

VLR-10/17/78 NRHP-2/2/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED FEB 2 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Elk Hill (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON Harrison's Elk Hill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2.1 miles SW of George's Tavern; 1700' S of State Route 608; 1.3 miles SW of intersection of State Routes 6 and 608; .8 mile E of James River; E of Elk Island.

CITY, TOWN George's Tavern VICINITY OF Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Goochland CODE 075

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Elk Hill Farm, Inc.
Curtis D. Harstad, Executive Director

STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 99

CITY, TOWN Goochland VICINITY OF STATE Virginia 23063

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Goochland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN Goochland STATE Virginia 23063

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

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

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Elk Hill, a Greek Revival-style residence, is impressively situated on a hill overlooking the James River amidst the farmlands of Goochland County. The scored stucco-covered brick dwelling was erected in 1835 by Randolph Harrison, Jr., as a two-and-one-half-story, central-hall-plan house; subsequently, a two-story rear ell was added in 1839.

Set on a high basement, the three-bay east facade features a centrally positioned, one-story Tuscan portico consisting of paired rectangular wooden pillars supporting a full entablature. The portico covers a transom-light doorway which retains its original double paneled doors. Fenestration throughout the house consists of the original 6/6 hung-sash windows which are framed by simple wooden architraves encased between polished stone sills and lintels. Original louvered shutters flank the windows on all elevations. A stone belt course visually divides the basement story from the first and second stories.

The rear (west) elevation is dominated by the 1839 ell of two stories which projects from the main block of the residence. The ell is sheltered by an imposing first-story wooden porch supported by brick piers that are stylistically similar to those found on the east facade.

Each containing two bays, the north and south elevations are identical in appearance. Fenestration duplicates that found on the east facade. A portico covered entry is found on the basement level of both elevations.

The interior of Elk Hill exhibits exceptional Greek Revival woodwork, especially noteworthy on the first floor. The center hall is divided into three sections and includes an entry hall and a lateral stair hall. The east entry passage contains a highly decorative entry screen composed of paired Doric piers and pilasters supporting a carved Greek key frieze and molded cornice. The stair hall is dominated by an open-well stair that ascends to the second floor. The stair has paneled spandrels, stylized fan and scroll brackets, rectangular balusters, and a finely turned newel post. Paralleling the stair is a handsomely finished Colonial Revival paneled wainscot with a molded chair rail. An entry passage into the rear parlor contains an elaborately treated door frame with an egg-and-dart ovolo, Greek fret, and a ramped cornice. The most detailed room in the house is the western parlor, located in the 1839 ell. The focal point of the room is an elaborately carved marble mantel, the treatment of which suggests a late 19th-century date. The mantel is complemented by an ornamental stucco ceiling medallion and chandelier, both of which are original to the house. The window trim is similar to that found in the hall, although it lacks the elaborate Greek fret. The windows retain their original interior shutters. The eastern parlors contain simple wooden mantels and door and window trim. Of special note is the highly ornate brass chandelier in the southeast parlor which is also original to the house.

The second-floor chambers are less elaborate than the first. The mantels on the second floor have been replaced by Colonial Revival examples. The trim of the second-floor chambers is simple, the chief ornamentation being found on the mantel chandeliers which were added later in the 19th century.

Of the original brick outbuildings, the servants' quarters, tack house, and springhouse survive.

RCC

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input 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 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

1839-40

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elk Hill is picturesquely sited on a small hill overlooking the James River in Goochland County. Built in 1835 and 1839 by Randolph Harrison, Jr., on land that formerly belonged to Thomas Jefferson, the house stands as a distinguished example of Greek Revival architecture. The Elk Hill property was once a part of an early patent issued to John Woodson in 1714. John Wayles, the father of Martha Wayles Jefferson, purchased the land from Richard Weatherford by deed dated 12 September 1746. John Wayles married Elizabeth Skelton, and from this union there were two daughters, Anne and Martha. Anne Wayles married Henry Skipwith, while her sister Martha, at the age of seventeen, married Bathurst Skelton in November 1766 and moved to Elk Hill.

