

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEVLR Listed: 6/15/1976
NRHP Listed: 11/21/1976

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 2 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Poindexter House; ~~The Old Parsonage~~

AND/OR COMMON

Castlewood (Preferred)

2 LOCATIONOn State Route 10, .1 mile northeast of intersection of
State Routes 903 and 10.

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Chesterfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Third (David E. Satterfield, III)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Chesterfield

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William N. Gilmer

STREET & NUMBER

Castlewood

CITY, TOWN

Chesterfield

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

23832

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chesterfield County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chesterfield

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1957

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☒ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Castlewood occupies a flat, open tract of land on the eastern edge of the village of Chesterfield Court House. The long, five-part frame house was built in at least two, and possibly three, stages during the second decade of the nineteenth century. It probably achieved its present form by 1820.

The core of the dwelling house is a two-story structure with its entrance in the west one-bay-wide gable end. At the opposite end is an exterior end chimney laid in Flemish bond. Flanking this center section are story-and-a-half, two-bay wings, also with Flemish-bond exterior end chimneys, connected to the main block by one-story, one-bay hyphens. Although all five sections have gable roofs, box cornices, and beaded weatherboards, there are many differences among them. The central section is set on a Flemish-bond basement which was once painted red with white-lined mortar joints, as revealed by a protected section of the underpinning. Its windows have nine-over-nine sash and molded sills, and there is a small semi-circular lunette in the entrance gable. A modern porch, designed by Richmond architect Scott Rawlings, replaces an Eastlake-style porch which formerly sheltered the entrance. The porch is modeled on that at Keswick in Powhatan County. Its general shape coincidentally resembles markings left by the original porch, discovered when the later one was removed.

The north wing is the earlier of the two and, with its hyphen, appears on the basis of its proportions and details to predate any of the other sections, offering cause to believe that it may have been built as a part of another structure and moved to its present site after the construction of the rest of the house. The wing and its hyphen are set on a three-course American-bond basement and have beaded window sills and nine-over-nine and six-over-six sash with louvred blinds. Pent closets flank the chimney, and two narrow pedimented dormers with four-over-four sash break each roof plane of the wing. Both wing and hyphen are embellished with punch-and-dentil molding applied to their cornices.

The south wing and hyphen, though clearly built later than any of the other three sections, are set on a Flemish-bond underpinning and consequently may antedate the existence of the north wing as a part of the present house. This wing and hyphen have large window openings with six-over-six sash and louvred blinds. There are two gable dormers on each slope of the wing roof; they are larger than those on the north wing and have six-over-six sash.

The plan of Castlewood is very simple. Each of the wings and hyphens contains a single room, while the central block has an entrance hall stretching across the front with a parlor behind it. A bathroom has been installed in the west end of the parlor, and a kitchen has been built as an addition to the rear of the north hyphen, both since 1958.

The principal stair rises in the northwest corner of the hall. It is a closed-string, L-plan stair with a square newel, molded banister, and turned balusters. Recessed-panel wainscoting comprises the only other decoration in this room.

* See continuation sheet #2

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1971, 1976 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

7. DESCRIPTION

The parlor contains handsome end-wall decoration, with shallow elliptical-arched recesses, capped with molded keystones, flanking the fireplace. Both recesses have now been altered for bookshelves, but the south recess formerly contained an exterior door which is visible in old photographs. The mantel is composed of symmetrically molded pilasters supporting a tall frieze with fluted entablature blocks and a central tablet bearing an elliptical patera. A deeply molded, denticulated shelf, broken out over the tablets and blocks, surmounts the whole, which admirably sets off the King-of-Prussia marble surround. A plaster cornice and recessed-panel wainscoting are carried around the room.

The basement directly beneath the parlor originally served as the dining room. There is an exterior door in the southeast corner, and a mantel with a reeded architrave and denticulated shelf indicates the room's former elevated status. The joists are presently exposed, but there was originally a plastered ceiling. Some square brick tile is visible beneath the present concrete floor.

The north hyphen is very plain, with a barrel-vaulted ceiling and with exposed, original beaded weatherboards on the former north exterior wall of the main section. A stair descends to the basement against the west wall of this hyphen. The north wing in contrast, has very elaborate provincial woodwork of a naïveté not matched by any of the other woodwork in the house. The highlight of the room is the mantel. Stop-fluted pilasters support a double entablature, the lower portion being heavily reeded and the upper portion having plain entablature blocks and a central tablet with a high-relief reeded elliptical patera. The frieze between the blocks and tablet is embellished with broad flutes further decorated with "thumbnail" gouging. Recessed-panel wainscoting with a reeded chair rail is carried around the room, and in the southwest corner, an L-plan stair provides the only access to the upper room of this wing. This is an open-string stair with two square balusters to a tread and a square newel.

The decoration in the south hyphen and wing was apparently carried out ca. 1835 and thus probably postdates the construction of these two sections of the house. The window openings here may have been enlarged at that time. The hyphen has a flat elliptical ceiling vault with a central acanthus-leaf plaster ornament.

