

Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #:
Property Name(s): <u>Dromgoole House—(Historic/Current) "Canaan" (Historic)</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1800</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>Christanna Highway</u> City: <u>Valentines</u> Zip: <u>23887</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Brunswick County</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Valentines</u>	

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: <u>17</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: Originally a plantation of more than 200 acres, the current site encompasses the house site and family graveyard. The 17-acre site is located a quarter mile east of the modern route of Christanna Highway. The house faces south. Not occupied for the past forty years, the site was allowed to become overgrown. To improve drainage, the area immediately surrounding the house has been recently cleared of underbrush, revealing the remnants of a boxwood allee leading to the front porch. One outbuilding remains to the east of the main house. There is evidence of the foundation of a second building on the opposite side of the house. The balance of the property is wooded. A stone chimney is also located ___ yards from the house. The periwinkle-covered burying ground, located ___ yards southeast of the house, contains many unmarked graves as well as a memorial stone erected in 1974 for the Rev. Dromgoole and his family.	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: There are no known secondary resources associated with the property.	
Ownership Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

Individual Resource Information	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc... <u>Dwelling, plantation, burying ground.</u>	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>Vacant.</u>	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>"Other" DHR Reconnaissance Level Survey</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>Unknown</u>	
# of stories <u>2</u> Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated	
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>Water, rot, bugs; the center beam has rotted. Drainage problems have largely been addressed.</u>	

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.

Stone foundation; brick piers. A side wing has brick foundation.

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.

The principal house is three bays wide and two bays deep. A two bay side wing antedates the main house. The house construction is frame. The main house has a stone foundation and basement.

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles. 1958 report states 5 ½ beaded clapboard. 2006: Weatherboarding.

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? Five (5) windows with center door front and rear. The double hung windows are 9/9 on the lower floor and 9/6 on the upper. Single story wing on east side—one (1) window and door front and rear. What remains appear to be original.

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. The one-bay central front porch is supported by two massive square wood columns and appears to be original to the house. Porch roof—Hip covered with metal.

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.

Gable roof; galvanized standing seam metal.

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.

Main house: 2 brick chimneys are laid in Flemish bond with glazed header diamond pattern on the throat of the stack.

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

Sources: Brunswick County, Virginia 1720-1975, Gay Neale, 1975.

The Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury, Volumes I, II, III, 1958.

Canaan, Home of the Edward Dromgoole Family, written by Dromgoole and Lou Allie Heath, July 1, 1971, VHS.
Record of Deeds, Deed Book #13, pp. 191-192. Brunswick County, Virginia.

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

“Canaan” was home to Rev. Edward Dromgoole, one of the earliest Methodist circuit riders in the country. Having emigrated from Sligo Ireland in 1770, Edward Dromgoole married Rebecca Walton of Brunswick County, VA in 1777. The couple was given 200 acres as a wedding present from the bride’s father, John Walton. John with his father George Walton, Sr., were large landowners in 18th century Brunswick County. On this property the Dromgooles established their home that they named “Canaan.” Later the Dromgoole House was home to their son, George Coke Dromgoole, a prominent state and national politician.

The Methodist movement spread to America, having been initiated in England by John and Charles Wesley as an offshoot of the established Church of England. A dedicated minister and inspiring speaker, Dromgoole was one of five ministers appointed by the Rev. John Wesley to educate, anoint and minister to the populous in this new promised land of the seventeenth century America. The early circuit riders began spreading the Gospel by horseback and on foot through a vast area or “circuit.” The original Brunswick Circuit stretched from Petersburg, Virginia south to Halifax, North Carolina. The early Methodist movement began in homes, fields, mines, and camp meetings, later growing into chapels and then churches all served by circuit riding ministers. The Dromgoole House became a haven, respite, refuge, meeting place, and education center for neighbors, laymen and clergy. The home was frequented by many church dignitaries in those years, most notably, Frances Asbury, who was appointed by John Wesley to serve as the American Bishop. Asbury kept detailed diaries which document his visits as well as church and school organization efforts, many which apparently took place at the home.

The interesting events of Dromgoole’s life and ministry include his having read the Declaration of Independence to the public in Halifax, North Carolina. He helped establish, along with Bishop Asbury and the Rev. Peter Pelham, the Ebenezer Academy, the first Methodist school in Virginia and possibly in America of which he became a Trustee. He served as a magistrate of the County Court for 45 years. Over the years he developed a thriving plantation, having added significant landholdings to the 200-acre wedding present from Rebecca’s family. He rode the circuit until 1784 and preached at local churches until he was eighty-four. The couple had ten children including George C. Dromgoole.

George served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1823 through 1826; then was elected to the Senate of Virginia, and served until 1835. During three of these years he was Chairman of the Senate. He served as a member of the Convention of 1829, elected to frame a new Constitution for Virginia. As a member of the Virginia legislature he sponsored the bill that granted the Randolph-Macon College charter. For most of the next ten years he served in the House of Representatives, including several as the Democratic leader. In addition to his work as a politician, he was a brigadier general in the 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. A regrettable event during his political career was a pistol duel with a fellow politician, tragically taking the man’s life, a memory that haunted him for the remainder of his life.

The Dromgoole property was home to generations of the Dromgoole family from 1777, well into the 19th century. Due to the significance of the home, its occupants and visitors to the formation of the Methodist Church in America, the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation (OBCF) acquired the Dromgoole House and 17 acres in 2008. While only a small portion of the original Canaan property, the present site contains the original two-story house with most of the original interior woodwork intact, one outbuilding, the chimney and footprint of another dwelling, and the family cemetery.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)Mr. Mrs. Dr. Miss Ms. Hon. Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation VA 501 (c) 3 charitable corporation

P.O. Box 385

(Name)

Lawrenceville

(City)

VA

(State)

23868

(Zip Code)

(Address)

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

•• *Signature required for processing all applications.* ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: The Rev. Dr. John T. Martin, Jr., President, OBCF

Daytime Telephone: ()

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)Mr. Mrs. Dr. Miss Ms. Hon. Carol B. Corker

(Name)

OBCF, Board

(Firm)

P.O. Box 310

Bracey

(City)

VA

(State)

23919

(Zip Code)

(Address)

stammany@buggs.net

(Email Address)

434-636-5604

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. Mrs. Dr. Miss Ms. Hon. Charlette T. Woolridge

(Name)

County Administrator

(Position)

Brunswick County

(Locality)

P.O. Box 399, 100 Tobacco Street, Suite 102

(Address)

Lawrenceville

(City)

VA

(State)

23848

(Zip Code)

434-848-3107

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

The OBCF intends to seek State Landmark and National Register recognition of this site to emphasize the need to preserve and share this historic property.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes No