

Herman Mason House (Thoroughgood)
Guilford vicinity
Accomack County
Virginia

Va. 630

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ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Virginia District

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

HINMAN-MASON HOUSE

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Address: Guilford, Accomack County, Virginia.

Present Owner: Herbert V. Ewell, Guilford, Virginia.

Present Use: Storage - hay and baskets.

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Brief Statement of Significance: A very early Accomack County bayside dwelling.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: 1653-Richard Hinman; 1721-John Hinman; 1722-William Andrews; 1763-William Andrews, Jr.; 1766-Nathaniel L. Savage; 1779-Thomas Fisher; 1785-Crippen Taylor; 1826-Thorowgood Taylor; 1837-Thomas Gibbons; 1842-Robert W. Wilkins; 1844-Major Mason; 1854-Thorowgood Mason, followed by subsequent owners until 1937 when bought by Herbert V. Ewell.

B. Date of erection: About 1700. This little house has an early origin, but many alterations make construction date uncertain. The writer hereof has visited the house several times and is inclined to agree with Whitelaw that construction date is c. 1700.

C. Notes on Alterations and Additions: Many years ago, perhaps during William Andrew's ownership, brick veneer was added to front, rear, and ends below eaves.

D. Sources of Information: H. V. Ewell; personal inspection; Whitelaw, Ralph T., Virginia's Eastern Shore, A History of North Hampton and Accomack Counties, 2 vols. (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1951); discussions with old timers living in the vicinity.

Prepared by John A. Upshur, Consultant
Colonial Williamsburg
February 1962

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

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A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A late-17th or early-18th century home with some Jacobean features; example of early brick veneering and of shingles fastened with wood pins driven through solid sheathing.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair to good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all size: One-and-a-half stories; 23' x 42' plus later rear wing.

2. Foundations: Brick with plain water table.

3. Wall construction: Frame originally and later brick veneered. Interior partitions plaster and wood lath on 6" x 3-3/4" wood studs.

4. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance has two-leaved door each with six panels (not raised); no transom or side lights. Opening 4' x 8'.

b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung sash with 12 over 12 lights of 8" x 10" glass on first floor. No shutters, but shutter hinges remain.

5. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable or pitched roof with slope of 9" in 12" covered with wood shingles. Pitch flared out over eaves to accommodate later brick veneering of exterior walls.

b. Cornice, eaves: Wood, box cornice at eaves with decorative wood, eave terminals.

c. Dormers: Three, gabled dormers on east roof slope, two on west slope. Cheek boards parallel to roof slope. Plain pediments and casings. Six over six light sash.

6. Chimneys: Brick chimneys at each gable within structure. Three corbeled courses for cap. 19 courses above ridge line in height.

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C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: 8'-6" wide central hall with one room on each side at main floor level. Hall 12'-8" wide at attic level to include a closet with one room on each side of hallway. Structure has crawl space (inaccessible) and no basement. Later-19th century addition on west rear not described.

2. Stairways: Stair in central hall from first to second floors. Jacobean balusters and railings. Railing at attic landing 2'-1" high. Balusters are turned symmetrically about their mid-height with square ends. Newel posts are plain and square capped with a flat wood board with simple, applied bed molding.

3. Floor: Wood boards of uniform widths (approximately 8") supported on wood joists.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster on wood lath. Lath in some locations riven, in other locations on first floor, sawn. Exposed, second floor wood ceiling with wood joists 3-1/2" wide x 6" deep with beaded exposed edges.

5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors have eight panels variously arranged with panels raised on hallway side only.

6. Trim: North wall of north first floor room has paneled wainscot. Chair rail extant in a few scattered rooms. Door casings plain and mitred at corners. Baseboard has beaded edge. South room of first floor has mantel with reeded pilasters and fluted shelf architrave. North room of first floor has simple mantel with plain pilasters. Second-floor mantels are small and only 3' high. First floor windows cased within splayed plaster reveals.

7. Hardware: HL door hinges fastened with wrought nails and leather washers.

8. Heating: One fireplace in each room, four in all. Central heat never installed but stove flue thimbles added.

D. Site: Faces east southeast on the north side of and adjacent to Guilford Creek. Terrain flat and now cultivated. No traces of porches evident. 19th-century and two-story frame addition in rear.

Prepared by Archie W. Franzen, Architect
National Park Service
March 1960.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

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Guilford vicinity
Accomack County
Virginia

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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Washington, D.C. 20013

Wessel's Root Cellar
State Routes 701 & 692 Vicinity
Hallwood
Accomack County
Virginia

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