

VLR-10/20/81 NRHP-7/8/82

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic WOODS-MEADE HOUSE (PREFERRED)

and/or common Greer House

2. Location

street & number 113 Maple Street N/A not for publication

city, town Rocky Mount N/A vicinity of congressional district (W. C. Daniel)^{5th}

state Virginia code 51 county Franklin code 067

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mary G. Meador

street & number 6509 Ridgeway Drive

city, town Springfield N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22150

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Rocky Mount state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1957 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Woods-Meade House is a quaint vernacular structure with a picturesque outline resulting from numerous additions, the latest of which dates from around 1900. The house is located on a corner lot near the top of Mount Pleasant, one of the city of Rocky Mount's two main hills. The Mount Pleasant house, a large three-part antebellum house owned by the Lee family, overlooks the Woods-Meade House from just across the street.

The Woods-Meade House began ca. 1830 as a single-cell brick structure set on a high basement and covered by a gable roof. The walls of this section are laid in very regular Flemish bond with interesting masonry detailing including a molded brick cornice, a feature characteristic of vernacular dwellings in western Virginia. A very distinct aspect of the house is the pair of gauged-brick jack arches over the basement windows sheltered by the present front porch. That such fine craftsmanship could be thusly hidden indicates that the porch is a later addition and that the original porch sheltered the front door only. This assumption raises the question about the unusual brick columns which support the ends of the present porch, as they appear to be original and conform in character with the equally unusual brick half-round columns flanking the front door. The most likely explanation is that the columns did indeed support a smaller front porch and were moved to their present position when the existing porch was added. The existing Greek Revival porch consists of four square Doric posts supporting a shallow hipped roof that obscures part of the molded-brick cornice--further evidence that this porch is not original. Between the posts are Victorian sawnwork balusters. Under the center portion of the porch is a brick closet with walls laid in American bond as opposed to the Flemish bond of the rest of the facade. This closet apparently was constructed along with the present porch.

The first-floor facade consists of a centered entrance flanked by windows which retain early louvred blinds. On the south end of the house is an exterior chimney with stepped haunches. In the rear of the house is a story-and-a-half, shed-roof brick kitchen that originally was a detached outbuilding. The kitchen's walls are laid in American bond with a two-haunch exterior end chimney on the south wall. The kitchen is assumed to be contemporary with the front portion.

The house underwent a remodeling around 1837 when the value of the structure was more than doubled. This remodeling included the connecting of the front portion to the kitchen with the present frame section. The exact original form of this connecting section is difficult to determine, for it underwent further alteration near the end of the century. During this third stage of alteration, the middle portion received the two-level gallery on the south side and a two-story shed addition on the south wall of the front section. The front porch described above possibly was added at this same time, but its style appears to belong more to the 1850s or '60s. On the north wall of the middle section is a further addition, a small board-and-batten wing which appears to date ca. 1850-1860.

The interior of the original front section is three levels and has one room per floor. Most of the trim, including the mantels and the narrow winding stair, appears to be original. The stair is completely enclosed at the first-floor level and is entered via a door. The area of the room just in front of the stair entrance is framed by a curious elliptical arch with a small wooden pendant suspended from the keystone. The precise date of the arch has not been determined, although it appears not to be an original feature. The

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 2d quarter 19th c. **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rocky Mount's Woods-Meade House is an interesting vernacular structure with sophisticated overtones and a complex evolution. The original, or front, section is a single-cell dwelling dating from ca. 1830 and has distinctive masonry details including a molded brick cornice, fine jack arches, and curious half-round brick pilasters and round brick porch supports. Behind this original front portion are a series of additions connecting it to an original kitchen dependency. The original owner of the house was Robert T. Woods. The property was acquired in 1834 by Morrison Meade, who enlarged the house by adding the frame center section. In its present form the structure presents a very picturesque aspect and illustrates changing tastes in regional domestic architecture. The house is also one of the key landmarks of Rocky Mount, a community which retains only a few antebellum structures.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1805 Thomas Hill and James Calloway conveyed to certain trustees of the town of Mount Pleasant twenty-five acres of land, adjoining land where the courthouse complex for Franklin County stood. The courthouse was located in the village of Rocky Mount. Hence, there was a situation where two towns were located adjacent to one another with separate governments. It was not until 1873 that the town of Rocky Mount was incorporated including Mount Pleasant.

