



VIRGINIA  
**DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS**  
**SURVEY FORM**

File no. 76-334  
 Negative no(s). 8821

Historic name		Common name	
County/Town/City Prince William County/Barnes-Howison House and Cemetery			
Street address or route number 14716 Minnieville Rd., Dale City, VA			
USGS Quad	Independent Hill	Date or period	ca. 1850, possibly earlier
Original owner	Howison family	Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use	Residence/farm		
Present owner	Prince William County Parks	Source of name	Howison family cemetery
Present owner address		Source of date	Estimate from construction of building
	?	Stories	2
Present use	Proposed county park	Foundation and wall const'n	Stone foundation, log walls, frame additions.
Acreage	? - 86 acres originally	Roof type Gable, composition shingle	

State condition of structure and environs Poor. The old log house is still standing but the walls are collapsed and it is beyond restoration. The early smokehouse is still salvageable and is worth of restoration.

State potential threats to structure Collapsed.

Note any archaeological interest  
 The site is relatively undisturbed. It could be archaeologically interesting.

Should be investigatged for possible Civil Wa

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes  ? no  history for thematic nomination.

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

The Howison House is a 2 story, vernacular log dwelling with a composition shingle gable roof, built over a stone foundation. The 2 bay facade is assymmetrically arranged. The collapsed, shed roofed front porch and the bricktex clad rear lean-to addition were probably added early in the 20th century. The wide modern weatherboards sheathing the structure were probably added in the past 30-40 years.

The interior features a hall-and-parlor plan with a central brick flu and an enclosed stair with a batten door. There are some 4-panel doors and 6/6 sashes. The facings in the main structure are beaded.

The house is collapsing and is beyond restoration. The second floor is falling into the first floor. It is from the second floor that the exposed interior, hand-hewn logs can be seen. The plaster lathes which are exposed are machine sawn and attached with square nails. Remnants of the original flooring, partially covered with linoleum, appear to be random pine.

A small , hipped roof smokehouse with a hand-hewn, mortised frame, board-and-batten siding, and hand-split shingles is located to the east of the main house. This structure is decaying but is not beyond restoration. A nice, pole barn in good condition is located behind the house to the north. Most of the other sheds on the property appear to be 20th century, several of them have collapsed.

The Howison Family Cemetery is located in the field to the south of the house. A white rambler stands on the front of the property at 14716 Minnieville Road.

Interior inspected?  
 Yes

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

The cemetery to the south of the house reveals a little about the families who lived on the property. The earliest graves are those of Stephen Howison who died in 1815 at age 79 year and his wife, Mary, who died in 1808 at 69 years. If they were the first owners, it suggests that the property was first occupied sometime in the 18th century. Judging from the material evidence left at the house site, it was probably Stephen Howison who died in 1862 at age 83 years, and his wife, Anne Howison, who died in 1866 at age 62 years, who built the house. Also buried in the cemetery are William Fraser (1822-1883), his wife, Martha E. Fraser (1834-1909), Emma Lillian Fraser (1879-1881), Thomas Barnes (died 1912), his wife, Lucretia Howison Barnes (1843-1931), their sons, Boyd F. Barnes (1881-1936), and Richard H. Barnes (1875-1949), their daughter, Amanda E. Staples (1869-1940) and her husband Gustavas A. Staples (1863-1944). There are also many unmarked graves in the cemetery.

Prince William: The Story of Its People and Its Places says that Stephen Howison, Sr. bequeathed his property including 86 acres to his son, Stephen Howison, Jr. in a will dated 1813.

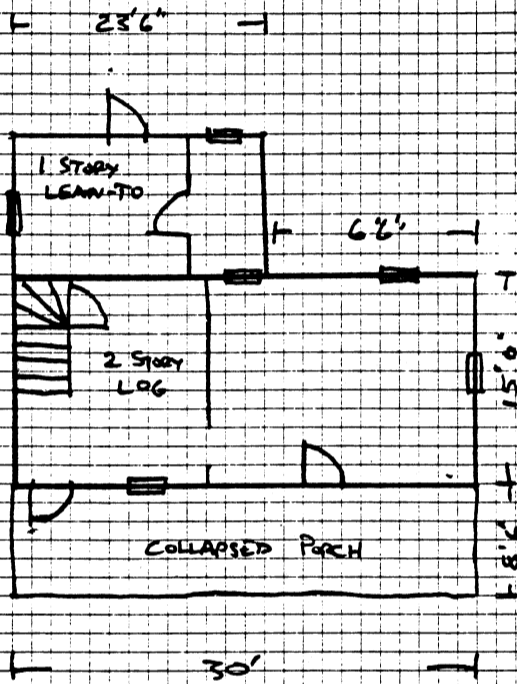
Sources and bibliography  
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed

Prince William: The Story of Its People and Its Places.  
Richmond, VA: Whittet & Shepperson, reprinted 1976.

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials;  
give location.)

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)

