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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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DESCRIBING LOCATION.

Property Name Point Lookout Archaeological Site
State VIRGINIA
County Gloucester
Reference Number 14000234

WARNING

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- 1) The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Section 304[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a), confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources; 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(b), Access Determination; 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c), Consultation with the Advisory Council];
- 2) The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended [Public Law 96-95; 16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm; with special attention to Section 9 subsections a and b in their entirety];
- 3) The National Parks Omnibus Act of 1988, Section 207 (1 and 2);
- 4) 36 CFR 800.6(5) and 36 CFR800.11(c);
- 5) Department of the Interior Departmental Manual (519 DM 2);
- 6) National Park Service Management Policies 2006, Section 5.1.1;
- 7) Director's Order 28, Section 5a;

Information in these files that may be restricted can include, but is not limited to, such things as: locations of archeological sites; locations of features within archeological sites; types of artifacts and their recovered locations; the existence of and/or the locations of excavated and unexcavated human remains; photos, maps and text that includes sensitive archeological or cultural information; specific or general information of a sensitive cultural nature such as information about religious ceremonies; rock art or other cultural items; creation stories; or properties associated with such things.

Please note that Section 304 (c), [16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c)], 36 CFR 800.6(5), and 36 CFR 800.11 (c) require consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on reaching determinations of withholding. Further, 36 CFR 800.6(5), and 36 CFR 800.11 (c) specify including the views of the SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, related to the confidentiality concern in reaching determinations of withholding.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Other names/site number: John Robins House Site, Point Lookout, 44GL0029, 44GL0030, VDHR File #036-0064
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 5068 Mobjack Road
City or town: White Marsh State: VA County: Gloucester
Not For Publication: Vicinity: N/A
see redactions

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
___ A ___ B ___ C D

Julie Langan 3/27/14
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official: Date
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property
County and
State

Gloucester, VA

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Joe Eason H. Beall *5-19-14*
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property
State _____ County and _____

Gloucester, VA

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling, secondary structure (smokehouse)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/dwelling site, secondary structure

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Side-passage double-pile

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: BRICK; Walls: WOOD, Weatherboard; Roof: WOOD, Shingle and METAL, Aluminum; Other: BRICK & WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

NOTE: All text in bold italics is sensitive and not for publication.

The Point Lookout Archaeological Site (44GL0030) is a rural Euro-American domestic site located on Robins Neck, ***between Old House Creek and the Ware River*** in Gloucester County, Virginia, and which dates to the period 1642-1859. Site 44GL0030, the primary resource at the center of the property, is a mid-seventeenth- to mid-eighteenth-century domestic site, the remains of John Robins' ca. 1642 dwelling, one of the earliest documented historic dwellings in Gloucester County, for which the Robins Neck peninsula was named. Site 44GL0029, a contributing secondary resource, is located less than fifty feet to the northwest, and includes a late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century trash pit and a nineteenth-century ash/refuse area associated with the standing smokehouse. The two sites are parts of one multi-component domestic site ***covering the 20.55-acre lot***, but the original survey methods used to identify the sites in 1977 and 1978 employed selective site boundaries, favoring the highest concentrations of material culture. Point Lookout has been documented, through the 1977-1978 archaeological surveys and archival research in 2012-2013, to be the surviving centerpiece of a historically larger property that encompassed the northeastern tip of Robins Neck from the mid-eighteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. The site is in excellent condition, ***containing approximately***

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

five acres of open lawn and drained fields surrounded by roughly fifteen acres of woods, altogether enclosing the primary archaeological resource (44GL0030), a contributing secondary archaeological site (44GL0029), a contributing smokehouse, a non-contributing pool, and a non-contributing dwelling (VDHR File Number 036-0064), built ca. 1786-1808 by Thomas Robins, Sr., and modified between the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries by later owners.

Narrative Description

The Point Lookout Archaeological Site is a rural **20.55-acre** property containing woods, open lawn, and drained fields, located at the northeastern tip of Robins Neck. The property was known locally by the name “Point Lookout” by the mid-eighteenth century for its vantage across the adjacent tidal peninsula which extends northward into the Ware River. A **450-foot** private drive *extending east from Mobjack Road and Robins Neck Road (Va. State Route 614)* provides secluded access to a domestic complex that includes the house (VDHR File Number 030-0064), smoke house, pool, and two archaeological sites (44GL0029 and 44GL0030) with intact, stratified deposits and concentrations of material culture dating from the mid-seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. The site contains the remnants of John Robins' original ca. 1642 house, occupied by his descendants and slaves through the late eighteenth century, along with domestic features and material culture associated with the standing smokehouse and ca. 1786-1808 house (VDHR File Number 036-0064), built by Thomas Robins, Sr. near the location of his great-great-grandfather John Robins' early colonial dwelling. Point Lookout is of local significance as one of the earliest and longest-occupied colonial English dwelling and plantation sites in Gloucester County. The location and extent of the site is confirmed through historic maps and documents, in addition to archaeological survey and excavation.

Archaeological Investigations

During two separate field surveys in the spring of 1977 and the summer of 1978, the Gloucester County Archaeological Project (GCAP) obtained permission from Henry and Judy Cathey to survey and evaluate the Point Lookout property (GCAP File No. IL5) as part of a broader program to identify and inventory archaeological sites throughout the county.¹ Archaeological surveys by GCAP in 1977 and 1978 identified sites 44GL0029 and 44GL0030 and interpreted them spatially and temporally as related components of the same site.² Both sites contain significant intact stratified cultural deposits. Shovel test pits and over a dozen 3-foot-square and 5-foot-square test units revealed a late seventeenth-/early eighteenth-century trash pit and a nineteenth-century ash/refuse area (44GL0029) associated with the standing nineteenth-century smokehouse, and intact rubble and domestic refuse layers associated with a mid-seventeenth- to mid-eighteenth-century dwelling, the original John Robins house site (44GL0030). The original survey methods used to identify the sites in 1977 and 1978 employed selective site boundaries, identifying the highest concentrations of material culture as distinct sites even though artifacts were recovered beyond these boundaries. Anticipated on-site investigations and re-evaluation of the 1977-1978 excavation records are likely to identify the entire area surrounding the house as one large domestic site. Site 44GL0030 is one of the earliest tested English colonial sites in Gloucester County, and is treated as the primary resource due to its location around the standing