These twenty-five acres were apparently laid out into lots, a number of which were held by the original grantors, Thomas Hill and James Calloway. The lot on which the Woods-Meade House stood was lot #18, and in 1820 this unimproved lot was held by James Calloway. In 1820 John Calloway, executor for the estate of James Calloway, sold lot #18 (along with lot #17) to Robert T. Woods of Franklin County for \$80. The tax books show this transfer and indicate no improvements on either lot. In 1830 lot #18 shows "\$400 improvements added." This sum seemed to be a standard sum for improvements in the town of Mount Pleasant. In 1834 Woods sold both lots to Matthew Jackson, who in the same year sold these "two certain tenements" to Morrison Meade. The value of improvements remained \$400 until 1839, when Meade added \$450 for improvements. This recorded increase could mean that the earlier structure was added on to or that the earlier structure was removed altogether and a more substantial dwelling, probably the core of the present one, was erected.

Meade sold both of his lots in 1846, with no particular indication as to what the property was used for except in the case of lot 17, called "the school house lot." During the next fourteen years, lot #18 seems to have been rental property with the improvements remaining the same. In 1859 lots 18, 27, and 28 were sold to Peter J. Hale for \$1,500. Hale was a twenty-five-year-old physician, and, according to the 1860 census, his real estate was valued at \$10,000. Since he did not hold any other real estate in the county and lot

(See Continuation Sheet # 1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Franklin County Deed Books 12, 14, 19, 20, 26.
Land Tax Books 1820-1874.
 Wingfield, Marshall. Franklin County, Virginia: A History. Berryville, Va., 1964.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/4 acre
 Quadrangle name Rocky Mount, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>117</u>	<u>598940</u>	<u>4094850</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The Woods-Meade House, 118 Maple Avenue, is nominated on a 1/4-acre lot. The lot which includes the house is part of the original lot #18 upon which Robert T. Woods in 1829 added \$400 in improvements. The boundary is drawn to include the house and its front and rear yards. (See Continuation Sheet #1 for VBD).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date October 1981
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell
 title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director date MAY 10 1982
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

For HCPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
 date _____
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

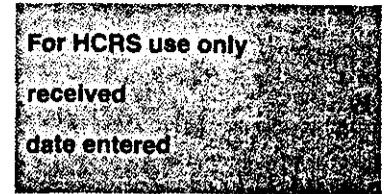
**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

WOODS-MEADE HOUSE, 118 Maple Street, Rocky Mount, Virginia
Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6,8

Page 1



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

center section has one room on the ground, or basement, level now used as a kitchen. Beyond it is a lateral passage separating the original kitchen from the rest of the house. The original kitchen retains an exposed-joist ceiling and an altered fireplace. In the upper level of the center section are two rooms retaining some early trim. These two rooms originally opened onto a common recessed gallery which is now sheltered by the later porch. A winding staircase leads from this level to the level below. The original kitchen wing also has its own stair leading up to a small servant's bedroom with a steeply sloping ceiling.

In sum, a house which initially appears to be a relatively simple, modest structure is relatively large and complex, having some ten rooms and a complicated evolution. The house remains one of the few and certainly one of the most interesting antebellum structures in Rocky Mount.

CL

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Background

18 was the only improved lot of the three, it can be assumed that he had his house and office on lot 18 in the Woods-Meade House. Hale occupied the property until 1864, following which the house had several residents, none of whom made any improvements or additions until the late 19th century. The small house has served as a residence through the 20th century.

