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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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodhouse House

other names/site number DHR Number 134-0058; Fountain House; Simmons House

2. Location

street & number 3067 West Neck Road  not for publication  
city or town Virginia Beach  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Virginia Beach (ind.) code 810 Zip 23456

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maureen Swanson 2/16/2007  
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Bell  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action 4.24.07

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public—local  
 public—state  
 public—Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building (s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/AName of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Secondary structure</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Graves/burials</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>Agricultural outbuilding</u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Secondary structure</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Graves/burials</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>Agricultural outbuilding</u>
<u>RECREATION</u>	<u>Sports facility</u>

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK  
Roof ASPHALT  
Walls WOOD  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Summary Architectural Description:

The Woodhouse House was erected circa 1810 and coincides with the property's acquisition by Captain Thomas Woodhouse. The dwelling is a two-story wood frame building clad in weatherboard. The building is topped by a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The gable ends are marked by exterior Flemish bond brick chimneys. The headers on the bricks situated on the chimneys are glazed. The windows on the dwelling are 9/6 wood double-hung sash on the first story and 6/6 wood double-hung sash on the second story. The interior features a modified center-passage single-pile plan. The central hall features access to the enclosed stair to the second story, which is situated at the northwest corner of the south parlor. The south parlor features a wood mantel with a wide opening that has been bricked. The north parlor mantels feature a Classical surround with a heavy cornice. The woodwork in the dwelling comprises wood wainscoting in the hallway, pegged wood doors of six panels with iron hardware, and pine hardwood floors. The second story has a modified plan with a lavatory and three bedrooms. One-story additions were made to the dwelling in the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the rear (west) elevation. The outbuildings associated with the property include a 1904 kitchen and smokehouse, and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century garage, shed, well, and barn, and late 20<sup>th</sup> century swimming pool. Two cemeteries situated on the property include the Thomas Woodhouse grave near the collapsed barn, and the Simmons Cemetery situated at the northeast corner of the parcel where the road makes a dogleg. The Woodhouse House was erected circa 1810 and is an example of Federal architecture in Virginia Beach (formerly Princess Anne County) and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Architecture) from the period circa 1810 to 1904.

Architectural Description:

This property comprises a single dwelling with associated outbuildings and two cemeteries. The dwelling and associated outbuildings are surrounded by tidal ditches and agricultural fields which are not included in the nominated boundary. There are turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century suburban developments situated west and south of the parcel. The property is comprised of a single-family dwelling, kitchen, smokehouse, barn, garage, shed, well, swimming pool, and Woodhouse grave marker within the house site of the farmstead. There is also a discontinuous cemetery, the Simmons Cemetery, at the northeast corner of the property at the dog-leg on West Neck Road.

The main building on the property is the single dwelling dating to circa 1810 (**Contributing Building**). This dwelling was constructed upon the acquisition of the property by Captain Thomas Woodhouse, and it is believed he constructed this dwelling as well. The dwelling rests on a low brick foundation

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and is wood frame clad in weatherboard. The two-story building is topped by a side-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The roof features boxed eaves. There are exterior end chimneys which are laid in Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. The windows are 9/6 wood double-hung sash on the first story and 6/6 wood double-hung sash on the second story. The façade of the dwelling is three-bay with a central entrance. There is a turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century porch that has been appended to the façade. The porch features a hipped roof supported by square wood columns. The porch has been partially screened, and its floor is poured concrete. There is a shed-roofed addition on the west elevation housing. Appended along the south elevation is a kitchen, and then an enclosed porch appended to the west elevation at the south corner. The addition roofs are all shed forms clad in asphalt shingles.

The interior of the dwelling has a center-passage single-pile plan. The main entrance is comprised of a wood six-panel single-leaf door with iron hardware. The hallway has pine wood plank flooring. The walls are plastered and there is wood wainscoting with a minimal chairrail. There is a four panel door at the west end of the hallway accessing the one-story addition, and there is a vertical board single-leaf wood door on the south elevation near the west end of the hallway accessing the closed stairwell. The doors feature wrought-iron hardware including H and L hinges, locksets, and hook and eyes to hold doors open. The parlors on the north and south sides of the hallway feature wood floors similar to the hallway floors and plastered walls and ceilings. There is wood wainscoting on the walls in the parlors with chairrails. The door and window frames are fluted and minimal. The stairwell is situated in the south parlor at the northwest corner. There is a wood vertical board door under the stair accessing a small storage closet. There is wood trimboard along the angled edges under the stairwell in the south parlor. The mantels in the rooms reflect turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century characteristics. The south parlor mantel is wood with Classical proportions and a large opening that has been bricked. There are three doors within the south parlor to the porch, addition and hall. The north parlor mantel is similar in character with a dentiled cornice and smaller fireplace opening. The fireplaces have brick hearths.

The second story exhibits a modified plan from the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. The stair accesses a hallway oriented perpendicular to the main first story hall. There are four rooms off the hallway. The hallway and stairwell walls are clad in beaded board. The south bedroom is approximately the size of the south parlor. It exhibits a fireplace with a jack-arch opening Classical wood mantel. The fireplace has a brick hearth. There is a lavatory added circa 1930 on the east end of the second story situated between two bedrooms. There is a bedroom situated west of the lavatory and hallway, which was made by subdividing the north room into the current lavatory, north bedroom and west bedroom. The north bedroom is situated above the north parlor and is the same size as the north parlor. A fireplace is situated in the north bedroom similar to the fireplace in the south bedroom.

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Inside the west addition is a dining room, storage space and lavatory, featuring plastered walls and pine tongue-and-groove flooring. The lavatory has similar characteristics to the second story lavatory and was made in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The kitchen addition has a vinyl floor and circa 1960s cabinetry.

The original kitchen was constructed circa 1904 as a separate building, and has a brick pier foundation and wood frame structural system clad in weatherboard. The building is topped by a side-gable roof clad in standing-seam metal. There is a five-course American bond brick chimney on the north elevation. There are single-leaf vertical board wood doors on the east and west elevations. The interior features a wood plank floor and the structural system is exposed on the interior. There is a brick fireplace on the north elevation. **Contributing Building**

There is a smokehouse south of the kitchen. It has a concrete slab foundation and wood frame structural system clad in weatherboard. The roof is side-gable clad in standing-seam metal. There is a single-leaf wood vertical board door on the east elevation. This building was constructed concurrently with the kitchen. **Contributing Building**

North of the kitchen is a circa 1950 barn. The barn has a concrete foundation and is wood frame clad in board and batten siding. The roof is gable clad in standing-seam metal. There is an open animal shelter appended to the east elevation with a low-pitched gable roof. The shelter is supported by plain wood posts. **Non-contributing Building**

The garage is situated southwest of the dwelling and east of the kitchen. The garage has a concrete foundation and wood frame structural system clad in vertical board. The roof is gable clad in standing-seam metal. There are two oversized double-leaf wood vertical board doors on the east elevation. **Non-contributing Building**

The shed is situated south of the dwelling. It is wood frame clad in weatherboard and topped by a gable roof clad in standing-seam metal. There is a single-leaf door on the south elevation. **Non-contributing Building**

The well is situated north of the dwelling and is a concrete cylinder. It dates to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. **Non-contributing Structure**

The swimming pool was added to the property northwest of the dwelling in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is a premanufactured above-ground pool. **Non-contributing Structure**

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There are two cemeteries associated with the property (**2 – Contributing Sites**). The Woodhouse grave is located near the former barn site north of the dwelling near the north boundary of the house site. The grave comprises a stone slab marked and is etched with:

“Sacred to the Memory of Captain Thomas Woodhouse, a native of Princess Anne Co, VA; aged 39 years; who departed this live on the 10 of Oct In the yr. of our Lord 1813”

The Simmons Cemetery is situated at the northeast corner of the property at the dog-leg in West Neck Road north of the property. The Simmons Cemetery comprises grave markers dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century of the Simmons family that resided on the property during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Members of the Simmons family, such as the Uptons, have been interred in the cemetery in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Reuben Fountain, who purchased the property in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, is also interred in the Simmon Cemtery. While, it appears that there are additional graves in the cemetery that are unmarked, the following grave markers are still legible.

Andrew Simmons	September 22, 1865	December 23, 1894
George R. Simmons	age 31 years	Died May 1, 1885
Mary E. Simmons, wife of Emmerson Eaton	1855	1919
Mary E. & Charlie Upton	No dates	-
Ashville Simmons	November 17, 1867	January 12, 1898
Reuben Fountain	1836	1921

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture

**Period of Significance** Ca. 1810 – 1904

**Significant Dates** Ca 1810—erection of dwelling  
1813—death of Captain Thomas Woodhouse  
1904—erection of kitchen

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Woodhouse, Captain Thomas

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file** (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary Statement of Significance:

Woodhouse House was erected circa 1810 in Princess Anne County (currently the independent city of Virginia Beach), Virginia. The dwelling reflects the Federal style of architecture and is one of the few remaining buildings of this general form in the former Princess Anne County. Dwellings of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century were typically gambrel-roofed brick end or brick buildings. The area in southern Princess Anne County, south of the Princess Anne County courthouse, reflects a more primitive development of domestic architecture due to the topography of the land and the high watertable. The north half of Princess Anne County was developed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and reflects a higher style of architecture consistent with developmental styles of the period. The southern region reflects modest development and the house exemplifies the transition of architecture from Colonial styles to Federal style architecture. The Woodhouse House is eligible under Criterion C (Architecture) from the period circa 1810 to 1904, which reflects the construction period of the building and significant outbuildings.

Statement of Significance:

The Woodhouse House is a turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic building with outbuildings dating to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The dwelling is an example of a Federal-style domestic building situated within Princess Anne County, which is now the City of Virginia Beach. It is a rare example of this style and form of architecture in the southern end in the former Princess Anne County. This area was settled in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and developed in two distinct periods due to the varying topography of the County. The property comprises a single-family dwelling, kitchen, smokehouse, barn, garage, shed, well, swimming pool, the Woodhouse grave marker, and a discontinuous cemetery.

Princess Anne County was formed in 1691 from Lower Norfolk County and was named for the British princess who later became Queen of England. The County was rural and situated on the south boundary of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay at the Atlantic Ocean. The County was populated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century primarily at the north end along the Lynnhaven River which fed the Chesapeake Bay, the main water route for communities that developed along the rivers and tributaries that fed the Chesapeake Bay. The south end of the County comprised primarily wetlands or marshy lands that were difficult to traverse due to the high water table and swampy land. The North Landing River, situated at the south end of the County near the North Carolina border, connected to the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina. The County maintained a small population through the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Small communities had emerged at the midpoint between the City of Norfolk, which had developed in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and the Atlantic Ocean. The first County seat was established at Lynnhaven near the Lynnhaven inlet and river near the Thoroughgood family houses. In 1751 the

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courthouse was relocated to New Town, southeast of the original courthouse location. In 1778, the courthouse was relocated to Kemp's Landing south of the New Town location. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the courthouse was relocated again to its final location at the approximate middle of the County. In 1824, the courthouse relocated to Princess Anne, where it is currently located. In 1963 Princess Anne County and the oceanfront city of Virginia Beach merged into the city of Virginia Beach, which encompasses most of the original boundaries of Princess Anne County.<sup>1</sup>

Development within Princess Anne County occurred in two district stages. The north end of the County was developed first with land grants and farmsteads of early settlers dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Thoroughgood family occupied numerous residences at the north end of the County. These residences were comprised of one-story brick houses with side-gable roof, and exterior gable-end chimneys. The facades were asymmetrical with diamond-paned windows or double-hung windows. The houses were situated along the tidal rivers and waterways that permeated the County and gained access to the Chesapeake Bay. Plantations were primarily situated at the north end of the County and were modest with a modest number of slaves.

The south end of the County developed in contrast to the northern part, with late permanent residential development dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. A record of living conditions in Princess Anne County was made in 1728 by William Byrd of Westover. He described the south end of Princess Anne County as primitive with modest log cabins covered in cypress shingles. On his eight month expedition he described most of this region as backward with small hovels for domestic buildings. The most common form of buildings were impermanent dwellings comprised of posts in the ground and a wood frame of roughly-cut logs.<sup>2</sup>

During the Colonial Period, Princess Anne County remained primarily agricultural, and farmsteads were comprised of large landholdings with modest buildings. The earliest agricultural properties were plantations, which included domestic buildings, most of which still survive. However, the ancillary buildings associated with these properties have more often been replaced over the years due to their instability. Early buildings were primarily constructed of timber and brick. The use of brick in building construction was reserved during the early periods for houses, chimneys, foundations, and major outbuildings. The manufacture of brick was rare and early brick was fired on site during these periods due to the lack of towns that supported brick manufacture.<sup>3</sup>

The use of timber for building construction is more common and is primarily seen in the wood-framed houses and outbuildings, and roughly constructed log buildings. English settlers did not commonly construct buildings of log, but other immigrants, from Sweden, Germany, and later the Scots-Irish and

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Norwegians, constructed log buildings based on their homeland traditions.<sup>4</sup> Log buildings were easy to construct due to the access of the vast timberland of Isle of Wight County. The logs were cut, stripped of bark and notched at the ends for assembly and tighter construction.

Wood framing was also common where the timber was hewn into the form of square lumber and assembled with mortise and tenon joints. The building was clad in weatherboard or overlapping wood boards. Foundations were typically brick which was baked on site.

The earliest settlers constructed impermanent buildings for shelter with the intention of constructing a more permanent and fashionable house once the agricultural process began and enough money was earned to construct a more substantial house and agricultural outbuildings. Many of these earliest buildings were simple huts of earth and wood.<sup>5</sup> None of these buildings remain as they were replaced early by houses, barns and other agricultural buildings.

The buildings constructed after the initial rough shelter buildings in many cases were also impermanent. They were weatherproof but cheaply constructed. In many cases they were not set upon a foundation and rested directly on the ground. These were impermanent buildings that served as shelter until more money could be amassed to construct a more substantial and permanent house.<sup>6</sup>

In many cases the early house, of which many had a single room with a fireplace and loft, became the attached or detached kitchen for the new house. In some cases the early house had two rooms called a hall and parlor plan. The parlor served multiple uses such as a bedroom, guest chamber, and reception room and was the smaller of the two rooms. The hall served as the kitchen, dining room, work area, and living space. The hall contained the staircase to the loft story above and the main entrance from the exterior. Both rooms usually had a fireplace, which served as a heat source. Buildings of this form are typical of the Colonial period in the Tidewater region.<sup>7</sup>

The plantations within Princess Anne County were modest as well and by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Princess Anne County had the third lowest percentage of slave ownership in the Commonwealth of Virginia. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was not a significant increase in the number of slaves owned within the County. Though Virginia was the third largest slave-owning state in pre-Revolutionary War America, Princess Anne County had one of the lowest slave populations.<sup>8</sup>

The architecture of the pre-Revolutionary period within Princess Anne County in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is exemplified by one-story brick or frame, gambrel-roofed houses common to the Tidewater region of Virginia. While, the main floor usually housed a hall-and-parlor plan or center-passage single-pile

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plan, the area under the roof housed the bedrooms. Within Virginia Beach the most common form of gambrel-roofed house exhibited brick end walls with interior brick chimneys. The brick was laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The main façades and rear elevations were frame construction clad in weatherboard. The gambrel roof of the Princess Anne County gambrel roof houses have been described as almost semi-circular or more squared than the typical Dutch or English gambrel roof. The variation within the County compared to others around the southeastern Virginia region may be attributed to the remoteness of the County and the inaccessibility of the marshy inland areas described in 1728 by William Byrd.<sup>9</sup> An inventory of early houses in Princess Anne County dating to the 1930s reflects the similarity of the gambrel roof form found within the County.<sup>10</sup>

