



**VIRGINIA  
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

File no. 76-120
Negative no(s). 4360

SURVEY FORM

Historic name <u>Moss House</u> County/Town/City <u>Prince William County</u> Street address or route number <u>8104 Buckland Mill Rd., Gainesville, Va. 22065</u> USGS Quad <u>Thoroughfare Gap</u> Original owner <u>William Brooks (?)</u> Original use <u>Residence</u> Present owner <u>Margaret E.M. Crosby</u> Present owner address <u>8104 Buckland Mill Rd. Gainesville, VA 22065</u> Present use <u>Residence</u> Acreage <u>1.26 acres</u>	Common name <u>AKA Calvert House</u> Date or period <u>Early 1800s ?</u> Architect/builder/craftsmen Source of name <u>Early owner</u> Source of date <u>Published history; architecture.</u> Stories <u>2 stories, 1 story.</u> Foundation and wall const'n <u>Stone foundation, frame walls.</u> Roof type <u>metal-covered gable roof.</u>
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State condition of structure and environs House and surrounding area in good condition.

State potential threats to structure  
 Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ~~no~~ Included in NR historic district.

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.)

House was remodeled in about 1954 and in 1976. Garage was added in 1978. A mantel which was removed from this house is stored in Buckland Mill, owned by Mr. Russell Stuart. See photograph of mantel in Buckland Mill survey. The style of this mantel is very plain "carpenter" gothic.

Interior inspected? no

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

The present owner purchased this house in 1976 from Mrs. Nathalie Roberts-McCarthy, who bought the house in 1954 from Logan and Eleanor H. Bennett. Mrs. Roberts-McCarthy, who also owned Buckland Hall nearby and the Dr. Brown House, q.v., bought this house and remodeled it for her daughter. One source asserts that William Brooks, the operator of a large distillery at Buckland in the early 1800s, owned this house at that time. Samuel Love, Jr., according to the same source, operated a storehouse on the lot between the Moss House and the Miller's Cottage, though the store no longer exists and its foundation is supposedly concealed by boxwoods beside the Moss House.

The house receives its name from the owner during the Civil War, Alfred Moss, who was Clerk of the Circuit Court in Fairfax. In the spring of 1861, according to the local tradition, when Northern troops were coming through Fairfax, there was concern for the safety of George Washington's will, which was kept at the Courthouse. Mrs. Alfred Moss, the clerk's wife, removed the will, hid it in her clothing, and took it to this house in Buckland where she and her husband lived. There it was kept until it was sent to Richmond for the duration of the War. After the War, the will was returned to the Courthouse at Fairfax. The present clerk of the Circuit Court, James Hoofnagle, in commenting on this story, confirms that Washington's will was taken to Richmond in April 1861, though specific dates of removal from Fairfax and arrival in Richmond are not known. (cont.)

Moss House,  
Historical Significance (continued)

He confirmed that Alfred Moss was Clerk of the Court at that time and admitted that Moss could have hidden the will in his house in Buckland during the transfer to Richmond.

The Moss House is located on Lot 2 in Buckland, between Fayette Street and Mill Street. It is the house south of the Miller's cottage.

Published Sources (continued)

WPA, Writer's Project, Prince William, The Story of Its People and Its Places, (1941, 1961), pp. 172-173.