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

late eighteenth-century house and its inclusion of material culture from the entire period ca. 1642-1950. The site's seventeenth- and eighteenth-century artifact assemblage includes slipware, Höhr grey stoneware, North Devon gravel-tempered earthenware, Delftware, imported and domestic tobacco pipes, wine bottle glass, and the rim and neck of a Bartmann stoneware jug.³

The Point Lookout archaeological deposits occupy an area of generally flat, cleared land surrounding the house and driveway (**Photos 1 and 2**). Due to the similarity of stratigraphy and artifacts, and the proximity of these two sites to each other and to the house, they are best understood as two components or concentrations of one archaeological site that encompasses an area surrounding the house and extending into the wooded areas of the property. During the 1977 survey, GCAP archaeologists led by Douglas Sanford excavated four 3-foot-square test units, all of which were positive. Two test units were located in the garden to the northwest of the house (**Photo 3**), one unit containing bone, shell, and burned materials suggestive of association with the nearby smokehouse, and the other unit containing a probable trash pit fill layer with shell, ash, and charcoal inclusions. The artifacts assemblage contained late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century pipe stems, pipe bowls, and a case bottle finish. The west garden test units were identified as site 44GL0029, the “Cathey Property” site. The 1977 survey also included a test unit at the northwest corner of the house which revealed five courses of Flemish bond brickwork extending below the ground surface and fill layers suggestive of a builder's trench; as well as a test unit 14 feet south of the porch containing a layer of shell, bone, and artifacts.⁴

The 1978 GCAP survey at Point Lookout, led by Betsy Foard, began with shovel test pit transects in the east, south, and southwest yards. All areas of the yard produced oyster shell, brick fragments, nails, and bone, while the east yard shovel test pits also uncovered wine bottle glass and pipe stems. GCAP archaeologists opened one 5-foot-square test unit in each of these three areas to further investigate the extent of the resource. In test unit “A” (southwest of the house) they identified intact strata and artifacts which they initially interpreted to be a seventeenth- to eighteenth-century trash pit and rubble layer (**Photo 4**). The upper layers consisted of brown loam with shell and brick fragments, and a mid-seventeenth-century to mid-eighteenth-century artifact assemblage including slipware, incised white salt-glazed stoneware, North Devon gravel-tempered earthenware, Delftware, pipe stems, wine bottle glass, and the rim and neck of a Bartmann stoneware jug (**Photo 5**). Foard's field notes include the comment, “the artifacts we have found so far are the oldest I've seen in Gloucester.” In contrast, test unit “B” (east of the house) contained nineteenth-century domestic artifacts (whiteware, stoneware, glass, and nails), reflecting the long and evolving use of the residential and farm landscape. Test unit “C” (southeast of the house) uncovered three postmolds, all of differing shape. The age and quantity of the materials from unit A compelled GCAP to excavate three more units in that area, extending from unit A (**Photo 6**). Of these, units “E” (**Photo 8**) and “F,” to the south and north of unit A, respectively, possessed similar rubble layers with seventeenth- and eighteenth-century ceramics and pipe stems. The six test units excavated in 1978 were given the site designation 44GL0030.

At the end of the 1978 field season, noting that the oldest artifacts were found in the south yard and that the 1760 Robins plat depicts an earlier, central passage house on the property, archaeologist Betsy Foard probed for the earlier seventeenth-century house along a projected line

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

south of the side porch, locating solid deposits approximately 1 foot below the surface.⁵ In a 1979 summary report of the 1977-1978 Point Lookout surveys, GCAP archaeologist Holly S. Luton offered further interpretations of the finds, arguing that the brick rubble and lime layers discovered to the southwest of the house in test units A, D, E, and F indicate the remains of a building rather than a trash pit. Luton noted that a trash pit would normally exhibit a more centralized concentration of artifacts than the diffuse rubble and artifact layers found in this area of the site. She concurred with Foard that the Bartmann jug fragment found in this area was the “oldest dateable colonial ceramic fragment found in the County thus far.”⁶

During the spring and summer of 1999, archaeologists curated and cataloged the Point Lookout artifact collection, reassessing the integrity and research potential of the material.⁷ The above-noted historical documentation of the property significantly enhances details of the site's function and context as the long-standing domestic and agricultural complex of the Robins family, who maintained a plantation and new dwelling, from ca. 1786 to 1859, on the same property as their earlier ca. 1642 - ca. 1786 dwelling. Investigations in the 1970s coupled with recent historical research have demonstrated that the property retains integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association, with intact cultural deposits and stratigraphy related to the period of significance.

Secondary Resources

1. **Cathey Property Archaeological Site (44GL0029; seventeenth- through nineteenth-century site, contributing) (Photo 3)**

Located less than fifty feet to the northwest of site 44GL0030 and the house (VDHR File Number 036-0064), concentrated in a 1/3-acre area on the same knoll, is the Cathey Property archaeological site. The location of the site was originally identified in surface observation by the current landowner. Two test units were located in the garden to the northwest of the house, one unit containing bone, shell, and burned materials suggestive of association with the nearby 19th-century smokehouse, and the other unit containing a trash pit fill layer with shell, ash, and charcoal inclusions along with an assemblage of late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century artifacts such as pipe stems, pipe bowls, wine bottle glass, wrought nails, and a case bottle finish. The concentrations of mid-17th through mid-19th-century material culture represent the remains of a late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century trash pit and a nineteenth-century ash/refuse area associated with the standing smokehouse. Surface collection, shovel test pit survey, and test unit excavation confirm the archaeological potential of the knoll surrounding the house and smokehouse, and suggest that the site extends into the yard area to the east (**Photo 1**). The site contributes to the significance of the property for its association with the mid-17th- through late-18th-century domestic complex of John Robins' family and with the late-18th- through mid-19th-century residence of his descendants, Thomas Robins, Sr. and Thomas Robins, Jr., located on the same property. The site has the potential to yield significant information regarding the settlement of Gloucester County, the evolution of the Robins family residence over two centuries, and the generations of owners, residents, and enslaved African-Americans who resided on the property during the period of significance.