The gambrel-roof form was common through 1800 in southeastern Virginia and gave way to the Federal style architecture that was becoming more prevalent in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The style was influenced by the resurgence of interest in the Classical Revival. Classicism in Virginia reached its height between the 1770s and 1810s. The Early Classical Revival style is based in the forms of ancient Rome, which were elaborated by Andrea Palladio, the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Venetian architect. Palladio based his architectural designs on first century B.C. architect, Vitruvius's ten-volume treatise, *De Architectura*. Palladio designed numerous buildings in Venice that echoed the lost tradition of the ancient world. In addition, he published his own treatise on architecture, *Quattro Libri*. Classicism employed classical forms and proportions for buildings, which were simple and harmonious in design.<sup>11</sup> The interest in this style of architecture was adopted by statesman-architect, Thomas Jefferson, in his design of Monticello. A number of buildings in Virginia reflect Jefferson's sensibility of architectural style, which was adapted to plantation houses of the period.

A more simplified style of architecture is the Federal style. This style of architecture defined this period and had its roots in the corresponding Regency style popular in England between 1780 and 1820. The style is a refined Georgian incorporating elements of the Palladian-Georgian style and more Classical architectural details. The Federal style was also considered a "national" style in American architecture during this period and was promulgated by Charles Bulfinch.<sup>12</sup> His designs included the original Capitol Building in Washington, DC and numerous buildings in Massachusetts. The Federal architectural style is primarily found in an urban setting employed by prosperous individuals. It is not typical of farmhouses, though farmhouses use proportions and roof forms adapted from this style.

The plan of the Federal style varied from side-passage to center-passage plans reflecting the symmetry of the Classical style. The Woodhouse House was a center-passage, single-pile house that echoed common Federal style characteristics, but deviated in the typical plan with the orientation of the stairwell. This vernacular adaptation was most likely made by the house builder due to the rarity of the

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style within the region. While pattern books were available to builders of this period, the remoteness of the region and the awareness of other buildings within the region forged a hybrid of styles in an effort to appear modern, yet use characteristics and elements of earlier styles. It is not known why the plan of the dwelling deviates from traditional Federal style plans of the period and it is only surmised that the builder used local sources in an effort to construction a “modern” house of the period.

Center-passage plans appeared in Virginia during the first part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The plan comprises a central hall flanked by rooms. Most often this form is one-and-one-half stories or two stories in height.<sup>13</sup> In some cases the area under the roof served as additional sleeping or storage space. The dwelling plan most often was one or two rooms deep. The façade of the building was symmetrical and comprised of three or five bays. The interior rooms on the first story served as living space while upper stories served as bedchambers. In single-pile dwellings of one room deep the rooms flanking the hall served as the dining room and parlor. In earlier examples the interior finishes varied depending on which room served as the best room or parlor. The hall contained the stair to the upper stories and basement, if constructed with an underground space. The upper stories featured the same floor plan as the first story. In some examples a small room would have been added in the hallway on the second story above the entrance. It served as a small unheated space for storage. Chimneys were situated at the ends of the dwelling. The center-passage single-pile plan was popular during the 1800s. The center-passage double-pile plan is seen as early as the Revolutionary War period. The front rooms off the first story hall served as the parlor and dining room, while the rear rooms served as workrooms and a first story chamber. Most often the kitchen was located in the basement, in an ell off the rear or in a separate building. Most often chimneys were situated on the side elevation at the center of each equally planned room’s wall. In a few cases, the chimneys were erected on the interior of the dwelling and one chimney served two fireplaces that were back-to-back. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the center-passage double-pile dwelling was erected as a symbol of prosperity among the agricultural society.<sup>14</sup> The Woodhouse House is a variation of the center-passage single-pile plan. Unlike the symmetry developed for the Federal style domestic building and center-passage plans, the Woodhouse House does not exhibit typical Federal style proportions and center-passage planning by the location of the stair access within the hall and stairwell above the south parlor. This is more common to the hall-and-parlor dwellings dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The variant is most likely the adaptation of earlier forms of domestic building planning adapted to current architectural styles. The dwelling was an example of the rebuilding of domestic building in the post-Revolutionary War period within Princess Anne County.

