

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 PropertyHistoric name: GasconyOther names/site number: 066-5054

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 356 Gascony LaneCity or town: Kilmarnock State: VA County: NorthumberlandNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

9/10/23

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

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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:) _____

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 ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>14</u>	<u>5</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

DOMESTIC/Secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/Agricultural Outbuilding

FUNERARY/Grave/burial

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/Agricultural Outbuilding

FUNERARY/Grave/burial

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Colonial Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT/ Ranch

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, ASPHALT SHINGLE, GLASS

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

Gascony is a rural 221-acre property located in Northumberland County, Virginia, where the Chesapeake Bay meets the mouth of Mill Creek. The boundary of the historic property is roughly bound by Mill Creek, Gascony Cove, and Guarding Point Creek, and encompasses a large portion of the property documented on an 1858-plat. An allée of Magnolia and Tulip Poplar trees lines the road leading to the primary dwelling. The ca. 1856, west-facing Greek Revival-style house is a two-story, single-pile dwelling with a side-gable roof on a raised brick foundation. Ca 1940, the dwelling's front porch was altered to have a pedimented roof. The dwelling's original main block is now flanked by one-story, side gable wings on the north and south elevations, added ca. 1965 and designed in the Colonial Revival style. A two-story addition was attached to the rear of the house facing Gascony Cove ca. 2008 and features features a two-story, front gable porch that shelters a round-arched central entry flanked by round-arched sash. In addition to the main house, 19 resources, of which 14 are contributing and 5 non-contributing, are located on the property. These additional resources primarily consist of agricultural outbuildings, along with a secondary dwelling now used as a guest house. As an evolved nineteenth-century estate revitalized during the twentieth century, Gascony a high degree of the seven aspects of integrity.

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Setting:

Gascony is located on a rural property that is agricultural in character and setting. The property boundary largely follows the shoreline of Mill Creek, Gascony Cove, and Guarding Point Creek. Large, active agricultural fields surround the historic resources, which are generally located close to the shoreline. The historic resources described below are located in four distinct areas of the property. The Gascony House area is a well-landscaped, residential setting with large, mature trees, over 50-year-old Boxwood hedges, and other vegetation surrounding the house. A brick walk flanked by hedges leads to the primary entrance, while a long alley of hedges that meets a circular point is located in the rear yard. Trees and bushes line the primary residential area creating a visual buffer from the rest of the property. The Guest House area is primarily open space overlooking Gascony Cove, again buffered by mature trees on the north and south. The Southeast Area is primarily open agricultural fields with a riprap shoreline. Mature trees line the north shoreline. The Agricultural Outbuildings Area is located on the north end of the property on a small point that overlooks Mill Creek. The area consists of open grass fields surrounded by large mature trees.

Gascony House Area

A. Gascony Main House, ca. 1856, ca. 1940, ca. 1965, ca. 2008, Contributing Building

Gascony's primary dwelling is an example of an evolved nineteenth century residence, which features elements of its original Greek Revival design, as well as Colonial Revival elements added in the mid-twentieth century. The residence was constructed in four phases: Period 1 includes the original I-house form constructed in 1856; Period II includes the 1940 porch alteration; Period III occurred in 1965 with the addition of two one-story wings; and Period IV includes the most recent 2008 rear additions. As shown below, these additions have created a complex series of flat and gable roofs.

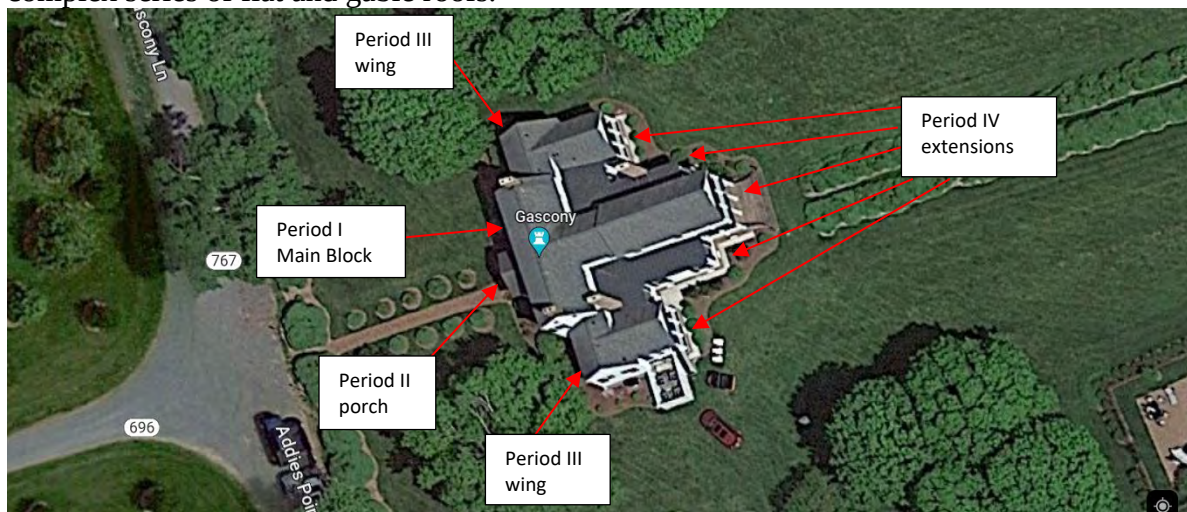


Figure 1. Aerial View of Main Dwelling (Google Maps)

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The original, ca. 1856 core of Gascony is a two-story, five-bay, wood-frame, weatherboard-sided Greek Revival-style I-house with a side-gable roof and a raised brick foundation. The west façade features symmetrically spaced six-over-six wood sash windows, operable louvered shutters, and a dentilled cornice. Ca. 1940 (Period II), the two-story, flat-roofed front porch was replaced with a modestly sized, one-story, gable-front porch. A door that once opened to the previous porch's second level was converted to a window. The current porch is supported by square posts and pilasters and has Chippendale railing.

The interior of Period I has a central passage, single pile plan. The central stair has a round newel post, wooden treads and square balusters. Ca. 2008, a mirror image of the staircase was included in the rear, Period IV, two-story addition, and carefully matched the original woodwork. On the north side of the central passage is a parlor, which retains the most distinctive Greek Revival molding profiles and woodwork in the house. The Greek key pattern on the mantel and door surround, as well as the paneled molding on the doors is patterned after Plate XLIX in Asher Benjamin's *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* (1830). On the south side of the center passage is the dining room. The crown molding features an egg and dart profile. On the south wall are two fireplaces each with a simple, low-profile mantle.

The second floor of Period I features a center passage flanked by two bedrooms. In the northwest corner of the center passage is an enclosed box stair that leads to the finished attic. Most of the crown molding and woodwork was replaced during the Period IV renovations, though the doors and hardware appear to be historic. Below the window in the hall remains the bottom of the former double door that opened onto the flat porch prior to the ca. 1940 alterations.

Ca. 1965, the Tribble family added the Period III one-story wings to either side of the Period I core. Each Colonial Revival-style wing has a side gable roof, wood siding, and a raised brick foundation. The exterior finishes, inspired by the Colonial Revival movement of the twentieth century that has been immensely popular in Virginia up to the present day, match the exterior of the ca. 1856 main block. The design of the wings was based on Thomas Gaskins V's description of his house after it was damaged by the British during the American Revolution. Gaskins owned Gascony at this time. A tenet of the Colonial Revival movement was to base architectural designs on historical sources, including narrative descriptions as well as drawings.¹ The north wing houses the primary bedroom, and has a Period IV, rear extension that includes a flat-roofed bathroom addition and gable-roofed porch. Similarly, the south wing has a rear extension that is similar in design to the north wing's extension and houses a large kitchen. The upper level of each wing has a finished attic used for additional bedrooms and storage. The wings feature wood floors and woodwork consistent with the rest of the house.

Ca. 2008, the Period IV addition was constructed onto the rear of the house, consisting primarily of a two-story, rear addition to the Period I core, as well as the aforementioned, smaller, one-story, rear additions to the Period II wings. The ca. 2008 central addition has a gable roof and

¹Description of house as cited in: Thomas A. Wolf, "Gascony: The First Two Centuries (ca.1649-1856)," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society* 55 (Tappahannock, VA: Northumberland County Historical Society, 2018), 16.

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rests on a brick foundation. Its east-facing elevation features a full-height porch with a pedimented gable, square posts, and railings that match those on the front porch. The first story features three, large, round-arched windows, flanked by two sash windows with operable louvered shutters. The Period IV, one-story porches on the rear of each wing match the materials and design of the central porch, and each of the pedimented gables has an oval-shaped fixed window. On the first floor of the central addition's interior is a large open living room, with ornate molding and trim; the space is flooded with natural light due to the numerous large windows. The fireplace has a stone surround and a decorative wood mantel.

B. South Outbuilding, ca. 1856, Contributing Building

The south outbuilding, referred to as the schoolhouse, is located to the south of the main house. The one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame vernacular building has a side-gable roof covered in composite shingles, and a central brick chimney. The exterior is clad in weatherboard siding. Vertical boards visibly separate the two-room building on the exterior. After 1998, the roof of the southern portion of the building, previously a one-story addition to the northern portion, was raised to meet the ridgeline of the northern portion.² While the northern side of the building rests on a continuous brick foundation, the southern portion of the building rests on a brick pier foundation that has been infilled with concrete block. The northern portion of the building features a single-entrance flanked by two small four-over-four windows with operable louvered shutters on the west elevation. The east elevation features a large, modern multi-light arched window, and three smaller four-over-four windows. All windows appear to be modern.

On the interior, the building is divided into two-rooms on the first floor, separated by a large interior chimney. Both rooms feature wood floors, finished walls and ceilings, and modern woodwork and trim. In the northwest corner a narrow box stair, with wide-plank treads leads to a finished attic space.

C. Library, ca. 2022, Non-contributing Building

The library, constructed in 2022, is a one-story wood-frame building, with a side-gable roof located to the north of the main house. The exterior chimney on the north elevation was a remnant of the former historic kitchen building. It has been stabilized and reconstructed as part of the library construction.

D. Pool, ca. 2015, Non-contributing Structure

A concrete in-ground pool is located to the southeast of the main house. The pool is surrounded by an iron gate and screened by hedges.

² Aerial Photograph, Vintage Aerial, 1998.

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Guest House Area

E. Guest House, ca. 1950, Contributing Building

The Guest House is a one-story, rectangular Ranch-style dwelling with a side-gable roof covered in composite shingles. The building is clad in modern vinyl siding, and features vinyl replacement window sash. A small gable-roof porch addition was added to the building between 2015 and 2020. The overall form of the building is intact.