Skelton died in 1768, and in 1771 Martha received over three hundred acres of land as her dower. Martha married Thomas Jefferson on New Year's Day 1772 and moved to Monticello. Her father died in May 1773, leaving his daughters a large estate. In 1778 Jefferson set about reassembling the Wayles-Skelton tract at Elk Hill. He purchased 307 acres from Anne Wayles and her husband, Henry Skipwith of Cumberland County. In January of 1782 Jefferson purchased 312 acres "on the Byrd Creek at the Mill Pond" from Edward Smith and his wife Sally. He completed his purchase by acquiring fifty adjoining acres from other members of the Smith family in May of 1783.

Jefferson sold the property on 5 August 1799 to Thomas Augustus Taylor of Chesterfield County. The Elk Hill tract changed ownership six times before it was purchased in 1832 by Randolph Harrison, Jr., of Richmond. The Goochland County Tax Books list his residence as Richmond until 1836, the year in which he was assessed for a "new" building valued at \$10,000. The building value increased to \$17,000 in 1840, suggesting a rather substantial house. Elk Hill is such a residence.

Although built in a rural area, Elk Hill derives its stylistic inspiration from Richmond Greek Revival townhouses of the period. The house's dwarf east portico is a common Greek Revival motif, but the large rear porch is a feature particularly characteristic of Richmond townhouses of the 19th century. This pronounced rear porch or veranda is associated with Greek Revival plantation houses of the Deep South, where it is usually found in combination with the more monumental portico.

The interior of Elk Hill is sophisticated and again follows Richmond precedent. The rather complex division of the main hall into three distinct passages, similar to the Governor's Mansion, in Richmond, suggests the work of an urban architect or master builder. Further sophistication is implied by the formal treatment of the architraves which are enhanced by fine carving and detailing. This finely executed marble mantel and plaster ceiling ornamentation in the rear parlor are characteristic of the most stylish houses of the capital city.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Couture, Richard T. "Elk Hill." Paper, University of Virginia, 1965. (Located in VHLC Archives).

Bunnett, Mrs. J. F. "Randolph Harrison's Elk Hill." Goochland County Historical Society Magazine. v. 8, 1 (1976): 3-4.

Goochland County Deed Books 10, 12, 13, 17, 29, 40, 38.

Goochland County Land Tax Books 1782-1850.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 35 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Cartersville, Virginia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 756940 4178380

B 17 757140 4178060

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 17 756810 4177860

D 17 756640 4178170

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point 1000' S of State Route 608 and 2200' E of the James River; thence extending 1300' SE; thence extending 1300' SW to the C & O RR tracks; thence extending NW along said tracks for approximately 1150'; thence extending 1200' further NE to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

September 1978

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 X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

OCT 17 1978

FOR NPS 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
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Elk Hill, Goochland County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7,8&9 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property consists of 35 acres. It is a small fraction of the original estate of the Harrison's property. The boundaries are drawn to include most of the hill on which the house was built and present a clear vista to the river, which was very much evident in the 19th century when it was an integral part of the farm. The property is bounded on the west by the tracks of the C & O Railroad. It is bounded on the east by a line drawn to include part of an old drive around the house and is bounded on the north and south by parallel lines that define the ends of the contours of the hill on which the house sits.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Elk Hill is presently used as the administrative headquarters of Elk Hill Farm, a reformatory for boys. The original plan of the house has been retained, and the second floor is presently used as the director's residence. As part of its program, the school continues to farm the property.

VDS/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Kennedy, Thomas C. "Randolph Harrison's Elk Hill." Goochland County Historical Society Magazine, v. 5, 2 (1973): 3-7.
Weeks, Elie. "Thomas Jefferson's Elk-hill." Goochland County Historical Society Magazine, v. 3, 1 (1971): 6-8.

SCOTT'S
COLUMN

000m N
4180
4179
4178
4177
76

Byrd

Creek

Island

CHESAPEAKE

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:24000)
Cartersville, Va. 1969(FR1974)

ELK HILL, Goochland County, Virginia
UTM References:
A- 17/756940/4178380 B- 17/757140/4178060
C- 17/756810/4177860 D- 17/756640/4178170

JAMES

OHIO

Elk Hill

ISLAND

RAIL RIVER

Watts



VILLAGE