

### United States Department of the Interior

**National Park Service** 

Richmond

city, town

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

state Virginia

23219

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections 1. Mame ( DHT. File #02-417) Woods-Tavern; Woodstock Hall; Hilandale historic WOODSTOCK HALL TAVERN and or common (Preferred) Location street & number State Route 637 N/A not for publication X vicinity of city, town county Albemarle **code** 003 51 Virginia code state Classification Status **Present Use** Category Ownership \_ occupied \_\_ agriculture district \_ public \_ museum  $\overline{X}$ \_ private X building(s) \_ unoccupied \_ commercial \_\_ park work in progress structure \_ both \_ educational \_\_ private residence **Public Acquisition** Accessible \_ entertainment \_\_ religious site \_\_\_ in process yes: restricted \_ aovernment \_\_\_ scientific \_ object transportation \_ being considered  $\underline{X}$  yes: unrestricted \_\_\_\_ industrial N/A \_ no \_ military \_other:Bed & Breakfast Inn Owner of Property Clarence J. & Mary Ann Elder and name Munsey S. & Jean S. Wheby Route 10, Box 114 1. street & number 106 Whetstone Place Charlottesville Virginia 22901 1. N/A vicinity of city, town Charlottesville Virginia 22901 Location of Legal Description Albemarle County Courthouse courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. street & number 401 McIntire Road Charlottesville state Virginia city, town Representation in Existing Surveys Division of Historic Landmarks has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_ yes \_ title Survey (File #C2-417) date 1981 federal X state county depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor Street

### 7. Description

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Woodstock Hall Tavern is located on State Route 637 near Ivy, Virginia. Notable as one of Albemarle County's oldest extant structures, Woodstock Hall Tavern was constructed in 1757 and enlarged by the addition of a front wing in 1808. The original two-story, frame hall-parlor dwelling has retained a considerable portion of its architectural fabric and details. The addition of the temple-front, Federal-style wing just fifty years after the initial building campaign enclosed and protected the building materials from deterioration. The tavern and its associated outbuildings remain from an earlier complex which included another single-story frame tavern. As one of only a few unaltered dwellings of its period in Albemarle County, Woodstock Hall Tavern provides information on traditional building practices, and the changing aesthetic ideals and spatial needs of 18th- and 19th-century Virginians. The nominated acreage includes three contributing buildings.

#### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The original hall-parlor portion of Woodstock Hall Tavern, which according to a late 18th-century insurance policy functioned as both a private residence and tavern, is typical of vernacular dwellings of 18th-century middling planters. Usually the larger of the two first-story rooms was designated the hall and served as the more public, social space. Family-centered activities and special celebrations or rituals were held in the parlor. Both rooms retain original flooring, plaster work, beaded baseboards and pedestal chair rails. The hall chair rail is molded indicating the room's prominence in the social and decorative hierarchy; the parlor's more simply detailed chair rail is also found in the two chambers above. An enclosed boxed winder stair leads up from the hall. The room's original mantel was replaced by a Federal-style version, probably at the time the addition was constructed. Removal of a portion of the parlor's plastered north wall for restoration exposed a date of 12.7.1757 written on the back of a weatherboard, providing a probable construction date. The room's mantel was removed to allow installation of a stove, but was found on the site. It too was a Federal replacement. In the parlor storage is provided by a small closet beneath the stair. Its door, like all other remaining original doors, retains its HL hinges. A few original leather washers still fasten the hinges of the parlor door. The HL hinges were mounted inside the frames of all first-floor doors; those on the second floor are mounted on the frame. The parlor's spatial relationship to the 19th-century kitchen suggests that the room may have been used at a later date as a dining room. Both upper story chambers retain their original mantels. which are marked by shallow shelves and raised panels. In the parlor chamber a fourpane window let into the east wall cleverly provides light to the enclosed stair. The small room at the top of the stair was enclosed during the 19th century and was likely used as a closet for storing linen and bedclothes.

The entire original section of Woodstock Hall Tavern is sheathed with beaded weatherboards fastened with rosehead nails. As they were protected from the elements by the 1808 addition, the north elevation weatherboards, portions of the original cornice, several dozen round butt shingles, and some 18th-century paint colors remain in excellent condition. The structure sits on a full rubblestone cellar. A brick wall laid in

### 8. Significance

prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art Commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	literature military music t philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater X transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1757; 1808	Builder/Architect N/A	A	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of Albemarle County's oldest and least altered buildings, Woodstock Hall Tavern achieved its present appearance in 1808, a half century after the construction of the original two-room plan. The structure stands on State Route 637 near the junction of State Route 708, three miles southwest of Ivy, Virginia. In operation as an ordinary by 1783, the tavern is historically associated with the Woods family who settled in the area in the mid-18th century. The building was acquired by Richard Woods ca. 1771 and two generations of the family occupied the structure for nearly eighty years. During much of this period it functioned as a tavern and its operation was recorded in the 1796 travel journal of the Duke de la Rochefoucault Liancourt. Woodstock Hall Tavern and its associated records reveal much about the nature of social and commerical activity, material life and transportation systems in 18th- and 19th-century Piedmont Virginia.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Albemarle County deed records link David Lewis to the early occupation of the land of which Woodstock Hall Tavern was built. Lewis may have constructed the original portion and operated it as an ordinary. Although Lewis sold several parcels of land to Richard Woods, a 1771 transaction for 250 acres between Woods and Alexander Baine of Henrico County is likely the one by which Woods acquired the tract on which the tavern stands. The deed book entry records that this was "formerly the residence of David Lewis and Rebecca." Ordinary license receipts reveal Woods was operating a tavern at the site by 1783. According to late 18th-century mutual insurance records two buildings at the site - the nominated structure and a one-story frame building (razed) - were in use as both taverns and dwellings.

Woodstock Hall Tavern was one of several area ordinaries, including the nearby D. S. Tavern (National Register of Historic Places, 1983), and was positioned just off the important Three Notch'd Road that linked the Piedmont region to Richmond. Traffic enroute to Staunton through Rockfish Gap left Three Notch'd Road four miles to the east at the D. S. Tavern and passed the structure which fronted the busy thoroughfare known as the Dick Woods' Road, named for its surveyor and the tavernkeeper. Ordinaries offered lodging, meals and fresh horses, and functioned as important social centers where the dispersed population gathered for gaming and business. By the second quarter of the 19th century some twenty taverns were scattered through Albemarle County, most positioned along the region's many colonial roads. Woodstock Hall Tavern and the D. S. are particularly significant because of their early date of operation.

Woods' ordinary enjoyed a fine reputation in the late 18th century as revealed in the 1796 travel accounts of the Duke de la Rochefoucault Liancourt. The Duke left Monticello

<ol><li>Major Bibliographical References</li></ol>							
	9. Ma	aior	Biblio	graphic	al Re	feren	Ces

Albemarle County <u>Deed Books</u> 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 49; <u>Order Books</u> 1783-1785; 1795-1798, 1808-1809; <u>Will Books</u> 4, 19

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

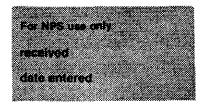
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WOODSTOCK HALL TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #1 ttem number 7



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#### 7. DESCRIPTION - Architectural Analysis

American bond divides the two cellar chambers, which were whitewashed at one time. A fireplace that perhaps serviced the tavern as a winter kitchen is positioned on the east wall of the east cellar chamber. Exterior chimneys, also underpinned by rubble, are laid in Flemish bond with tiled weatherings and are positioned at the gable ends. First-story windows have 9/9 sash; second-story openings have 9/6 sash. Small four-paned sash admit light to the unfinished attic. The original glass remains in most sash. The structure is framed in yellow pine with the exception of the first-floor joists, all corner posts and those that brace each side of the mantels, which are oak. The roof is supported by common rafters with collars which are let into a false plate.

Again, a penciled date suggests a likely construction date for the Federal wing. The date "January 14, 1808" and the sentiment "Hell and Damnation - Captain Woods" are inscribed on the underside of the stair's top tread. By engaging in a major building campaign William Woods joined many of his Piedmont neighbors who also undertook ambitious remodeling projects early in the 19th century. Woods combined traditional plan types - essentially adding a side passage and a formal, entertaining room - with the fashionable details of the Federal style. The entire addition is constructed of yellow pine, sheathed with beaded weatherboards, and stands on a rubble foundation. Interestingly, the 1808 wing is not framed into the original building at any point. The two structures stand independent of each other, linked only by exterior sheathing. Slender Doric columns support the single-story porch that shields the entire first story. While the present porch is a 20th-century replacement it is likely the original was of similar scale and detail. The tympanum lunette has been removed, but the punched dentil course remains. A handsome architrave surrounds the double-door entry, which is capped by a decorated transom. The addition's fine details clearly announce the prestige and fashionable intentions of its builder.

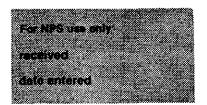
Entry was made directly into the front room and the stair passage was placed at the rear of the room. By the end of the 18th century Virginians had almost universally adopted a center or lateral passage that controlled entry into and access to the interior. The reversal of the plan is perhaps explained by the fact that the structure was still utilized as a tavern and the room served as a public or entertainment space. The passage then may have separated this public room from the family's private quarters at the rear of the structure. The front room and the stair hall are embellished by identical pedestal chair rails and baseboards with a molded cap. The scale and details of the front room mantel recall those found throughout the nearby Valley. Its reeded engaged colonettes are separated from the tall shelf and punch and dentil work by a large, broad frieze. The possibility that the passage and chamber above served multiple functions is suggested by their details and the fact that the open-string, L-plan stair with carved, scrolled soffits occupies only a small area. The balusters are rectangular and undecorated; the handrail is unmolded. In the passage a wooden rail with metal hooks runs the length of three walls. The large, well-proportioned

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#### 7. DESCRIPTION - Architectural Analysis

second-story chamber is detailed by the same chair rail and baseboard as used below. The room's mantel, with its punched dentils, reeded pilasters and plain frieze, is a simplified version of the one found in the first-story front room. From the second-story passage, an enclosed stair leads to the unfinished attic.

A 19th-century brick kitchen, which may date from the 1808 building campaign, and a 20th-century frame wellhouse are also associated with the tavern. The symmetrically organized kitchen is divided into two chambers by a central chimney. At present cabinets are positioned in each room to one side of the chimney and the rooms are linked by the opening at the other side. It is likely the rooms were not connected originally. A cellar is found beneath the south chamber and an enclosed stair leads up from the chamber to the unfinished attic. The roof is framed by common rafters, the majority of which are slender trunks hewn only on one side. The remaining rafters were obviously reused from another structure. The building's north and east elevations, or those that face the tavern and road and are most visible to the public, are laid in Flemish bond. The south and west elevations are laid in five-course American bond. A mousetooth cornice runs the length of the east and west elevations. The kitchen and wellhouse will also be rehabilitated as part of the bed and breakfast inn.

#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE - Historical Background

and made his way to "Woods-tavern" along a road which he judged "tolerably good and even." Once arrived at the inn he approvingly found the place to be "so good and cleanly" and Woods and his family to be congenial hosts. Rochefoucault Liancourt reported on the diversified nature of Woods' business interests, as the tavern owner was also involved in grain production. In spite of nearly two centuries of uncertain return the lure of tobacco wealth was still strong, and Woods, like many of his planter counterparts, cultivated the cash crop on another of his plantations, some seven miles from Woodstock Hall. The journalist's notes on Woods' farming and manuring operations indicate that he employed progressive agricultural methods, perhaps under the guidance of the active Albemarle Agricultural Society. The many entries for Woods in county deed records disclose that he augmented his wealth by speculating in land.

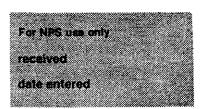
Following Woods' death in 1801 Woodstock Hall passed to his son William and an extensive inventory was taken of the tavern and dwelling house contents. As fitting the operation of an ordinary nine beds - which were by far the most valuable pieces of furniture enumerated - were listed, along with two-dozen Windsor chairs and twenty other chairs described as "common." Several storage pieces - trunks, cupboards and chests - were included with the many dozen plates, bowls, glasses and mugs. As an index of the specialized entertaining and dining rituals enacted by Virginians, the inventory distinguished between coffee pots and tea pots, common tablespoons and

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#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE - Historical Background

silver tablespoons, wine glasses and mugs, and china cups and saucers and common cups and saucers. Some of Woods' twenty-one slaves no doubt were employed in a kitchen, utilizing the impressive assortment of skillets, dutch ovens, iron pots, fry pans and sifters appraised by the inventory takers. From the value and names given to Woods' horses, it can be deduced that he owned fine racehorses. Course racing was a favorite sport of 18th-century gentry and Woods likely ran his horses at the local races often held at court days.

The Albemarle County Court issued an ordinary license to William Woods in 1806 and he enlarged the original structure with a handsome Federal-style addition in 1808. Early the next year Woods petitioned the county court to allow him to reroute the road which ran by his house, indicating perhaps that he now wished the route to pass in front of his fashionable dwelling. Woods held public office as county surveyor from 1796 to 1826 and was known locally as "Surveyor Billy" to distinguish him from two other gentlemen of the same name who lived in the county. He served as a county magistrate and sheriff, and with the Albemarle County militia. Woods shared his father's interest in fine horses, reportedly acquiring a number from the stables of John Randolph of Roanoke.

It is not known how long William Woods continued to keep the ordinary, but he held the land until his death in 1850. In that year his heirs sold the land to Raleigh Colston, who farmed the property. The tract was sold to R. T. W. Duke and George Perkins in 1874. The Cook family acquired it twenty-three years later and maintained ownership until February 1985, when the property was purchased by developer Edgar Robb. The present owners secured the land in April 1985 and they are in the process of rehabilitating Woodstock Hall Tavern for use as a bed and breakfast inn.

Marlene Elizabeth Heck/Richard P. Thomsen

#### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mutual Assurance Society Fire Policies #348 & #475
Woods, Edgar. Albemarle County in Virginia. Charlottesville, Va.: Michie Co., 1901.
Reprint. Harrisonburg, Va.: C. J. Carrier Co., 1972.

#### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

JUSTIFICATION: The nominated property consists of 5.874 acres and includes the main house and two contributing outbuildings. The 5.874 acres is a fraction of the original 250 acres owned by Woods at the time he built the tavern, and encompasses front and rear yards.

