



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
SURVEY FORM

File no. 233-4
Negative no(s). 4364

Historic name McCormick House County/Town/City Haymarket Street address or route number Fayette Street, Haymarket, VA USGS Quad Thoroughfare Gap Original owner John Barnett Original use Residence Present owner Elizabeth Cobb Present owner address P.O. Box 128 Haymarket, VA Present use Residence Acreage .877 acre	Common name AKA Barnett House Date or period c1800 with later additions Architect/builder/craftsmen Source of name Civil War-time owner Source of date Architectural evidence; owner's estimate Stories 1 1/2 stories; 1 story Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation; log and frame walls. Roof type Cedar shingle-covered gable roof; shed roof.
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State condition of structure and environs House and grounds in good condition.

State potential threats to structure
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ☐ no ☐

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.)

This is a 1 1/2-story, small log house on a stone foundation and with a large brick exterior chimney in the west end. The house is situated on Fayette St. on a lot numbered 107 in the 1801 plan of Hay Market, a town which was incorporated in 1799. The massive brick chimney is laid in Flemish bond and has raised lime-sand mortar joints. It has a water table close to the base, where the width is 8'4" and tapers in two stages to a corbelled stack. There is a large fireplace in the basement; another wide opening at the ground floor level which has been bricked in to make a semi-circular-arched 36"-wide fireplace; and a small fireplace in the upper story, a small sleeping attic.

The plan of the v-notched log core of this house consists of a single, c14'x17', room on the ground floor containing an enclosed, winding box stair to the right of the (probable) main entrance on the south side. Opposite the stair wall is the large fireplace. The kitchen may have been located in the basement, which formerly contained a window or door on the south side and presently is entered by a cellar entrance on the east end of the addition. To this core were built in the 1940's a small, shed-roofed, frame addition onto three sides, leaving the west, or chimney, end exposed. The dining room and kitchen exist on the north side; a bedroom and bath are located on the east and south sides; and there is a screened porch with a flag-stone and concrete floor on the south. The west wall of the bedroom is the partly-exposed east wall of the log core. The logs were mortared with mud and hair and chinked with blocks of wood and stone.

The exterior is covered with wide weatherboards painted white. The doors and windows (6/6 replacement sash) have plain, box trim. The front door (south) is a six-panel moulded door with H-L hinges, a box lock, and ceramic knob. It is thought by the present owner that this door was installed in the 1940's by Mr. Macomber. The gable roof and newer shed roofs Interior inspected? Yes.

(Continued)

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

The tradition is that the McCormick House, supposedly the oldest house in Haymarket, having been built before 1805 by John Barnett on lot 107, was one of four buildings that was not burned in November 1862 when Union soldiers set fire to Haymarket. The other three buildings were two houses that are alleged also to have been built by John Barnett but which no longer exist and St. Paul's Church. The McCormick house was spared, the story goes, when the occupant, a mother with children, delayed the vandals until the order was reversed to burn the town, an order that might have been given in jest but was taken seriously by the troops attached to Gen. A von Steinwehr's division of Sigel's corps.

According to an early plan of Haymarket dated 1801, this house, lot #107, was owned by John Barnett. It is possible that the present structure, a log house on a stone foundation and having a large brick exterior chimney and several modern shed-roofed additions, is the house that John Barnett built, probably within 5 years of the formation of the town. The house receives its most lasting name, however, from the McCormick ownership during the Civil War times. Thomas McCormick bought this house in 1821, and it remained in that family for 100 years.

Walter M. Macomber, former resident architect at Mount Vernon, acquired this house in the 1930's or 1940's and restored it, but never lived there, according to the present owner, Miss Elizabeth Cobb who purchased the property in 1963 from Mr. Macomber.

Sources and bibliography

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

W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), p.177

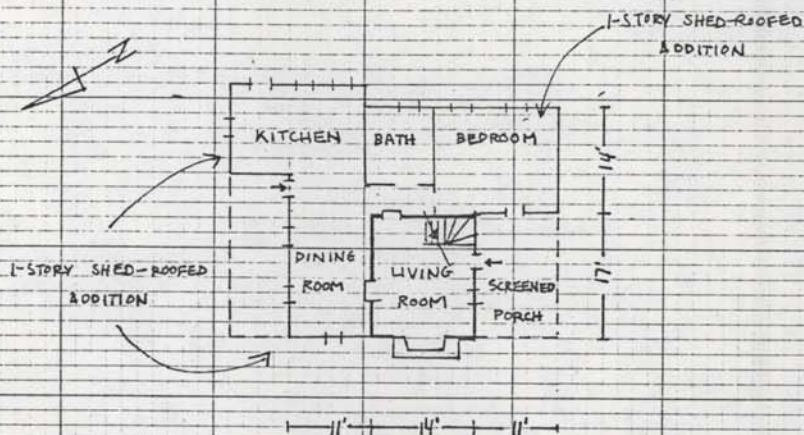
Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), pp. 61-63; (Continued, page two)

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

Francis Watson has some early 1900's photographs of Haymarket.

