the plaster was removed and replaced with sheetrock in three first-floor rooms. That material has been removed (2018) in anticipation of restoring plaster walls to those spaces. Decorative painted grain survives on the north entrance door, the small door under the stairs and the door to the northwest room on the first floor. All the surviving paneled doors throughout the house are hung with H-L hinges, with the stationary arm of the hinge (the “H”) concealed behind the architrave (Figure 6).

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Figure 6, detail of hinge configuration with the “H” arm of the hinge concealed behind the architrave, first floor, northwest room, Elizabeth Lipford, DHR archives photograph, 2021

The two Flemish bond exterior end chimneys on the main block are slightly offset to one another with the west chimney heating the slightly larger southwest room [hall] (17' 6" square). The east chimney heats the smaller (15' 6" x 17' 6" deep) southeast room [parlor]. These two principle rooms have flat panel wainscoting, simple mantles, and double architraves composed of Roman moldings. The two identical first floor parlor mantels have a single architrave surrounding the firebox area, with an entablature above consisting of fluted pilasters on either end of a flat panel frieze divided by a horizontal piece of molding, and topped by a typical Federal period neo-classical mantel shelf. In the center of the partition wall that separates these two principle rooms is a six-panel door hung with HL hinges. Two windows light each of the rooms—one on each of the gable ends and another on the front wall.⁷

The two rooms at the rear (north facade) of the house are unheated. The center passage contains the stairway and exterior door that opened to the now missing rear (north) porch. The passage is flanked on the west by a small (9' x 9' 6") room lit by two windows, and on the east by a rectangular room (9' 6" x 13' 6") that was originally only accessed from the front parlor (southeast). Probably in the early 20th century, for easier access to the stair passage, a crude narrow doorway was cut between the studs and covered by a repurposed board and batten door. When the wing was added to this section of the house, a door was cut into the east wall of the

⁷ Carl Lounsbury, architectural description contribution; “The Tree-Ring Dating of Edward Dromgoole House, Brunswick Co, Virginia,” 2018.

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northeast room for access to the unheated addition. The two rear unheated rooms are trimmed with single architraves and flat, beaded edge chair boards. Picture slips (horizontal wooden rails) are located on some of the walls of the rear three rooms.

The flat panel wainscoting found in the front hall and parlor rooms continues into the stair passage. The closed-string quarter-turn winder stair hugs the west wall of the center passage and winds from the downstairs hall to a landing under an upper-story window on the north wall then continues with another short flight on the east wall to the upper passage. The molded hand railing is intact; however, the balusters are missing. The newel post consists of a tall square post with a Roman molded cap. This is the same configuration for the newel and balustrade posts in the second-floor stair hall. Flush board paneling is below the staircase on the first floor. There is some evidence that the stair may have been reconfigured from the landing to the second floor under the Reverend's ownership. What may have been a tighter winder stair to begin with was soon made easier to traverse with the addition of a landing that extended over the first floor entrance board. The landing was faced with rough-cut vertical boards (Figure 7). A storage cubby with paneled door was accessed from the northeast room (Figure 8). The second floor passage floorboards appear to have been modified as well.



Figure 7, detail of the possibly modified stair landing from the first floor stair passage. Note the rough-cut vertical boards used as facing at the landing, Elizabeth Lipford, DHR archives photograph, 2021

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Figure 8, storage cubby under stair landing, accessed from northeast chamber, first floor, Elizabeth Lipford, DHR archives photograph, 2021

A door and step down in the east wall of the northeast room provides entry to the unheated, single-story one-room wing. Removal of 20th century drywall revealed horizontal flush floor to ceiling paneling; shadows in the paint indicate the room was once trimmed with a chair board.

On the second floor, the stair passage is flanked on the east and west sides by two small, unheated rooms—each 9' x 9' 6". The front (south facade) two large chambers are sized similarly to the downstairs hall and parlor. All rooms on the upper floor are trimmed with flat beaded edge chair boards and baseboards. The brick fireboxes and wooden mantels in the southwest and southeast bed chambers both have a segmental arched head, a "detail frequently linked to 18th-century chimneys."⁸ Above the arch is a broad flat panel chimneypiece, trimmed with narrow molding. At a later time, probably twentieth century, a simple mantel shelf was added, supported by flat vertical rails on either side of the original chimneypiece.

The roof structure is accessed through a square opening in the ceiling of the second floor stair passage. It is a common rafter system with rafters mortised and pegged at the apex. Rafters are supported by angled strut members, connected to the joists. A single girder spans the entire north south length of the house. Attic floor joists, that did not span the entire width, overlapped girders that were perpendicular to the main girder (Figure 9).

⁸ Kenneth McFarland, *The Architecture of Warren County North Carolina, 1770s to 1860s* (Warren County Historical Association, 2001), 56, 94.

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Figure 9, attic floor framing. Note principle girder on the right side of the image and overlapping joists on the left side of the image, Elizabeth Lipford, DHR archives photograph, 2021

Secondary Resources

Spinning House/Workhouse/Office (contributing building) – This square 18' x 18' frame dependency dates to at least 1803 based on the MAS insurance policy. It stands just to the east of the dwelling and is in dilapidated condition. The pyramidal hip roof appears to have been rebuilt as rafters have circular saw marks, which appear after the Civil War. The roof, currently metal, was originally covered with wood shingles. The building has flat weatherboard siding, a fieldstone foundation and chimney. The small building seems to have had numerous roles: As noted on the insurance documents it served as a “spinning house” (1803) and workhouse (1805 and 1810). Framing members are secured with wrought nails. The lath for the plaster walls is secured with cut nails, indicating it may have been finished with plaster later in its use. A Greek Revival mantel is located in the small building, although it is not currently installed on the chimney and likely dates to the 1830s when the building may have served for a time as the law office of Reverend Edward Dromgoole’s son, Congressman George C. Dromgoole (1797-1847). From current appearances, it most recently was utilized as a small animal stable. Flooring over the floor joists is not nailed in place and may not be original or was removed temporarily to house livestock.

Cemetery (contributing site) - The periwinkle-covered family burying ground, located southeast of the house, contains many unmarked graves as well as a memorial stone erected in 1974 for the

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Rev. Dromgoole and his family. It is approximately 20 feet by 20 feet in size and does not have an enclosure.

Archaeological Site 44BR0345 (contributing site)⁹ – The site consists of the archaeological remains of the historic occupation of the Dromgoole dwelling and associated domestic complex, as well as a minor prehistoric component. The site measures approximately 130 m east-west by 120 m north-south (426 by 394 feet). Site boundaries were determined by the extent of positive shovel tests as well as surface features that represent the locations of historic outbuildings and activity areas. Artifact deposits are lightly manifested and density patterning across the site is relatively diffuse. In addition to the aforementioned dwelling and outbuilding present on the site, features include a stone foundation of a structure interpreted to be a kitchen, a concrete-capped well (mid-twentieth century), a standing stone chimney and associated rubble representing a second chimney, a raised area or mound likely representing the former location of an outbuilding, and a small mound that may represent the ruins of a collapsed chimney. In spite of surface indications suggestive of outbuildings north of the dwelling, shovel testing identified no concentrations of artifacts that might otherwise provide clues regarding the date or function of these possible structures. Given the presence of *in situ* foundations and other surface features, which indicate the presence of outbuilding and activity area loci that have associated subsurface features and cultural deposits with a considerable degree of archaeological integrity, this site has the potential to provide significant information on site structure and domestic activities during the Early National (1790–1829) through the New Dominion (1946-1991) periods in the Southern Piedmont of Virginia (VDHR 2011).

Capped Well (non-contributing structure) - A mid-twentieth concrete capped well is located just northeast of the northeast corner of the house and is considered a non-contributing structure because it postdates the property's period of significance.

Integrity Analysis

Years of abandonment and neglect resulted in significant deterioration of historic materials and structural integrity of the house and secondary resources until the acquisition of the property by the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation (OBCF) in 2008. The current exterior appearance of the house and south porch wrapped in plastic material is a temporary measure to keep the building secure and dry during the restoration process. The structural integrity of the foundation and chimneys were further undermined by the torrential rains that accompanied hurricanes Michael and Florence in 2018. In 2020 the OBCF was approved by the National Park Service, for an Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF) stabilization grant to repair and support the foundation and chimneys. The stabilization work began in 2021.

⁹ The description of site 44BR0345 was taken directly from *Archaeological Survey of the Dromgoole House Site (44BR0345), Brunswick County, Virginia*, Prepared by: William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research. May 13, 2016. Author: Elizabeth J. Monroe. Management Summary, p. ii

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Despite the results of neglect and weather events, the former plantation house has a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship and materials, retaining its floor plan, decorative brickwork in the chimneys, molded weatherboarding, doors with HL hinges, mantels, trim, wainscot, and flooring from the period of significance. The house has had only superficial changes to its interior since its construction, which provide integrity of feeling and association with the historic period and the Dromgoole family. Of minimal intrusion was the addition of drywall in three downstairs rooms (removed in 2018) and one interior doorway added probably by tenants in the 20th century. No plumbing was ever installed in the house. Repairs are being undertaken to stem deterioration of the brick chimneys, exacerbated by recent storm damage. In 2011 a French drain was installed to drain the cellar that was perpetually wet. Repairs have been done to the broken floor joists and rear sill. The house and secondary resources remain in their original location and in a rural setting, therefore retaining a high level of integrity of location and setting. Conservation and restoration of the structure is progressing. The long-range goal is preservation and restoration of this dwelling for the cultural benefit of the public.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1796 - 1847

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Dromgoole, Rev. Edward (Sr.)