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Gloucester, VA

County and State

2. Smokehouse (early to mid-19th century, building, contributing) (Photo 9)

Located less than 50 feet north of the main house, the smokehouse is a single-story, one-bay, nineteenth-century frame building on cement piers with a pyramidal roof and clapboard siding. On the south facade, the smokehouse has a batten door in a box frame with iron strap hinges and a swinging wood plank latch. In front of the Portland cement stoop is a granite mill stone lying flat to create a longer entrance path to the door. The roof is covered in newer wood shakes and the wood floor is partly intact and partly patched; the frame superstructure is completely original. The smokehouse is surrounded by archaeological sites 44GL0029 and 44GL0030, on the same knoll. Built sometime in the early to mid-nineteenth century, most likely by Thomas Robins, Jr. or his son Thomas Coleman Robins, the smokehouse is spatially and functionally associated with the excavated bone, shell, and burned materials from site 44GL0029. This building contributes to the significance of the property for its association with the 17th- through 19th-century archaeological sites on the property and as a surviving component of the Robins family domestic landscape.

3. Dwelling (030-0064; ca. 1786-1806 with major ca. 1870, 1891, 1938, and 1950 additions, building, non-contributing) (Photo 10)

Located at the end of a *450-foot* private drive *extending east from Mobjack Road and Robins Neck Road (Va. State Route 614)* and at the crest of a gentle knoll is the standing main house (VDHR File Number 030-0064), a ca. 1786-1806 two-and-a-half-story side-passage double-pile frame building on a brick English basement, with two interior end chimneys and a side-gable wood shingle roof covered by a standing seam metal roof. The west facade is clad in plain weatherboard and features a late-eighteenth- to early-nineteenth-century six-panel wood door surrounded by a ca. 1938 frame and brick one-bay portico stoop with a pediment roof supported by two squared columns. The facade has five wood six-over-six double-hung sash windows, three above and two below, installed ca. 1870 during the construction of the full second story, which was formerly a half-story chamber from the ca. 1786-1806 construction. There are four original late eighteenth-century nine-over-six wood sash windows on the north elevation (**Photo 11**). Two of these windows surrounding the first floor northwest fireplace had their sash reversed in a six-over-nine configuration during mid-twentieth century renovations. Partially obscuring the south elevation is a one-story enclosed frame porch addition, built in 1938 and enclosed ca. 1950 (**Photo 12**). On the east (rear) elevation is another one-story enclosed frame addition, built as a porch in 1891, enclosed ca. 1950, and expanded to run the length of the rear elevation with the addition of a kitchen in the late twentieth century (**Photo 2**). Windows on the east and south additions are mid-to-late-twentieth-century six-over-nine sash. The chimney stacks, which have been repaired and corbeled in the late twentieth century, are laid primarily in stretcher bond, with sections of Flemish bond. The finished English basement foundation is Flemish bond above ground and one-to-five American bond below the ground surface.

Built between 1786 and 1808 by Revolutionary War Private Thomas Robins, Sr., the early core of the house, a 30' x 30' double-pile, side-passage, two-room first floor and two-room half-story second floor, remains largely intact, including the flooring, paneled doors, interior door frames, enclosed staircase, pegged batten doors, and large ground-floor sills visible in the cellar.

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

Extensive alterations occurred ca. 1870 when Robert C. Selden, Jr. raised the upper level to a full second floor, replaced mantels throughout the house, placed new circular-sawn weatherboard on the exterior, replaced interior trim, and replaced the west facade windows with double-hung, six-over-six sash. Selden's changes are evidenced by the original roof-line visible on the chimneys in the attic, narrower three-inch floor boards at the east and west ends of the second floor, circular-sawn lath in the second floor walls (in contrast to hand split lath on the first floor), and a lathing strip with "R.C. Selden, Jr." written on it, found on the second floor when the current owners replastered the walls in the 1970s.⁸ Around 1891, Selden added a porch on the east (rear) facade, resting on brick piers with a shed roof. In 1938, owners Caroline and Indie Sinclair, heirs of James Sinclair, added the south porch and west facade portico stoop. In 1950, they enclosed the side and rear porches and also added French doors in the first-floor hall to access the south porch, along with three closets and a small bathroom on the second floor.⁹ Later twentieth-century renovations include replaced corbeled chimney caps, the newer kitchen enclosed in the rear porch, and a shed roof covering and connecting the basement entrance to the south and east additions. Though the house is good example of an evolved farmhouse with many period details, it is a non-contributing secondary resource due to the presence of several late-nineteenth- to late-twentieth-century additions and renovations which date after the use of the dwelling by the Robins family and the ca. 1642-1859 period of significance. The presence of the house, which was built during the period of significance and which contains much of the original ca. 1786-1806 fabric, does not detract from the integrity of the archaeological site or property as a whole.

4. Pool (post-1975 structure, non-contributing) (Photo 1)

Located approximately 125 feet north of the main house in a flat area of open lawn is an in-ground concrete pool, built after 1975 by the current owners. This structure, located northeast of the smokehouse, is non-contributing due to its lack of association with the period of significance.

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic/Non-Aboriginal
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1642-1859

Significant Dates

1642: earliest settlement on the site by John Robins
1776-1777: service of Thomas Robins, Sr. in the Revolutionary War
ca. 1786-1808: construction of standing house by Thomas Robins, Sr.
1812-1814: service of Thomas Robins, Jr. in the War of 1812

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American
African-American

Architect/Builder

Robins, Thomas Sr.
Selden, Robert Colgate Jr. (addition)
Sinclair, Indiana L. (addition)