F. Equipment Shed, ca. 1950, Contributing Building

The equipment shed is a rectangular wood frame building that has wood siding on three sides and is open on the north elevation. It has a standing seam metal shed roof.

Agricultural Outbuildings Area

G. Manure Shed, ca. 1942, Contributing Building

This is a rectangular building with a front gable roof and concrete foundation. The exterior walls are open on three sides, and is clad with wood clapboards on the rear (east) elevation. The roof is covered in standing seam metal.

H. Horse Barn, ca. 1942, Contributing Building

The horse barn is a two-and-a-half story rectangular building with a Dutch gambrel roof covered in standing seam metal. All four walls are clad in wood siding and rest on a concrete foundation. The façade (west elevation) features wooden large track doors and two hay loft openings. Small six-light wood windows flank the barn entrance. The south elevation features regularly spaced six-light wood windows flanking a central wood-panel door. The rear (east) elevation also features a central wooden track door opening and two wood windows.

I. Corn Crib, ca. 1942, Contributing Structure

The one-story, rectangular wood frame building has a standing seam metal shed roof with exposed rafters and rests on a concrete foundation. The exterior walls are clad in vertical wood slats that have narrow openings between each board. A central wood panel door is located on the south elevation.

J. Chicken Coop, ca. 1942, Contributing Building

The chicken coop is a rectangular wood-frame and sided building with a concrete foundation and a standing seam metal, saltbox style roof. The south elevation features several sash and sliding

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windows, as well as square chicken access holes running along the bottom of the wall. A pivot window and wood panel door are located on the east elevation.

K. Concrete Well, ca. 1950, Contributing Structure

The well structure is composed of concrete block and has a removable gable-shaped cover.

L. Equipment Shed, ca. 1942, Contributing Building

This rectangular, one-story wood frame and sided building has a side-gable roof covered in standing seam metal. The east elevation has two large track door openings for moving large agricultural equipment in and out of the storage facility.

M. Granary, ca. 1942, Contributing Building

The granary is a rectangular, wood frame and sided building with a standing seam metal gable roof and a concrete foundation. Small, square clerestory windows line the side elevations.

N. Shed, ca. 1942, Contributing Building

The small rectangular building has a standing seam metal gable roof and rests on a concrete foundation. The exterior walls are clad in wood siding and wood sash windows on are located on all elevations. A wooden door is located on the east elevation.

O. Milking Barn, ca. 1942, Contributing Building

This rectangular wood frame building has a gable roof covered in standing seam metal and rests on a concrete foundation. The building features six-light wood windows, and wood doors.

P. North Dock, ca. 1982, Non-contributing Structure

The north dock is located to the east of the agricultural outbuildings along the bank of Mill Creek. The dock is composed of wood decking and pilings.

Southeast Area

Q. East Shed, ca. 1960, Contributing Building

This building is a small rectangular metal shed with a gable roof. It is in poor condition.

R. East Dock, ca. 2011, Non-contributing Structure

This dock has wood decking and pilings and stretches out into Gascony Cove.

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S. Hannah Hull Gravestone, ca. 1833, Non-contributing Object

The gravestone marks the burial site of Hannah Hull, a friend and likely a relative of the Gaskin family who died during a visit in 1833 (Figure 1). The stone reads:

“Sacred

To the memory of Hannah A. Hull daughter of Thomas G and Mary Hull born near the city of Richmond in Virginia 31 July 1810 died at Gascony in the county of Northumberland 22 August 1833 while on a visit to her friends”



Figure 2: Tombstone of Hannah A. Hull who died while at Gascony in 1833.

Integrity Analysis

Gascony retains a high degree of the seven aspects of integrity. The property retains its historic **location** and rural **setting** on a large 221-acre property surrounded by an undisturbed agricultural landscape. The striking views of the shoreline and waterways that lead out to the Chesapeake Bay also remain unchanged. Gascony’s Main House retains its historic **design** features that are characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival-style residence. Although additions have been made to the building, they are subordinate to the historic core and easily identifiable through the use of contemporary compatible design and construction. The property also retains a

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high degree of historic **materials** on both the Main House as well as the property's numerous outbuildings and agricultural structures. Common exterior alterations are primarily limited to secondary buildings, and are generally limited to the modern replacement vinyl windows or vinyl cladding. Gascony also retains a high degree of **workmanship** associated with its historic design and materials. For example, historic bricks and woodwork on the main house are representative of nineteenth century craftsmanship and building practices. Additionally, the property's agricultural buildings from the early to mid-twentieth century demonstrate the evolution of traditional craftsmanship and the introduction of modern materials to rural estates. Finally, the property retains the **feeling** of an early nineteenth century plantation and twentieth century agricultural estate, as well as its **association** with its areas and period of significance.

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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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1856 – ca. 1965

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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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.)

Under Criterion A, Gascony is locally significant in the area of Agriculture as an example of a nineteenth-century plantation that continues to be used as an agricultural estate. The property is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its ca.1856 Greek Revival-style main house with mid-twentieth century Colonial Revival additions, and its collection of vernacular outbuildings. The period of significance for Gascony begins in 1856, when the main house and associated outbuildings were estimated to have been constructed, and ends ca. 1965 with completion of the Colonial Revival side wings on the main house. The design of the wings was based on Thomas Gaskins V's description of his house after it was damaged by the British during the American Revolution. Gaskins owned Gascony at this time. A tenet of the Colonial Revival movement was to base architectural designs on historical sources, including narrative descriptions as well as drawings. Future research and archaeological investigations also have the potential to yield additional information about the property. This includes information relating to Gascony's African American history; the locations of historic dwellings, outbuildings, and cemeteries (of the Gaskins family and/or African American); and the location of the original Gascony dwelling's foundations.

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

The lands that would come to make up the Gascony estate were first settled by the Gaskins family in the mid-seventeenth century and included 250 acres.³ The family continued their ownership through the next century, and after the death of Thomas Gaskins IV in 1737, Thomas Gaskins V inherited at least a portion of the family lands. Thomas Gaskins V was a prominent member of the Northumberland County community, serving as a vestryman in the Wicomico Parish from 1744 to 1785, as a "gentleman justice" of the Northumberland County Court, the county sheriff in 1761, and as one of two Northumberland County delegates elected to the House of Burgesses from 1765 to 1768.⁴

During the Revolutionary War, Thomas Gaskins V was responsible for recruiting men for the militia, as well as for the "material, equipment, and general welfare of the County of Northumberland."⁵ With its prominent location just off the Chesapeake Bay, Gascony fell victim to British privateers in April 1781. In a letter to Virginia's then-governor, Thomas Jefferson, reporting the draft numbers for Northumberland County, Gaskins recounted that they had "great

³ Thomas A. Wolf, "Gascony: The First Two Centuries (ca.1649-1856)," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society* 55 (Tappahannock, VA: Northumberland County Historical Society, 2018), 11-12.

⁴ Wolf, "Gascony," 14; Richard Bush, "Pillar of Liberty's Temple: The Life and Times of Col. Thomas Gaskins," RootsWeb (undated). Accessed August 1, 2022.
<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~bush22031/genealogy/GaskinsContents.html>.

⁵ Edward Chase Earle, Jr., "'Gascony' and the Gaskins (Gascoigne) Family," *Northern Neck Historical Magazine* 1, no. 1 (December 1951), 319.

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Destruction in and about our place By the Barbarous and Cruel Pirating Vessels By Stealing our Negroes &c. I had my Dwelling house Burnt to ashes on Wednesday morning with Considerable Loss..."⁶ Although it is unclear exactly when this dwelling house had been constructed, it is clear from Gaskins' 1783 description of the house to a Special Court session in Northumberland County to assess losses inflicted by the British that it was a sizable dwelling. Gaskins reported that his mansion house on Mill Creek was "46 feet Long & 20 feet wide [deep] with an addition of a Room at each End 20 feet square[,] one of those unfinished the lower floor & chimney wanting[,] the House fronted 86 feet with 2 good Cellars under the main House."⁷

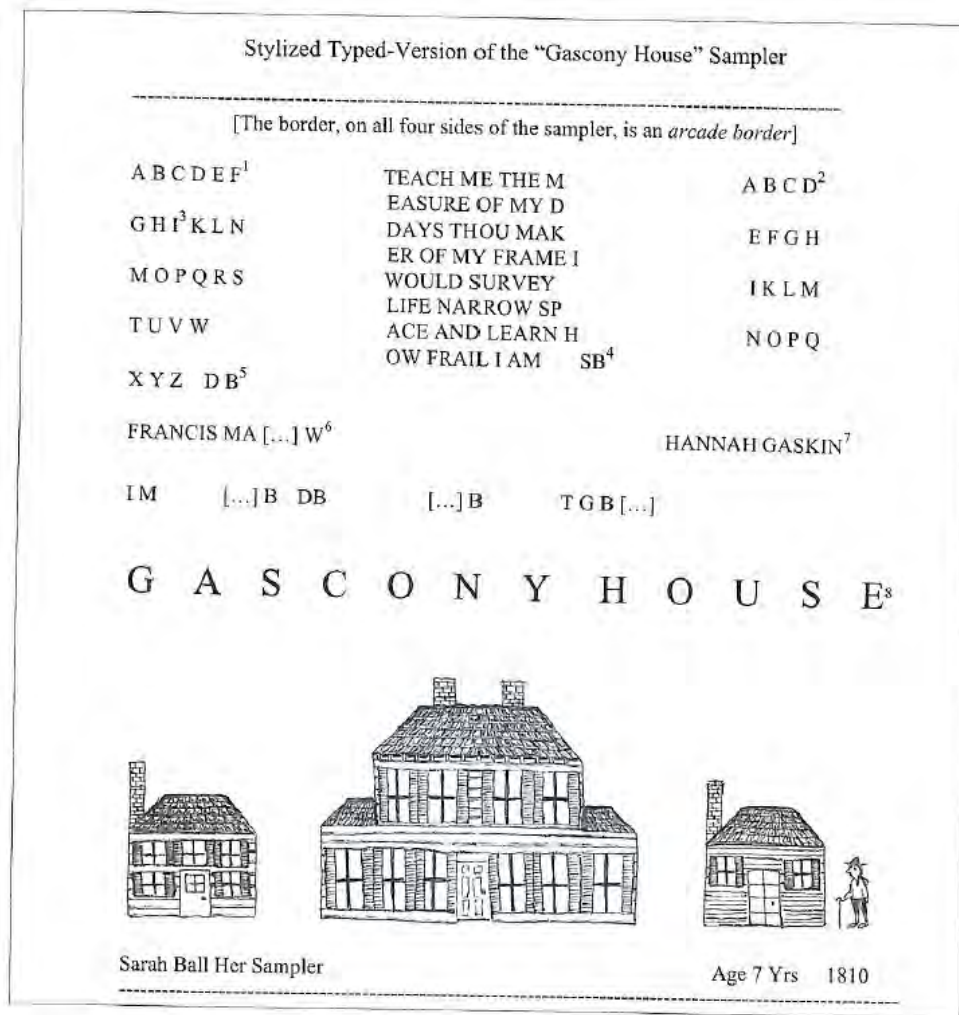


Figure 3: Stylized Typed-Version of the 1810 "Gascony House" Sampler stitched by Sarah Ball. Thomas A. Wolf, "Gascony: The First Two Centuries (ca.1649-ca.1856)."