Dromgoole, George Coke

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Because of its connection with persons and events important to the spread of Methodism (now the United Methodist Church) during the Early Republic period, the Dromgoole House is eligible at the national level under Criterion B in the area of Religion for Reverend Edward Dromgoole's significant contributions. The plantation, "Canaan," was home to Rev. Edward Dromgoole from about 1796 until his death in 1835. Rev. Dromgoole is significant as one of America's early traveling ministers, a good friend and supporter of Methodist leader and bishop, Francis Asbury, and as an influential preacher and organizer who helped spread John Wesley's Methodist movement in America, thus influencing the rapid rise of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in the 18th and early 19th century. Dromgoole's house was frequented by many church leaders and traveling clergy, most notably, Francis Asbury, who was appointed by John Wesley to serve as the American bishop and is considered the most influential figure in establishing Methodism in America. In 2020 Canaan was designated by the United Methodist Church as a United States Methodist Historic Site, as the only extant home within the conference that once belonged to an 18th century circuit rider where Methodist class meetings and worship services took place. It is the only known surviving building associated with the career of Reverend Edward Dromgoole. The Dromgoole House is significant at the state level under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government as the home of U.S. Congressman George Coke Dromgoole, who lived at Canaan from 1835 to 1847. George Dromgoole had a long career of representing this region of Virginia, first in the state legislature for thirteen years, then in the United States Congress for seven years. The Dromgoole House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent Brunswick County example of late 18th century domestic architecture. The front two rooms (south façade) are a hall and parlor plan, more reminiscent of the colonial period; while the rear (north) rooms reflect Federal style influences —two rooms separated by a center stair passage. The dwelling was built about 1796-1799 and retains early original architectural features of an eighteenth-century plantation house. Most of the original interior trim, including some faux painted doors, are intact. Several features of the Dromgoole house are present in a nearby house of the same approximate age. The Mason-Tillett House (VDHR No. 012-0093, NRHP listed 2004) was built and occupied by a Methodist colleague of Edward Dromgoole and shares several distinctive architectural features: two side-by-side front doors, a glazed header diamond design on one of the chimneys and faux painted wood graining.¹⁰ The period of significance for the Dromgoole House begins in 1796 when Rev. Edward Dromgoole acquired the land on which he would begin to build his dwelling, which was fully completed by 1799, and ends in 1847 at the death of Congressman George Dromgoole, who owned and resided in the house after his father's death in 1835.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

¹⁰ Margaret T. Peters, John G. Zehmer, National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Mason-Tillett House 012-0093, Brunswick County, Virginia. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2003.

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Historic Context – Methodism in America

Methodism was initiated in England by John and Charles Wesley as they sought to reform the (Anglican) Church of England (COE) through the formation of “societies” within the Church. The movement was characterized by small meetings in homes, or churches, as well as preaching at mass assemblies, often outdoors. John Wesley was the head of the movement and developed a “rulebook” outlining the purpose of the societies and guidelines for participation. Preachers or “helpers” volunteered, were vetted, and if approved, were assigned to travel in an area (circuits) to form societies, hold classes and preach, usually for a year at a time. These travelling preachers, or circuit riders as they have come to be called, usually did not have homes and often relied on the hospitality of strangers. Annual conferences were held so Wesley or his assistants could receive input from the preachers, make the circuit assignments and undertake other business. It did not begin as a religion of “dissenters,” in the way that other denominations such as the Presbyterians and Baptists did, who faced heavy persecution in Virginia, a state that required membership in the Anglican Church by law. Early Methodists in the colonies considered themselves part of the COE, however, they existed without the support of the English crown.¹¹

The system of travelling preachers was well suited to the rural, sparsely populated American colonies and spread rapidly. However, while the preachers were supporters of the Methodist theology and movement that was part of the Anglican Church, several issues soon emerged between Wesley in England and the preachers in America:

1. The increasing hostilities between England and the American colonies and ultimately the Revolution: John Wesley and most of the missionaries sent by him were loyal to the Crown. Wesley sent eight ministers to the colonies beginning in 1770. All of these men, except Francis Asbury, had returned to England by 1778, leaving only Asbury to guide the movement during the Revolution.¹² Furthermore, Asbury himself was forced to cease travelling and shelter in Delaware for several years during the war.
2. The “Sacramental Controversy”: John Wesley required that Methodists in the colonies receive the sacraments by Anglican Church clergy in an Anglican church.¹³ This became a major point of contention, as there were no bishops to ordain Anglican priests in the American colonies. Furthermore, there were an inadequate number of priests to administer the sacraments. In rural colonial America Anglican churches were rare, and clergy even less plentiful on the frontier.
3. Slavery: Wesley, Asbury and the Methodists were ardently opposed to slavery. In the South many of the preachers and church members owned enslaved persons.

¹¹ <https://www.umc.org/en/content/roots>. From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* - 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing

¹² William Warren Sweet, *Religion on the American Frontier – 1783-1840, Vol IV, The Methodists* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1946), 5.

¹³ Sweet, *Religion on the American Frontier*, 35.

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These differences ultimately led to the break with England and the formation of the American Methodist-Episcopal Church in 1784.

Religious ideas in the colonies were already in a fervor with the advent of the Great Awakening, a movement that began in the mid-eighteenth century that stirred strong feelings about personal relationships with and accountability to God. Rejection of the idea of the church being beholden to a king or any government authority was foundational to the new religious movements and the footholds gained by dissenting denominations such as the Quakers and Baptists. Concurrent with the formation of a new country in America, a surging philosophy of separation of church and state provided the freedom of religion desired by formerly persecuted religious denominations. With the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in America, John Wesley, still in England, recognized the need for additional reforms in order for Methodism to survive in the United States. He dispatched Thomas Coke to assist Francis Asbury, sending with him Wesley's newly published, prayer book entitled *The Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America*, outlining his revision of the Church of England's Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion.¹⁴ This began the process for the eventual formation of an independent United Methodist Church in America.

Francis Asbury—"Builder of American Methodism"

According to the United Methodist Church General Commission on Archives and History website, Francis Asbury, born in England in 1745, was the founding Bishop of the Methodist Church in America. Sent by John Wesley as a missionary to America in 1771, he promoted the circuit rider system, which proved suited to frontier conditions. His powerful preaching, his skill in winning converts, and his mastery of organization had, by the end of the Revolution, established him as the undisputed leader of American Methodism.¹⁵

Asbury kept journals that give a good account of his travels, contacts, and the development and struggles of the American Methodist church. It is evident from the Asbury journals as well as Edward Dromgoole's correspondence that these two were friends and colleagues¹⁶.

Criterion B, National Level, Religion: Reverend Edward Dromgoole, Sr.

The Dromgoole House is associated with the Reverend Edward Dromgoole, Sr., a person who is nationally significant in the history of the formation of the Methodist Church in the United States of America. It is the only known surviving building associated with his long career, which began as a circuit rider in the northeast American colonies and culminated with his permanent residence at his home "Canaan" in Brunswick County. It meets National Historic Landmark criterion

¹⁴ <https://www.umc.org/en/content/roots>. From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* - 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing

¹⁵ "Francis Asbury," United Methodist Church, Archives & History, 2020, <http://gcah.org/history/francis-asbury>.

¹⁶ Elmer T. Clark, J. Manning Potts and Jacob S. Payton, eds., *The Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury, Vol. 1 & 2* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1958). Correspondence: Edward Dromgoole letter to Francis Asbury, 1805, microfilm, Library of Virginia Archives & Manuscripts. Dromgoole Family Records 1766-1874, 1972. Original records are part of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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number 2, under the theme of creating social institutions and movements, sub-theme of religious institutions, with a national period of significance of 1796 – 1835.

Having renounced Catholicism after hearing Methodist preaching in England, Edward Dromgoole emigrated from his native Sligo, Ireland, in 1770 and was living in Frederick, Maryland, when he met Francis Asbury. Additionally, shortly after his arrival in America, Edward Dromgoole was in contact with Robert Strawbridge--founder of the first Methodist “class” in America in 1768.¹⁷ After Edward heard Strawbridge preach at Pipe Creek, Maryland, Edward asked him to preach at Frederick, Maryland, where he was living with a fellow convert and future itinerant, John Hagarty. According to Methodist historian John Lednum, this was the introduction of Methodism to Frederick, Maryland.¹⁸ Dromgoole began to preach in 1772 in Maryland and was among the early Methodist preachers in America. In 1774 when Edward Dromgoole received his first appointment (to the Baltimore Circuit), he was one of 21 Methodist preachers who covered areas from New York to North Carolina.¹⁹

In May 1777 at Deer Creek, Maryland, Edward Dromgoole was one of the “Committee of Five” selected to superintend the Methodists in the absence of a General Assistant during the Revolution after the British ministers returned to England and while Francis Asbury was in seclusion in Delaware. “Messrs. William Watters, Philip Gatch, Daniel Ruff; Edward Drumgole, and William Glendenning, were the committee.”²⁰ By the spring of 1778, with Francis Asbury still unable to attend the conference due to the hostilities with the British, Dromgoole met with “our young preachers” at the Leesburg Conference. By then, the sacramental controversy was heating up, and Dromgoole reported “....There was some conversation respecting the administration of the Ordinance but there was no step taken to obtain Ordination.”²¹

One year later, in the spring of 1779, at the Broken Back Church (Virginia) conference, contrary to Wesley and Asbury’s wishes and Methodist rules, young preachers from mostly Virginia and North Carolina formed a committee for the purpose of ordaining Ministers without COE authority. According to his letter to Asbury, Dromgoole left the conference and returned home. He states the division that took place went on for about two years, during which Dromgoole notes he kept himself informed by attending meetings of the “new side.” Unable to visit Asbury

¹⁷ Abel Stevens, *History of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, Vol. 1* (New York: Carlton & Porter, 1864), 244.

¹⁸ John Lednum, *A History of the Rise of Methodism* (Philadelphia: John Lednum, 1859), 18

¹⁹ Dromgoole considered Asbury a friend as well as spiritual leader. In 1805 Dromgoole, who did not keep a journal, was asked by his friend Francis Asbury to give him a “short sketch of times past.” Edward Dromgoole’s letter in response mentions his meeting Asbury in 1771. The letter notes to which circuits he was assigned and describes the progress and problems that the American Methodist preachers overcame as the movement spread. One hurdle was the issue of the “administration of the Ordinance” (i.e. ordain ministers who could administer sacraments, baptize, marry etc.). Additionally he references his attendance and participation at key meetings as the American church was finding its way.

²⁰ John Lednum, *A History of the Rise of Methodism* (Philadelphia: John Lednum, 1859), 151.

²¹ Edward Dromgoole, Letter to Francis Asbury, 1805.

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in Delaware as he had been requested, Dromgoole wrote Asbury a letter, “stating the condition of the Church”...asking him to come and “seek a union of both parties once more.”²²

In a letter to Asbury in May 1780, Edward Dromgoole reported that he took part in the Conference at Manakintown, Virginia, where he reported the actions taken at the conference with regard to acceptance of the Ordinance. Dromgoole records in this letter his private meeting with Asbury, who described his plan for reconciliation. In the plan, the preachers agree to desist from administering the ordinances for one year during which Asbury would write to Wesley to explain the situation. He stated that “... after much conversation, weeping and praying, a union was effected between the preachers in the South, who had adopted the ordinances, and those in the North who opposed this measure; and the Methodists were one body again.”²³

On May 24, 1783, Edward Dromgoole wrote a letter to John Wesley in England asking that Francis Asbury be made Wesley’s superintendent in America, explaining how well regarded Asbury was among the preachers. In a skillfully written letter, he updates Wesley on evangelism of Devereux Jarratt, an Anglican priest doing Methodist work who was known to Wesley, as well as updating him on the progress of Methodism in America. Wesley replied in a letter dated September 17, 1783, that he was “...persuaded Bro Asbury is raised up, to preserve order among you...”²⁴ This was part of Wesley’s instructions at the Christmas Conference of 1784 at which Dromgoole was present, when the American Methodist Episcopal church was formed and Asbury was ordained elder and made superintendent of the American church.²⁵

Rev. Edward Dromgoole remained an itinerant preacher until 1786 when, following a series of family tragedies in 1784, Dromgoole “desisted from travelling” and became a local minister at his home in Brunswick County, Virginia. He continued to be active in Methodist church organizational affairs.

