

STATE:  
 Virginia

COUNTY:  
 Hanover

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE:

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
 LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
 Scotchtown

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
 Patrick Henry Home (Scotchtown)

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Ten miles northwest of Ashland on Virginia Route 685

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Beaver Dam

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
 Seventh (7th)

STATE: Virginia 23015

CODE: 51

COUNTY: Hanover

CODE: 085

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input 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) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Hanover County Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Scotchtown

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Beaverdam

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 23015

51

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
 Hanover Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Hanover

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 23069

51

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957

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: Virginia

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**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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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

The Scotchtown house, 93x 35 feet, was one of the largest in the American colonies. Its story-and-a half frame structure supports an enormous, early Jerkin-head type roof. It rests on a brick foundation, enclosing a full basement of eight rooms and a wine cellar. Two massive chimneys project from the roof one room's length from the east and west ends of the building. On the first floor a wide central hall extends from the front to the rear porch; on either side of the hall are four rooms grouped around one the chimneys. The attic is unfinished and without partitions, so that the excellent restoration work is readily visible there.

Extensive changes were made on Scotchtown following its acquisition by the Taylor family in 1832. These included the razing of the chimneys and their replacement by four new ones; movement of interior partitions to conform with the new chimneys; and removal of some of the original mahogany and walnut panelling and marble mantelpieces during remodeling. In 1958 the house and 26 acres of surrounding land were purchased by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Since then fifteen acres have been added to the site, the house has been almost completely restored, and several outbuildings have been reconstructed: the Law Office, Ice House, Caretaker's House, & old well. A kitchen is in the process of reconstruction, above recently discovered 1824 foundations.

Restoration of the main house was begun under the direct supervision of the architectural firm of Macomber and Peters, Washington, D.C. Before entering private practice, Mr. Macomber was architect for Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. The restoration work at Scotchtown has employed the techniques and practices which guided the restoration at Williamsburg. Primary reliance has been on the careful examination of the structure to determine original architectural details, supplemented by photographs and descriptions of the building and archeological excavations around the exterior foundations. Restoration on the house proper was virtually complete by 1962. The work has apparently been very authentic, both exterior and interior. The additional chimneys have been removed and the two originals reconstructed. This has made possible the removal of the 1823 partitions and a return to the original floor plan.

BOUNDARIES

The 41 acres at Scotchtown owned by the APVA were all part of the property owned by Patrick Henry during his residence there.

As shown by the red line on the accompanying sketch map A entitled "Patrick Henry Home, Scotchtown" and dated October 25, 1974, from a point labelled A on Route 685, about 200 feet southwest from the side road; proceed about 700 feet northwest to a point B, then north

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1771-1777

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>The War for</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Independence</u>
<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

This **huge** frame mansion was the home of Patrick Henry from 1771 to 1777, when he was **helping** shape the course of events leading to Revolution and Independence. He left to become Governor of wartime Virginia. The house, owned by the Hanover County Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, is being restored as an historic house museum.

HISTORY

Scotchtown was purchased in 1717 by Charles Chiswell, who named it thus in order to attract Scottish workers. The plan failed, and after several changes in hands, the property was bought by Patrick Henry in 1771. He lived there until his election as Governor and removal to Williamsburg in 1776. The property is thus associated with the most critical years of Henry's activity.

BIOGRAPHY

Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was born in Hanover County, Va. and educated at home by his father, John Henry, a surveyor, colonel, and justice of the Hanover County Court.

As a youth, Henry failed twice in seven years as a storekeeper and once as a farmer, meantime marrying Sarah Shelton in 1754. In 1760 he was admitted to the bar, and at last met with great success.

In 1763 Henry gained wider recognition through his handling of the famous Parson's Cause. This suit grew out of the Virginia law, disallowed by the king, that permitted payment of the Anglican clergy in money instead of tobacco when the crop was poor. Henry was so eloquent in defending the colonist's position that in 1765 he was seated in the House of Burgesses. He immediately established himself as a vociferous opponent of the British Stamp Act, introducing resolutions asserting the right of the colonies to legislate independently of England. His oratory in defense of these proposals included the famous "Caesar-Brutus" speech: "Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third... George the Third", he continued, as cries of "Treason! Treason!"