⁶ "To Thomas Jefferson from Thomas Gaskins, 13 April 1781," *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-05-02-0537>.

⁷ Wolf, "Gascony," 16.

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Based on Gaskins' reports, it may be presumed that the original dwelling was completely destroyed; however, a deed from Thomas Gaskins V to his son Thomas Gaskins VII implies that the house had been replaced by 1784. In this deed, Thomas Gaskins V deeded his property to his son, but reserved half of the property, 275 acres, for his natural life, "including the mansion house and outhouses at present occupied and possessed by the sd. Thomas Gaskins Senr."⁸ The mansion house is mentioned again in the April 1800 will of Thomas Gaskins VI to Thomas Gaskins VII, and is also the first documented reference to the property as "Gascony."⁹ Reference to the "Gascony House" is seen again a decade later in an 1810 sampler stitched by Sarah Ball (age seven), who is believed to be the granddaughter of Thomas Gaskins VI and Hannah (Hull) Gaskins (Figure 2).¹⁰ In addition to referencing the dwelling as "Gascony," the sampler also includes the first depiction of the dwelling and two outbuildings.

In 1821, Northumberland County tax assessors began to include the value of buildings in the overall value of a property, and according to research completed by historian Thomas A. Wolf, Gascony was recorded as including 238 acres with buildings worth \$1,500.¹¹ This was reported as being one of the most highly valued buildings in the county at the time; only about one percent of buildings in the county were assigned values as high as Gascony's.¹² Additionally, an 1822 "Map of Gascony Land" depicts a two-story dwelling with wings on the property that is similar to the image depicted in the 1810 sampler.¹³ However, by 1840, the property had decreased to 96 acres and had no buildings of value attributed to it, implying that the dwelling house was either in extreme disrepair or had been removed completely.¹⁴

Beginning in 1841 through 1849, John Hopkins Harding, Sr., purchased seven properties surrounding and including Gascony for a total of approximately 444 acres.¹⁵ This included the central 108 acres of Gascony that Harding purchased from William M. and Susan Gaskins and Hannah H. Ball in 1846.¹⁶ The 108 acres purchased by Harding included approximately 25 acres of "swamp," likely referring to the shoreline and wetlands that wrap Gascony Cove. Since tax records indicate the land transferred consisted of 96 acres, it seems likely that part of this

⁸ Wolf, "Gascony," 17.

⁹ Wolf, "Gascony," 17.

¹⁰ This Hannah Hull Gaskins is not the Hannah A. Hull buried on the Gascony property; however, it is likely that Hannah A. Hull was a distant relative of Hannah Hull Gaskins. Wolf, "Gascony," 19.

¹¹ Early land tax records were unavailable at the Northumberland County Circuit Court at the time of research. However, land tax records for Gascony from 1821-1857 were transcribed in Thomas A. Wolf's report "The 'Gascony House' Sampler (A 'Working' background paper)," unpublished (2016) and included in his published report "Gascony: The First Two Centuries (ca.1649-1856)," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society* 55 (Tappahannock, VA: Northumberland County Historical Society, 2018). These land tax record transcriptions were utilized in the development of this historic narrative. Additionally, the authors recognize that due to various land divisions and combinations over time, there may be discrepancies in the tracing of parcels through land tax records.

¹² Wolf, "Gascony," 22.

¹³ "Map of Gascony Lands," (1822). Courtesy of Paul Tribble, Jr.

¹⁴ Wolf, "Gacony," 23.

¹⁵ Thomas A. Wolf, "The 'Gascony House' Sampler (A 'Working' background paper)," unpublished (2016), 18.

¹⁶ Deed of Sale from William M. and Susan S. Gaskins and Hannah H. Ball to John H. Harding (December 13, 1846), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, Virginia, Deed Book A, page 35.

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“swamp” was not included as taxable land. In 1846, the year the property changed hands, the county assessment indicated that there were no substantial improvements on the property. The deed of transfer, however, mentioned a “dwelling and outhouses.” Based on the available documentation, it is unknown exactly which or how many buildings may have been on the property when Harding purchased Gascony. By 1857, however, the value of the building improvements jumped to \$3,000. This increase in improvement value in the tax records suggests that the current Gascony dwelling was constructed by 1856.¹⁷ In 1858, Robert W. Eubank’s plat of Gascony depicts the then-406-acre property with a two-story dwelling that looks much like the Period I core of the current Gascony residence. The dwelling illustrated on this plat did not have the side wings that had been depicted on the 1810 sampler and 1822 plat. Therefore, it is likely that Harding constructed the Period I core of the existing Gascony house after purchasing the property from the Gaskins family.¹⁸ According to oral tradition passed down from Adeline Harding Blackwell and her son, William Harding Blackwell, the new Gascony residence was constructed on the foundations of Thomas Gaskins V’s original dwelling. Although current research has not been able to confirm this oral tradition, future archaeological and documentary investigation may yield information relating to the location of the original Gascony dwelling.¹⁹

The 1858 plat of Gascony also indicates that Lucius T. Harding was already residing on the property, though the estate did not formally transfer to him until 1868.²⁰ In his petition for pardon following the Civil War, John H. Harding, Sr., explained that “some years before the commencement of the late troubles he put his children as they married in possession of portions of his property, but gave them no deed.”²¹ Lucius T. Harding married Adaline Hudnall in December 1852, so it is likely that after this time Lucius and Adaline were informally given the Gascony estate upon which they constructed, possibly with assistance from John H. Harding, the present Gascony dwelling.²²

During Lucius T. Harding’s ownership, Gascony continued to operate as a farm, with the 1868 deed noting that the property transferred along with “all houses, orchards, woods, shores and every other thing belonging to the farm called Gascony.”²³ During the eighteenth century, Gascony’s lands had been used to cultivate tobacco, like many of Virginia’s tidewater counties.²⁴ Crop rotation was not widely practiced during the eighteenth century, leading to rapid soil exhaustion. While some tidewater planters opted to move farther west to continue farming

¹⁷ Wolf, “Gascony,” 27; Wolf, “The “Gascony House” Sampler,” 19.

¹⁸ “Plat of Gascony,” Robert W. Eubank (1858). Courtesy of Paul S. Tribble, Sr.

¹⁹ This oral tradition also noted that a grave was found near the foundations when the excavations for the present dwelling were dug. Earle, “Gascony,” 321.

²⁰ Deed of Sale from John H. Harding to Lucius T. Harding (June 7, 1868), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book D, page 233.

²¹ W. Preston Haynie, “Petitions for Pardon,” *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society* 35 (1998), 79.

²² Richard W. Covington, “Northumberland County Home Guard Organization and Membership,” *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society* vol. 25 (2019), 102.

²³ Deed of Sale from John H. Harding to Lucius T. Harding.

²⁴ Richard Bush, “Pillar of Liberty’s Temple: The Life and Times of Col. Thomas Gaskins,” RootsWeb (undated). Accessed August 1, 2022. <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~bush22031/genealogy/GaskinsContents.html>.

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tobaccos, others stayed in place and modified their agricultural practices to include corn, cotton, and wheat, all of which were cash crops. Labor-intensive agricultural operations on large properties prior to the Civil War often were profitable only through use of an enslaved workforce composed of African Americans. Although the full extent of crops grown at Gascony during the nineteenth century is unknown, the 1870 U.S. Non-Population Schedule indicates that Lucius T. Harding produced at least wheat and corn in the Wicomico District of Northumberland County.²⁵ The production of these crops aligns with trends in Northumberland County, as most plantations grew corn, wheat, and cotton to supply the increasing demand from domestic markets.²⁶ Many also supplemented income through water-related activities such as oystering and fishing. Gascony's location on the Mill Creek shore at the mouth of the Great Wicomico River and the Chesapeake Bay makes it more likely that seafood was an important source of food for the property owners and their enslaved laborers, and may have also served as a source of income.

The various eighteenth and nineteenth century owners of Gascony used enslaved laborers to operate the large plantation. While little is known about the individual enslaved African Americans who lived and worked at Gascony, these persons were responsible for cultivating the agricultural fields as well as maintaining all of the domestic functions required by a wealthy, socially prominent White family. African American watermen, free and enslaved, were heavily involved in harvesting oysters and fishing in Northumberland County, and it is possible that the enslaved individuals at Gascony developed such skills as well. The 1726 will of Thomas Gaskins III left thirteen enslaved individuals to his wife and grandchildren, and left "all the Residue of [his] negroes" to his son, Thomas Gaskins IV.²⁷ Additionally, Thomas Gaskins V's 1781 account of the destruction of his property by British troops included the loss of some of his enslaved African Americans.²⁸ An 1817 appraisal of Thomas Gaskins VII's estate included 21 enslaved individuals.²⁹ Later, in 1860, Lucius T. Harding owned six enslaved African Americans, and rented the labor of 10 additional enslaved African Americans from other Northern Neck enslavers.³⁰

Emancipation freed the individuals previously enslaved at Gascony; however, African Americans continued to live and work on the property through the Reconstruction Era. As was relatively common during the years immediately following the end of the Civil War, several

²⁵ "Lucius T. Harding," *U.S. Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880*, Ancestry.com [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010). Accessed March 8, 2023. https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2506239:1276?_phsrc=XKp171&_phstart=successSource&gsfn=lucius+t&gsln=harding&ml_rpos=1&queryId=f52f5962a3983f17c817549d9818fe2e.

²⁶ David Jett, "A Shifting Symbol: Clover Dale and the Greek Revival Style in the Northern Neck of Virginia," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society* vol. 22, (1986), 13.

²⁷ Wolf, "Gascony," 13.

²⁸ Wolf, "The "Gascony House" Sampler," 10.

²⁹ Wolf, "Gascony," 21.