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Gloucester, VA

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Point Lookout Archaeological Site, representing the ca. 1642-1859 Robins family home plantation in rural Gloucester County, Virginia, is significant at the local level for its ability to yield important archaeological information about the earliest seventeenth-century settlement of Gloucester County, the lives and contributions of enslaved African Americans, and the evolution of the Robins family's domestic complex over two centuries. The site is significant at the local level under Criterion D in the areas of Archaeology and Exploration/Settlement for the integrity of archaeological site 44GL0030 and secondary resource, site 44GL0029, both of which contain intact, stratified deposits of material culture that illustrate and significantly add to the history of the colonial settlement and early nineteenth-century development of Gloucester County, a period with few remaining documents. The contributions of Thomas Robins, Sr. and Thomas Robins, Jr. to the American Revolution and War of 1812 are intimately tied to post-colonial Gloucester County as well. The period of significance begins with the ca. 1642 establishment of the plantation by John Robins and ends in 1859 when the property passed out of the Robins family's ownership after more than two centuries.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Point Lookout Archaeological Site (44GL0030) occupies 20.55 acres of open lawn, drained marshland, and woods at the northeastern end of the Robins Neck peninsula. The site preserves the domestic core of a historically larger plantation dating to ca. 1642, one of the earliest archaeologically preserved farm residences in Gloucester County. Surviving historical documents and archaeological evidence confirm that John Robins built a house here ca. 1642, and that his descendants owned and occupied the elegant one-and-a-half-story center-passage home through at least 1760, when his great-grandson William Robins had the property re-surveyed. Between 1786 and 1806, William Robins' son, Thomas Robins, Sr., a Revolutionary War veteran, built the standing house (VDHR File Number 036-0064), after which the original John Robins house fell out of use, forming the core of site 44GL0030. Thomas Robins, Jr. inherited the farm home in 1788 and served as a private and local rations collector during the War of 1812, in which Robins Neck was a defensive artillery station against British raids.

After the War of 1812, Thomas Robins, Jr. resided on the site with his extended family and expanded the domestic complex to accommodate a smokehouse and a growing workforce of enslaved African Americans. In the late eighteenth century, Thomas Robins owned eight slaves who lived and worked on the property, and their presence, though undocumented, likely began long before that. Surviving records indicate that the number of African-Americans generally increases to between 11 and 15 through the 1850s. While the excavations conducted to date have not identified specific slave-related contexts and artifacts, their persistent presence and the nature of their occupations, as agricultural workers, builders, cooks, and personal servants, implies that much of the archaeological record was produced by their hands. The intact nature of

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

archaeological deposits on the site highlights a fruitful area for future research into the process of initial European settlement and its evolution into a plantation supported by an enslaved workforce, particularly for this period where surviving historical records are scarce. In 1859, the Robins family sold the property, ending their direct association with this historic farm.

Historical Overview

On October 12, 1642, John Robins of Elizabeth City County received a patent for 2,000 acres of land on a peninsula between the Severn and Ware Rivers in Gloucester County.¹⁰ John Robins chose the site of his patent for its access to navigable waters, securing a re-patent for the land in 1645 and establishing a residence there by the mid-seventeenth century.¹¹ Robins' will of 1655 divided the property between his three sons.¹² Most of Gloucester County's historic records from the seventeenth through the mid-nineteenth centuries were lost during a June 3, 1820, fire at the county courthouse and the April 3, 1865, burning of Richmond, where the records had been stored for safety during the Civil War. Despite the gaps in the historical record, manuscript collections and private family papers help illuminate the early period of Point Lookout's history. A 1760 plat depicts a central passage house with interior end chimneys on 917 acres at the end of Robins Neck labeled "Mr. William Robins House."¹³ This is not the standing house, which is a side passage building built between 1786 and 1808.¹⁴ William Robins (1715-1786), great grandson of patentee John Robins, willed the property to his son, Thomas Robins, Sr., who built the standing house.¹⁵ The nearby Robins Cemetery, on an adjacent property owner's land, contains at least three generations of the Robins family with death dates ranging from 1800 to 1888, the oldest being those of builder Thomas Robins, Sr. (1745-1808) and his first wife Frances Stubbs Robins (1745-1800).¹⁶ The cemetery is not included in this nomination because it is not spatially contiguous with the identified archaeological site.

When Thomas Robins, Sr. died in 1808, his 600-acre farm, valued at \$1,980, passed to Thomas, Robins, Jr., his siblings, and other heirs.¹⁷ In 1809, the heirs set aside a 172-acre lot for Thomas Robins, Sr.'s widow, Elizabeth Lee Robins, who took possession of the lot with her new husband Read Watlington in 1815 while Thomas Robins, Jr. lived on the main house tract with his wife, seven children, and twelve enslaved African-Americans.¹⁸ The number of enslaved laborers living on the property varies little during the first half of the 19th century, and their consistent presences indicates the primary roles they played in undertaking work on the plantation. Personal property taxes for 1815 assess Read Watlington for a building value of \$500.¹⁹ The assessed value of the Point Lookout house and other buildings was \$1,312.50 in 1820, the first year in which Virginia land tax records included building values.²⁰ An 1819 plat shows the location of the standing house along with the configuration of open fields, woods, and marsh much as they appear today.²¹ Thomas Robins, Jr. died on September 18, 1821 and his estate passed to his wife, Nancy Watkins Robins (1777-1858).²² Under her ownership the dwelling appears to have remained unchanged. A re-survey of the property lines shows that she owned four parcels at Point Lookout totaling 288.5 acres.²³ Nancy Robins died on February 21, 1858, at age 86. Her heirs, Thomas Coleman Robins and Amelia Armistead Robins, sold the 258-acre Point Lookout farm and house to Robert Colgate Selden, Sr. in 1859, ending the occupation of the site by the Robins family.²⁴