The south wing contains the most elaborate room in the house; its profuse ornamentation is closely similar to that found at Norwood, about twenty miles west of Chesterfield Court House, in Powhatan County. The mantel is the focus of the room. Coupled Corinthian colonettes support an entablature highly embellished with guilloches, stylized guttae, and deeply projecting moldings. The characteristic mark of the craftsman's style is the use of diminutive Ionic columns in the frieze to

* See Continuation Sheet #3

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#3

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7

PAGE

2

7. DESCRIPTION

support the cornice. Between these are deeply incised fluted rosettes. The entablature blocks are carved with handsome pineapples, and a fluted elliptical patera occupies the central tablet. The door and window frames are treated as aedicules with symmetrically molded jambs supporting cornices which are smaller versions of the mantel's entablature, with the exception of small stylized oak trees, substituted for the pineapples of the mantel. The doors and the spandrel panels beneath the windows are decorated with raised bands of fluting. There is a handsome plaster ceiling. A highly enriched decorative band carried around the edges of the ceiling frames a central pattern of concentric circles inscribed within a square area created from a pattern of rectangles.

One early outbuilding survives in the form of a frame, pyramidal-roofed structure with a coved cornice. It may once have been a dairy, although its alteration for use as a garage has made its original function impossible to determine. An early photograph shows that, for at least part of its existence, the building stood next to the east end of the main block, near the exterior entrance to the basement dining room.

DTU

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Castlewood, at the eastern edge of Chesterfield Court House, is at once one of the county's finest and most puzzling early nineteenth-century houses. The five-part building, erected in several stages of uncertain sequence, contains a highly varied group of rooms whose embellishment ranges from the north wing's naïve gouge-work trim to the elaborate, finely wrought, but equally provincial decoration of the south wing. Probably executed in the 1830s, the woodwork in the south wing is apparently the work of an unknown, but highly imaginative, itinerant craftsman.

The land upon which Castlewood was built was granted to Henry Winfree in 1754 and remained in Winfree hands until 1816, when 180½ acres of land were sold to Parke Poindexter, clerk of the Chesterfield County Court from 1812 until his death in 1847. It may be that the central section of the house was built by the Winfreees just before they sold the land or that Poindexter had it erected when he acquired the property. At any rate, the Chesterfield tax records for 1820 assess Poindexter for 300½ acres of land (including 120 acres acquired from Christopher Bass) and for buildings valued at \$3,000, of which \$2,600 worth was noted as having been added since 1817. From this evidence it would appear that by 1820 the house had reached its present state, except for the decoration in the south wing which was probably added about 1835 when similar decoration was installed at Norwood in Powhatan County.

Poindexter died in 1847, and his land was sold to William E. Howlett, "together with the mansion house and other improvements." Howlett assigned the title to Alexander Jones, and he in turn sold it to George W. Nolley who, in 1860 conveyed the house and 86 3/4 acres of land to the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The church intended to use the house as "a residence of travelling ministers," a function which it served until 1872, when a 38-acre section of the property (including the house), known as "the Methodist Parsonage," was sold to Martin Harnish for \$1,000 (deed recorded in 1877). Harnish conveyed it to Margaret and Robert Bartley in 1877, and John J. Anderson purchased the house and 100 acres of land from the Bartley estate in 1892 for \$2,000. He sold it in the same year to Mrs. Isabella S. Pilkinton for \$3,150. James H. Lumpkin, one of her heirs, acquired the property in the 1920s. It was probably during his ownership that the name "Castlewood" was first applied to the house. It appears on the caption of a 1930s photograph, but never in any legal document until 1957, when Lumpkin sold the property to William N. Gilmer, the present owner.

DTU
MTP

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chesterfield County Records: Deed Books
Land Tax Books
Will Books

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.88 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8
---	---

2	7	8	3	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	3	9	3	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

²³⁰

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

B

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

June 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUN 15 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/21/96

DATE 11.15.76



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)
Chesterfield, Va. 1963 (PR 1968)

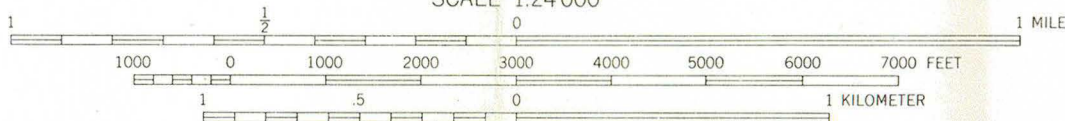
CASTLEWOOD, CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

UTM References:

A - 18/278370/4139330
230

POCAHONTAS STATE PARK

(BEACH)
5458 I SE
SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty Light-duty
Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route State Route



CHESTERFIELD, VA.

N3722.5—W7730/7.5
1963

PHOTOREVISED 1968

AMS 5458 I NE—SERIES V834