The Woodhouse House property is part of a land tract owned by John Frizzell (Frizel). Captain Thomas Woodhouse purchased the property in 1811, which comprised 75 acres and is described as

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having houses, buildings, orchards, and waterways. Woodhouse only lived at the property for two years due to his death in 1813. He was buried on the property north of the dwelling near the former site of a barn on the property. He willed his plantation to his brother, Henry Woodhouse who retained ownership of the plantation until 1849. It was then sold to Andrew Simmons and comprised 102 acres. Simmons owned the adjacent farmstead and consolidated lands around this land to amass a larger farmstead. Simmons established a cemetery on the Woodhouse property at the dog-leg on West Neck Road north of the Woodhouse house. Upon Andrew Simmons' death in the 1880s his property was sold by his descendent, which comprised 267 acres. The property was sold to William D. Woodhouse, a descendant of the Woodhouse family, which had occupied lands in the general area of the Woodhouse House. He sold the property in 1889 to Reuben Fountain, who had owned an adjacent farm and had grown up adjacent to the farmstead in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Fountain family has retained ownership of the property since 1889.<sup>15</sup> Through the 20<sup>th</sup> century the property has diminished to just over fifty acres. The area is currently under increased pressure for residential suburban development within the City of Virginia Beach.

This building is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Architecture) for its architectural design and integrity. The building is an example of the Federal style of domestic architecture and is uncommon to rural areas of the former Princess Anne County. It exhibits a higher style of architecture representative of the transition of architecture in the region from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that typified the rural areas of the County. Currently, the rural character of the area is undermined by increased suburban development and eradication of historic properties within the southern region of the former Princess Anne County.

**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

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 3.0 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	18	405951	4065019	2	18	406149	4065258

         See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kimble A. David for Shriver and Holland Associates

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ date: 22 September 2006

street & number 355 West Freemason Street telephone 757/627-4525

city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23510

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Emma Fountain

street & number 3067 West Neck Road telephone 757/426-2865

city or town Virginia Beach state VA zip code 23456

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodhouse House  
Virginia Beach (independent city), Virginia

Section 9 Page 11

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Bibliography:

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodhouse House  
Virginia Beach (independent city), Virginia

Section 9 Page 12

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- Princess Anne County Deed Records. Virginia Beach, Virginia. (PACDeedR)
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodhouse House  
Virginia Beach (independent city), Virginia

Section 10 Page 13

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The property boundaries are as follows:

The house site is situated 570 feet north of the southeast parcel line of parcel 2403-04-2343 traveling west along the south boundary of the lane along the ditch leading to the house site for 580 feet. The boundary then travels south-southwest for 75 feet to the ditch lining the south side of the house site. The boundary then travels 240 feet west-northwest for 240 feet along the ditch. The boundary then travels 160 feet in a north-northeast direction. It then travels 50 feet in an east-southeasterly direction. It then travels 120 feet in a north-northeasterly direction along the fence line. The property boundary then travels 200 feet to the northeast corner of the house site in an east-southeasterly direction. The boundary then travels 160 feet in a south-southwesterly direction along the fence line to the ditch along the north boundary of the driveway. The boundary then travels along the north boundary of the driveway at the ditch for 580 feet. The boundary terminates at the driveway at the east end along West Neck Road.

The discontiguous cemetery parcel is situated northeast of the house site at the dog-leg in West Neck Road. It commences 1580 feet from the southwest parcel line of parcel 2403-04-2343. It follows the curve of the road for 420 feet ending at the open field. It then travels south-southeast along the forested area boundary and field boundary for 420 feet. The boundary then travels in a northeasterly direction for 360 feet terminating at the initial location of the boundary.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Woodhouse property include the main house, the immediate secondary buildings, and the adjacent cemetery. These resources are historically associated with the property and support the arguments illustrated in Section 8 of this submission. Since the property is being nominated solely for its architectural significance the surrounding agricultural fields are not included within the boundary.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodhouse House  
Virginia Beach (independent city), Virginia

Section Photographs Page 14

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The following is the same for all photographs, unless otherwise noted:

Woodhouse House, Virginia Beach, Virginia (#134-0058)

Photographer: Kimble A. David

Date Taken: September 2006

Negative Number 23112

Negatives stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Photograph List:

- 1 of 11: Negative 13833, taken 1994 – Main House, Front East Elevation
- 2 of 11: Main House, Southeast Corner and South Elevation
- 3 of 11: Main House, SW Oblique
- 4 of 11: Main House, Rear West Elevation
- 5 of 11: Interior – South Parlor looking North into Hall
- 6 of 11: Interior – Fireplace, Second Story South Bedroom
- 7 of 11: Interior – Stairwell looking down West
- 8 of 11: Garage, SE Oblique
- 9 of 11: Kitchen, NW Oblique
- 10 of 11: Simmons Cemetery, Simmons Monument
- 11 of 11: Woodhouse Grave

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Woodhouse House  
Virginia Beach (independent city), Virginia

Section 8 Endnotes Page 15

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Endnotes:

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<sup>1</sup> O'Dell, Jeffrey M. "The North Landing River Basin of Virginia Beach: a brief historical overview." Richmond, VA: Department of Conservation and Recreation: Division of Parks and Recreation, 1988, 4-5.

<sup>2</sup> O'Dell, 19.

<sup>3</sup> Noble, Allen G., "Wood, Brick and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape: Volume I: Houses," (Amherst, MA: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1984), 18.

<sup>4</sup> Foster, Gerald, "American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home, (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004), 78.

<sup>5</sup> Carson, Cary, Norman F. Barka, William M. Kelso, Garry Wheeler Stone, and Dell Upton, "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies," (Winterthur Portfolio: A Journal of American Culture 16 (Summer/Autumn), 140.

<sup>6</sup> Carson, 146.

<sup>7</sup> Noble, 49.

<sup>8</sup> O'Dell, 16.

<sup>9</sup> O'Dell, 11-12.

<sup>10</sup> Kellam, Sadie Scott, "Old Houses of Princess Anne, Virginia," (Virginia Beach, VA: Printcraft Press, Inc., 1931).

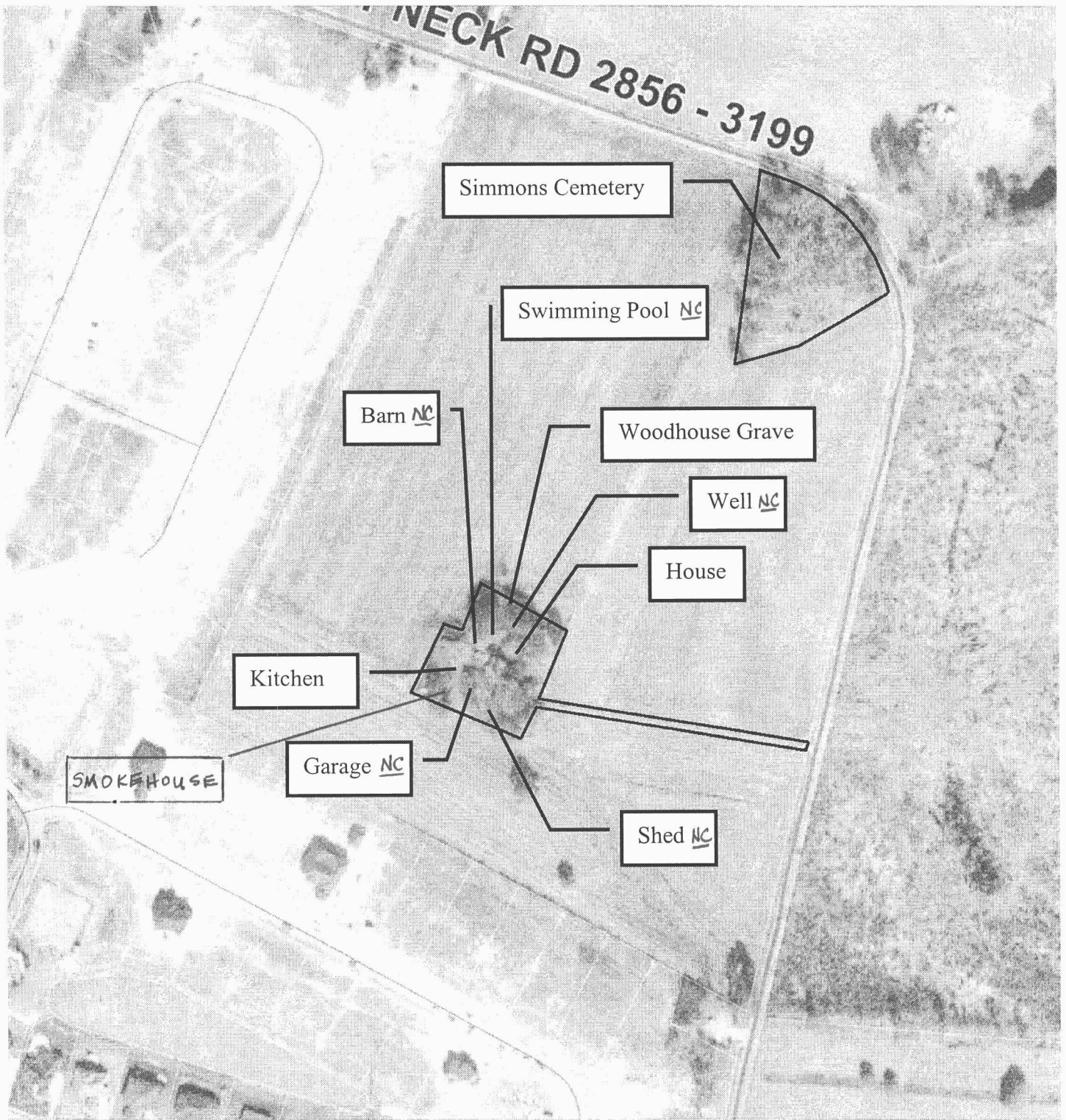
<sup>11</sup> Howe, Jeffery, ed., "The Houses We Live In: An Identification Guide to the History and Style of American Domestic Architecture," (San Diego, CA: Thunderbay Press, 2002), 180-183.