³⁰ During the 1850s and early 1860s, approximately five percent of enslaved people were rented out to other land owners. In slave schedules for this period, the enslaver was listed as "owner" while the person renting the enslaved individual was listed as "employer." "Lucius T. Harding," *1860 U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules*. Ancestry.com. Accessed September 12, 2022; "Searching Slave Schedules," Ancestry Support, Ancestry.com. Accessed September 13, 2022. https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Searching-Slave-Schedules?language=en_US.

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freedmen remained living on the property and signed paid-labor contracts with Lucius T. Harding. In 1866, Fred Wiggins entered into a one-year contract with Harding to work as a “servant for \$5.00 per month with board and clothes.” Jerry Moore had a ten-month agreement with Harding to “cultivate land on shares.”³¹ In 1870, Cyrus Carter, a 20-year-old farm laborer and Martha Carter, a 14-year-old domestic servant, were recorded as part of the Harding household.³² The rural character of the county and the remoteness of Gascony likely created challenges for freedmen looking to establish new lives and livelihoods. It is evident, however, based on census records, that some of those formerly enslaved individuals at Gascony left the property and may have settled in freedmen’s communities that were established after the war on whatever lands the emancipated people could purchase.

Others, like Jerry Moore, however, entered into sharecropping agreements and stayed on land owned by their former enslaver. In a sharecropping agreement, the freedman leased land which they cultivated in exchange for a share of the cash crop.³³ African American sharecroppers often rented land from their former enslavers or nearby plantation owners. Sharecropping was promoted as providing an opportunity for independence wherein sharecroppers could save their portions of the crop profits to purchase their own equipment and lands; however, it was not uncommon for sharecroppers to become indebted to landowners due to predatory contract terms, interest rates, and unpredictable harvests.³⁴ The details of the sharecropping agreement between Moore and Harding are unknown, though additional research into Moore may reveal the duration and impact of the arrangement.

Despite Gascony’s lengthy history of agricultural use since the colonial era, no pre-Civil War agricultural outbuildings survive on the property. The lack of such resources may be due to the repeated subdivisions of the property’s extensive lands during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Agricultural outbuildings that had been used during the antebellum period may have been located on parcels that were separated from the main dwelling’s parcel and, therefore, their locations and fates are unknown. Following Lucius T. Harding’s death ca. 1895, Gascony was divided up amongst his heirs: S. Addie Blackwell, Lena F. Diller, Lucius A. Harding, Ida Downing, and Mary Christopher. Lot 3 of the Gascony tract, which included the main house, went to Lucius T. Harding’s son, Lucius A. Harding.³⁵ Lucius T. Harding’s passing marked a period of decline for Gascony as the agricultural lands were subdivided among his heirs. The

³¹ “L.T. Harding,” *U.S. Freedmen’s Bureau Records, 1865-1878* (February 1866). Ancestry.com. Accessed September 12, 2022.

³² “Lucius T. Harding,” *1870 U.S. Federal Census*. Ancestry.com. Accessed August 31, 2022.

³³ Kathryn A. Miller, Historic and Architectural Resources, “Survey of Architectural Resources in Westmoreland County, Virginia,” prepared for The Virginia Department of Historic Resources and The County of Westmoreland (June 2001), 24. Accessed September 22, 2022. https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/SpecialCollections/WM-039_Survey_AH_Resources_Westmoreland_Co_2001_HAAR_report.pdf; “Sharecropping,” Virginia Studies: Thinking Historically About Virginia. Accessed September 22, 2022. <https://virginiastudies.org/content/sharecropping>.

³⁴ PBS, “Sharecropping,” Slavery by Another Name. Accessed September 22, 2022. <https://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/sharecropping/>; “Sharecroppers,” American Battlefield Trust. Accessed September 22, 2022. <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/sharecroppers>.

³⁵ Wolf, “The “Gascony House” Sampler,” 19; “Waring Harding, an infant, by Addie H. Blackwell, his next friend, VS. Rose I. Harding et als,” Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book AA, Page 240.

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smaller land holdings may account for the apparent lack of substantial investments in the farming operation during the early twentieth century. Lucius A. Harding owned this portion of the Gascony tract until his death in 1915, and in 1918 the lands were once again divided.³⁶ Six acres, including the “mansion house and other buildings except the old kitchen,”³⁷ were left to Lucius A. Harding’s widow, Rose Ida Harding, while the rest of the lands, approximately 44 acres, were divided amongst their children.³⁸ Although deeds included few descriptions of the house and outbuildings on the property, a ca. 1900 photograph depicts the main house with multiple outbuildings enclosed by a picket fence.³⁹ These 50 acres, including the main house and “old kitchen” remained divided but owned by the Harding family until 1949, when William A. Rudasill purchased the separate tracts.⁴⁰ In 1953, Rudasill began selling off portions of his Gascony holdings, eventually selling 16.94 acres, including the main house, to Paul S. Tribble Sr. in 1956.⁴¹

Another tract of Lucius T. Harding’s Gascony lands, Lot 4, went to Ida Downing in the 1899 land division. This tract included approximately 85 acres along Barn Cove on Mill Creek and was located to the north of the main house lot.⁴² This lot once again stayed in the Harding family until 1930, with the death of Ida L. Downing. At this time, it was sold to Samuel Fuller Kent who owned it until 1941, when it was sold to Charles Herbert Smith of Chicago, Illinois.⁴³ Little is currently known about Charles Herbert Smith; however, Smith constructed new barns and outbuildings in 1942 on Gascony Lot 4 that were valued at \$3,000 the following year, and the 85 acres continued to serve agricultural purposes.⁴⁴ Acquisition of rich but neglected farmland by wealthy northerners was a frequent occurrence in Virginia starting in the early twentieth century. Such investments often included renovating antebellum mansions and adding modern heating, plumbing, and electrical systems for the first time. These new owners also had the means to invest in more diversified agricultural practices than had existed in Virginia prior to 1900. The rapid mechanization of agriculture in tidewater Virginia starting during the 1910s came about due to widespread adoption of tractors, threshers, cultivators, and other gasoline-powered

³⁶ “Waring Harding, an infant, by Addie H. Blackwell, his next friend, VS. Rose I. Harding et als.”

³⁷ In this deed, the “old kitchen” is described as being located north of the mansion house. It is likely that the term “old kitchen” is used here to describe the former function of the building, rather than the age of the building. By the early twentieth century, it is likely that the kitchen function had been relocated to the main house.

³⁸ “Waring Harding, an infant, by Addie H. Blackwell, his next friend, VS. Rose I. Harding et als.”

³⁹ “Gascony Ca. 1900”, Photograph, Courtesy of Paul S. Tribble, Jr.

⁴⁰ Deed of Sale from Annie Grey Harding Spicer and Bernard F. Spicer to William A. Rudasill (April 7, 1949), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book 87, Page 559; Deed of Sale from L. Waring Harding and Janet Willis Harding to William A. Rudasill (April 7, 1949), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book 87, Page 558; Deed of Sale from Ammon G. Dunton, Special Commissioner, to William A. Rudasill (April 13, 1949), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book 87, Page 556.

⁴¹ Deed of Sale from William A. Rudasill and Blanche C. Rudasill to Paul S. Tribble (January 24, 1956), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book 104, Page 93.

⁴² Deed Book M, Page 638 (November 20, 1899), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA.

⁴³ Deed of Sale from Thomas E. Downing (Widower), Mary Addie Downing (Single), and Virginia Lee Downing (Single) to Samuel Fuller Kent (January 22, 1930), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book II, Page 403; Deed of Sale from Samuel Fuller Kent to Charles Herbert Smith (February 6, 1941), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book RR, Page 42.

⁴⁴ “Charles Herbert Smith,” 1942 *Land Book*, Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA.

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equipment, along with adoption of petroleum-based fertilizers, employment of migrant farm laborers, and the necessity to find new cash crops due to insect infestations that often ruined cotton and tobacco crops before they could be taken to markets.

During the 1950s, Paul S. Tribble, Sr., began his efforts to reconsolidate the historic extent of Gascony's lands. Two of the lots purchased by Tribble included Lot 4 on Mill Creek in 1951 and Lot 3 with the main house in 1956.⁴⁵ Capitalizing on the new agricultural outbuildings Smith had built in 1942, the Tribbles continued to operate Gascony as an agricultural estate. During their ownership, the Tribbles also began making improvements to the property for their family's use. Ca. 1965, Paul S. Tribble, Sr., added two Colonial Revival-style wings to the 1856 dwelling, with their design based on images and descriptions of the Gaskins' Revolutionary War-era dwelling. Amongst the property purchased by the Tribbles to recombine Gascony's historic lands was a tract with a Ranch-style secondary dwelling and a pole-barn equipment shed, both of which were constructed during the mid-twentieth century.⁴⁶ He opted to retain both buildings, with the secondary dwelling becoming a guest house and the equipment shed remaining in use to the present day.

Paul S. Tribble, Jr., inherited Gascony from his parents and continues to own the property today. Much like Gascony's other owners, Paul S. Tribble, Jr. has served in prominent roles in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Tribble's many accomplishments include serving as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Virginia's Eastern District from 1972-1974 and Commonwealth's Attorney for Essex County from 1974-1976. In 1976, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and was reelected in 1978 and 1980. He was then elected to the U.S. Senate, serving from 1983 to 1989, and in 1989 also served as a member of the United Nations U.S. Delegation. Tribble later became the fifth president of Christopher Newport University, a position that he held until his retirement in 2022.

Due to the continued agricultural usages of Gascony's expansive holdings, which has resulted in minimal disturbance of the soils beneath the plow zone, the property has high potential to yield archaeological information relating to its long history as an agricultural estate. Future field investigations and professional testing of the property's extensive acreage may lead to the identification of additional associated historic resources, such as the location of earlier dwellings, locations of dwellings for enslaved people, agricultural outbuildings, and possibly a cemetery for the enslaved African Americans who lived and worked here over many decades and/ or a cemetery for the Gaskins family.

⁴⁵ Deed of Sale from Charles Herbert Smith to Paul S. Tribble (December 5, 1951), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book 91, Page 338; Deed of Sale from William A. Rudasill and Blanche C. Rudasill to Paul S. Tribble (January 24, 1956), Northumberland County Circuit Court, Heathsville, VA, Deed Book 104, Page 93.

⁴⁶ According to the current property owners, this Guest House was constructed during the 1950s, during the early years of the Hess family ownership. Based on historic aerials, the house and pole barn were both present by 1967; however, more specific construction dates have yet to be identified.