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dodd, William E., "Patrick Henry," Dictionary of American Biography (N.Y., 1946)  
 Melvin, Frank S., "Patrick Henry Home," Va. Regional Inventory-Nomination (unpublished report, 1972)  
 Porter, Charles W., "Scotchtown, Hanover County, Va.," (unpublished report, southeast region, NPS, Richmond 1936)  
 Sale, Marion Marsh, "Patrick Henry's Scotchtown," The Commonwealth, the Magazine of Virginia, Vol. XXIX (Nov. 1962)  
 English, Virginia, "A Brief History of the Site", Quarterly Bulletin, the Archaeological Society of Va., Vol. XXIV, no. 4 (June 1970)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	UTM		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
			Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	18.272270.4191590		° ' "	° ' "
NE	18.272900.4191450		° ' "	° ' "
SE	18.272520.4191200		° ' "	° ' "
SW	18.272270.4191200		° ' "	° ' "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 41

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE: 2/12/75

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1100 L. Street, N.W.

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/25/75

ATTEST:

Chief of Arch. Surveys  
 Date 9-17-75

Keeper of The National Register

Date 9/21/75

*Handwritten signatures and stamps:*  
 Boundary Commission  
 Boundary Commission  
 Boundary Commission  
 Boundary Commission  
 Boundary Commission

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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about 250 feet to a point C touching the west curblin of the side road. From point C proceed about 350 feet northeast to a point D, then about 600 feet southeast to a point E, then about 700 feet slightly south of east to a point F touching Route 685 on the north an east curb. From point F proceed west and south along the curblin of Route 685 about 1400 feet to point of the beginning.

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((NATIONAL HISTORIC  
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filled the room, "may profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it."

For the next ten years Henry was a leader of the radical opposition to the British government. His purchase of Scotchtown in 1771 suggests his position was not entirely unpopular. He was a member of the first Virginia Committee of Correspondence and a delegate to the Continental Congress of 1774 and 1775. At the Virginia revolutionary convention on March 23, 1775, in St. John's Church, Richmond, he delivered the speech which assured his position as one of the world's great orators and advocates of human freedom:

"There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged. their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston. The war is inevitable--and let it come! I repeat it sir, let it come!! It is vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains- and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God--I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Henry's proposals for arming the Virginia militia were passed; in April the battles of Lexington and Concord initiated hostilities between England and her American colonies. In 1776 Henry resigned his command of the Virginia forces and served on the committee which drafted that state's first constitution. He was elected governor that same year and was re-elected in 1777 and 1778, thus serving as long as the new constitution permitted. As wartime governor Henry gave George Washington plentiful support in men and supplies; he also authorized the expedition of George Rogers Clark into the Illinois country.

Henry returned to public life in 1780; he had remarried following the death of his first wife in the interim. He served as a leading member of the state legislature from 1780 to 1784. He then served two years as governor before returning to the legislature, 1787 to 1790. He declined to attend the constitutional convention of 1787, and strongly opposed its adoption in Virginia the following year. This was due to his fear that the northern states would abandon Mississippi navigation rights to Spain, and that state and individual rights would be trampled on. The Bill of Rights, which he helped to pass, reconciled Henry to the new federal government.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

