Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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NATI. AL HISTORIC LANDMARK UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONDITION	X Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
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With Brandon, as with many other buildings, we have an example of European taste being imported into the colonies via the medium of the architectural handbook. Here it is a variant on the English Palladian

architectural handbook. Here it is a variant on the English Palladian style of Lord Burlington, but the same progression was repeated over and over again, regardless of style. Although half a century out of date with the Palladian movement in England. Brandon has the same separateness of

parts and staccato accents typical of the genre.

The house is double-fronted, as were all of the finer ones in the South. This is especially true of those like Brandon, which had an important dependence upon river transport. The porticos at either front were added in the 19th century, and demonstrate a mildly incongruous jigsaw detailing when compared to the earlier more skilled Georgian joinery. The pineapple at the peak of the hipped roof center is the oft-used Georgian symbol of hospitality. The original 18th century lights were replaced throughout the house in the 19th century.

The exterior of Brandon is characterized by excellent uniform brickwork and an interesting massing of elements. The detail is sparse, but includes a fine, modillioned cornice in the central block with scrolled and carved modillions, and the pineapple finial. The minor cornices have uncarved modillions.

The interior of Brandon enjoys a good deal of 18th century panelling with handsomely-carved overmantels, dados, ballusters, chair rails, and other detail, although the interior of the central hall was replaced late in the 19th century after Yankee troops had occupied the house during the war and used paneling in that room as firewood.

The stair leading to the upper storey of the center block was originally a double run, rising at the southwest corner of the livingroom, whereas since the 19th century, it is a straight flight built against the south wall of the room. The broad stair has slender square ballusters characteristic of this later period. The entrance hall itself is bisected by a striking triple-arch acreen, one of the finest features of the house, along with the Roman Doric cornice in the North wing and the Chinese Chippendale (lattice) ballustrade in that same wing. This last feature is a seldomseen one (outside of New England), although there are examples in Williamsburg. It derives from use of the form in England in the 18th century, as at Boughton House, for example.

The Morris plan gives a clue to the original arrangement of the Hall. This apparently consisted of a large salon facing the river, with an entrance across one front and the stair ascending at one end. The Chippendale trellis stair in the North wing probably had a counterpart in the original stair of the main hall. In spite of the smallness of that hall, a full Doric entablature is used with triglyphs, metopes, and mutules. The South wing is simply trimmed, but has a fine example of a large kitchen fireplace

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNIT TATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. Description second page

Brandon Plantation still is worked as an agricultural enterprise, with nearly 7,000 acres controlled. A number of 20th century buildings have been constructed near the main house, but generally they are reasonably integrated into the site, although, of course, do not contribute to the national significance of the National Historic Landmark. As may be seen, for instance, from the sketch map, a pair of flanking buildings were constructed in the 1920's and now are used as a garage and a so-called game house. There is an obvious sensitivity to the land front of Brandon and they acceptably compliment the long and low profile of the 18th century buildings. Beyond the "game house" is a block house with narrow slit windows, probably built in the 17th or very early 18th century. Otherwise, the grounds of the property are dotted with such modern conveniences as tennis courts and swimming pool but again, sensitively treated and screened carefully from intruding into the vista of the Brandon house itself.