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Criterion A: Agriculture

Gascony is locally significant under Criterion A for Agriculture for its association with broad patterns of agricultural history of Northumberland County and the Northern Neck from the nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Gascony included agricultural uses as early as the mid-to-late 1700s under Thomas Gaskins V when the property was used to grow tobacco.⁴⁷ The full extent of crops grown at Gascony during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is unknown at the time of this writing; however, in 1870 Lucius T. Harding was recorded as producing wheat and corn within the Wicomico District of Northumberland County, which aligns with nineteenth century county trends in wheat, corn, and cotton production to supply increasing domestic demand.⁴⁸

As with many other farms in the region, agriculture at Gascony was able to persist through the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries due to evolving farming methods and technologies. Increased mechanization and use of commercial fertilizers during the early-to-mid twentieth century significantly contributed to the successful agricultural economy in Virginia's tidewater region. The trend picked up speed during World War I and, after World War II, industrialization of farming practices had occurred across Virginia, as well as the United States (and the world), in what became known as the Green Revolution. Increased production of wheat, corn, and rice, in particular, spurred widespread societal changes as high-yielding crops could feed growing populations and reduce perennial hunger. Development of effective pesticides also allowed farmers to defeat pests that had decimated other cash crops, such as the boll weevil (which infested cotton in fields) and tobacco beetles (which attacked tobacco as it cured in sheds). Although large commercial farms experienced the highest rates of return by investing in such technology, small farms also came to rely on them. At Gascony, the ca.1942 equipment shed and granary, manure shed, horse barn, corn crib, chicken coop, well, shed, and milking barn demonstrate this transition in techniques and technologies on small family farms, and are associated with these significant trends in agricultural history.

Like many farms, the financial success of Gascony during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was supported by the labor of African Americans, enslaved and freed. From the eighteenth century through the mid-nineteenth century, numerous enslaved persons provided agricultural labor and cultivated the crops that contributed to the financial prosperity of the Gaskins and Harding families and the economy of the county. Following emancipation, freed African Americans continued to live and work at Gascony through the Reconstruction Era, engaging in practices such as sharecropping and leasing land which contributed to the continued profitability of the property. Although many of Gascony's previously enslaved individuals appear to have left the property, likely settling in freedmen's communities established after the Civil War, some individuals, such as Jerry Moore, entered into sharecropping agreements with their former enslaver. Through sharecropping, farmers like Moore leased land to cultivate in

⁴⁷ Bush, "Pillar of Liberty's Temple."

⁴⁸ "Lucius T. Harding," *U.S. Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880*; Jett, "A Shifting Symbol," 13.

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exchange for a share of the crop, and it was common for formerly enslaved African American sharecroppers to rent land from their former enslavers or nearby plantation owners. Sharecropping was promoted as providing an opportunity for independence, and while it did for some, it was also not uncommon for sharecroppers to become indebted to landowners due to predatory contract terms, interest rates, and unpredictable harvests.⁴⁹ While the records for African American sharecroppers and farmers of Gascony trail off near the latter part of the nineteenth century, it is likely that some continued to serve as field hands and wage farmers into the twentieth century. It was also not uncommon for African American farmers in Northumberland County to work seasonally in agricultural production on lands other than their own and as watermen in seafood industries such as oystering and Menhaden fisheries located in the Northern Neck.⁵⁰ This seasonal work, coupled with migration patterns in and around the county, may account for at least some of the gaps in documentation for the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

During the 1950s, the Tribble family began to reconsolidate agricultural land historically associated with Gascony that had previously been subdivided. In more recent decades, this consolidation has returned almost the entirety of the historic land holding to single ownership by the Tribbles. The consolidation of these historically associated lands has preserved the property's rural agricultural setting and a cultural landscape associated with nearly 300 years of continuous farming.

Criterion C: Architecture

Gascony is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival style plantation house with mid-twentieth century Colonial Revival additions, as well as its vernacular outbuildings.

Gascony's main house is an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival dwelling that evolved during the mid-twentieth century with several Colonial Revival additions. The dwelling was built ca.1856 by Lucius T. Harding, possibly with his father John H. Harding, Sr., of the prominent Northumberland County Harding family. Although not solely responsible for bringing the Greek Revival style to the Northern Neck, the Harding family constructed a significant number of impressive examples of Greek Revival dwellings throughout Northumberland County that were reflective of their status as successful planters. Most of these dwellings included some form of double porch or portico, which inspired many other iterations of two-tiered porticos in new construction and stylistic updates throughout Northumberland County.⁵¹ While it was not a true, two-tiered, temple-front Greek Revival portico like other

⁴⁹ PBS, "Sharecropping."

⁵⁰ The history of Black watermen in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed, which includes Northumberland County, is described in the recent Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Historic Resources Associated with African American Watermen of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay."

⁵¹ Dana Hall, "Architectural Influences in Northumberland County: The Double Portico of Palladio Interpreted by the Hardings and Other Families In the Greek Revival Style," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society* vol. 56 (2020), 25.

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Harding residences such as Clover Dale (ca.1850, DHR ID 066-0001) or Wheatland (ca.1850, DHR ID 066-0013, NRHP Listed 1988), Gascony incorporated a simplified two-story porch into its design. As evidenced by the remaining second story door-turned-window, and a ca.1900 photograph of the dwelling, Gascony included a Doric, flat roofed porch topped with balusters that could be accessed by the second story door. An invoice from John A. Pierce to Lucius T. Harding from June 5, 1856 also indicates that Pierce constructed Doric porches on both the front and rear of the house, which was also a common element of Harding residences and Greek Revival dwellings of the period, as well as a closet and porch on the end of the building and front steps.⁵²

Other typical features of the rural Greek Revival style seen in this dwelling include its symmetrical façade, side gable roof, wood frame design, wood weatherboard siding, and wood framed windows. One of the most impressive Greek Revival features of Gascony is the interior woodwork and moldings found in the northern first floor parlor. This room retains excellent intact examples of character-defining Greek Revival detailing that was common in pattern books such as Asher Benjamin's *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* (1830). Elements from Asher Benjamin's pattern book that are present in the Gascony parlor include a mantel with Greek key pattern on the entablature and pilasters with a modified Greek key pattern, door frames with entablatures and pilasters with a modified Greek key pattern, and doors and keyed arches with layered tiered patterns as seen on Benjamin's Plate XLIX (see Figures 3-5 below).

During the mid-1960s, the Tribble family updated the dwelling to include a Colonial Revival aesthetic through the addition of two wings. The Colonial Revival style was used ubiquitously in Virginia throughout the twentieth century, and was repeated in many variations. The style has held a prominent place in Virginia's architectural history since the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, which featured both monumental classical buildings as well as replicas of famous colonial-era buildings such as Mount Vernon (arguably the birthplace of the American historic preservation movement during the mid-19th century). The Colonial Williamsburg restoration project begun in the 1920s further fueled Virginians' appreciation of the Colonial Revival style. Voluminous research and field investigations provided ample documentation of original colonial architecture, which contributed both to the academic correctness of high-style Colonial Revival buildings as well as rapid and stripped-down applications on houses, schools, churches, and government buildings throughout the Commonwealth. The design of Gascony's Period III wing additions, which were based upon Thomas Gaskins V's description of the dwelling destroyed by British troops in 1781, is representative of this trend to reconstruct or replicate in design examples of colonial and early American architecture. By the mid-twentieth century, the front porch had already been replaced with a one-story, pedimented, Colonial Revival porch. Later changes to the dwelling included replacement of interior trim with modern Colonial Revival trim work, and the construction of a large rear addition by Paul S. Tribble, Jr., ca. 2008.

⁵² At this time, it is unknown if John A. Pierce was the builder for the entire ca.1856 Gascony dwelling, or if he was brought in for the invoiced services. "Receipt between John A. Pierce and Lucius T. Harding, June 5, 1856," reproduced in Henry Montegut Hull, "Building the House: Materials, Construction, and Community in Virginia's Lancaster and Northumberland Counties, 1830-1860," Masters Thesis, University of Virginia (2017), 114.

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Figure 4: First floor parlor mantel with Greek key pattern on the entablature and pilasters with a modified Greek key pattern.

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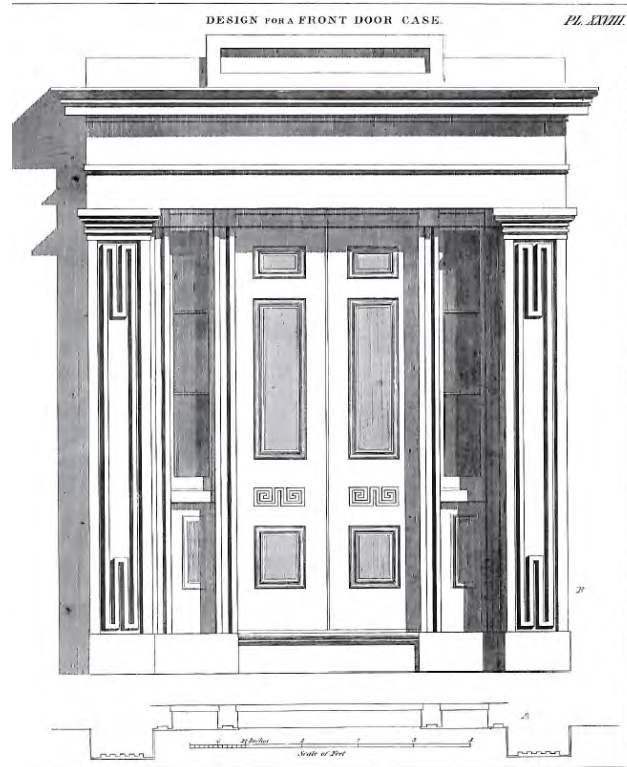


Figure 5: First floor parlor doorway featuring pilasters with a modified Greek key pattern (left), as seen on Plate XXVIII in Asher Benjamin's pattern book *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* (1830) (right).