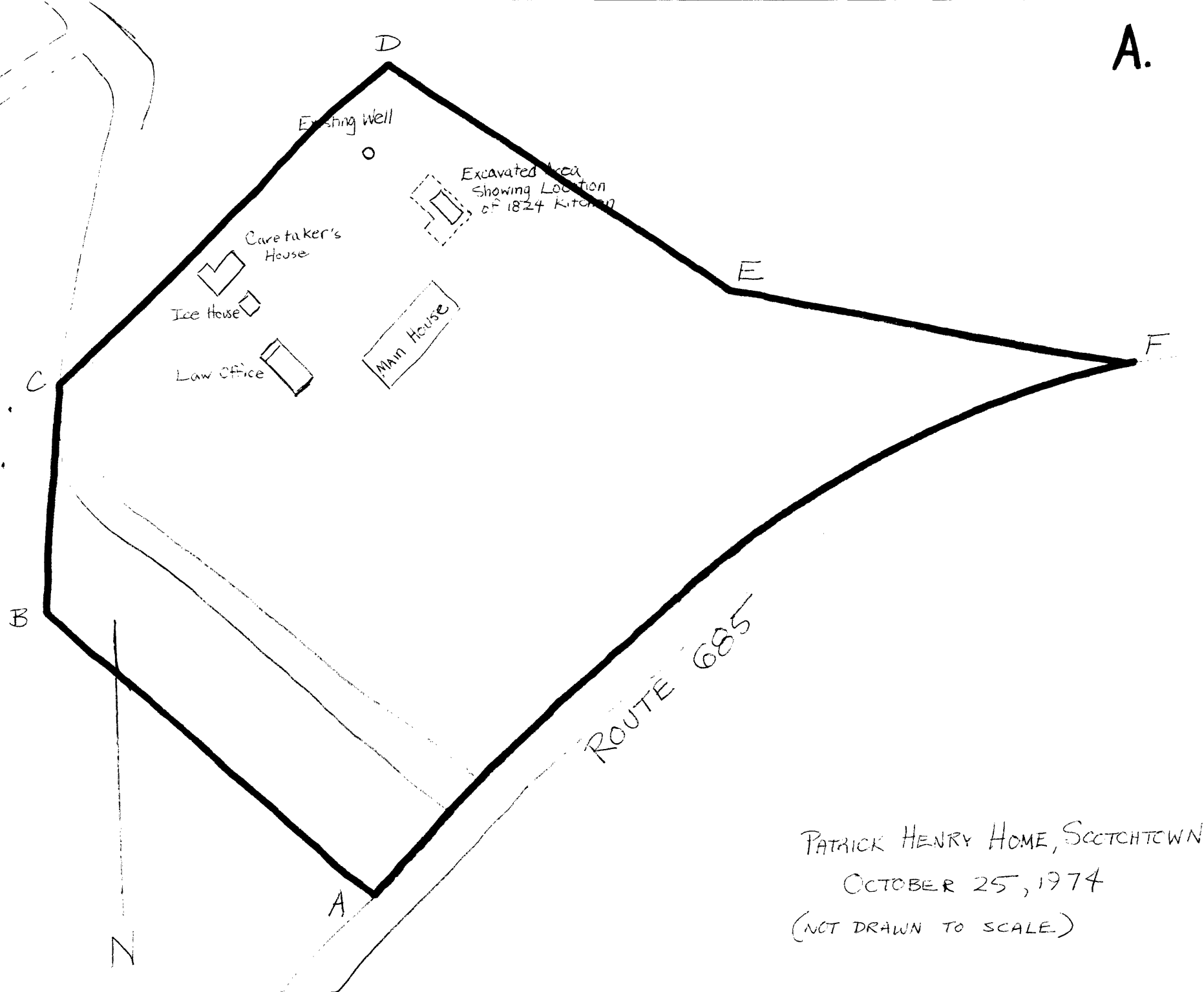
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After 1790 Henry declined a series of high government posts due to family responsibilities and ill health. In 1799, however, he consented to run again for the state legislature, in order to oppose the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions, which claimed a state veto over federal legislation. During his successful campaign he made his last speech, a moving plea for American unity. He never took his seat; on June 6 he died at Red Hill near Brookneal, Virginia.

A.



PATRICK HENRY HOME, SCOTCHTOWN  
OCTOBER 25, 1974  
(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE.)