Canaan, at home in Brunswick County, Virginia

A circuit rider preacher rarely had a permanent home and did not have a permanent church. They often resided as guests in the homes of members of the “societies” and held services in those same homes or local churches. For Reverend Dromgoole, it was through marriage and his later establishment of mercantile enterprises and a working plantation that he acquired the wealth to build his home and plantation Canaan, while still attending to his duties in the Methodist Church.

In 1777, Dromgoole married Rebecca Walton, daughter of John Walton, a wealthy Brunswick County landowner. They established a home near her family on property gifted by her parents on their marriage. The Dromgooles probably lived the first twenty years of their marriage on this

²² Edward Dromgoole, Letter to Francis Asbury, 1805.

²³ Edward Dromgoole, Letter to Francis Asbury, 1805.

²⁴ John Wesley, Letter to Edward Dromgoole, original and transcript, September 17, 1783, Edward Dromgoole Papers #230, Southern Historical Collection, The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

²⁵ Edward Dromgoole, Letter to Francis Asbury, 1805.

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property near her parents while Edward “rode the circuit.” He continued this life until 1784 when “in late summer tragedy struck his family. Two of his children died, and his wife and another child became seriously ill. At this point, despite a great love for what he termed ‘the travelling plan,’ he decided to give up circuit riding to remain with his family and become a local preacher in Brunswick County, Virginia.”²⁶

In 1796, Edward Dromgoole purchased 330 acres from Benjamin King a few miles north of the North Carolina line in Brunswick County and adjacent to Beddingfield Creek and built his new house ca. 1798-99.²⁷ Benjamin King’s father Henry willed the land “on which I now live” to his son and widow at his death in 1790, indicating there may have been a dwelling on the property prior to Dromgoole’s purchase and house construction.²⁸ In 1799, Edward sold the property that he and Rebecca had been gifted by her parents to Ira Ellis, another local merchant and Methodist circuit rider.²⁹ Over the next 20 years Edward Dromgoole added to this property in south Brunswick County, building a large plantation and operating two mercantile stores while continuing to serve churches locally as well as on the wider circuit until his death in 1835.

As documented in Asbury’s journals, the Dromgoole House was frequented by many church leaders and travelling clergy in those years, most notably, the Rev. Francis Asbury, who was appointed by John Wesley to serve as the first American bishop. Bishop Richard Whatcoat is known to have also lodged at Canaan.³⁰ Asbury became ill and wintered with several residents in Brunswick County from December 1797 to March 1798, lodging with the Edward Dromgoole family for three weeks: “January 18, 1798. I went from the place where I had stayed six weeks, and had received every mark of affection, to brother Dromgoole’s, ten miles. I felt at home here also.” “January 25, 1798: Rebecca Dromgoole reads for me I am much tried: the weather is so cold that I must keep in the house.” Bishop Asbury stayed at Dromgoole’s house until February 9, 1799.³¹ As this was the time that Dromgoole seems to have been building Canaan, it is unknown if Asbury resided there or Dromgoole’s previous home. There is no evidence that Dromgoole’s previous home is still standing.

Asbury records, “Sabbath, February 12, 1815. I preached in Dromgoole’s house. ... I ordained Edward Dromgoole an elder in the Church of God. Edward Dromgoole travelled in America from 1774 until 1785; since then he has been a faithful local preacher, respected and beloved: he has six children living, two of whom, Edward and Thomas, are local deacons.” The footnote states “Dromgoole was ordained at Dromgoole’s Chapel, in Brunswick County, Virginia, although he was sixty-four years old and had located in 1786. There was no provision for Methodist ordination when he entered the ministry.” Dromgoole’s Chapel is thought to have been on his plantation, perhaps even part of his home.³² A few weeks after passing through

²⁶ E. T. Malone, “Edward Dromgoole,” *NCPedia* 1986, <https://www.ncpedia.org>.

²⁷ Brunswick County, VA Deed Book 16:364, County Clerk’s Office, Lawrenceville, VA.

²⁸ Henry King will (1790), Brunswick County, VA Will Book 5:398, County Clerk’s Office, Lawrenceville, VA.

²⁹ Brunswick County, VA Deed Book 16:416.

³⁰ Clark, Potts and Payton, *Journal of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 2, 157.

³¹ Clark, Potts and Payton, *Journal of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 2, 152-155.

³² Clark, Potts and Payton, *Journal of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 2, 774.

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Brunswick County and staying with Dromgoole's neighbor Matthew Myrick on March 4, 1816, and likely visiting his many friends in the area, Francis Asbury died March 31, 1816, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.³³

In addition to Francis Asbury, Edward Dromgoole had associations with numerous figures and fellow pioneering Methodist preachers. Together, they formed the early church in America. Robert Strawbridge held the first Methodist class in Maryland and America in 1768. He influenced numerous early ministers and was Dromgoole's first Methodist contact in America. John Haggarty was Dromgoole's roommate when he first arrived in America. Haggarty, also an early preacher, later served as a local guardian to Dromgoole's son, Thomas, when he attended Cokesbury College in Maryland.³⁴ Thomas Rankin and George Shadford, along with Francis Asbury, were among the initial eight missionaries sent to America by John Wesley. Rankin, as Wesley's assistant, called the first Methodist conference in America in 1773 when the first circuit assignments were made.³⁵ George Shadford, who was also close to Asbury, served with Dromgoole on the Baltimore Circuit in 1775 and the Brunswick Circuit in 1776, along with Robert Williams, Robert Lindsay and William Glendenning.³⁶ Dromgoole was very distressed when British loyalists Rankin and Shadford returned to England in 1778.³⁷

Richard Whatcoat arrived in America in 1784 just before the Christmas Conference, travelled widely often accompanying Asbury, and was made the third American Bishop in 1800.³⁸ Devereux Jarratt was an evangelical Anglican priest in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, who worked in concert with the early Methodist preachers. According to Dromgoole's letter to Asbury in 1805, Dromgoole preached with Jarratt in 1776. Jarratt, Robert Williams and George Shadford initiated the rapid spread of Methodism in Virginia and the Brunswick Circuit in the 1770s. The Brunswick Circuit was the first circuit in Virginia and is credited to Robert Williams.³⁹ Edward Dromgoole credits Reverend John Easter with another surge in Methodist conversions in southern Virginia. Dromgoole states in his 1805 letter to Asbury, "The work of God in the conversion of sinners in the Year 1776 when Mr. Shadford was in Virginia was truly great, but still greater in the year 1787 under John Easter. It is true they...had much assistance from Preachers and Christians." These assistants included Jesse Lee, Rueben Ellis, and Ira Ellis, among many others who travelled and visited with Dromgoole. Jesse Lee was known as "Apostle to New England" for his pioneering work there. He held the first Methodist class in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1792. In 1809 he was chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives and in 1814 Chaplain of the U.S. Senate.⁴⁰ In 1782 Lee accompanied Edward Dromgoole to North Carolina where they set up a new circuit that became the Camden Circuit.⁴¹ Rueben Ellis, presiding elder of the South Carolina District, was brother to travelling minister Ira Ellis. Ira

³³ Clark, Potts and Payton, *Journal of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 2, 806-807.

³⁴ Edward Dromgoole letter to Francis Asbury, 1805.

³⁵ Sweet, *Religion on the American Frontier*, p 5.

³⁶ Methodist Episcopal Church, *Minutes of the Annual Conferences*, 6-7.

³⁷ Edward Dromgoole letter to Francis Asbury, 1805.

³⁸ Wikipedia, "Richard Whatcoat" 10/7/2020. En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Whatcoat

³⁹ Thomas S. Kidd, "Methodists in Early Virginia," encyclopedia Virginia website, Library of Virginia, 12/17/2015.

⁴⁰ Sweet, *Religion on the American Frontier*, p 117 fn.

⁴¹ Margaret R. Saunders, "A History of Methodism in the Albemarle," divinityarchive.com.

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Ellis was an itinerant who served beginning in 1781 in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. His last assignment was the Brunswick Circuit, 1792-1795.⁴² He married in 1795 then located in Brunswick County and bought property from his friend Edward Dromgoole in 1799.⁴³ Ellis was a trustee of Ebenezer Academy with Dromgoole and Easter and in 1801 was named with Dromgoole as one of the trustees of a “newly erected house” on property adjacent to Dromgoole’s Canaan for the Methodist Episcopal Church, which ultimately became known as Olive Branch Church.⁴⁴ The Olive Branch Methodist Church congregation survives today, but in a later church building on a new location in Brunswick County. The original church does not survive.

Reverend Edward Dromgoole’s struggle with the institution of slavery

The personal life of Edward Dromgoole at his plantation Canaan is an important representation of the struggle Methodists in southern slaveholding states faced; a contrast to the anti-slavery teaching of John Wesley. Dromgoole endorsed the antislavery teaching of Wesley, Coke and Asbury as seen through the manumitting of his enslaved people in 1791, yet could never fully disengage from the practice of owning enslaved workers as seen when he acquired slaves again later in his life. He, like many others, represent the contradictory and changing views of the Methodist on slavery.⁴⁵

John Wesley and Thomas Coke initially took a hard line on slavery—complete abolition of the institution and immediate emancipation of enslaved people. Francis Asbury as well abhorred the institution and believed one reason God kept him in America during the Revolution was to help bring about the end of slavery. Asbury followed a more cautious approach than Wesley, encouraging the gradual emancipation of the enslaved. In 1784, the Church ruled that members owning enslaved persons could not receive the sacraments; the following year the rule required that no travelling preachers who owned enslaved individuals would be employed or given appointments unless they agreed to manumit them. These rules on slavery were a significant point of contention in Virginia where the southern agrarian society was resolutely in favor of slavery, including some of the traveling and local preachers. A short distance from the Dromgoole home at the Mason-Tillett house it was recorded that the home was “thought to be the location of the First Session of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1785 that was led by Bishop Francis Asbury, attended by Dromgoole, and was the occasion for substantial debate regarding the Methodist support of abolition of slavery.”⁴⁶

In the winter of 1797 during Francis Asbury’s stay in Brunswick due to illness, there was much anxiety among whites over the slavery issue. In his journals Asbury frequently makes comments

⁴² Clark, Potts and Payton, *Journal of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 2, 460-461.

⁴³ Brunswick County, Virginia Deed Book 16:416.

⁴⁴ Brunswick County, Virginia Deed Book 18:185.