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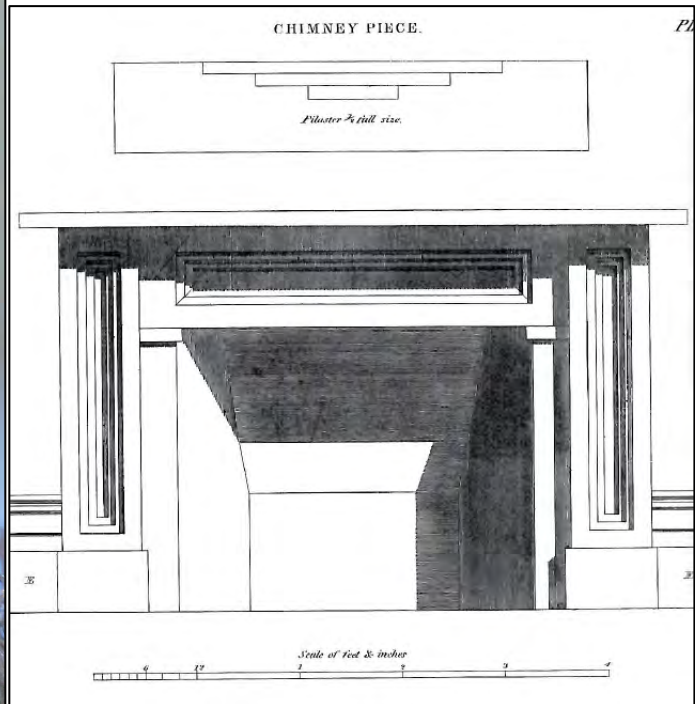


Figure 6: First floor parlor doorway featuring pilasters with a modified Greek key pattern and keyed arch with layered tiered patterns (left). The pilasters are modeled after Plate XXVIII (Figure 4), and the layered tiered patterns are modeled after Plate XLIX in Asher Benjamin's pattern book *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* (1830) (right).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Northumberland County Deed Book D.

Northumberland County Deed Book II.

Northumberland County Deed Book M.

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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 # _____

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_____ 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
☒ Other

Name of repository: Northumberland County Circuit Court; Northumberland County
Historical Society; Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #066-5054

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 221

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: 37.793280 | Longitude: -76.329837 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.792810 | Longitude: -76.314845 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.780770 | Longitude: -76.315438 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.781240 | Longitude: -76.330427 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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

Gascony
Name of Property

Northumberland Co., VA
County and State

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

Gascony encompasses 221 acres in Northumberland County, Virginia, with acreage that historically was associated with the property during the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The property is roughly bounded by Mill Creek on the north, Gascony Cove to the east, Guarding Point Creek to the south, and Balls Neck Road (Route 605) to the west. A discontinuous section of the property is included within the historic boundary to retain the property's historic setting and association with the Chesapeake Bay and the local seafood industry. The land beneath the Bay's waters are owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Location Map and Sketch Maps.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Gascony boundary encompasses the primary historic core of the property as depicted by an 1858 plat map of Gascony, excluding the areas west of the modern Balls Neck Road (Route 605). Areas of the 1858 boundary that have been excluded from the historic property boundary have separate property owners and do not include known historic resources associated with the historic Gascony estate. The discontinuous section of the property is included within the historic boundary to retain the property's historic setting and association with the Chesapeake Bay and the local seafood industry. Along with Gascony's historic setting, all known extant associated historic resources are included within the historic boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kayla Halberg and Ashlen Stump
organization: Commonwealth Preservation Group
street & number: 536 W 35th Street
city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23508
e-mail: admin@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com
telephone: 757-923-1900
date: March 4, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Gascony
Name of Property

Northumberland Co., VA
County and State

- **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

Name of Property: Gascony (066-5054)

City or Vicinity: Kilmarnock

County: Northumberland

State: VA

Photographer: Ashlen Stump (AS) and Kayla Halberg (KH)

Date Photographed: August 1, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo Number of 42	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
1	Gascony Main House façade (west elevation).	E	08/01/22	AS
2	Gascony Main House north elevation.	S	08/01/22	AS
3	Gascony Main House east (rear) elevation.	W	08/01/22	AS
4	Gascony Main House south elevation.	N	08/01/22	AS
5	View of drive leading to the Gascony Main House.	E	08/01/22	AS
6	Brick columns flanking the Gascony driveway's entry.	SW	08/01/22	AS
7	View of hedgerows behind the Gascony Main House facing Gascony Cove.	E	08/01/22	AS
8	View of the rear side of Gascony across Gascony Cove.	SW	08/01/22	AS
9	Gascony Main House: Basement steps.	E	08/01/22	AS
10	Gascony Main House: Basement room 1.	NE	08/01/22	AS

Gascony

Name of Property

Northumberland Co., VA

County and State

Photo Number of 42	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
11	Gascony Main House: Basement kitchenette.	NW	08/01/22	AS
12	Gascony Main House: First floor entry door.	W	08/01/22	AS
13	Gascony Main House: First floor entry hall.	E	08/01/22	AS
14	Gascony Main House: First floor entry hall door detail.	N	08/01/22	AS
15	Gascony Main House: First floor original stair detail.	S	08/01/22	AS
16	Gascony Main House: First floor north parlor showing historic Greek Revival detailing.	N	08/01/22	AS
17	Gascony Main House: First floor north parlor fireplace detail.	N	08/01/22	AS
18	Gascony Main House: First floor north parlor door detail.	N	08/01/22	AS
19	Gascony Main House: First floor north parlor door detail.	S	08/01/22	AS
20	Gascony Main House: First floor bedroom (north wing).	NE	08/01/22	AS
21	Gascony Main House: First floor dining room.	SE	08/01/22	AS
22	Gascony Main House: First floor kitchen (south wing).	SW	08/01/22	AS
23	Gascony Main House: First floor living room (rear addition).	SE	08/01/22	AS
24	Gascony Main House: Second floor stair landing and hall.	W	08/01/22	AS
25	Gascony Main House: Second floor historic porch door opening converted into a window.	W	08/01/22	AS
26	Gascony Main House: Second floor stair landing and hall.	E	08/01/22	AS
27	Gascony Main House: Second floor typical bedroom.	SE	08/01/22	AS
28	Gascony Main House: Second floor sitting room (rear addition).	NE	08/01/22	AS
29	Gascony Main House: Second floor stairway to attic.	N	08/01/22	AS
30	Gascony Main House: Attic room.	S	08/01/22	AS
31	South Outbuilding west elevation.	E	08/01/22	AS
32	Library northeast oblique.	SW	08/01/22	AS
33	Modern Pool.	E	08/01/22	AS
34	Milking Barn and Shed northwest obliques.	SE	08/01/22	KH
35	Chicken Coop southeast oblique.	NW	08/01/22	KH
36	Corn Crib southwest oblique and Horse Barn west elevation.	E	08/01/22	KH
37	Granary northeast oblique with Equipment Shed in the background.	SW	08/01/22	KH
38	Manure Shed northwest oblique towards the North Dock.	E	08/01/22	KH
39	Equipment Shed east elevation.	W	08/01/22	KH
40	Caretaker's House east elevation.	W	08/01/22	KH

Gascony
Name of Property

Northumberland Co., VA
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Photo Number of 42	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
41	Equipment Shed west oblique, near the Caretaker's House.	E	08/01/22	KH
42	East Shed and East Dock.	SE	08/01/22	KH

Embedded Images Log

Figure Number	Caption
1	Aerial View of Main Dwelling(Google Maps)
2	Tombstone of Hannah A. Hull who died while at Gascony in 1833.
3	Stylized Typed-Version of the 1810 "Gascony House" Sampler stitched by Sarah Ball. Thomas A. Wolf, "Gascony: The First Two Centuries (ca.1649-ca.1856)."
4	First floor parlor mantel with Greek key pattern on the entablature and pilasters with a modified Greek key pattern.
5	First floor parlor doorway featuring pilasters with a modified Greek key pattern (left), as seen on Plate XXVIII in Asher Benjamin's pattern book The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter (1830) (right).
6	First floor parlor doorway featuring pilasters with a modified Greek key pattern and keyed arch with layered tiered patterns (left). The pilasters are modeled after Plate XXVIII (Figure 4), and the layered tiered patterns are modeled after Plate XLIX in Asher Benjamin's pattern book The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter (1830) (right).

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



Legend

 County Boundaries

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Gascony

Northumberland County, VA

DHR No. 066-5054



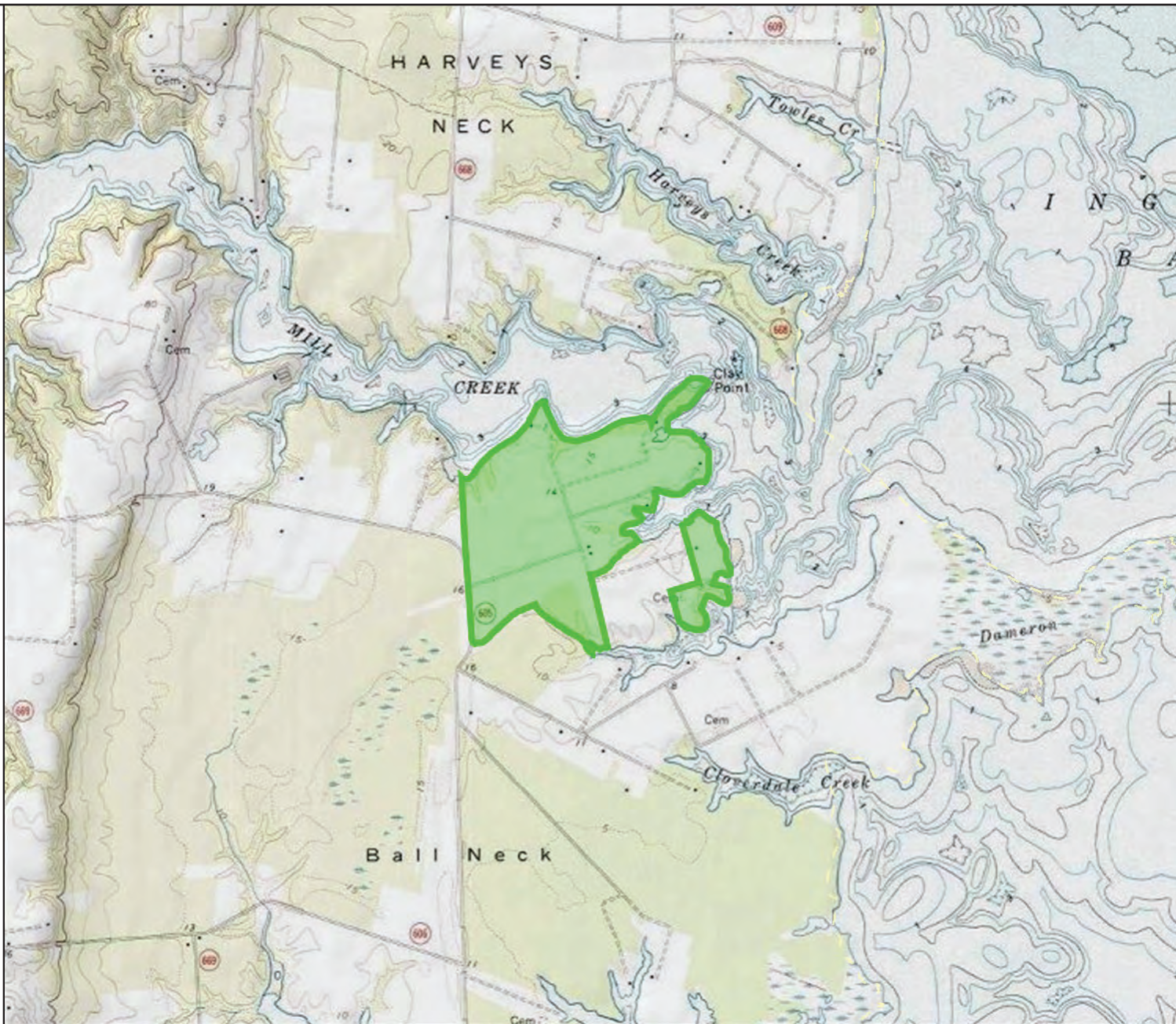
Historic Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