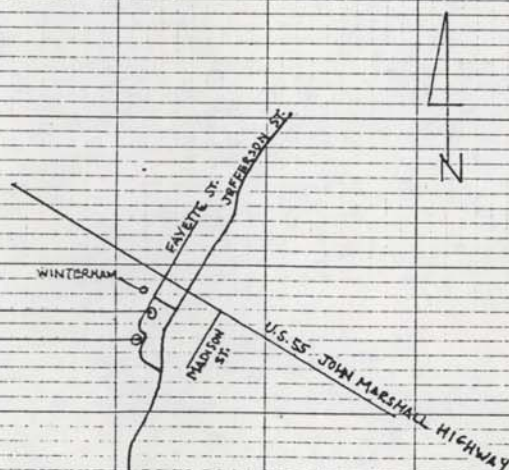
Names and addresses of persons interviewed Miss Elizabeth Cobb (owner).

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



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

MCCORMICK HOUSE
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural
Historian - Surveyor, NVPDC

Date
JUN 1980

ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

MCCORMICK HOUSE
(Cont.)

are covered with cedar shingles, each one with rounded and shaped ends to replicate the earlier-existing shingles. These shingles were said to have been installed by Mr. Macomber, who acquired them from Mount Vernon when the roof on the coach house there was replaced with a fireproof roof.

The reproduction mantel in the living room consists of a 9-foot wide moulded shelf and a plain frieze having a single bead along the lower edge. There are no jambs. The previously-large opening has been made smaller by the installation of a rounded-arched, brick infill. The hearth is brick. Several new openings were cut in the log walls to provide doors to the 1940's-constructed additions, namely, the doorway on the east end to the bedroom wing, and a large, arched passage to the dining room. Both of these additions are on a lower level than the floor of the log core.

In addition to the arched opening with one step down to the dining room, there is a wide window opening, or "pass-through" between the dining room and the living room which is framed in plain box trim. The ceiling of the main core has the original exposed joists to the floor above, but to increase the height of this room, Mr. Macomber shaved several inches off the lower edge of each joist. The enclosed stair has a reproduction board and batten door and reproduction paneling. Indeed, the stairway, which is 40" wide, may be a reproduction of an earlier stair. The pine tongue and groove floors in the log portion were installed by Mr. Macomber. The small mantel on the upper floor is a simple, moulded architrave surround. The casement reproduction of windows on the east and west ends were added during the 1940's restoration. According to the present owner it is of the common rafter type with the rough-hewn pole rafters joined in a half-lap joint and doweled. Collar beams are said to be present.

Considering the large amount of reproduction and replacement material that apparently went into the restoration of this house, Mr. Macomber, when he bought the house, may have had only the stone foundation, the large brick chimney, and the skeleton log structure from which to conduct the restoration.

The present owner replaced parts of the roof, re-mortared the stone foundation and the base of the chimney, installed central heat and air-conditioning, and re-finished the floors.

Log houses are rarely encountered in Prince William County, and during the course of this survey, at least two in Western Prince William have been burned and another has been dismantled, the usable logs having been removed to another county. Therefore, it is imperative that efforts to preserve such unique buildings be strongly encouraged.

PUBLISHED SOURCES (BOOKS, ARTICLES, ETC., WITH BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA.)
(Cont.)

- Burton, Tommye S., "McCormick House, Haymarket, Va.," in Echoes of History, January 1975.
Burton, Tommye S., "Haymarket, Virginia," in Echoes of History, May 1974.



THOROUGHFARE
GAP QUAD

McCormick House
233-4

1.2 MI. TO INT. 66
WASHINGTON, D.C. 35 MI.
47°30"

GAINESVILLE 1 MI.

(GAINESVILLE)
5461 1 SE

Source?

HAYMARKET
PRINCE WILLIAM CO.

THE MCCORMACK HOUSE

On November fourth and fifth of 1862, Federal troops emerged upon the town of Haymarket in the western end of Prince William County, and destroyed all but three structures. One of the few left untouched by General A. von Steinwehr's division of Sigel's troops was the McCormack House.

Opinions vary as to the reason for its survival but, one story has outlasted many of the others. It is said that when troops occupied the town, searched the houses, and burned whatever was possible, they ran into difficulty at the McCormack House. Here a mother and her three small children huddled in the attic and staged a verbal battle with the soldiers. Apparently quite stubborn, the mother was capable of delaying the soldiers until an order was sent to discontinue the mission. Their militaristic actions ceased and the home was left untouched.

At this time the home consisted of three rooms; a living room, a kitchen-cellar beneath it, and an upstairs room. Throughout the years alterations and remodeling have been done by Mr. Walter Macomber, the resident architect at Mount Vernon. He accomplished the difficult task of leaving all of the old charm and atmosphere.

The present owner is Miss Elizabeth Cobb. Her sentimental appreciation is evident in the smile she possesses and the affectionate manner in which she speaks of the house. Here she is surrounded by walls which keep secrets and only allow her to surmise the answers to history's questions. Although this is her home, an empty hollowness of the eventful past echoes.

The yard surrounding the house is characterized by a simplicity of silence. Chirping birds, rustling leaves, and the strong smell of honeysuckle add to the rustic environment. Here the unimportance of passing time has enabled things to remain the same. The past lingers, and the future is unforeseeable.

Date April 1969 File No. 233-4

Name McCormick House

Town Haymarket

County Prince William

Photographer K. T. Read

Contents 2 ext. photos.