<sup>12</sup> Howe, 169.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 28.

<sup>14</sup> Foster, 74.

<sup>15</sup> Princess Anne County Deed Records.



SCALE 1 : 4,402



**Woodhouse House**

3067 West Neck Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Base Map

^N

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Woodhouse House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Virginia Beach

DATE RECEIVED: 3/12/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/02/07  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/17/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/25/07  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000372

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 4.24.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Woodhouse Hsc, VA Beach, VA

4/11



Woodhouse

VA Beach, VA

23111  
28A

2/11



Woodhouse

VA Beach, VA

23111

27A

3/11



Woodhouse VA Beach, VA 23111 2A 4/11



Wood house

VA Beach, VA

23111 19A

5/11



Woodhouse VA Beach, VA 23111 8A 6/11



Woodhouse VA Beach, VA 23111 12A 7/11



Wood house

VA Beach, VA

23111 3A

8/11



Woodhouse

VA

Beach, VA

23112:33

9/11



EMERSON  
EATON  
1854 - 1934

Woodhouse

VA Beach, VA

23112:2

10/11



Wood house

VA Beach, VA

23/12:30

11/11





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

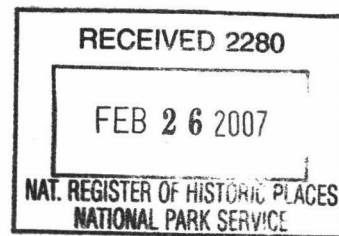
L. Preston Bryant, Jr.  
Secretary of Natural Resources

**Department of Historic Resources**  
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
Director

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TDD: (804) 367-2386  
www.dhr.virginia.gov

February 26, 2007



Ms. Jan Matthews, Associate Director  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20005

**RE: Woodhouse House, City of Virginia Beach**

Dear Ms. Matthews:

The enclosed nomination, referenced above, is being submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination has been considered, and approved, by the State Review Board and the SHPO has recommended it for listing. Any letters of comment or objection have been copied at the end of the nomination material, along with any FPO notification letters.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-367-2323 at extension 115.

Sincerely,

Marc Christian Wagner  
Director, Resource Information Division

Enclosures

Administrative Services  
10 Courthouse Avenue  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
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Fax: (804) 862-6196

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