

Walters-Page House  
SW side of Va. Rt. 692, opposite  
intersection w. Rt. 635  
Batesville  
Albemarle County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1033

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WALTERS-PAGE HOUSE

HABS No. VA-1033

Location: Southwest side of Va. Rt. 692 - opposite intersection West Rt. 635, Batesville, Albemarle County, Virginia.

Present Owner: Mr. Charles T. Page.

Present Occupants: Mr. Phillip & Mrs. Alexandra Howard.  
Mr. Frank Thomason.

Present Use: Two apartments available for rent.

Significance: This is a small brick house with a weatherboard addition, significant in that it resembles dwellings of regions further North than Virginia. It is also considered to be the oldest house in the Batesville community.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Batesville, once known as Oliver's Store and Mt. Isreal, is one of the oldest communities in Albemarle County. The Walters-Page House is said to be the oldest structure in Batesville. When it was built, and by whom, is not known. However, Nicholas Murrell Page, who was born in 1810, was reared by his aunt, Mrs. Polly Waters in the Batesville house and on her death, inherited the house from her. The fact that Mrs. Walters took Nicholas to rear when he was a small boy would tend to prove that the old brick dwelling was erected about 1800, if not before. Mrs. Walters was said to have lived there some time before Nicholas came to live with her. Except for a very brief period, the house has been in the Page family ever since. It is now owned by Charles T. Page, a great nephew of Nicholas Murrell Page.

In architecture the building resembles dwellings of regions farther North than Virginia. It's high peaked roof and severe lines remind one of New England residences.

Like most brick structures of its period, the bricks for the Walters-Page house were made by slaves, presumably from clay in the neighborhood. Also, the rock wall in front of the building was laid by slaves.

The house is two-and-one-half stories high and the front portion is much older than the rear section, which was added by Nicholas Page.

The older portion of the house, perhaps 175 years or more old, contains several features common to houses of the 18th century. Among these are the wide pine floors, hand-made doors and mantels, small windows, and closets under stairways. Doors, door and window facing, and floors in

the older section are mostly original. The entire building now has been painted white.

During the Civil War General Robert Lee is said to have stopped by the dwelling and asked to water his horse at the well. Mary, Nicholas M. Page's wife, pregnant at the time, allowed General Lee to drink from the well. When Mary's child was born, she named him Robert Lee Page, after the Confederate General who had come through Batesville.

Mrs. John Massie, a former owner of the house and a granddaughter of Nicholas Murrell Page, said when her father, Samuel Massie Page, was a small boy, he climbed a tall tree in the yard of the house and saw a large dust cloud. He concluded that the cloud was caused by Yankees and proceeded to warn the entire village. He was correct and the Batesville residents drove their livestock into the neighboring hills and hid any cured meat and other "valuables" they possessed. Not long afterward a troop of Yankee soldiers arrived and went through their customary routine of searching and pillaging.

For some years Dr. Robert Lee Page, long a leading physician and resident of the Batesville Community, occupied the house as a residence. About fifty years before his death in 1940, he built a large residence nearby and moved to that, where he lived the rest of his life. Dr. Page was the last member of the family to occupy the building. In 1947 Mrs. John E. Massey bought the place from Dr. Page's estate.

After Dr. Page moved from the house, the building was occupied by tenants and renters. Originally a large farm was a part of the property and this was sold when Dr. Page's second home was disposed of to a buyer outside the family.

In the yard at the rear of the house there once stood a three room cottage, at one time used as a meat-, or smoke-house. A foundation is all that remains today, as the building was torn down in the late 1950's.

In 1962, Mrs. Massey sold the house to Charles T. Page, who is the owner to this date.

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Special Thanks to: Charles T. and Rose M. Page, Linwood T. Gibson, Phillip and Alexandra Howard, and Frank Thomason.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: This is a typical example of the small brick country homes built in the early part of the 18th century. The later addition was the popular weatherboard vernacular.
2. Condition of fabric: Good to fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: About 40 feet wide x 44 feet long. It is two (2) stories high plus an attic in the original section.
2. Foundations: Brick and stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color:
  - a. Original section: Brick bearing walls painted white.
    - Front elevations, flemish bond.
    - Side elevations, American bond 5 row stretchers.
  - b. Later section: Wood stud framing, weatherboard siding.
4. Porch: Rear of house is of wood frame construction.
5. Chimneys: There are 4 chimneys, 2 brick and added with the later addition.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doors: The downstairs apartment is entered from the front. The second floor apartment from the rear. The front door is covered by a wood frame porch probably added with the rear of the house.
  - b. Windows: All wooden double-hung except for attic swing-outs. First and second floor - most have six-over-six-light sash.
7. Roof: Gable, completely covered pinched seam tin-plate with almost all the original cedar shingles intact underneath. Large rough-hewn timber framing with no ridge pole.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The entrance to the downstairs apartment opens into the living and dining directly off of that. The stairs to the second floor have been removed, but appear to have ascended from the dining room. The dining room has on its ceiling wood framing for what was once a large fly fan operated by means of a foot pedal. The kitchen to the rear has been remodeled. There is also a bedroom to the rear with access into a storage room.
- b. Second floor: The entrance is from the rear door up an original staircase in the later addition. The plan is similar to the first floor. Each floor has one functioning fireplace.
- c. Attic: This floor has two small rooms without access from the second floor apartment.

2. Flooring: Wide pine in all rooms except the kitchen which is linoleum tiling.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster.
4. Doorways and doors: Paneled wooden doors front, rear, and interior. Side door glazed and paneled.
5. Trim: Beaded baseboards throughout except storage room. Upstairs living room has chair rail.
6. Hardware: Simple brass, front door has old crank ringer.
7. Lighting: House wired for electricity simple incandescent fixtures.
8. Heating: Large space heaters per apartment in living rooms vented through sealed chimneys.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of a project undertaken by the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Associate Professor of Architecture. This project was prepared by William Henry Harris III and Ayers Morison, Jr., Graduate Architecture Students, during the Fall Semester, 1973. The documentation was donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey. It was not produced under HABS supervision, nor edited by members of the HABS staff.