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

Robert C. Selden, owner of neighboring Sherwood, made no alterations to Point Lookout but allowed his son Robert C. Selden, Jr. to farm the land. Robert C. Selden, Jr. raised the dwelling, ca. 1870, from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half stories and moved into the house with his wife Georgianna Wray Sinclair and their two children.²⁵ By 1880, Selden's household at Point Lookout included his wife, six children, a relative (Elizabeth Wray), and the Rector of Abingdon Church, Alexander Hundley.²⁶ In 1885, Robert Selden, Sr. and Courtney W. Selden gifted the 298.75-acre Point Lookout property to Robert, Jr., along with 120 acres of marsh adjoining it, excluding the Robins family cemetery.²⁷ An increase in the building value from \$1,000 to \$1,200 in 1891 corresponds to Selden's addition of a porch on the east (rear) facade.²⁸ At the beginning of the twentieth century, the two eldest adult sons, R. Colgate Selden and Jefferson Sinclair Selden, worked the farm with their father and hired farm laborer Howard Hall, while the oldest daughter, Mary C. Selden was a local school teacher.²⁹ Robert C. Selden, Jr. died on August 8, 1904, leaving all of his property to his wife, Georgianna.³⁰ She died before the will was proven in court and in December 1904 two of the children, R. Colgate Selden and Charlotte Selden Rhodes, bought their siblings' interest in the property.³¹ In 1905 Colgate Selden and Charlotte Rhodes divided the 418.75-acre property.³² Charlotte Rhodes and her husband, Eugene P. Rhodes, Sheriff, settled at Point Lookout and made minor additions or improvements to outbuildings in 1911.³³ Between 1920 and 1922, Charlotte Rhodes and Colgate Selden sold their Point Lookout tracts to neighbors (and relatives by marriage), James and John B. Sinclair.³⁴ The size of the Point Lookout house lot remained the same at 149 acres and in 1938 Indie L. Sinclair, wife of James Sinclair, added the south side porch and front portico stoop to the standing house.³⁵ Heirs of James Sinclair owned Point Lookout for several decades, making improvements to the house in 1950, when the building value rose from \$500 to \$2,750, reflecting the addition of the bathroom and kitchen and the construction of enclosures for the rear and side porches.³⁶ In 1955, the Sinclair family moved back to their nearby home, Bay Cottage.³⁷ In 1956, some of the improvements were removed and in 1962 the property was re-assessed at \$4,470 for the land and \$1,500 for the buildings.³⁸ In 1963 the Sinclairs sold the house and 270.7 acres to the Mobjack Land Company.³⁹ The Mobjack Land Company converted the old Selden estate division line to Mobjack Road and subdivided the land. The current owners, Dr. Henry Asbury Cathey and Judith Melvin Cathey, purchased Point Lookout in October 1975, and also purchased the surrounding parcel in 1979 for a total acreage of 20.55 acres.⁴⁰ The Catheys encouraged archaeological investigations by GCAP in 1977 and 1978 and worked for several years to restore the house, refinishing some of the late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century woodwork and uncovering some of the original frame assembly in the process.⁴¹

Military Contributions

Multiple generations of the Robins family contributed their wealth and local influence to the military defense of Gloucester County. Although Gloucester County is most recognized for its direct involvement in the strategic and defensive victory of the Battle of the Hook during the Siege of Yorktown, the County supplied militia and materials to the Revolutionary war effort throughout the duration of the military conflict. The Robins family of Point Lookout contributed significantly in both militia service and material assistance. Thomas Robins, Sr. of Robins Neck

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

enlisted as a private in Captain Andrew Russell's 5th Virginia Regiment, commanded by Col. Charles Scott, and his name appears on Gloucester County pay rolls from September 28, 1776, to February 28, 1777.⁴² Robins' father and brother, William Robins, Sr. and William Robins, Jr. of Robins Neck, were both identified in Public Service Claims as "Patriots" for their support of the American cause, which would have included the donation of food, supplies, and money to the militia units stationed to defend the abundant coastline and waterways of tidewater Gloucester County.⁴³ The reason for Thomas Robins, Sr.'s militia service lasting less than one year is illuminated by documentation that Robins Point in Gloucester County was a public salt works operation. Prior to the war, Virginia had relied on Great Britain and its Caribbean colonies for imported salt, but blocked trade with England required the colonial government to authorize the establishment of public salt works to evaporate seawater by sunlight. The salt works operation at Robins Neck was one of only four finished salt works in 1777 and became the most successful by 1778, holding up to 1,800 gallons of water and producing 800 bushels of salt.⁴⁴ Only after the American Revolution did Thomas Robins, Sr. build the standing house (VDHR File Number 036-0064), ca. 1786-1806, at Point Lookout.

The Robins family continued to make important military contributions of personal service and material goods in the War of 1812, when Point Lookout owner Thomas Robins, Jr. served as a private and rations collector in the Gloucester County militia. British maritime raids were concentrated on the Ware River in 1814, requiring the stationing of artillery at Robins Neck.⁴⁵ Earthworks located in marshland on a neighboring property to the northwest, labeled "Howell's Works" and "Flood Gates" on a 1819 plat, may have been built by Thomas Robins, Jr. during the War of 1812 to contain and evaporate water for salt making, or may have been surviving evaporation facilities built and used by his father, grandfather, and uncles to make salt during the Revolutionary War. British maritime blockades during the War of 1812 made this cottage industry necessary once more.⁴⁶ The historic salt works are not contiguous with the Point Lookout Archaeological Site property boundaries and their location has also not been precisely identified by archaeological survey. The salt works operation is not included in this nomination as a contributing resource, but the involvement of Thomas Robins, Sr. and Thomas Robins, Jr. with the salt works and personal militia service during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 is important to understanding the context of the Point Lookout Archaeological Site due to its close association with both men and their wartime activities.

Criterion D: Archaeology

The archaeologically identified architectural features, intact stratified deposits, and artifact assemblages at the Point Lookout Archaeological Site (44GL0030), and its secondary site 44GL0029, establish evidence of John Robins' ca. 1642 settlement on the land and his family's long-term residence on the site until 1859. The diverse ceramic assemblage and intact brick and lime rubble layers on the site confirm the original presence of a substantial seventeenth- to eighteenth-century house, located on the same knoll as the standing house that was built ca. 1786-1806 by Thomas Robins, Sr., along with evidence for long-term, intensive occupation and use of the domestic landscape by generations of the Robins family and enslaved African-Americans. The 1977-1978 GCAP survey records document the high level of integrity of the

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

archaeological deposits present at the site, and the preservation of the field notes, photographs, and assemblage adds to the resource's integrity and interpretive potential.⁴⁷ Curation and cataloging of the Point Lookout artifact collection in 1999 confirmed the integrity and research potential of the cultural material and of the site, which has been investigated with a combination of surface survey, shovel test pits, and test unit excavation, but which has not been completely excavated.⁴⁸