⁴⁵ Rev. Dr. Art Thomas, “Edward Dromgoole (1751-1835), Methodist Preacher in Brunswick County, Virginia: His Struggle to Free His Slaves,” PowerPoint presentation (Richmond: Reveille UMC—Wesleyan Fellowship Sunday School), November 22, 2020.

⁴⁶ Peters and Zehmer, “Mason-Tillett House.”

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about residents and some of his ministers' acceptance of the institution, many while staying in Brunswick:

December 22, 1797. I rose in the morning; in some fear lest I had or should say too much on slavery...Dec. 24...Brother Edward Drumgoole came in the evening of Christmas day.⁴⁷

January 9, 1798. The weather is temperate: my mind is much pained. O! to be dependent on slaveholders is in part to be a slave, and I was free born. I am brought to conclude that slavery will exist in Virginia perhaps for ages; there is not sufficient sense of religion nor of liberty to destroy it; Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, in the highest flights of rapturous piety, still maintain and defend it....⁴⁸

Canaan was a typical plantation of eighteenth-century Virginia, consisting of hundreds of acres. In addition to the main dwelling, there were numerous ancillary buildings where the enslaved would have worked and lived. Only the "Spinning House" and principal dwelling remain, representing these work spaces.

Edward Dromgoole was opposed to slavery but owned enslaved African Americans and struggled with the issue. For several years, he considered moving to Ohio with a number of family and neighbors who had relocated to the new state where slavery was not legal. He told Asbury in 1805, "a state where none of the human race are in captivity, would afford my mind more rest."⁴⁹ He manumitted a number (10 plus future increase) of enslaved persons in 1791.⁵⁰ These were to be set free over a period of time—from 1792 to 1818. The Federal Census indicates some of the freed people may have stayed on at Canaan: in 1810 there were three free persons of color along with 11 enslaved people living on the plantation.⁵¹ Apparently Dromgoole could never completely break away from the institution because receipts have been found for the purchase of two men in 1797 and 1799.⁵² Additionally when he died in 1835, he owned 16 people whom he bequeathed to his children, with George C. Dromgoole, who inherited the plantation, receiving the majority.⁵³ At the 1784 Christmas Conference that created the Methodist Episcopal Church, many of the preachers were ordained but Edward Dromgoole was

⁴⁷ Clark, Potts and Payton, *Journal of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 2, 144.

⁴⁸ Clark, Potts and Payton, *Journal of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 2, 151.

⁴⁹ Edward Dromgoole, Letter to Francis Asbury, 1805.

⁵⁰ Deed of Emancipation, 1791, Brunswick County, VA Deed Book 15:93.

⁵¹ 1810 United States Federal Census, Meherrin, Brunswick, Virginia (Roll: 66, Page: 746, Image: 00739, Family History Library Film: 0181426), Ancestry.com.

⁵² Edward Dromgoole Papers, Bill of Sale for "Mulatto Man Slave named Matthew" 1797, and Bill of Sale for "Negro Man Slave named Robin" 1799, microfilm (Richmond: Library of Virginia Archives & Manuscripts), original from Dromgoole Family Records, 1788–1840. Southern Historical Collection, The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁵³ Edward Dromgoole, Sr. will (1835), Brunswick County, VA Will Book 6:311, County Clerk's Office, Lawrenceville, VA.

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not among them. Given his length of service perhaps his continued slave ownership was a contributing factor. Asbury did, however, ordain Dromgoole at his home in 1815.⁵⁴

Conclusion

Edward Dromgoole was significant to the formation and spread of the Methodism in the early republic and the eventual formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784. For this reason, Canaan is nominated under Criterion B in the area of Religion at the national level as the only known surviving building directly associated with his contributions and career, which had both national and regional influences. He was one of the “Committee of Five”⁵⁵ selected to superintend the Methodist preachers while Francis Asbury was unable to travel freely during the Revolution.⁵⁶ Dromgoole’s correspondence with John Wesley in England influenced the selection of Francis Asbury as the first Methodist bishop in America and he was a part of the leadership that established the Methodist Church officially in 1784. A dedicated minister and inspiring speaker, Dromgoole was especially instrumental in establishing churches throughout the Brunswick Circuit, which in the late 18th century included much of Virginia and North Carolina and was considered by many to be the cradle of Methodism in the South. After his assignment along with Robert Williams, George Shadford, Robert Lindsay and William Glendenning in 1775 to the Brunswick Circuit, membership in that circuit doubled, from 800 to 1,611 in a single year.⁵⁷ Additionally, Dromgoole was an organizer and trustee for Ebenezer Academy, thought to be the first Methodist school in America, established in Brunswick County by 1793. He, Asbury and others met at Dromgoole’s home to draft “a constitution for a district school.”⁵⁸ Only the foundation of the school remains today, near US Route 1 (Figure 10). Both the school site and the Dromgoole House property are owned today by the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation, a non-profit foundation whose mission is to preserve and interpret key sites along the 18th and 19th century Methodist Brunswick Circuit.

⁵⁴ Clark, Potts and Payton, *Journal of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 2, 774.

⁵⁵ Abel Stevens, *History of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America*, Vol. 1 (New York: Carlton & Porter, 1864), 381.

⁵⁶ John Lednum, *A History of the Rise of Methodism* (Philadelphia: John Lednum, 1859), 151.

⁵⁷ Methodist Episcopal Church, *Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the years 1773-1828*, Vol. 1 (New York: T. Mason and G. Lane, 1840), 7-8, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nyp.33433069134967&view=1up&seq=9>.

⁵⁸ Elmer T. Clark, J. Manning Potts and Jacob S. Payton, eds., *The Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury*, Vol. 1 (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1958), 736.

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Figure 10, Ebenezer Academy, foundations and memorial, Elizabeth Lipford, DHR archives photograph, 2021

Criterion B, state level, Politics/Government: George Coke Dromgoole

George Coke Dromgoole, born 1797, was the youngest child of Rev. Edward and Rebecca Dromgoole. After the death of Rev. Dromgoole in 1835, Canaan became George Dromgoole's home. He served in the Virginia General Assembly from 1823-1835 and in the U.S. Congress from 1835-1840 and from 1843 until his death in 1847.⁵⁹

George attended The University of North Carolina (UNC) from 1813–1814. While at the university, he was a member of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Society (DiPhi), a literary and debate society at UNC. He later attended the College of William & Mary and then studied law.⁶⁰ In addition to being a successful attorney and planter in Brunswick County, George Dromgoole embarked on a political career, serving in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1823 through 1826. Subsequently, he was elected to the Senate of Virginia, where he served until 1835. During three of these years, he was Chairman of the Senate.

At the age of 30, he served as a delegate to the Convention of 1829, formed to frame a new Constitution for Virginia. The Convention convened in Richmond and was a response to years of discord and debate since the passing of the 1776 Virginia Constitution. Without opposition at the convention was the adoption of a bill of rights to be included with the new constitution. While this proposal received much support, there were many contentious agenda items that were heavily debated. At the center of the debates were voting rights and county representation. Strong opinions from delegates west of the Blue Ridge Mountains rose in opposition to

⁵⁹ "George Coke Dromgoole," Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, Office of Art & Archives, 2020, <https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/Home/MemberDetails?memIndex=D000504>.

⁶⁰ Malone, "Edward Dromgoole."

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landowners in the east, which became the early fuel for the eventual split of Virginia and the creation of the state of West Virginia. On the issue of representation in the Virginia legislature, the outcome of the convention only slightly increased representation for counties in the western region with control remaining mostly with the delegates of the more populous eastern counties. On the issue of suffrage, voting rights were extended to include white male leaseholders and householders.⁶¹ Under the earlier constitution, voting was exclusive to white male landowners and freeholders. Dromgoole, although a plantation owner with an enslaved workforce, would run for his first term for Congress five years later as a Jacksonian Democrat. Jacksonian philosophy, generally based on the principles of expanded democracy, including suffrage for the common man (limited to white men), leading to speculation that he was likely sympathetic to the western support of removing the requirement of land ownership for voting rights.

In his *Sketches of Members of the Constitutional Convention of 1829-30*, Henry Blair Grigsby, described George Dromgoole as follows,⁶²

Dromgoole acted with great judgement in Convention...He showed much spirit in debate, and was ready to terminate any speech in a fight of any kind, if his opponent had the slightest solicitation about the matter. I have heard Dromgoole in the Senate with considerable pleasure; and I willingly bear evidence of the genuine Republicanism that he engrafted into the very stock of his existence.

As a member of the Virginia Senate, he sponsored the bill that granted a charter to Randolph-Macon College.⁶³ Randolph-Macon was a Methodist college, which operated in Boydton from 1832 until late 1868 when the institution moved to Ashland, Virginia. In 1825, the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church appointed a committee to raise money for the creation of a "Seminary of Learning." While the site of the proposed college was under consideration, the Conference decided that an urban setting was not desirable. Typical of the site-selection processes conducted by other contemporary colleges, the Methodist trustees sought the most lucrative offer. A group of subscribers in Mecklenburg County raised \$10,000 for the support of the college and a site one mile west of the county seat of Boydton was duly chosen. In January of 1830, Dromgoole's bill for the incorporation of the college was presented before the Virginia legislature. The political climate of the times was such that many legislators were reluctant to support the creation of a religious school. Yet, Dromgoole's bill to incorporate the college was ultimately passed. Today, along with the Dromgoole House and the Ebenezer Academy site, the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation owns 12 acres of the original Randolph-Macon College campus, containing the ruins of the original main building (DHR file no. 058-0231).

For most of the next ten years, George Dromgoole served in the United States House of Representatives, including several as the Democratic leader. He was recognized for his oratory

⁶¹ Virginius Dabney, *Virginia, The New Dominion: A history from 1607 to the Present*, (University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1971) pp.216-224

⁶² Written by Hugh Blair Grigsby (1806-1881) and published in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* Vol. 61, No. 3 (Jul., 1953), pp. 322.

⁶³ Bobb Edwards, "George C. Dromgoole," Find-A-Grave website, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12738028/george-coke-dromgoole>.

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skills and as a parliamentarian. Pro-slavery and an alcoholic, he was much disliked by fellow Congressman John Quincy Adams. Dromgoole, a Jacksonian democrat, clashed with Adams over annexation of Texas (Dromgoole in support of, Adams constitutionally against) and over Adams's efforts to present petitions to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia.⁶⁴ Quite the debater on the House floor, a colleague described him as, "Logical always, drunk or sober."⁶⁵ His propensity for drink remained a constant and was often of note by his colleagues who on occasion advised him to use more caution. However, a letter from George's sister Rebecca Sims indicates her delight that he had joined the "total abstinence pledge" in 1844. How well he honored this pledge is unknown. In the same letter Rebecca seems to advise her brother that his overseer may have dealt too severely with some of the "workers."⁶⁶ Presumably, she was referencing the enslaved African Americans at Canaan.