Title:

Date: 4/21/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

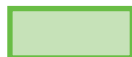


Legend

 County Boundaries

ROAD MAP

Gascony
Northumberland County, VA
DHR No. 066-5054



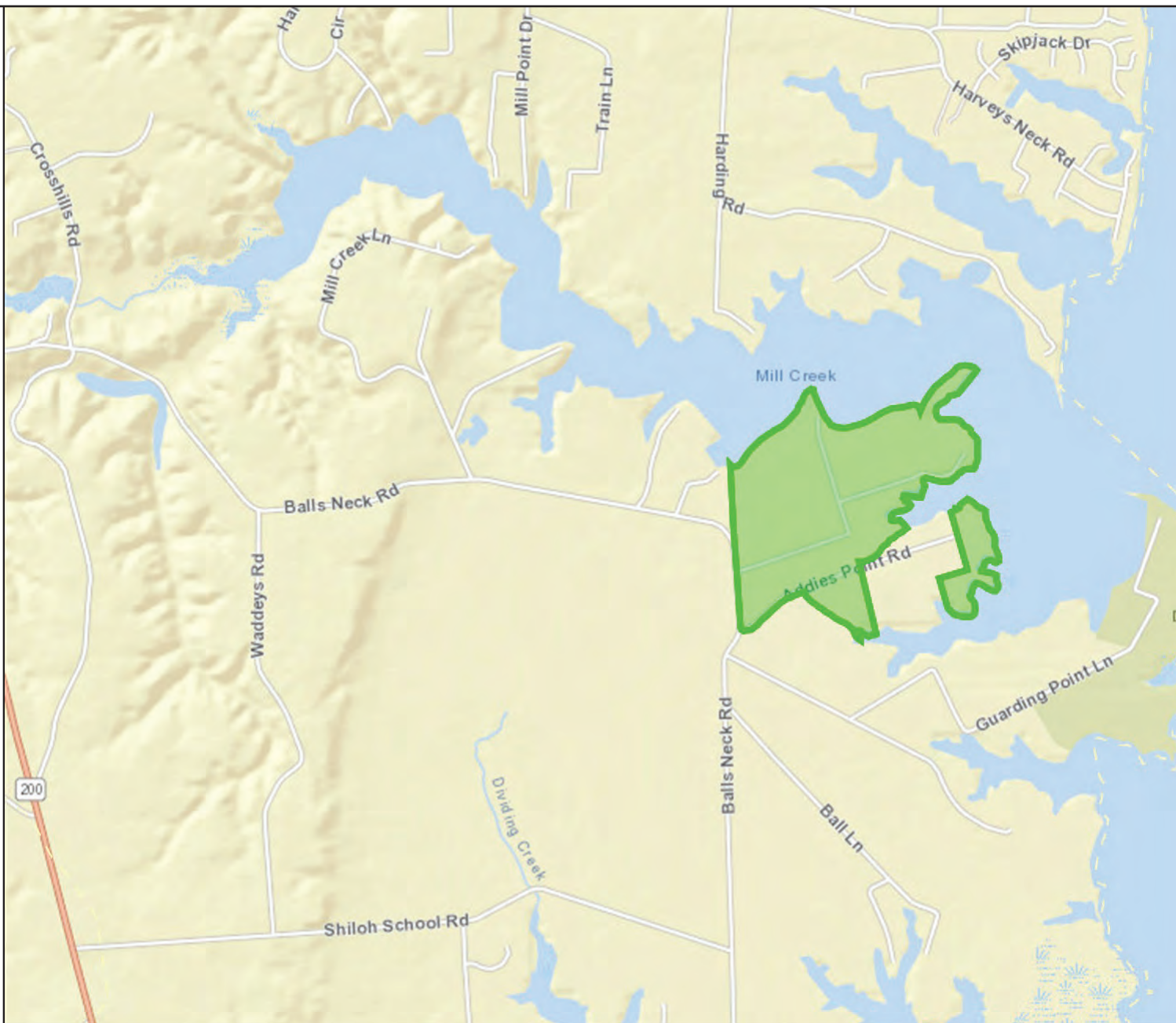
Historic Boundary



Feet

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1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



Title:

Date: 4/21/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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Legend