While Brandon is surrounded by a very large tract of land which now is maintained as farm and woodland, a boundary around the house and gardens may be devised by a combination of natural features and state highways, creating a perimeter around an area of slightly less than 110 acres. The James River bounds the property at the Northeast, and from a point determining the Northeast boundary limit where a tree-line meets the river, the boundary proceeds southwesterly along the line of that stand of trees, and then beyond it directly to a junction with state highway 653. The line then continues southeasterly along that road to a point where it joins state route 611 and follows that route first northeasterly, then southeasterly, and finally northeasterly, departing from 611 where that route begins to bend easterly. At that point, the boundary continues straight into the James River.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🔀 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) plan co	mpleted c. 1765-17	70
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
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Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The plan of Brandon was completed about 1765-1770, and represents an excellent example of a brick plantation house in the style of Palladio's "Roman Country House". That plan is completely different from those of early and middle-Georgian houses of the Southern Colonies, which, typically, comprised a large central block, two and a half or three stories, with detached dependencies. Brandon, on the other hand, and the country house style it represents, is an extended, multiple-part, symmetrical arrangement of connected units two storeys high at the center, decreasing to low one-storey hyphens and wings, accented by two-storey terminal pavilions at the ends. The Brandon Plantation House, its formal gardens, and its vista to the James River, link the history of the property securely with the first struggling days of the Virginia Colony. also might afford a glimpse into the emerging architectural genius of Thomas Jefferson, who may very well have designed the 1765-1770 plan. Finally, Brandon represents one of the longest continuous agricultural enterprises in the United States, insofar as there is historical evidence to support the claim that the land has been tended there from 1614 definitely, and possibly from as early as 1607.

The first buildings at Brandon were erected sometime before 1720, when the property was acquired by Nathaniel Harrison from a group of three owners who in turn had acquired the land from the original grantee in 1637, John Martin, Esq. In 1720, Harrison acquired two four-room buildings, each of one-and-a-half storeys, aligned with the James River. They were arranged in fact with such precision as to suggest that they might have been intended as wings or dependencies of a great house.

Harrison never occupied the house but rather lived on the estates of his successive wives in Stafford and Warwick Counties. His son Nathaniel, however, did assume tenancy and it was he who undertook about 1765-1770, the completion of the Brandon complex substantially as it stands today. It was then that a center structure of two storeys was built, flanked by those of one storey. The two earlier buildings were converted from 1 1/2 storeys into 2 storey ones and connected by one storey hyphens to the center group. Since Thomas Jefferson, 22 years old in 1765, had been one of the groomsmen at the younger Harrison's wedding in 1765, family tradition has attributed the completion of the Brandon scheme to

Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNIT STATES

STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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8. Significance second page.

him. Additionally, there is an arguable case for this attribution purely on the grounds of Architectural History. T. T. Waterman, for instance, has attributed Brandon to Mister Jefferson because of its radically different design when compared to typical Virginia-Georgian designs. While Robert Morris' Select Architecture, published in 1757, had found its way to the Tidewater area within a few years, it was used only rarely. Jefferson however, owned a copy of Select Architecture, and it is readily demonstrable that the plan of Brandon, as well as its general massing, come directly from plates in Morris' book.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RI	EFERENCES						
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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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APR 1 3 1970

Memorandum

To:

Secretary of the Interior

Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife,

Parks, and Marine Resources

Acting

From:

Director, National Park Service

Subject:

National Historic Landmark recommendations, 61st meeting

of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites,

Buildings and Monuments

Enclosed herewith is the memorandum of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments summarizing its findings and recommendations on the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings partial theme study of "Colonial Architecture." This memorandum makes two principal recommendations: (1) That 77 sites encompassed by this study be declared eligible for National Historic Landmark status. These are listed under Sections A, B, C, and D of the memorandum; (2) That 41 of these sites be given further consideration in long range plans for addition to the National Park System.

We recommend that you approve the Advisory Board's memorandum, and that it be returned to this office to become a part of the permanent record of actions recommended by the Board and approved by you.

Harthon L. Bee

Enclosure

Approved:

ADD 1 5 1970

Secretary of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

October 8, 1969

Memorandum

To:

Secretary of the Interior

From:

Chairman, Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites,

Buildings, and Monuments

Subject:

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Partial

study of "Colonial Architecture" comprising sites in

eighteen States and the District of Columbia

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, at its 61st meeting in Washington, D. C., October 6-9, 1969, having carefully evaluated the partial study of "Colonial Architecture," submits the following statements with recommendations:

A. Of the sites included in the study, the following are recognized as nationally significant in illustrating or commemorating the history of the United States, and it is recommended that they be declared eligible for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks with boundaries, as appropriate, described in attachments:

Alaska

- 1. Church of the Holy Ascension, Unalaska
- 2. Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Kenai

California

- 3. Anza House
- 4. Jose Castro House
- 5. Estudillo House
- 6. Fort Ross Commander's House
- 7. Fort Ross Russian Orthodox Church
- 8. Guajome Ranchhouse
- 9. Los Alamos Ranchhouse
- 10. Los Cerritos Ranchhouse
- 11. Monterey Old Town Historic District
- 12. Petaluma Adobe
- 13. San Diego Mission Church
- 14. San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District
- 15. San Luis Rey Mission Church
- 16. Vhay House

Delaware

17. Aspendale

Florida

- 18. Llambias House
- 19. Oldest House
- 20. St. Augustine Town Plan Historic District

Illinois

- 21. Church of the Holy Family
- 22. Pierre Menard House

Louisiana

- 23. Keller (Homeplace) Plantation House
- 24. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop
- 25. Mayor Girod House
- 26. Madame John's Legacy
- 27. Parlange Plantation House
- 28. Presbytere

Maryland

- 29. Brice House
- 30. Chase-Lloyd House
- 31. Chestertown Historic District
- 32. His Lordship's Kindness
- 33. London Town Publik House
- 34. Montpelier
- 35. Mount Clare
- 36. Resurrection Manor
- 37. Tulip Hill
- 38. West St. Mary's Manor
- 39. Wye House

Missouri

40. Louis Bolduc House

New Mexico

- 41. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church
- 42. San Francisco de Assissi Mission Church
- 43. San Jose de Gracia Church

North Carolina

- 44. Chowan County Courthouse
- 45. Cupola House
- 46. Palmer-Marsh House
- 47. Single Brothers' House

South Carolina

- 48. Brick House Ruin
- 49. William Gibbes House
- 50. Hampton Plantation
- 51. Heyward-Washington House
- 52. Middleburg Plantation
- 53. Pompion Hill Chapel
- 54. St. James' Episcopal Church, Goose Creek
- 55. St. James' Episcopal Church, Santee
- 56. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Texas

- 57. Mission Concepcion
- 58. Spanish Governor's Palace

<u>Virginia</u>

- 59. Brandon
- 60. Bruton Parish Church
- 61. Carter's Grove
- 62. Christ Church, Alexandria
- 63. Kenmore
- 64. Sabine Hall
- 65. James Semple House
- 66. Shirley
- 67. Waterford Historic District
- 68. Wythe House
- 69. Yeocomico Church

Washington

- 70. Fort Nisqually Granary
- B. Three sites included in the portion of Colonial Architecture that considered the Middle Colonies are recognized as nationally significant and it is recommended that they be declared as Registered National Historic Landmarks:
 - 1. William Trent House, New Jersey
 - 2. Christ Church, Pennsylvania
 - 3. Carpenters' Hall, Pennsylvania
- C. Two sites included in this study are recognized as nationally significant in Theme IV, "Spanish Exploration and Settlement." It is recommended that they be declared eligible for recognition as Registered National Historic Landmarks:
 - 1. La Purisima Mission, California
 - 2. Cathedral of St. Augustine, Florida
- D. Two sites not originally included within this study are recommended for designation as National Historic Landmarks within Theme XX, Subtheme, "Architecture."
 - 1. El Santuario de Chimayo, New Mexico
 - 2. Peyton Randolph House, Virginia
- E. Other Recommendations:
- 1. That the following sites be placed in the category of "Other Sites Considered:"

California

- (1) Avila House
- (2) La Casa de Cota de la Cuesta
- (3) La Casa de Eduardo de la Cuesta
- (4) Covarrubias Adobe
- (5) De La Guerra Adobe
- (6) El Cuartel
- (7) Guadalupe (Olivera) Ranch House No. 1
- (8) Hill-Carrillo Adobe
- (9) Ortega House

- (10) Plaza Church
- (11) Rocha House
- (12) San Diego Old Town Historic District
- (13) San Juan Capistrano Mission Church

