



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no.	76-160
Negative no(s).	5167

SURVEY FORM

Historic name	J.T. Polen House	Common name	T.G. Pattie House
County/Town/City	Prince William County		
Street address or route number	4541 Sudley Road, Catharpin, VA		
USGS Quad	GAINESVILLE	Date or period	mid-19th century; early 1900's.
Original owner	Unknown	Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use	Residence		
Present owner	T. Gordon Pattie	Source of name	
Present owner address	4541 Sudley Road Catharpin, VA	Source of date	Architectural evidence; local residents.
Present use	Residence	Stories	2 stories
Acreage	c191.7 acres	Foundation and wall const'n	Stone foundation; frame wall construction
		Roof type	Asphalt shingle-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs House and environs are in fair condition.

State potential threats to structure Neglect, lack of maintenance.
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.)

Part of this house is older than the front addition makes it seem. It is a mid-19th century, two-story, gable-roofed, I-type house to which was added a two-story kitchen addition to the east side of the core; and then in 1901 another addition was made, this time to the south end of the earlier house. This later two-story addition, with its central entrance, flanking two-story conical-roofed bay windows, and one-story porch, caused the front entrance to be relocated to the center of the new addition, which faces south, toward S.R. 234. The roof on the front addition is an unequally balanced gable roof, the angle at the front being steeper than the angle of the rear, thus producing the effect of a Mansard roof.

It appears that the south end of the old house may have been incorporated into the addition. Possibly there was an exterior stone chimney on the south end which was demolished when the addition was made. The remains of an exterior stone chimney, measuring approximately 5' wide by 3 1/2' deep, can be seen on the north end of the old house. The stones for the foundation and chimney(s) are said to have come from a demolished early 19th century Armistead house which once existed north or northeast of the Pattie House, in the vicinity of the present Breezy Knolls Estate subdivision.

The house's exterior is covered with weatherboards painted white. Channeled siding appears on the front, west end, and rear of the 1901 addition; while the east end of this addition and the remainder of the house, including the two-story kitchen addition off the east side of the old house, are covered with plain siding. The 2/2 sliding sash windows have plain box trim, except in the windows on the first floor of the rear of the 1901 addition. Here the windows have moulded lintels. The front door is a five-panel moulded door with an applied decoration on the central, single panel. The door has sidelights and an overhead. This entrance is apparently no longer used. The one-story front porch, in bad repair, as is the rest

Interior inspected? Yes. (Continued)

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

The land here was once included in George Chapman's Bell (or Belle) Farm. Chapman, who lived at Thorofare and owned a large gristmill, was absentee owner of the Bell Farm, an over 500-acre plantation that Chapman had acquired from William Armistead and Thomas Newman. Chapman died in 1840, leaving the Bell farm to be equally divided by his daughters Susan P.A. Chapman and Helen Chapman. In 1869 the sisters partitioned the property, Susan taking the part where Armistead had resided (271 acres). In 1870, Susan sold her part to John T. Polen (or Polend) for \$5 per acre. The Polends probably built both the house and the 1901 addition using stones, it is said, from the foundation of the old Armistead house which was located north of Catharpin. In 1908, Lillie J. Hunt and J.G. Hunt purchased the property from the Polends. When the Hunts defaulted on their payment a year later, the lender repossessed, selling the property at auction in 1914 to L. Jett Pattie and Bertha J. Pattie. In 1956, T.G. Pattie, the present owner, acquired the property through inheritance.

ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

J.T. POLEN HOUSE
(Cont.)

of the house, has been : square columns probably replaced earlier turned and moulded columns, and the steps have been removed. The one-story porch on the rear has a concrete replacement floor, but some of the old trim is left. There is a one-story screened porch on the house's east side, off the kitchen.

Inside, the 1901 addition contains two rooms, one on either side of the central hall. The trim in this part is symmetrically-moulded with cornerblocks. The older section contains a living room and stair hall, with some plain box trim and some architrave trim. The single-flight, open string stair has a slender, turned newel, rounded rail, and square balusters. The living room was renovated using wood-grain paneling after a fire damaged the walls. The kitchen is located in the two-story, shed-roofed rear addition.

Remnants of earlier landscaping can be found in the yard. Behind the house is a collection of farm buildings, including two barns, a machine shed, and another shed.

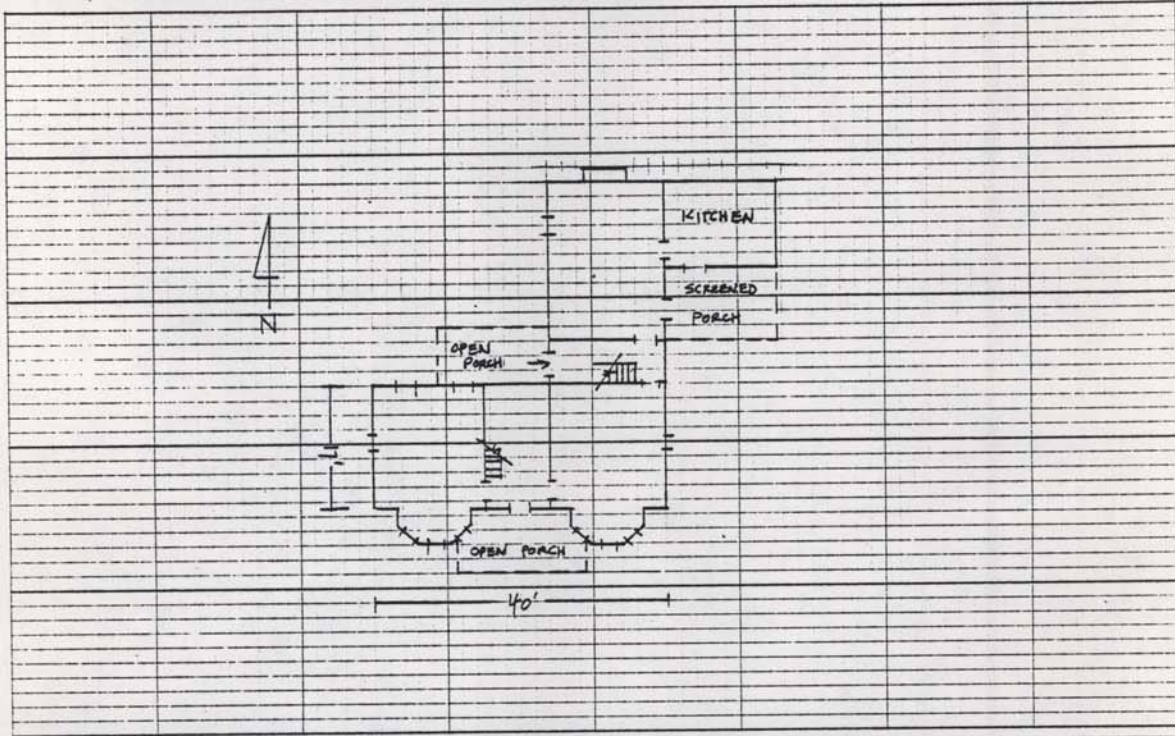
Though this house is in poor condition, it may be a very rare type of house for this area. The addition, placed as it is to give the house a formal, balanced exterior appearance, made major changes to the interior, in the plan and the use of the rooms. Ironically, the rooms in the front addition are hardly used now, and the front door is not used at all.

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

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

Names and addresses of persons interviewed - T. Gordon Pattie, owner; Jack Alvey, Catharpin Post Office; E.R. Conner, III, Catharpin, VA.

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



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