In January 1845, Congressman Dromgoole introduced a bill into the U.S. House of Representatives for the admission of Texas as a state, to be enacted on July 4, 1845.⁶⁷ He described his bill as based on precedents already established through the admission of statehood for Kentucky and Vermont in 1791, the first two new states after the original thirteen. At the heart of his bill was the deferral of encumbering the admission with the debatable issues of "surplus" territory in Texas, unpaid debt and slavery. Dromgoole advocated admission of statehood first, resolution on the issues after. Two other bills were also introduced, with the one by Congressman Niles, drawing a north-south line through the center of Texas that allowed slavery on the east side only. This plan intentionally favored the coast of Texas and the lands conducive to growing cotton and sugar.⁶⁸ After much debate, Congress adopted a resolution to accept Texas as a slave state in accordance with the Missouri Compromise, which allowed all states below the thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, to make their own decision. Texas became a state that allowed ownership of enslaved workers. The resolution also stipulated that Texas would retain its public lands and its debt. Texas was admitted as the 28th state in December of 1845.⁶⁹

The District of Columbia became the nation's capital in 1791 and the debate over slavery began almost immediately. Slavery was legal, but a growing number of abolitionists, including northern politicians such as John Adams, sought to have it outlawed. An organized campaign to petition Congress to abolish slavery in Washington D.C. began in the 1820s, resulting in the passage of what was known as the "southern gag rule," a retaliatory measure by southern congressmen that

⁶⁴ Charles Francis Adams, ed., *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams: his diary from 1795 to 1848*, v. 10 (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co.). <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044013643937&view=1up&seq=9>.

⁶⁵ Bobb Edwards, "George C. Dromgoole," Find-A-Grave website, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12738028/george-coke-dromgoole>.

⁶⁶ Rebecca D. Sims, Letter to George C. Dromgoole, 25 February 1844, Library of Virginia, Dromgoole Family Records, 1788–1840.

⁶⁷ *Congressional Globe*, January 9, 1845, page 107

⁶⁸ *Richmond Enquirer*, January 17, 1845, page 2

⁶⁹ <https://texasalmanac.com/topics/history/timeline/annexation-and-statehood>

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disallowed the introduction of bills related to the banning of slavery in the capital city⁷⁰
Dromgoole, with his oratory skills, was a leading advocate for the continued legalization of slavery in Washington D.C. and throughout the south, an issue that would not be resolved for several more decades and long after his career ended.

At the height of his career, he was forced into a pistol duel mostly by the exploits of the local Whig party, who were trying to undermine his campaign for re-election to Congress. In 1837, Dromgoole, while intoxicated, verbally insulted hotel proprietor Daniel Dugger, who then struck him in retaliation. The incident occurred in the town of Lawrenceville, county seat to Brunswick County. This seemed to be the end of the issue until Whig party members began taunting Dromgoole's cowardice for not fighting back in the local papers, calling into question his character as a congressional representative from their district. Dromgoole asked Dugger twice to publish a statement declaring the matter settled, which Dugger refused to do, forcing the eventual challenge of a duel by Dromgoole. On the fateful day, Dromgoole struck Dugger with a fatal shot, from which he died several weeks later. Dromgoole, returned to Congress, now portrayed as a villain for the murder of Daniel Dugger by his Whig party enemies. However, the very popular "Brunswick Lion" was re-elected in 1838. He declined to run in 1840 and was subsequently re-elected to Congress in 1842, 1844 and 1846. Remorseful for killing Dugger, Dromgoole reportedly financed the education of Dugger's two young sons, who both attended UNC.⁷¹

Dromgoole's nephew, Alexander D. Sims (1803-1848), served in Congress concurrently with his uncle, representing South Carolina from 1845-1848. He studied law under his Uncle George in Brunswick County, moving to South Carolina in 1826. Like his uncle, he died in office shortly after being reelected to Congress.⁷²

In addition to his work as a politician, George Dromgoole was a brigadier general in the state militia, a planter, and a prominent mason, rising to the levels of Worshipful Master of the Brunswick Lodge in 1824 and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, 1830-1832. George Dromgoole died unexpectedly shortly after having been reelected to the U.S. House of Representatives in a tight race in 1847.⁷³ Buried in his native Brunswick County, there is a cenotaph to him in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

George Coke Dromgoole was the quintessential antebellum southern politician from rural Virginia. Living to be only 50 years of age, his career quickly accelerated from local to state to national-level leadership roles in government and politics. In addition to representing his district

⁷⁰ <https://emancipation.dc.gov/page/ending-slavery-district-columbia#:~:text=This%20booklet%20describes%20events%20related,%E2%80%9CEmancipation%20Proclamation%E2%80%9D%20was%20issued.>

⁷¹ Henry W. Lewis, *The Dugger-Dromgoole Duel*, The North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. 24, No. 3, 1957, p 327-345.

⁷² Alexander D Simms. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_D._Sims.

⁷³ Gay Neale, *Brunswick County, Virginia 1720-1975* (Brunswick County Bicentennial Committee, 1975), 128-133.

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of southside piedmont Virginia, he was viewed as a leader in forming the policies and debates of his time at the state and national levels, as illustrated by his leadership positions in the Virginia Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, including serving as chair of the Senate and serving as a delegate to the 1829 state constitution convention. Dromgoole inherited Canaan upon his father's death in 1835, at the height of his career. As his primary residence until his death in 1847, it is an important building associated with his life and career, and is therefore, significant at the state level for its association in the area of Politics/Government with George C. Dromgoole's career.

Criterion C, Architecture

The Dromgoole House is significant under criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level as a good example of Federal period architecture and craftsmanship with vernacular adaptations based on the needs and influences of its builder, the Reverend Edward Dromgoole. As mentioned in the narrative description, dendrochronological analysis performed in June 2018 has shown that the main structure of the house was constructed in the last years of the 18th century. Ten timbers in total were sampled: eight from the first floor ceiling joists, one from a second floor ceiling joist and one from a roof rafter. All of the timbers sampled from the building were yellow pine. Seven of the nine timbers retained complete sapwood, which provided felling dates of the summer of 1796, the summer of 1797, the winter of 1797/8 and the winter 1798/9, suggesting that the building was constructed in the winter of 1798/9 or shortly thereafter.⁷⁴ This places the Dromgoole House in a relatively small collection of fourth quarter, eighteenth century dwellings surviving in Brunswick County. There are several notable brick dwelling houses from the Federal period: Bentfield, ca. 1819 (012-0072, NRHP listed 1972, destroyed by fire, 1974, delisted, 2001), Hobson's Choice, 1794 (012-0013, NRHP listed 1980) and Woodlands, ca. 1830 (012-0038, NRHP listed 1982); however, the majority of Federal period dwellings in Brunswick County were constructed of frame on brick or stone foundations, similar to the Dromgoole House. Brunswick County, formed in 1720 from Prince George County, was primarily settled for the pursuit of tobacco cultivation, carrying further west the practice of the plantation system with heavy reliance on enslaved labor.

The Mutual Assurance Society (MAS) insurance policies have also been useful in dating the development of the Dromgoole house. There are three MAS insurance declarations for the site: 1803, 1805 and 1810. Five structures are covered by all three policies and indicate subtle changes during those years. According to Library of Virginia research notes for Mutual Assurance Society Records, revaluations were required every seven years or if there were changes. The 1803 policy shows the following: (Extant structures shown in bold.)

- H. Two-story wooden dwelling house (34' x 28')**
- I. Wooden one-story kitchen (16' x 16')
- J. One-story wooden store house (22' x 15' with 10' x 15' shed)
- K. Wooden one-story granary (40' x 18' with 12' x 40' shed)

⁷⁴ Michael J. Worthington and Jane I. Seiter, "The Tree-Ring Dating of Edward Dromgoole House, Brunswick Co., Virginia" (Baltimore, MD: Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory, July 2018).

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L. One-story “Spinning House” (18’ x 18’). Labeled a “Work house” in 1805 and 1810

In 1803 the insurance document shows a two-story dwelling, no porches or wing. The sketch for 1805 mentions the house and two porches. And finally in 1810 the sketch shows the house, two porches and the outline of the wing room. Therefore, the small wing may have been attached between 1805 and 1810. The insurance values for the structures shown on the three policies never changed.⁷⁵ The wing has early features—HL hinges on its entry, flush horizontal paneling—and may predate the main dwelling. This wing may have been attached to the surviving stone chimney that stands near the house and is described in Section 7 as part of the contributing archaeological site 44BR0345. Likewise, the remains of the kitchen foundation mentioned in the MAS policy are still visible as described for site 44BR0345, along with some evidence of the storehouse and granary. The relationship of the dependencies to the main house also invokes typical plantation domestic layout for the region and time period.⁷⁶

The Dromgoole House floor plan shows colonial period influence with the presence of the hall-parlor front rooms (south façade) merging with a Federal period center-passage plan to the rear (north) (Figure 11). This double-pile plan differs from the majority of other known two-story houses in the county from this period, which are primarily center-passage, single-pile plans. Houses of note include the wood frame dwellings Rome, ca. 1770 (012-0030), Millville, ca. 1795, (0012-0023), Thomas Mason House, ca. 1770 (012-0107) and the nearby Mason-Tillett House, ca. 1780⁷⁷ (discussed in detail below). However, with the Dromgoole House rear (north) rooms all being unheated, its primary spaces function like those of its single-pile contemporaries.

⁷⁵ Mutual Assurance Society Declarations and Revaluations of Assurance, 1796-1867. Library of Virginia. County: Brunswick, Reel #2, Vol. 24, Policy 2072 (1803); Reel #4, Vol. 36, Policy 350 (1805); Reel #5, Vol. 45, Policy 2188 (1810) Edward Dromgoole, Insured.

⁷⁶ Southern, “The I-House as a Carrier of Style,” 74, 75.

⁷⁷ The date of the Mason-Tillett house may be as late as 1788 as the tax records indicate a sizable increase in value for that year. National Register nomination form, Mason-Tillett House, section 8, page 6.

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Figure 11, Dromgoole House floor plan, 2017, Carol Corker

The Dromgoole House lacks strict symmetry of plan and fenestration often found in dwellings built in the Federal style, in fact very little is symmetrical on or in the house. Yet typical period features are found in the box cornice and flush gable end roof, exterior end chimneys, molded weatherboard siding and the hipped roofs on both the front porch and the extant dependency. As noted above, the rear (north) side of the house and the later one-story wing addition were not heated spaces. This consists of two rooms on both the first and second floors. These spaces may have been used for storage and/or servant quarters. However, one of the smaller unheated rooms on the first floor is known as the “Francis Asbury” room, suggesting that this is where he stayed

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when visiting the Dromgooles. Present in these rear rooms are picture rails in the plaster walls, a feature not found in the principal rooms on the first floor. Normally present in public rooms for the hanging of paintings, it is speculated that the function of these rails was to hang chairs, to be used when Dromgoole was hosting church services or meetings.