Of the twenty recorded domestic sites with seventeenth-century components in Gloucester County, only eleven have been investigated beyond the reconnaissance survey level, including the Point Lookout Archaeological Site.⁴⁹ The only sites with comparable ceramic assemblages and periods of occupation are the sites at Point Lookout (44GL0030 and 44GL0029), Jenkins Neck (44GL0320), Peebles (44GL0407), the Morris Philips property (44GL0415), Quest End (44GL0103), Werowocomoco (44GL0032), and within the Shelly Archaeological District (44GL0144 and 44GL0318). Point Lookout (44GL0030) separates itself from these other eight sites in the length of its occupation, ca. 1642 to 1859, and its direct association with the residence of an early colonist and major landowner, John Robins. The contemporary sites of the Shelly Archaeological District are likely associated with tenant farmers and owners who did not occupy the property until the late seventeenth century. The Peebles site, Morris Philips site, and the seventeenth-century English occupation at Werowocomoco represent middling planters, while the Jenkins Neck site represents a relatively short-term occupation in the mid-seventeenth century rather than the continuous occupation through the nineteenth century represented by Point Lookout. Quest End may share similarities with Point Lookout as an owner-occupied property for an aspiring seventeenth- and eighteenth-century family, but it was not settled as early as the Robins site, underwent a substantial decline towards the end of the eighteenth century, and does not possess the same depth of historical documentation. Other significant contemporary sites with similar assemblages, such as those found in the Gloucester Point Archaeological District (44GL0040), are associated with tobacco warehouses, mercantile operations, or distinctly town-centered occupations rather than the type of early rural plantation enterprise represented by John Robins' Point Lookout.

John Robins and the Point Lookout Archaeological Site are representative of a group of aspiring early planters who were able to patent favorable lands and establish perpetual multi-generational plantations that created the family wealth, political structure, historic geography, and cultural identities that are associated with Colonial Virginia, and that made Gloucester County the colony's most populous and wealthy colony at the dawn of the eighteenth century. This site also witnessed the introduction of African slaves into the property's labor force. These slaves helped transform this early settlement into a thriving tobacco plantation, tending crops, living on the site, constructing buildings, and making possible much of the Robins family's economic success. The limited nature of archaeological investigation has not yet identified specific slave quarters or slave-related deposits, and documentary references are sparse until the 1780s, but enslaved African Americans contributed greatly to the cultural landscape of the site, and to the material culture left behind. Investigating their role in the development and evolution of the Robins property is an important avenue for future research. Site 44GL0030, the primary resource, contains domestic artifact assemblages and intact, stratified cultural deposits relating to the ca. 1642 John Robins house, the later Robins family residence, and members of the Robins family

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Gloucester, VA

County and State

and enslaved laborers, throughout the eighteenth and early to mid-nineteenth centuries. It also contains artifacts relating to subsequent owners after 1859 (the end of the period of significance). Secondary site 44GL0029 likewise contains intact stratified deposits and material culture concentrations from the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, specifically materials associated with plantation outbuildings such as the standing smokehouse. The archaeological site and secondary resources at Point Lookout have the potential to yield significant information about the evolution of the Robins family plantation home and landscape in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries.

Criterion D: Exploration/Settlement

Closely related to the Point Lookout Archaeological Site's significance in the area of Archaeology, under Criterion D, is the property's local significance in the area of Exploration/Settlement under Criterion D. The loss of Gloucester County's historical records in a courthouse fire in 1820 and in the Civil War in 1865 makes archaeological resources crucial in understanding and interpreting the colonial and antebellum people, events, and themes in the county's history, specifically in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Surviving documents record John Robins' settlement at Point Lookout occurring sometime soon after 12 October 1642, when he received a patent for 2,000 acres of land on what would be later named the Robins Neck peninsula for his early occupation of the area.⁵⁰ Robins re-patented the land in 1645 and divided the property between his three sons in 1655, but few additional documents survive to describe his house, accomplishments, or his family's use of the land.⁵¹

Comparative research on the seventeenth century in Gloucester County shows that Robins was one of only twenty-five patent-holders during the earliest period of settlement, 1639-1650, and the Point Lookout Archaeological Site is one of the only archaeological sites representative of settlement during this period, particularly for representing the establishment of large rural plantations with independent access to waterways, as opposed to small, landlocked tenant farms or mercantile communities near ports or crossroads.⁵² The ceramic assemblage, along with intact brick and rubble layers, suggest that Robins established a somewhat large or affluent home plantation, and this possibility is further supported by a later 1760 plat which pictures a central passage house with interior end chimneys at the precise location of site 44GL0030, the center of a large 917-acre property then owned by William Robins, the great-grandson of John Robins.⁵³ The site, locally important for its early date, its duration of continuous occupation, and the socio-economic prominence of its owners, in the absence of a complete documentary record, has the potential to explain how John Robins and his descendants utilized their colonial settlement of a favorable tidewater peninsula to establish a multi-generational plantation that created wealth for the family and contributed to the political structure and historic geography of colonial Gloucester County.

ENDNOTES

¹ Gloucester County Archaeological Project [GCAP], Point Lookout Archaeological Survey papers (Gloucester Historical Committee, Gloucester, Virginia): Douglas Sanford, Field Notes (30 March – 7 April 1977); Betsy Foard, Field Notes (5 July – 3 August 1978).

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

² *Ibid.*; GCAP, Point Lookout Archaeological Survey papers: Holly S. Luton, Point Lookout Archaeological Summary, 2 May 1979.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*: Douglas Sanford, Field Notes (30 March – 7 April 1977).

⁵ *Ibid.*: Betsy Foard, Field Notes (5 July – 3 August 1978).

⁶ *Ibid.*: Holly S. Luton, Point Lookout Archaeological Summary, 2 May 1979.

⁷ *Ibid.*: David A. Brown, Curator of Gloucester County Archaeological Project, to Tex (Henry) and Judy Cathey, owners of Point Lookout (letter), 24 July 1999.

⁸ Judith Cathey, "Point Lookout," Draft Preliminary Information Form (Judith Cathey: White Marsh, Virginia).

⁹ Robins, "Old Home Gains New Life," p. 3; VDHR Site Inventory files: Caroline B. Sinclair, "Point Lookout"; Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

¹⁰ Virginia Land Office, "John Robins, 2000 acres lying in Mockjack Baye beginning at the mouth of a Sedgely Creeke," 12 October 1642, *Land Office Patents No. 1, 1623-1643 (v. 1 & 2)*, p. 833 (Reel 1), Library of Virginia, Richmond.

¹¹ Virginia Land Office, "John Robins, 2000 acres lying in Mockjack Bay, Beginning at the mouth of a Sedgely Creeke, and extending itself down Ware River unto ye mouth of it," 24 September 1645, *Patents No. 2, 1643-1651*, p. 43 (Reel 2); David A. Brown, "...To the Place Where It Began." *Seventeenth-century Settlement Patterns in Abingdon Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia: History, GIS, and Archaeology* (MA Thesis, University of Massachusetts: Boston, 2001), pp. 41, 48.