 County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

Gascony

Northumberland County, VA

DHR No. 066-5054



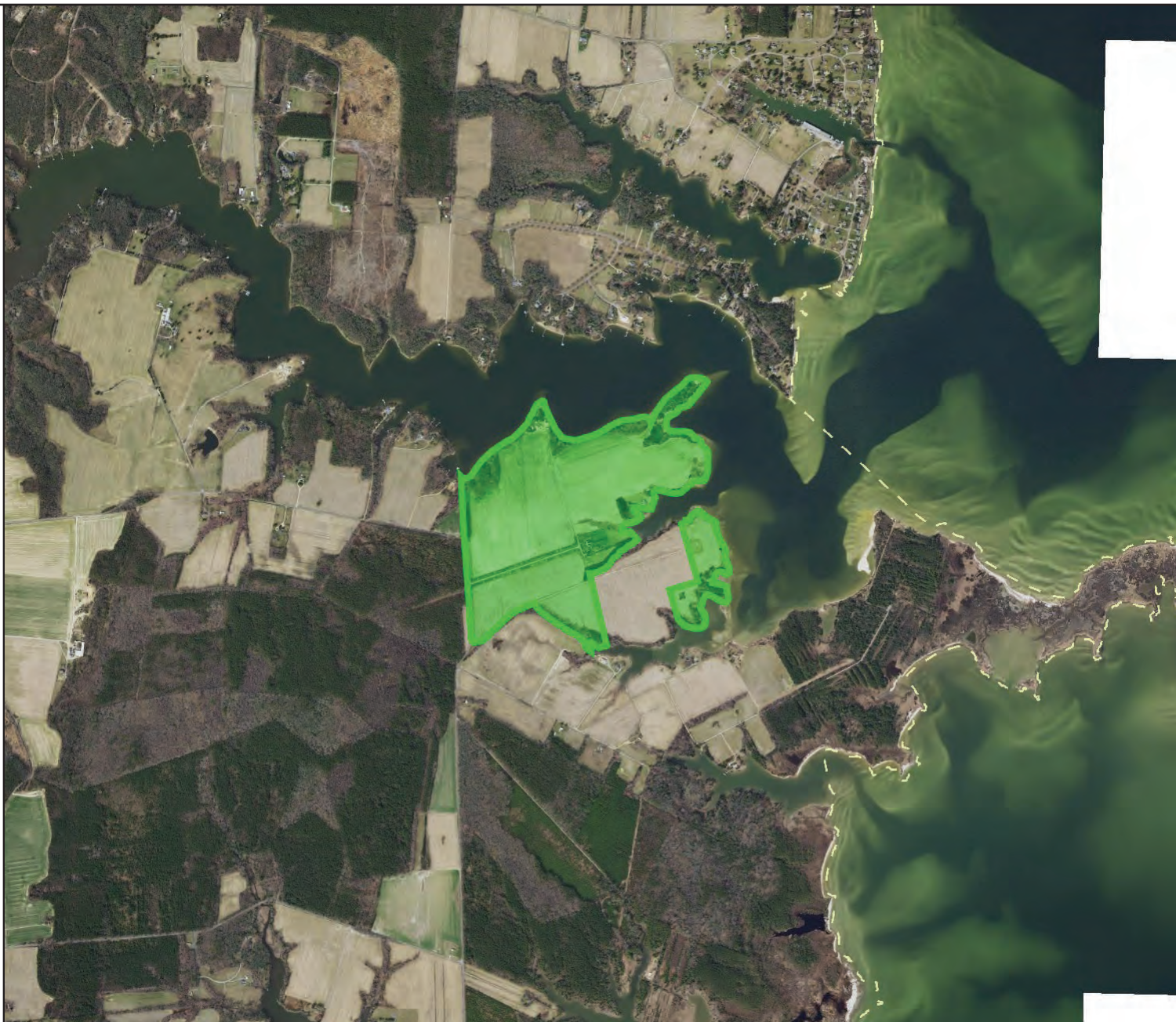
Historic Boundary



Feet

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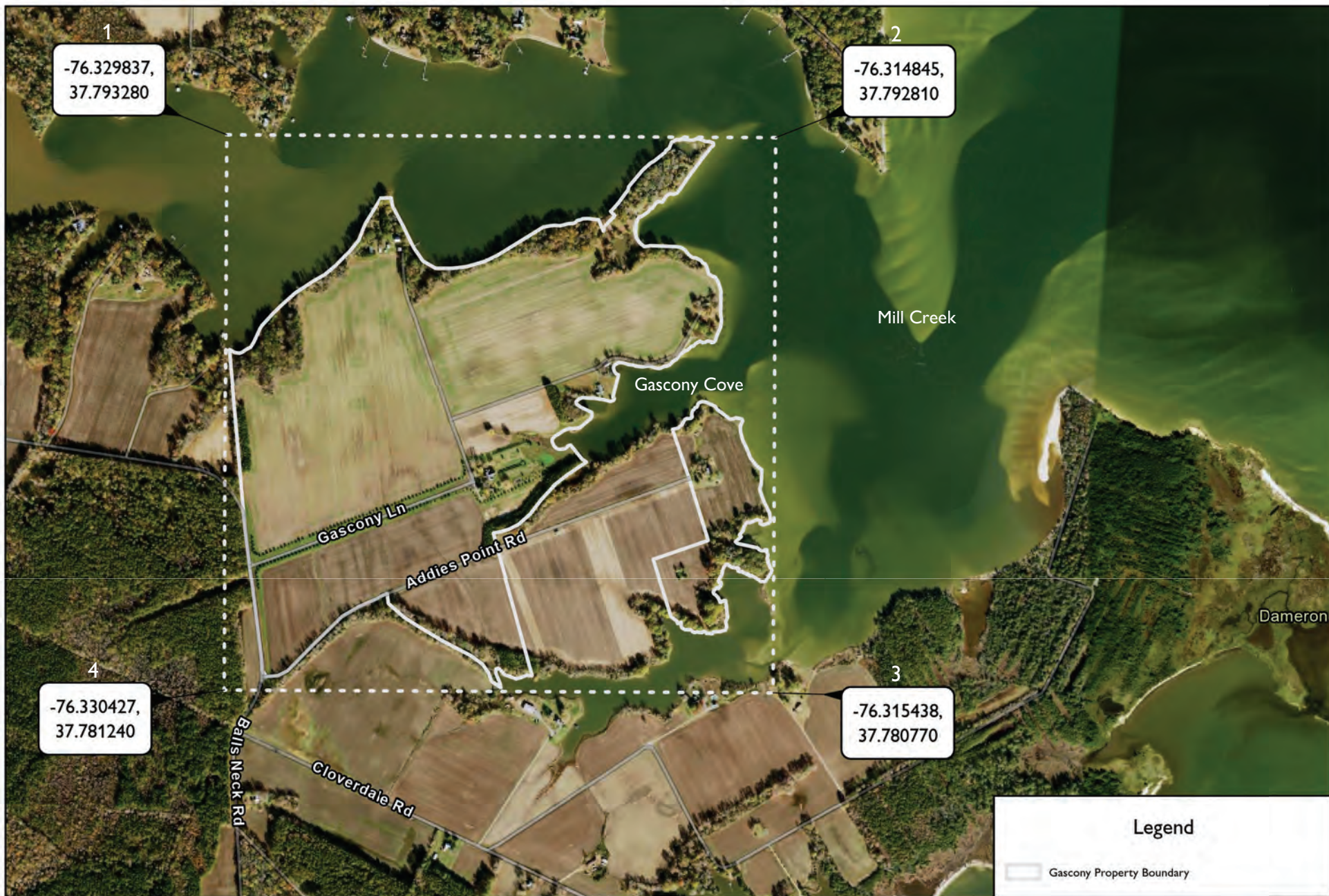


Title:

Date: 4/21/2023

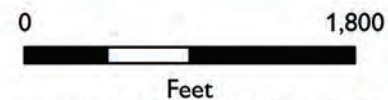
DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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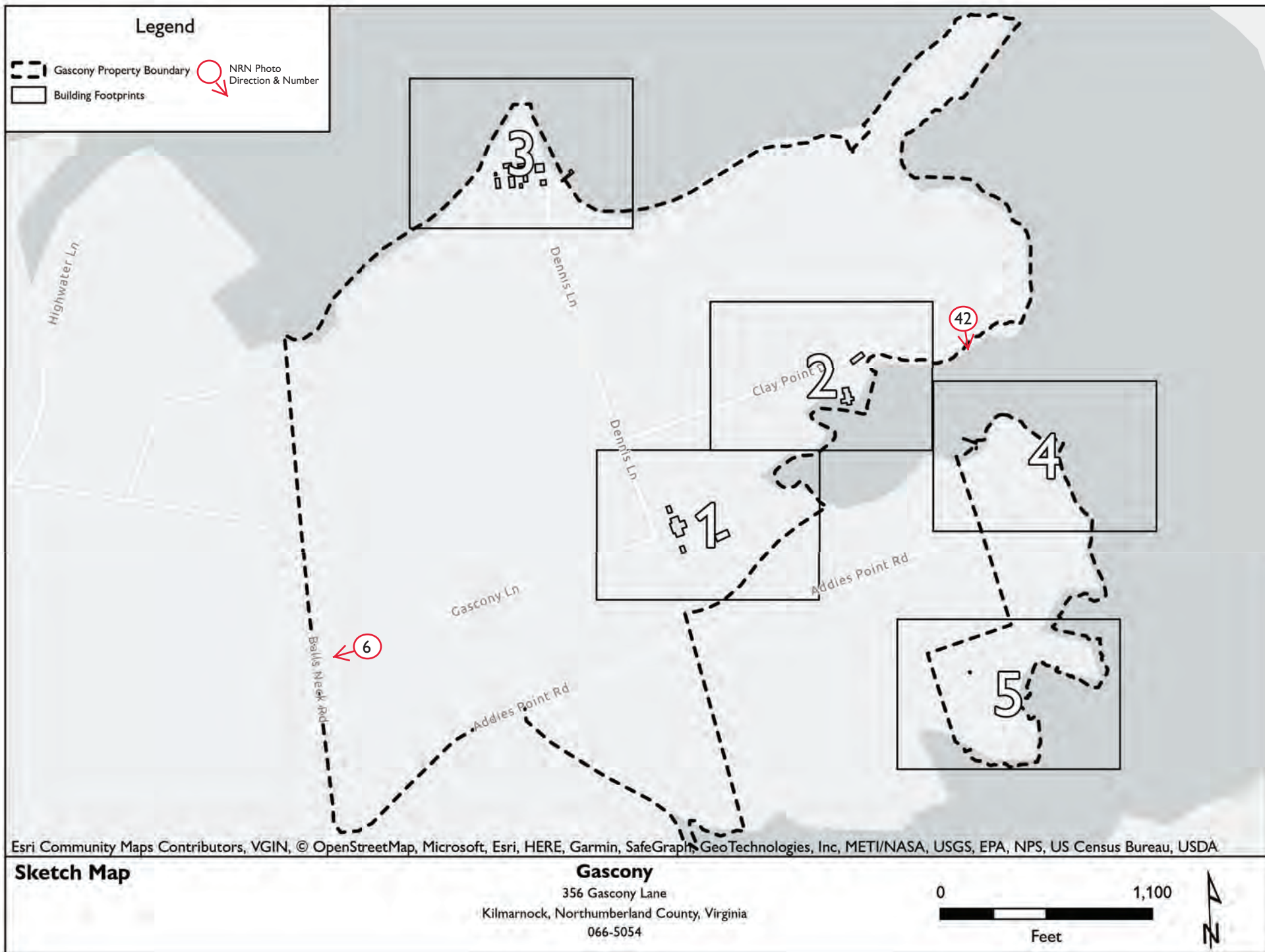


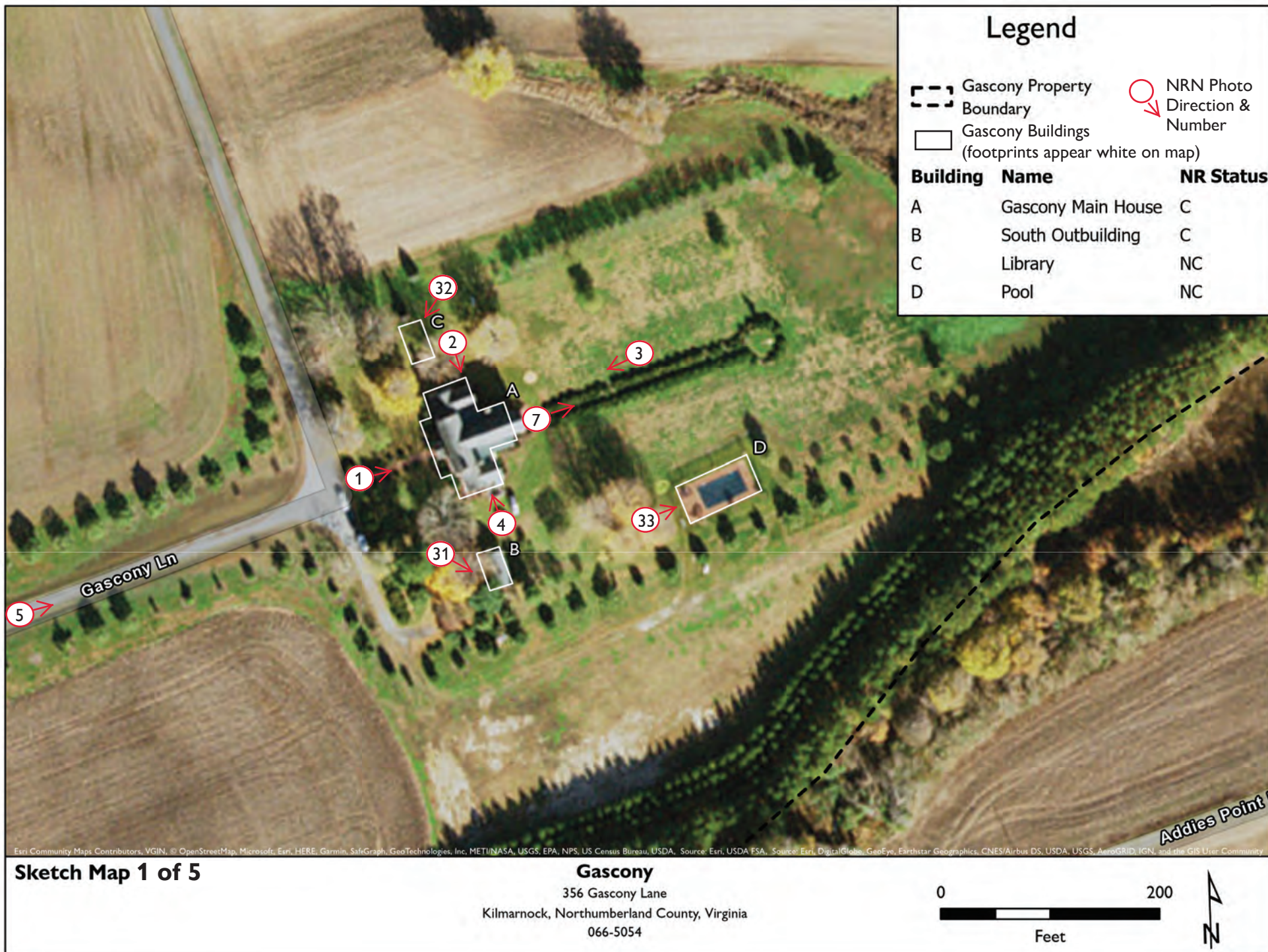
Location Map

Gascony
356 Gascony Lane
Kilmarnock, Northumberland County, Virginia
066-5054



Source: Esri, USDA FSA, Esri Community Maps Contributors, VGIN, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community





Legend

	Gascony Property Boundary		NRN Photo Direction & Number
	Gascony Buildings (footprints appear white on map)		
Building	Name	NR Status	
E	Guest House	C	
F	Equipment Shed	C	



Sketch Map 2 of 5

Gascony

356 Gascony Lane
Kilmarnock, Northumberland County, Virginia
066-5054

0 200
Feet