Although quite vernacular in plan, the finely crafted interior finish details, while modest, do reflect an adherence to and knowledge of the architectural fashion of the period. As a person who often had visitors and church members in his home, Dromgoole employed some expense in the dado paneling and chair board, six-panel doors, classically inspired mantels and trim in his heated public spaces, namely the southeast and southwest hall and parlor. Moldings feature the typical Roman-style formation of a series of circles as opposed to the more elliptical shapes that would appear later in the Greek Revival style. The presence of these Roman form moldings indicate that it is original trim. Like the south parlors, the upper and lower stair halls on the north side of the plan carry on the chair board with dado paneling below. The existing entrance porch on the south façade, with its finer details, also indicates this to have been the public entrance for visitors to Canaan. The surviving faux painted wood graining on three doors on the first floor further portrays Dromgoole's employment of the latest fashions expected in the home of a person of wealth.

The side-by-side entrance doors to each of the south-facing public rooms is more unusual for the southern piedmont of Virginia, however, the plan may have been directly influenced by the nearby Mason-Tillett House, constructed in the 1780s by Dromgoole's good friend and a local advocate for the formation of Methodism, William Mason. Possibly constructed ten or more years earlier than the Dromgoole House, the Mason-Tillett House is two miles south of the Dromgoole House on Route 46, also on a rise of land above Beddington Creek. Bishop Francis Asbury, who recorded his lodging with Dromgoole, also recorded lodging and time spent at William Mason's home, which has been documented as the location of the first session of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1785 and the place where heated debates occurred among church leaders over the issue of slavery.⁷⁸ For its architecture as well as its association with the history of early Methodism, the Mason-Tillett House was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 2003 and the National Register of Historic Places in 2004 at the local level of significance in the areas of Religion and Architecture.

In addition to the double entrance doors, another nearly identical feature at the Mason-Tillett House is the solid diamond shape of glazed headers found in the west chimneystack between the shoulders, and a single diagonal row of headers parallel to the tiled shoulder weatherings (Figure 12). Other shared features of the two houses, typical of the Federal style, include the square columned porch posts with cornice caps, 9/9 sash windows on the first story, and 6/9 sash on the second story, faux painting on interior woodwork, double architrave trim on the first floor, and beaded baseboards and chair boards throughout.

⁷⁸ Mason-Tillett House, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 2004, Section 8, pp.6-7.

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Figure 12, Mason-Tillett House, Brunswick County, Jack Zehmer, 2003, DHR archives collection

Traveling in the same Methodist circuits, hosting notable leaders in the Methodist movement, Dromgoole and Mason seemed to have had similar ideas about how to design their homes, both of which were the center of very public functions. However, unlike Edward Dromgoole, who was well travelled, William Mason appears to be from a family that had long-time roots in Brunswick County. Dromgoole, in addition to Virginia and his native Ireland, is known to have lived in Maryland and visited extensively in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. The unusual plan and double front doors entering separate rooms may have been observed in his travels and associations. The double doors leading to separate living areas may have been intentional to accommodate a separation of Mason's and Dromgoole's plantation business and family space from church visitors and religious services.⁷⁹ If in fact, Dromgoole's design was influenced by observances from his travel to other regions, perhaps he provided the influence on William Mason's design at the Mason-Tillett House, therein incorporating the same ideas in his soon-to-be built new home at Canaan. Obviously, given the personal connections and their physical proximity to each other, they were collaborating on both the functional and stylistic features of their homes. Mason, perhaps with a bit more wealth, gives more attention to masterful faux wood graining and marbleizing, also employing woodwork that is more detailed and stylish. The Dromgoole House, typical in rural vernacular architecture, is a reflection of the owner's needs, the skills of local artisans, with a sprinkling of Federal period architectural fashion.

⁷⁹ Southern, "The I-House as a Carrier of Style," 70-76.

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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

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #012-0004

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.582090 | Longitude: -77.821660 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.581980 | Longitude: -77.817280 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.578420 | Longitude: -77.817200 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.578350 | Longitude: -77.821600 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Name of Property

Brunswick County, VA
County and State

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary is coterminous with the tax parcel recorded as 102-29G by Brunswick County, Virginia. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the entire parcel owned by The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation. Although a small part of the original plantation, the current parcel includes the primary dwelling as well as the immediate historic setting and associated resources identified to date within the parcel.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Carol Corker
organization: Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation
street & number: P. O. Box 385
city or town: Lawrenceville state: VA zip code: 23868
e-mail: tcorker@gmail.com
telephone: _____
date: June 2021

name/title: Elizabeth Lipford
organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources
street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23221
e-mail: elizabeth.lipford@dhr.virginia.gov
telephone: 804-482-6454
date: June 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Name of Property

Brunswick County, VA
County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Dromgoole House (Canaan)

City or Vicinity: Valentines (Vicinity)

County: Brunswick State: VA

Photographer: Elizabeth Hoge Lipford

Date Photographed: April 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0001
View: Primary dwelling, southwest oblique, camera facing northeast

2 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0002
View: Primary dwelling, northwest oblique, camera facing southeast

3 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0003
View: Primary dwelling, north elevation, entrance door, camera facing south

4 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0004
View: Primary dwelling, north elevation, framing detail, camera facing south

5 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0005
View: Primary dwelling, northeast oblique, camera facing southwest

6 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0006
View: Primary dwelling, southeast oblique, camera facing northwest

7 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0007

Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Name of Property

Brunswick County, VA
County and State

View: Primary dwelling and Spinning House/Workhouse/Office, southeast elevation, camera facing north

8 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0008

View: Primary dwelling, east elevation, chimney detail, camera facing west

9 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0009

View: Primary dwelling, south elevation, porch detail, camera facing southeast

10 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0010

View: Primary dwelling, south elevation, east entrance door, camera facing north

11 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0011

View: Primary dwelling, west chamber of cellar, camera facing northeast

12 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0012

View: Primary dwelling, first floor, southwest parlor, camera facing northwest

13 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0013

View: Primary dwelling, first floor, southwest parlor, camera facing southeast

14 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0014

View: Primary dwelling, first floor, southeast parlor, mantel detail, camera facing east

15 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0015

View: Primary dwelling, first floor, northeast chamber, door detail, camera facing southwest

16 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0016

View: Primary dwelling, first floor, northwest chamber, door detail, camera facing east

17 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0017

View: Primary dwelling, first floor, east wing addition, camera facing northwest

18 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0018

View: Primary dwelling, first floor, stair passage, camera facing northwest

19 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0019

View: Primary dwelling, second floor, stair passage, camera facing southwest

20 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0020

View: Primary dwelling, second floor, stair passage, camera facing northwest

21 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0021

View: Primary dwelling, second floor, southeast chamber, camera facing northeast

Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Name of Property

Brunswick County, VA
County and State

22 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0022

View: Primary dwelling, second floor, southeast chamber, fireplace detail, camera facing east

23 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0023

View: Primary dwelling, second floor, southwest chamber, camera facing southwest

24 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0024

View: Spinning House/Workhouse/Office, north elevation, camera facing south

25 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0025

View: Spinning House/Workhouse/Office, northeast elevation, camera facing southwest

26 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0026

View: Spinning House/Workhouse/Office, interior, camera facing northwest

27 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0027

View: Dromgoole cemetery, camera facing east

28 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0028

View: Dromgoole cemetery, camera facing north

29 of 29: VA_BrunswickCounty_DromgooleHouse_0029

View: Stone Chimney, camera facing southeast

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100006815

Date Listed: 8/9/2021

Property Name: Dromgoole House (Canaan)

County: Brunswick

State: VA

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



8/9/2021

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3: Criteria and level of significance

Criterion A was mistakenly checked in Section 3. The property is listed under Criteria B and C only.

National significance is not supported and is hereby removed. The activities of Rev. Edward Dromgoole that touched on nationally significant events related to the establishment and spread of methodism in the American colonies predates Dromgoole's association with this property by over a decade. While he played an important role in the church while associated with this property, his activities do not approach the national level of significance. It does not meet National Historic landmark criterion 2, as claimed on page 8-22.

The Virginia State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

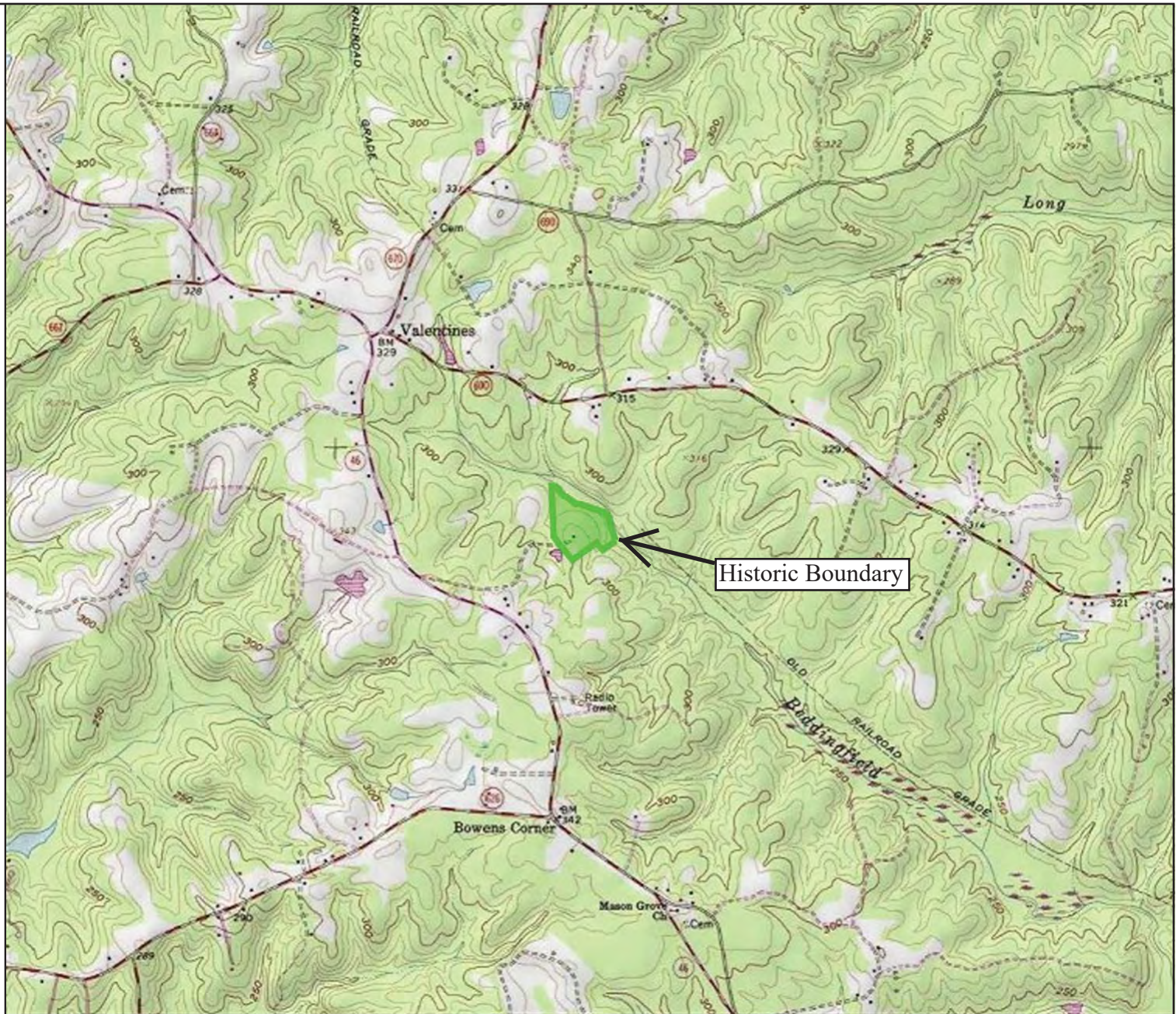
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Dromgoole House (Canaan)

Brunswick County, VA

DHR No. 012-0004



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 4/26/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.