District of Columbia

(14) Alva Belmont House

Illinois

- (15) Cahokia Courthouse
- (16) Cahokia Historic District

Louisiana

- (17) Darby Plantation House
- (18) Ormond Plantation

Maryland

- (19) Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church
- (20) Genesar
- (21) Hammond Manor House
- (22) Kilmarock (Burleane Hall)
- (23) Ogle Hall
- (24) Otterbein Church
- (25) Patuxent Manor House
- (26) St. John's Episcopal Church, Broad Creek
- (27) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kent County
- (28) Talbot County Court House
- (29) Third Haven Meeting House
- (30) Trinity Episcopal Church, Dorchester County

Missouri

(31) Jean Baptiste Valle House

New Mexico

(32) San Geronimo de Taos Mission Church

North Carolina

- (33) Bath Historic District
- (34) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edenton
- (35) St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath
- (36) Tryon Palace, Original (West) Wing

South Carolina

- (37) Branford-Horry House
- (38) Fenwick Hall
- (39) Medway Plantation
- (40) Thomas Rose House
- (41) Col. John Stuart House
- (42) Sword Gate House

Virginia

- (43) Berkeley Plantation
- (44) Brafferton Hall, College of William and Mary
- (45) The Glebe House
- (46) Noland's Ferry House
- (47) Pohick Church
- (48) President's House, College of William and Mary
- (49) Smithfield Plantation
- (50) Tazewell House

West Virginia

- (51) Crane (Lord Fairfax) House
- (52) Mordington (Happy Retreat)
- (53) Governor Tiffin House
- 2. That the following sites be given further study under this theme:

California

- (1) Olivas Adobe
- (2) San Gabriel Mission Church

Colorado

(3) Baca House

Connecticut

(4) Hatheway House

Delaware

- (5) Christ Church, Laurel
- (6) Prince George's Chapel

Florida

(7) Spanish Treasurer's House

Louisiana

- (8) African House, Melrose Plantation
- (9) Creole Cottage
- (10) Louis Arceneaux House
- (11) E. D. White Memorial Cottage
- (12) Voisin Plantation House
- (13) Spanish Custom House
- (14) Erariste Blanc House
- (15) Montegut House
- (16) Bank of the United States
- (17) Absinthe House
- (18) Cathedral of St. Louis

Maryland

- (19) Carroll Mansion
- (20) Providence Plantation
- (21) Queen Anne's County Courthouse
- (22) Horatio Sharp (Rideout) House
- (23) Scott House
- (24) St. John's Episcopal Church, Hillsboro
- (25) St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Church Hill
- (26) St. Luke's Episcopal Church or Tuckahoe Chapel, Queenstown
- (27) Old Wye Church
- (28) Doughoregan Manor

New Mexico - Florida

- (29) Pascual Martinez Ranch House
- (30) Santa Fe and Albuquerque and Pensacola town plans

North Carolina

- (31) Breezeway type of Colonial House
- (32) Edenton Historic District
- (33) Hayes Plantation House
- (34) Sycamore Plantation

South Carolina

- (35) Edward's House
- (36) Edisto Hall

Virginia

- (37) Battersea
- (38) Blandfield
- (39) Carlyle House
- (40) Dulaney House
- (41) Elmwood
- (42) Hanover Tavern
- (43) Hanover Courthouse
- (44) King William Courthouse
- (45) Long Bridge Ordinary
- (46) Marmion
- (47) Powhatan Courthouse
- (48) Powhatan Tavern
- (49) Three-story wooden row houses, south side of 200 block of Prince Street in Alexandria
- (50) Smithfield Courthouse
- (51) Washington Historic District
- (52) Wetherburn's Tavern
- (53) Fincastle Historic District

West Virginia

- (54) Harewood
- (55) Sweet Springs
- F. The National Park System includes the following structures that are Importantly Related to this study:
 - 1. Tumacacori National Monument, Arizona
 - 2. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida
 - 3. Fort Matanzas National Monument, Florida