¹² Kim Robins, "Old Home Gains New Life in Careful Renovation," *Gloucester Mathews News-Gazette*, 5 March 1992, p. C1; Caroline B. Sinclair, "Point Lookout Built in 1643," *Gloucester Gazette Journal*, April 1956.

¹³ Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester County Papers* (College of William and Mary: Williamsburg, Virginia): John Throckmorton, "Survey of William Robins property, 9-10 June 1760."

¹⁴ Virginia Department of Historic Resources [VDHR], Architectural and Archaeological Site Inventory files (Richmond, Virginia): Paul Buchanan, Architectural Field Notes for Point Lookout, Gloucester County, 13 April 1974.

¹⁵ Gloucester County Land Tax Books; *Gloucester County Surveyor's Book (1733-1806)* (Gloucester County Circuit Court Clerk's Office: Gloucester, Virginia).

¹⁶ Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities [APVA], *Epitaphs of Gloucester and Mathews Counties in Tidewater Virginia Through 1865* (Virginia State Library Publications No. 9, Virginia State Library: Richmond, Virginia, 1959), pp. 52-53; Roger Prior Cox, "Tombstone Inscriptions of Robins Family" (Survey Report), Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory (Library of Virginia: Richmond, 1937).

¹⁷ Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

¹⁸ Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester County Papers*: "Robins et al, administrators of Rachel C. Robins v. Thomas Robins, administrator of Thomas Robins et al," Williamsburg Superior Court of Chancery, 29 June 1820; US Census Bureau, 1810 Population Schedule. The changing number of enslaved workers is recorded in personal property tax records as follows: Thomas Robins: 1787, 8 slaves; 1800, 6 slaves; 1807, 14 slaves; Nancy Robins: 1822, 10 slaves; 1826, approximately 9 slaves; 1830, 11 slaves; 1836, 12 slaves; 1840 12; 1845, 15 slaves; 1850, 16 slaves; 1855, 15 slaves; 1859, 15 slaves.

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

¹⁹ Gloucester County Personal Property Tax Books. The 1819 estate division shows Watlington to the immediate west and outside of the main Point Lookout property.

²⁰ Gloucester County Land Tax Books. There is not clear architectural evidence of major additions or renovations to the house between 1815 and 1820. The apparent increase in building value from \$500 to \$1,312.50 may represent the addition of other buildings and structures.

²¹ Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester County Papers*: Jesse White, Survey of Thomas Robins Estate, 9-11 September 1819, in "Robins et al. v. Thomas Robins," Williamsburg Superior Court of Chancery, 29 June 1820.

²² Gloucester County Land Tax Books; APVA, *Epitaphs*, pp. 52-53.

²³ Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ US Census Bureau, 1870 Population Schedule; VDHR Site Inventory files: Marilyn A. Zeigler, "Point Lookout, Gloucester County, Virginia," 1975; VDHR Site Inventory files: Caroline B. Sinclair, "Point Lookout" (Survey Report), 1978.

²⁶ US Census Bureau, 1880 Population Schedule.

²⁷ Gloucester County Deed Book 12, p. 128.

²⁸ Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

²⁹ US Census Bureau, 1900 Population Schedule.

³⁰ Gloucester County Will Book B, p. 34.

³¹ Gloucester County Deed Book 28, p. 210.

³² Gloucester County Deed Book 28, p. 214.

³³ Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

³⁴ Gloucester County Deed Book 44, p. 232; Gloucester County Deed Book 46, p. 255.

³⁵ Robins, "Old Home Gains New Life," p. 3; VDHR Site Inventory files: Caroline B. Sinclair, "Point Lookout."

³⁶ Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

³⁷ "Oldest House in Gloucester – Point Lookout," *Glo-Quips*, Vol. 3, 18 September 1962.

³⁸ Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

³⁹ Gloucester County Deed Book 129, p. 246.

⁴⁰ Gloucester County Deed Book 162, p. 340; Gloucester County Deed Book 163, p. 78; Gloucester County Deed Book 179, p. 285; Gloucester County Deed Book 224, p. 710; Gloucester County Deed Book 310, p. 629; Robins, "Old Home Gains New Life," p. 1.

⁴¹ Robins, "Old Home Gains New Life," pp. 4-6.

⁴² Jane B. Goodsell, "Revolutionary War Roster, Gloucester County, VA,"

<http://vagenweb.org/gloucester/roster-r.html>, published 2001, accessed July 2011; Robert Wayne Robins, "Robins Family Landholdings in Robins' Neck, Gloucester County, Virginia," *The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 12, No. 2 (Apr.-Jun. 1968), pp. 67-68, 72.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ John E. Selby, *The Revolution in Virginia, 1775-1783* (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and University of Virginia Press: Williamsburg and Charlottesville, Virginia, 2007), pp. 165-166. Selby refers to the following sources: Pendleton to R. H. Lee, April 20, 1776, in David John Mays, ed., *The Letters and Papers of Edmund Pendleton, 1734-1803* (University Press of Virginia: Charlottesville, 1967), p. 164; Hening's *Statutes*, IX, p. 123; R. H. Lee to Nicholas, April 30, 1776, and R. H. Lee to Henry, August 30, 1776, in James Curtis Ballagh, ed., *Letters of R. H. Lee*, Vol. I (Macmillan Co.: New York, 1911), pp. 184, 213-214; Richard Parker to R.H.

Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

Lee, December 5, 1776, and T. L. Lee to R. H. Lee, Sept. 9, 1777, in *Southern Literary Messenger*, Vol. 25, No. 5 (November 1858), pp. 326-327; *Journal of the House of Delegates of . . . Virginia; Begun . . . the Fifth Day of October . . . 1778* (Thomas W. White: Richmond, 1827), p. 122; *Journal of the House of Delegates, May 1779* (Thomas W. White: Richmond, 1827), pp. 65, 67; *Virginia Gazette* (Dixon and Nicolson) (Williamsburg), July 10 and November 27, 1779; Robert Walter Coakley, "Virginia Commerce During the American Revolution" (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Virginia: Charlottesville, 1949), p. 316. The November 26, 1779 *Virginia Gazette* advertisement was for the rental of "the great salt works in Robins's neck, Gloucester County," following their discontinuation as a public facility in mid-1779. The location of the salt works somewhere at Point Lookout can be verified by petitions to the Virginia House of Delegates from the Tompkins family, who owned the neighboring property to the west of Point Lookout, and who petitioned for damages on their land due to the operation of the salt works nearby. See *Journal of the House of Delegates*, October 1778 (Thomas W. White: Richmond, 1827), p. 26. John and Bennett Tompkins' petition was rejected on November 6, 1778, *Journal of the House of Delegates*, p. 47. William Robins' 1760 plat labels his neighbor to the west as "Mrs. Tomkies" - Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester County Papers*: John Throckmorton, "Survey of William Robins property, 9-10 June 1760."

⁴⁵ Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester County Papers*, Military Papers: Regimental Orders and Rosters, 1813-1814.

⁴⁶ Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester County Papers*: Jesse White, Survey of Thomas Robins Estate, 9-11 September 1819; Claude O. Lanciano, Jr., *Captain John Sinclair of Virginia* (Lands End Books: Gloucester, Virginia, 1973), p. 269.

⁴⁷ GCAP, Point Lookout Archaeological Survey papers.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*: David A. Brown, Letter to Tex (Henry) and Judy Cathey.

⁴⁹ VDHR Site Inventory files.

⁵⁰ Virginia Land Office, "John Robins, 2000 acres," 12 October 1642, *Land Office Patents No. 1, 1623-1643* (v. 1 & 2), p. 833.

⁵¹ Robins, "Old Home Gains New Life"; Sinclair, "Point Lookout Built in 1643."

⁵² Brown, "...To the Place Where It Began," pp. 41, 48.

⁵³ Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester County Papers*: John Throckmorton, "Survey of William Robins property, 9-10 June 1760."

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

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Point Lookout Archaeological Site

Gloucester, VA

Name of Property

County and State

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Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

Other

Name of repository: Gloucester County Archaeological Project, Gloucester Historical Committee, Gloucester, VA; Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #036-0064, 44GL0029, 44GL0030

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 20.55

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.3525682 | Longitude: -76.4382959 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.3501097 | Longitude: -76.4373950 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.3493058 | Longitude: -76.4408559 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.3510780 | Longitude: -76.4422364 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

The boundaries encompass the entire current parcel, as shown on the 2012 Gloucester County Tax Parcel map, Parcel 41-2H. The property is bounded on all sides by adjacent property owners, with drained marsh to the north, woods to the east, the Middle Peninsula Environmental Bank property to the south, and the partially wooded approach of Mobjack Road to the west. See attached USGS Location Map and tax parcel map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundaries include the contributing archaeological sites 44GL0029 and 44GL0030 and the contributing smokehouse building, as well as the non-contributing historic dwelling and pool. The nominated acreage is entirely within the historic boundaries associated with John Robins' original 1642 property and the Robins family's continued ownership through 1859. The contributing resources occupy a knoll surrounded on all sides by lower marshland and woodland, and the nominated acreage represents the centerpiece of a larger historic property. The boundaries on all sides of the site are established by the limit of cultural materials and features and by lower elevation. The highest artifact densities were documented at the center of the property and likely extend into the marshy and wooded areas to the north, east, and west, following the contours of the landscape. *The east boundary is established by the road cut for Mobjack Road and the historic edge of the woods. The southern boundary is established by the adjacent disturbed acreage associated with the Middle Peninsula Environmental Bank property. The western and northern boundaries are set by the lower grade and edge of marshland.*

11. Form Prepared By

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date: 09/13/2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

The following information corresponds to all photos:

Name of Property: Point Lookout Archaeological Site
City or Vicinity: White Marsh
County: Gloucester County
State: VA
Location of Original Digital Files: 1759 Tyndall Point Lane, Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Photo Specific Information:

Name of Photographer: David Brown
Date of Photographs: July 2011
Photo #1 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0001)
North yard, part of site 44GL0030, view of sites 44GL0030, 44GL0029, smokehouse, and pool, camera facing northwest.

Name of Photographer: Stephen Fonzo
Date of Photographs: March 2012
Photo #2 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0002)
Southeast yard, part of site 44GL0030, east and south elevations of house (036-0064), camera facing northwest.

Name of Photographer: Stephen Fonzo
Date of Photographs: March 2012
Photo #3 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0003)

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

Northwest yard, part of site 44GL0029, view of garden and south and west elevations of smokehouse, camera facing northeast.

Name of Photographer: Gloucester County Archaeological Project
Date of Photographs: September 1978
Photo #4 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0004)
Site 44GL0030, Test Unit A, west profile, camera facing west.

Name of Photographer: Gloucester County Archaeological Project
Date of Photographs: September 1978
Photo #5 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0005)
Decorated Bartmann stoneware jug neck and rim, excavated from Site 44GL0030, Test Unit A.

Name of Photographer: Gloucester County Archaeological Project
Date of Photographs: September 1978
Photo #6 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0006)
Site 44GL0030, Test Units A, D, E, and F, camera facing south.

Name of Photographer: Gloucester County Archaeological Project
Date of Photographs: September 1978
Photo #7 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0007)
Site 44GL0030, view of Test Units A, D, E, and F and surroundings in southwest yard, camera facing southeast.

Name of Photographer: Gloucester County Archaeological Project
Date of Photographs: September 1978
Photo #8 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0008)
Site 44GL0030, plan view of Test Unit E, photograph oriented with southeast at the top.

Name of Photographer: Stephen Fonzo
Date of Photographs: March 2012
Photo #9 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0009)
Smokehouse, south facade, camera facing north.

Name of Photographer: Stephen Fonzo
Date of Photographs: March 2012
Photo #10 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0010)
House (036-0064), west facade, camera facing east.

Name of Photographer: Stephen Fonzo
Date of Photographs: March 2012
Photo #11 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0011)
House (036-0064), north elevation, camera facing south.

Point Lookout Archaeological Site
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

Name of Photographer: Stephen Fonzo

Date of Photographs: March 2012

Photo #12 (VA_GloucesterCounty_PointLookoutArchaeologicalSite_0012)

House (036-0064), south elevation, camera facing north.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.