LOCATION MAP

Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Brunswick County, VA
DHR No. 012-0004

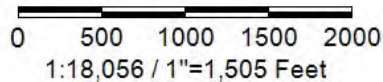
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- 1. Latitude: 36.58209
Longitude: -77.821660
- 2. Latitude: 36.581980
Longitude: -77.817280
- 3. Latitude: 36.578420
Longitude: -77.817200
- 4. Latitude: 36.578350
Longitude: -77.821600

 Tax Parcel
102-29G



Feet



Title:

Date: 4/26/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

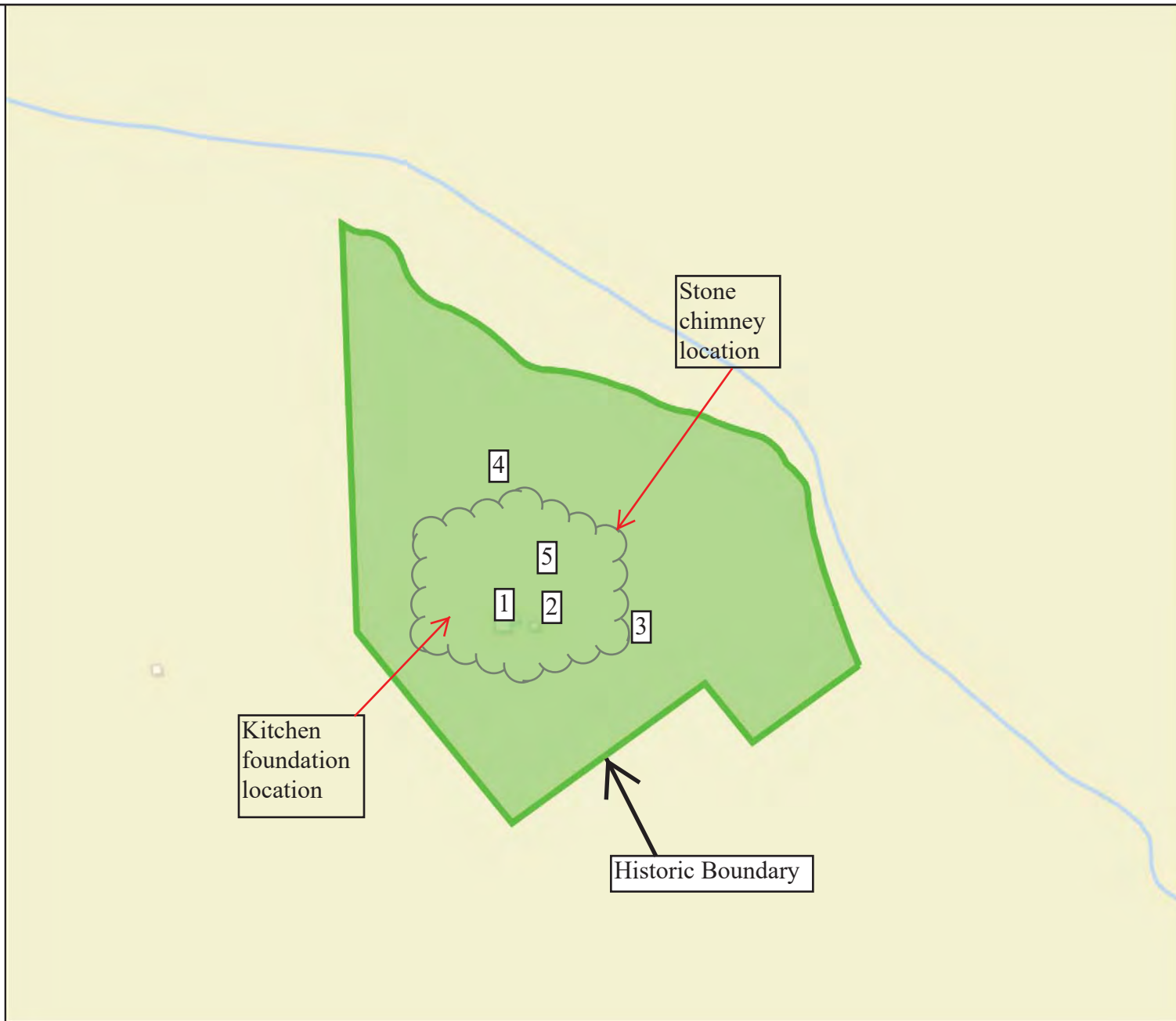


SKETCH MAP

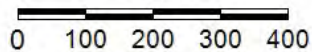
Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Brunswick County, VA
DHR No. 012-0004

LIST OF RESOURCES

- 1. Main House, contributing
- 2. Spinning House/ Workhouse, contributing
- 3. Cemetery, contributing
- 4. Archaeological Site 44BR0345, contributing (includes two above-ground features, a stone chimney and a kitchen foundation)
- 5. Capped Well, noncontributing



Feet



1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet

Title:

Date: 4/26/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

PHOTO KEY

(exterior views)

Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Brunswick County, VA
DHR No. 012-0004

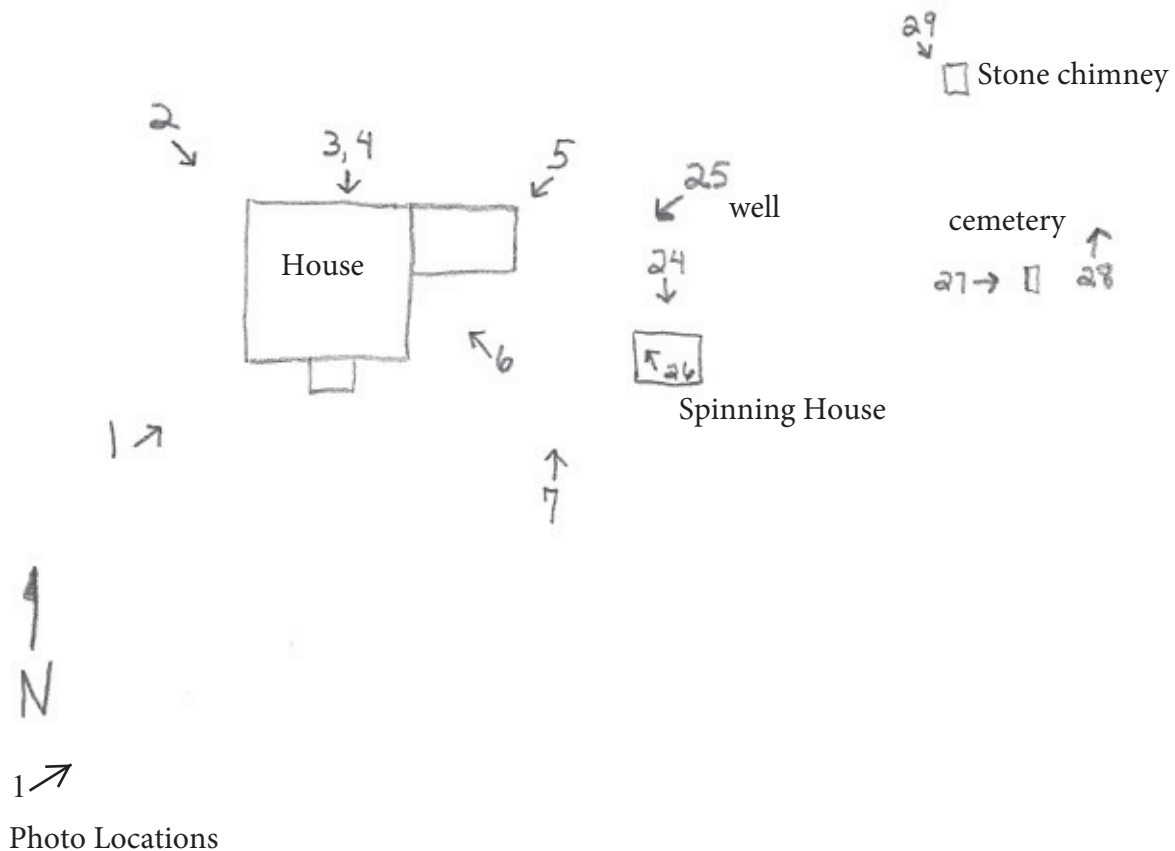
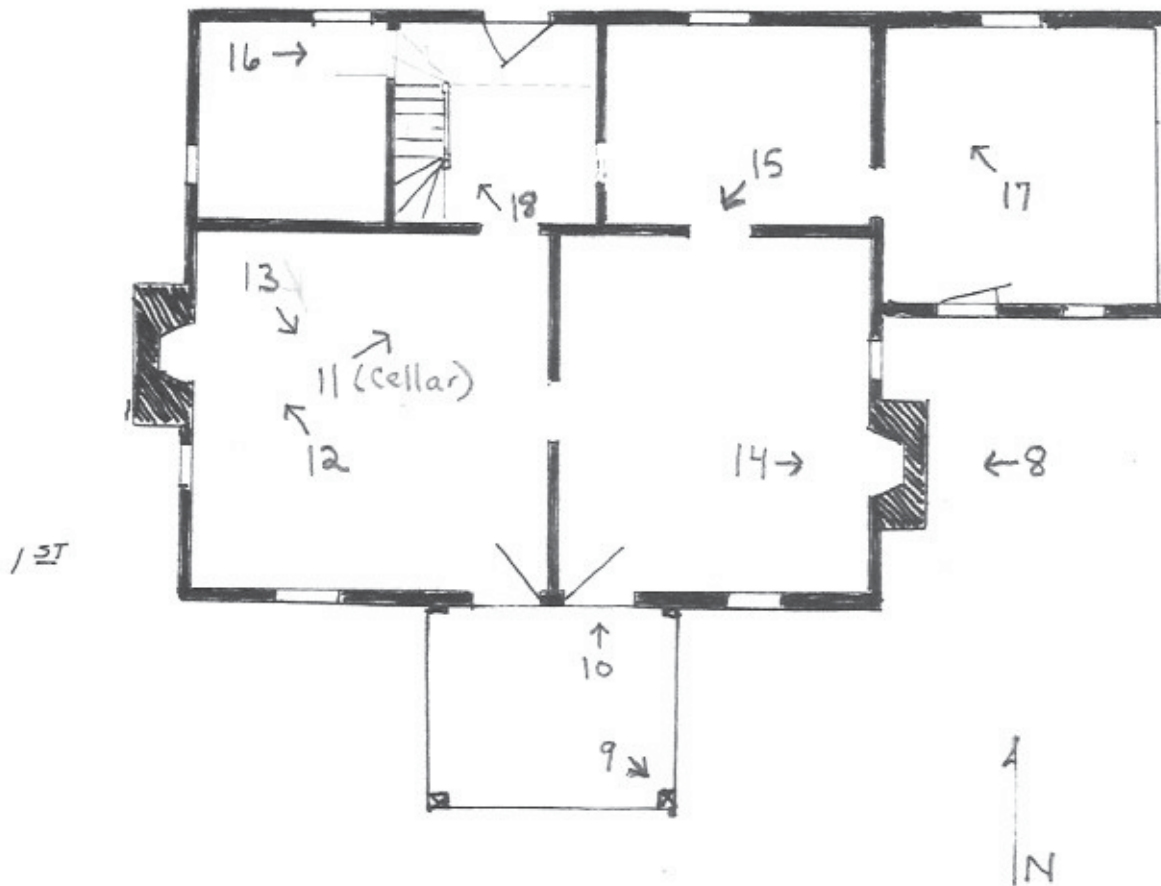
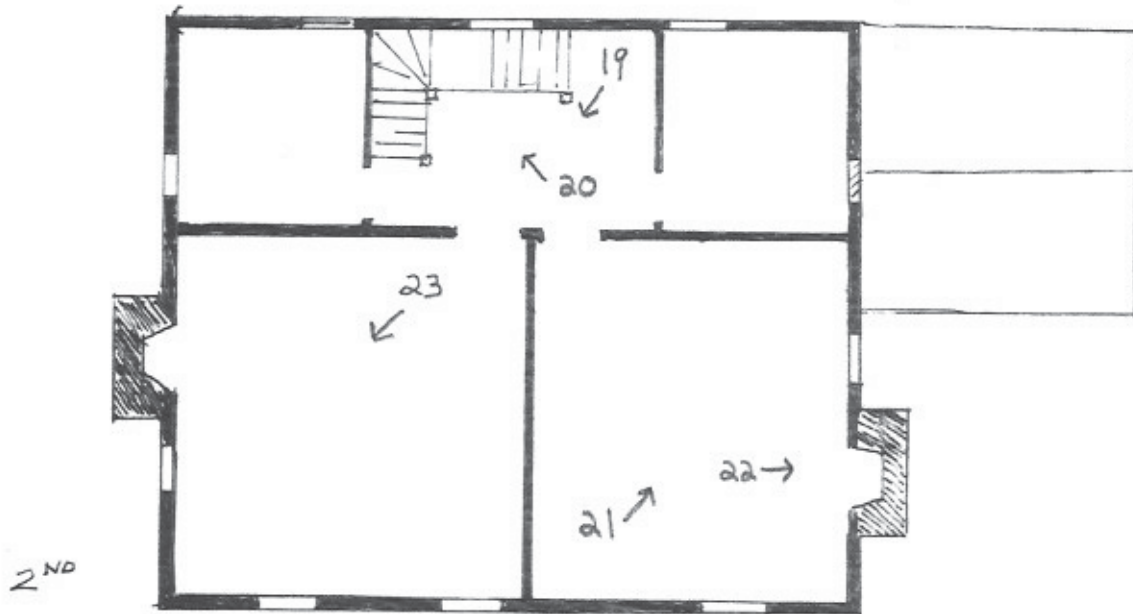