MTP

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point at SE corner of Church St. and Maple Ave.; thence extending about 100' E along S side of Church St.; then about 175' south; then about 150' W to E side of Maple Ave.; then about 175' N along said side to point of origin.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE GEOLOGIST
1 SW
1 MILL 595

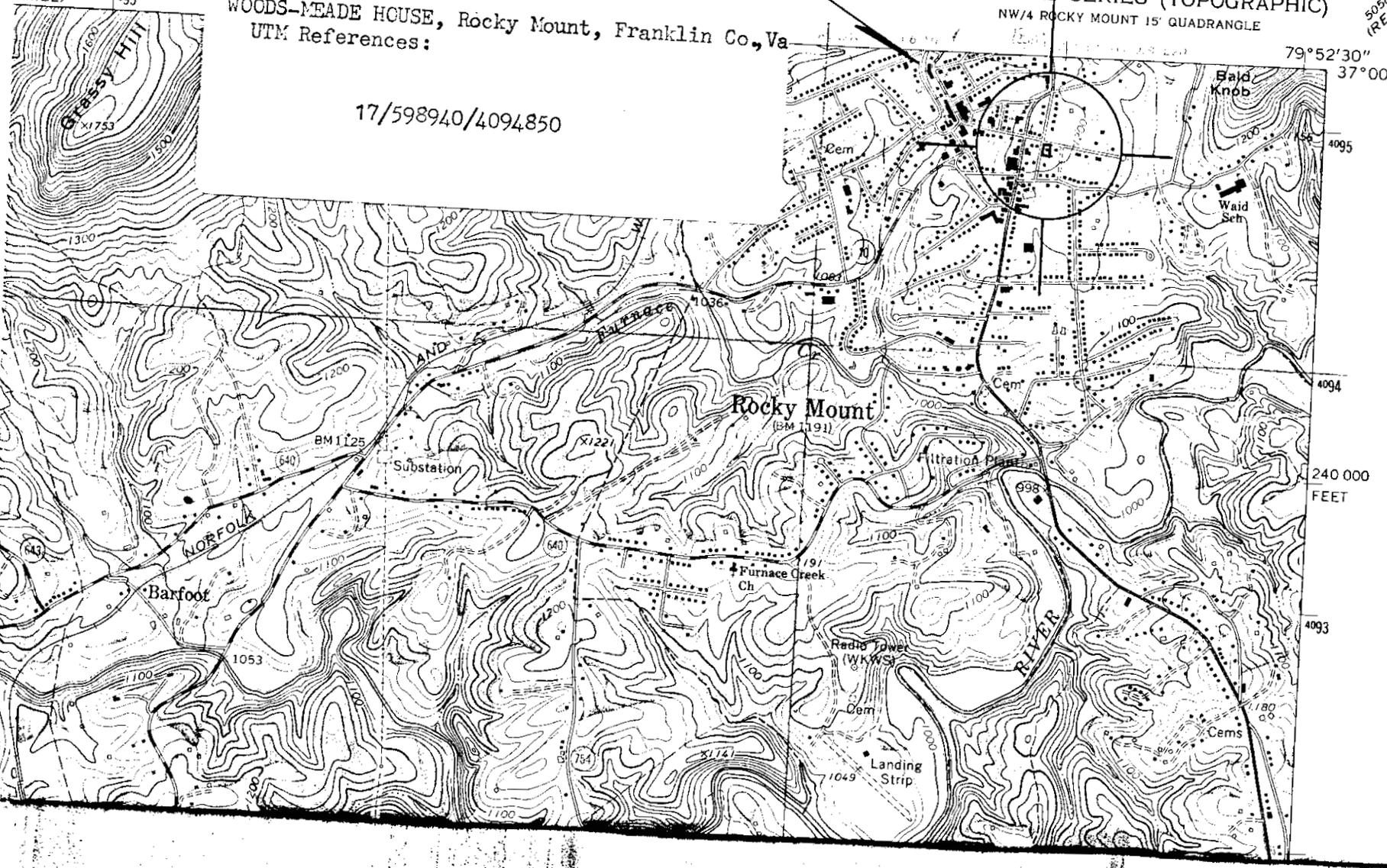
USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Rocky Mount, Va. 1965

WOODS-MEADE HOUSE, Rocky Mount, Franklin Co., Va
UTM References:

17/598940/4094850

ROCKY MOUNT QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA-FRANKLIN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 ROCKY MOUNT 15' QUADRANGLE

5058 III SE
(REDWOOD)



79°52'30"
37°00'

240 000
FEET