

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Williamsburg (ind. city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Williamsburg Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Williamsburg Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Williamsburg** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **First (1st)**

STATE: **Virginia 23185** CODE: **51** COUNTY: **Williamsburg (ind. city)** CODE: **830**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Godwin Building, Box C

CITY OR TOWN: **Williamsburg** STATE: **Virginia 23185** CODE: **51**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Williamsburg** STATE: **Virginia 23185** CODE: **51**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress/Annex

STREET AND NUMBER:
Prints and Photographs Division

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Williamsburg Historic District is one of the most ambitious restoration projects in the country. It was begun in 1927 under the auspices of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; to date, some 600 buildings have been razed or removed, approximately 100 restored, and about 350 reconstructed on their original sites. Noteworthy restorations include: the Public Magazine (1714), the Ludwell-Paradise House (1717), the Old Courthouse (1770), Bruton Parish Church (1710-15), and the George Wythe House (1755). Old College Yard, standing at the western end of the main thoroughfare, Gloucester Street, has also been restored--the so-called "Wren Building" (1695-1702), Brafferton Hall (1723), and the President's House (1770). Old College Yard is a separate landmark, yet is integral to Williamsburg, balancing as it does the Colonial Capitol Building (1701-05) at the other end of Gloucester Street. Some ambitious reconstructions other than the Capitol include Raleigh Tavern (c. 1742) and the Governor's Palace (1706-20). The design for most of these buildings is rigidly geometric in the early Georgian style. Mention should also be made of the Reception Center, located outside the restored area. It is the center of the interpretive program for Colonial Williamsburg.

The district is open all year round; admission is currently five dollars for each adult.

Recently, there has been criticism of the authenticity of the work done at Williamsburg. Generally, though, the district continues to be considered an outstanding example of scholarly, historic restoration. A less factual, but nonetheless important criticism might be that Williamsburg looks brand-new. It is simply impossible to believe anyone actually lived in these spanking-bright-red-brick geometrical monuments. With a few exceptions, no one ever has.

Boundaries

The boundaries are those of the 1966 Historic Area, as drawn on "Map of Williamsburg, Virginia," by Williamsburg Restoration, Inc., Architecture Department (copy enclosed). The original city lines of 1699 (Bland Survey) were not used because, although they include two original buildings which the 1966 Historic area does not, they also would include the shopping district, the Matthew-Whaley School, the Motor Lodge, and many other modern buildings within the historic district. In addition, there are five more historic buildings outside any recognized boundary, historic or contemporary. Thus, use of the 1699 boundary would bring a great deal of nonhistoric construction into the landmark site without solving the problem of historic buildings outside the district.

It should be noted that Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., is still in the process of acquiring more property, so that this problem may be alleviated in the future.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1699-1779

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Williamsburg was the 18th century capital of colonial Virginia. In 1927 systematic restoration was begun under the auspices of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Some 100 original buildings were restored and about 350 more have been reconstructed. In the eighteenth century, Williamsburg was one of America's finest cultural centers, and a vital ideological training ground for some of the greatest leaders of the American Revolution. Today, it is a standard of conscientious historical research and restoration.

History

Williamsburg began as a palisaded barrier called Middle Plantation in 1633. In 1699 it became the capital of Virginia, and was renamed in honor of William III, then king of England. For eighty years it was a political and cultural center of American life. It proved an excellent ideological training ground for men who would later take leading roles in the establishment of an independent American nation: George Washington, Patrick Henry, George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and George Mason all either studied, taught, or served in office at Williamsburg.

The House of Burgesses, in the Capitol Building at Williamsburg, was the scene of Patrick Henry's famous "Caesar-Brutus" speech: "Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third... George the Third," he shouted, as cries of 'treason!' filled the room, "should profit by their example. If this be treason gentlemen, make the most of it." Henry's angry Stamp Act Resolutions were offered here as well.

George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights in Williamsburg, and on May 15, 1776, its Resolution for Independence. This document led directly to a similar declaration by the Continental Congress on July 4.

The Virginia Constitution of 1776 was drawn up in Williamsburg following Virginia's Declaration of Independence with the other colonies in July. This constitution served as a model for many other new states. Thomas Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom was introduced in Williamsburg;

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period (New York 1952)

Whiffen, Marcus, The Public Buildings of Williamsburg, Colonial Capital of Virginia (Williamsburg 1958)

Williamsburg Holding Corporation, The Williamsburg Restoration--A Brief Review of the Plan, Purpose, and Policy of the Williamsburg Restoration (Williamsburg 1931)

"The Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia," Architectural Record Dec. 1935 (N.Y. 1935)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	UTM			LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	18.348950	4126700	D	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	18.350220	4126260	F	°	'	"
SE	18.350210	4125920	E			
SW	18.348540	4125520	C			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **173 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

2/15/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE

D.C.

CODE

11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

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

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/29/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5-3-77

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Williamsburg Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

BOUNDARIES: Following boundaries have been established for "Historic Colonial Area" per Section 26-45, Article XI, Williamsburg City Code, July 1, 1966:

Beginning at a point on the north side of Duke of Gloucester Street two hundred feet east of the east line of North Henry Street said point also being ten feet west of the John Blair House; thence northerly to the south side of Prince George Street; thence easterly to a point approximately sixty feet west of west line of Nassau Street; thence in a northerly direction across Prince George Street; thence continuing along the west side of the Goodwin property approximately one hundred and sixty feet; thence easterly to the east side of Nassau Street; thence in a northerly direction along the east side of Nassau Street to the north side of Scotland Street; thence easterly one hundred and twenty feet to the west property line of the Governor's Palace site; thence in a northerly direction to south side of Lafayette Street; thence easterly along south side of Lafayette Street to the west property line of the Colonial Williamsburg warehouse area; thence in a southeasterly direction to the south line of Franklin Street; thence east along south line of Franklin Street and the south line of Franklin Street extended to east side of Lafayette Street; thence along the east side of Lafayette Street to the south side of York Street; thence in a southerly direction four hundred feet to a point; thence in a westerly direction approximately six hundred feet to a point two hundred feet south of Francis Street; thence along a line two hundred feet south of and paralleling the south side of Francis Street to the west side of England Street; thence southerly along the west side of England Street seventy feet to a point; thence westerly to a point on the west property line of Colonial Historical Parkway, said point being one hundred and sixty feet south of Francis Street; thence southerly along the west property line of the Colonial Historical Parkway two hundred and seventy feet to a point; thence westerly along a line which is the extension of the south side of Ireland Street to the east side of South Henry Street; thence northerly along the east side of South Henry Street to a point one hundred and ninety feet from Duke of Gloucester Street; thence easterly two hundred feet to a point; thence northerly crossing Duke of Gloucester Street to the point of beginning."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Williamsburg Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

as Governor of Virginia he made William and Mary the country's first true university in 1791. The College, founded in 1693, is the nation's second oldest. In 1779 the capital was moved to Richmond and Williamsburg declined steadily in influence and wealth from that time on.