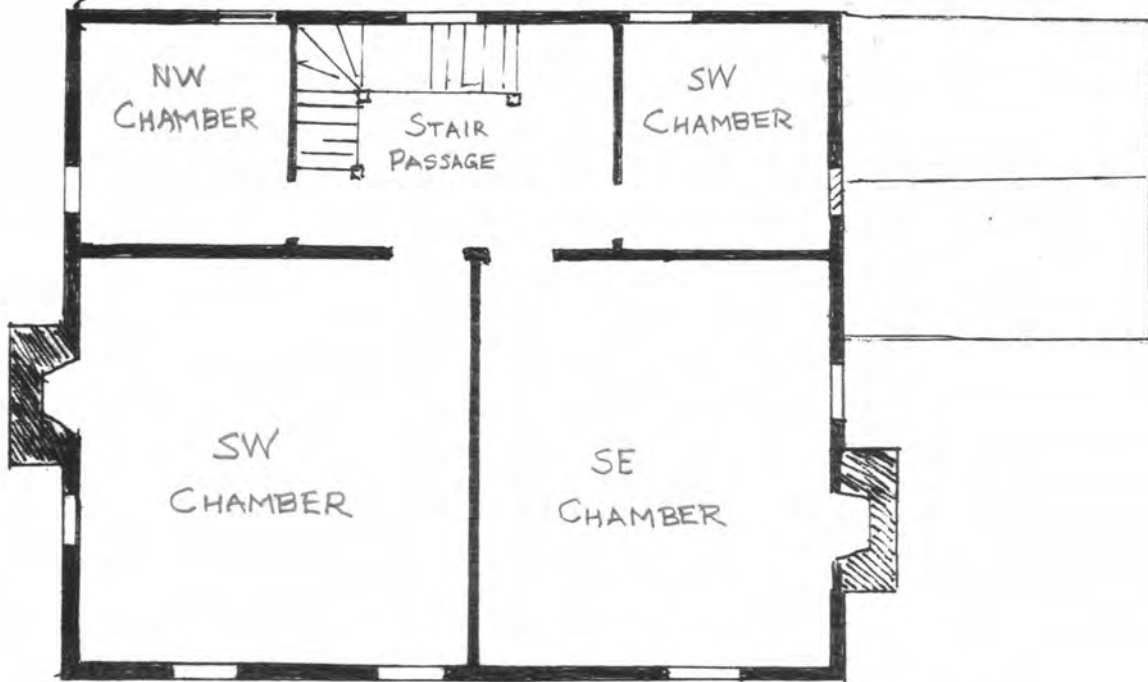
PHOTO KEY
(interior views)

Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Brunswick County, VA
DHR No. 012-0004

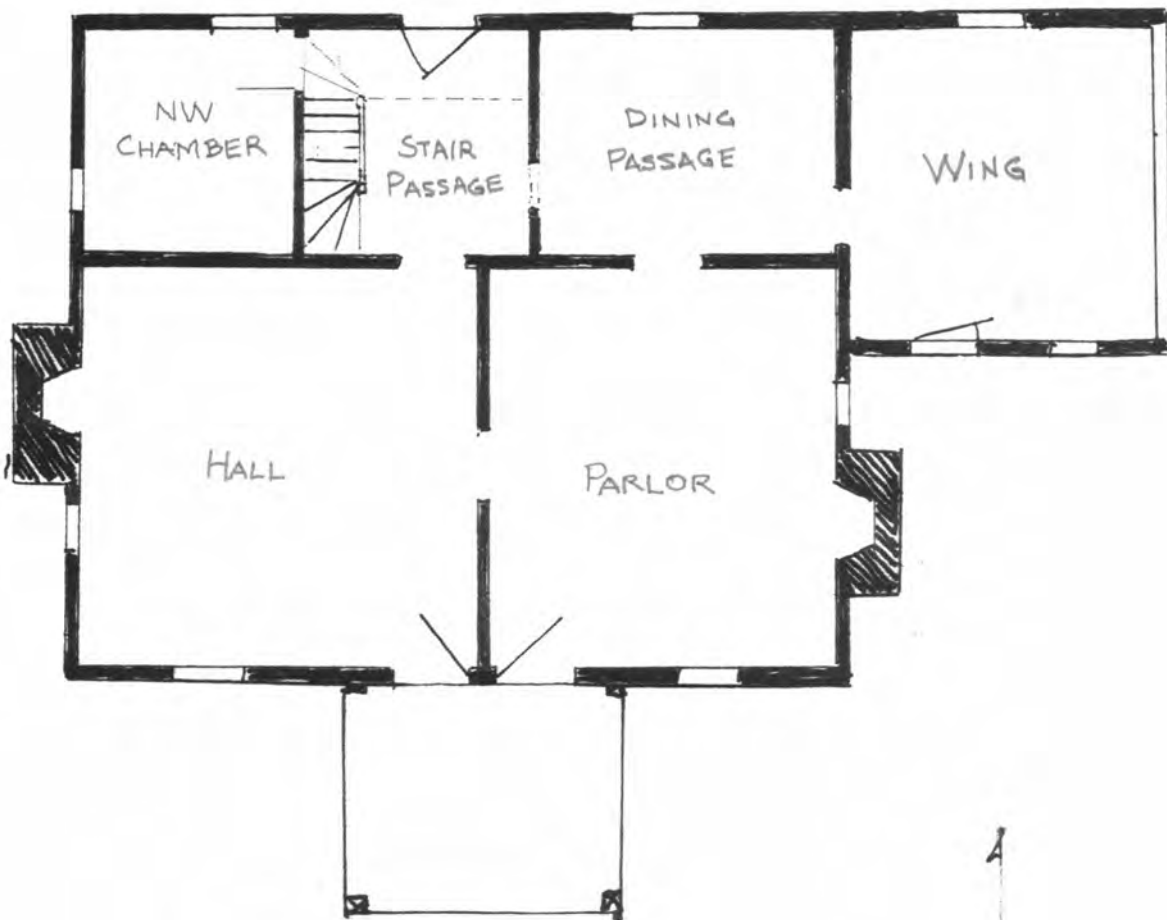


FLOOR PLAN
Dromgoole House (Canaan)
Brunswick County, VA
DHR No. 012-0004

2ND



1ST



TAX PARCEL MAP

Dromgoole House (Canaan)

Brunswick County, VA
DHR No. 012-0004



Brunswick County, Virginia
<https://brunswick.southsidegis.org/>
Accessed 4/26/2021