- 4. Hampton National Historic Site, Maryland
- 5. Nelson House, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia
- 6. San Jose Mission Church, Texas
- G. Forty-eight sites related to this theme have been classified as possessing national significance in other theme studies. These are:

Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture

- 1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
- 2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
- 3. Carmel Mission Church, California
- 4. Larkin House, California
- 5. Old Custom House, California
- 6. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
- 7. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
- 8. Sonoma Pueblo Historic District, California (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
- 9. Savannah Historic District, Georgia
- 10. The Cabildo, Louisiana
- 11. Ursuline Convent, Louisiana
- 12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
- 13. Jackson Square, Louisiana
- 14. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
- 15. Hammond-Harwood House, Maryland
- 16. Maryland State House, Maryland
- 17. Whitehall, Maryland
- 18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
- 19. Palace of the Governors, New Mexico
- 20. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
- 21. Miles Brewton House, South Carolina
- 22. Robert Brewton House, South Carolina
- 23. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
- 24. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
- 25. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
- 26. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, South Carolina
- 27. Presidio de La Bahia, Texas
- 28. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
- 29. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
- 30. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia

- 31. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
- 32. Gadsby's Tavern, Virginia
- 33. Gunston Hall, Virginia
- 34. Mount Airy, Virginia
- 35. Mount Vernon, Virginia
- 36. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
- 37. Stratford Hall, Virginia
- 38. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
- 39. Tuckahoe Plantation, Virginia
- 40. Westover, Virginia
- 41. Wren Building, College of William and Mary, Virginia

Also Related to Colonial Architecture

- 42. Erskine House, Alaska
- 43. St. Michael's Cathedral, Alaska
- 44. Commandant's House, Presidio of San Francisco, California
- 45. Las Trampas Plaza Historic District, New Mexico
- 46. Salem Tavern, Old Salem, North Carolina
- 47. The Alamo, Texas
- 48. Rising Sun Tavern, Virginia
- H. The Board recommends that the Old State (Colony) House in Newport, Rhode Island, a Landmark previously placed in the category of Also Related to Colonial Architecture, be noted as being Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture.
- I. The following sites are judged of such prime significance as to merit further study for possible addition to the National Park System. It is recognized that many, such as Colonial Williamsburg, are being adequately preserved at present and are not available. Because unforeseen contingencies may change present circumstances, such sites should nevertheless be identified as potential units of the system and noted for long-range consideration in the evolution of the National Park System Plan.
 - 1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
 - 2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
 - 3. Fort Ross, California
 - 4. Guajome Ranchhouse, California
 - 5. Los Alamos Ranchhouse, California
 - 6. Monterey Old Town Historic District, California

- 7. Petaluma Adobe, California
- 8. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
- 9. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
- 10. Church of the Holy Family, Illinois
- 11. Parlange Plantation House, Louisiana
- 12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
- 13. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
- 14. Resurrection Manor, Maryland
- 15. Tulip Hill, Maryland
- 16. Whitehall, Maryland
- 17. Wye House, Maryland
- 18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
- 19. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church (Acoma), New Mexico
- 20. San Jose de Gracia Church (Las Trampas), New Mexico
- 21. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
- 22. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina
- 23. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
- 24. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
- 25. St. James Episcopal Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina
- 26. St. James Episcopal Church, Santee, South Carolina
- 27. Mission Concepcion (San Antonio Missions Park Proposal), Texas
- 28. Presidio de la Bahia (Goliad Complex), Texas
- 29. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
- 30. Brandon, Virginia
- 31. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
- 32. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia
- 33. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
- 34. Gunston Hall, Virginia
- 35. Mount Airy, Virginia
- 36. Mount Vernon, Virginia
- 37. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
- 38. Shirley, Virginia
- 39. Stratford Hall, Virginia
- 40. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
- 41. Westover, Virginia

Concellerance Emil W. Haury

Approved: APR 1 5 1970

Secretary of the Interior