

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| STATE:<br><b>Virginia</b> |      |
| COUNTY:<br><b>Hanover</b> |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY          |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER              | DATE |
|                           |      |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Hanover County Courthouse**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**East side of U.S. Rt. 301 at its intersection with County Rt. 1006**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hanover**

|                          |      |                           |      |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| STATE<br><b>Virginia</b> | CODE | COUNTY:<br><b>Hanover</b> | CODE |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Hanover County**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hanover**

STATE:  
**Virginia**

CODE:  
**23069**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Hanover County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hanover**

STATE:  
**Virginia**

CODE:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1934**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress, Division of Prints and Photographs**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D.C.**

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)  
 Excellent    Good    Fair    Deteriorated    Ruins    Unexposed

(Check One)  
 Altered    Unaltered

(Check One)  
 Moved    Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hanover Courthouse is a one-story T-shaped brick structure with a high hipped roof and modillioned cornice surrounding the entire building. Its most distinguishing feature is the beautifully executed five-bay wide front arcade. The walls are of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and there are three interior end chimneys, one located at the end of each arm.

The front or west elevation is about 55 feet or five-bays wide and 28 feet deep, including the 13-foot-deep arcaded porch. The rear central arm is about 32 feet or four-bays deep and 27 feet or two-bays wide. The courtroom occupied the entire long central arm and is flanked by a room for the judge on one side and a jury room on the other. Each of these two small 14-foot-square rooms has a corner fireplace.

Little altered, Hanover Courthouse is in very good condition and is still used for its original purpose.

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**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) 1735, 1763

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 checked="" 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

Hanover Courthouse is a very fine and well-preserved architectural example of a type of courthouse building widely used in Virginia in the 18th century. The one-story T-shaped brick structure was erected around 1735. Patrick Henry first came into prominence where he successfully pleaded the Parson's Cause in Hanover Courthouse in December 1763. Henry lived across the road for some time at the still extant Hanover Tavern, which his father-in-law John Shelton acquired in 1760.

History

Hanover County was created by an act of the Virginia Assembly from the western part of New Kent County in 1720 and the existing courthouse was built near the center of Hanover County around 1735.

Patrick Henry first came into prominence where he successfully pleaded the Parson's Cause in Hanover Courthouse in December 1763. The early 19th-century small brick clerk's office and the stone jail typical of a small Virginia Courthouse group are nearby.

Hanover Courthouse has been in continuous use since its construction and is still utilized for its original purpose. The building is open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

William B. O'Neal, Architecture in Virginia (New York, 1968), 103.  
Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion (American Guide Series) (New York, 1940), 365-366.  
 Frank B. Sarles, Jr. and Charles E. Shedd, Colonials and Patriots (Washington, D.C., 1964), 233.  
 Benson J. Lossing, The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution (2 vols., New York, 1861), II, 223-24.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |         | OR      | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |  |  |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---|---------|--|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE |         |         |         | LONGITUDE   |         |  |  |
|  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds |  |  |
| NW   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |  |  |
| NE   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |  |  |
| SE   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |  |  |
| SW   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |  |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6.31 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:  
**Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **2/2/73**

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

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

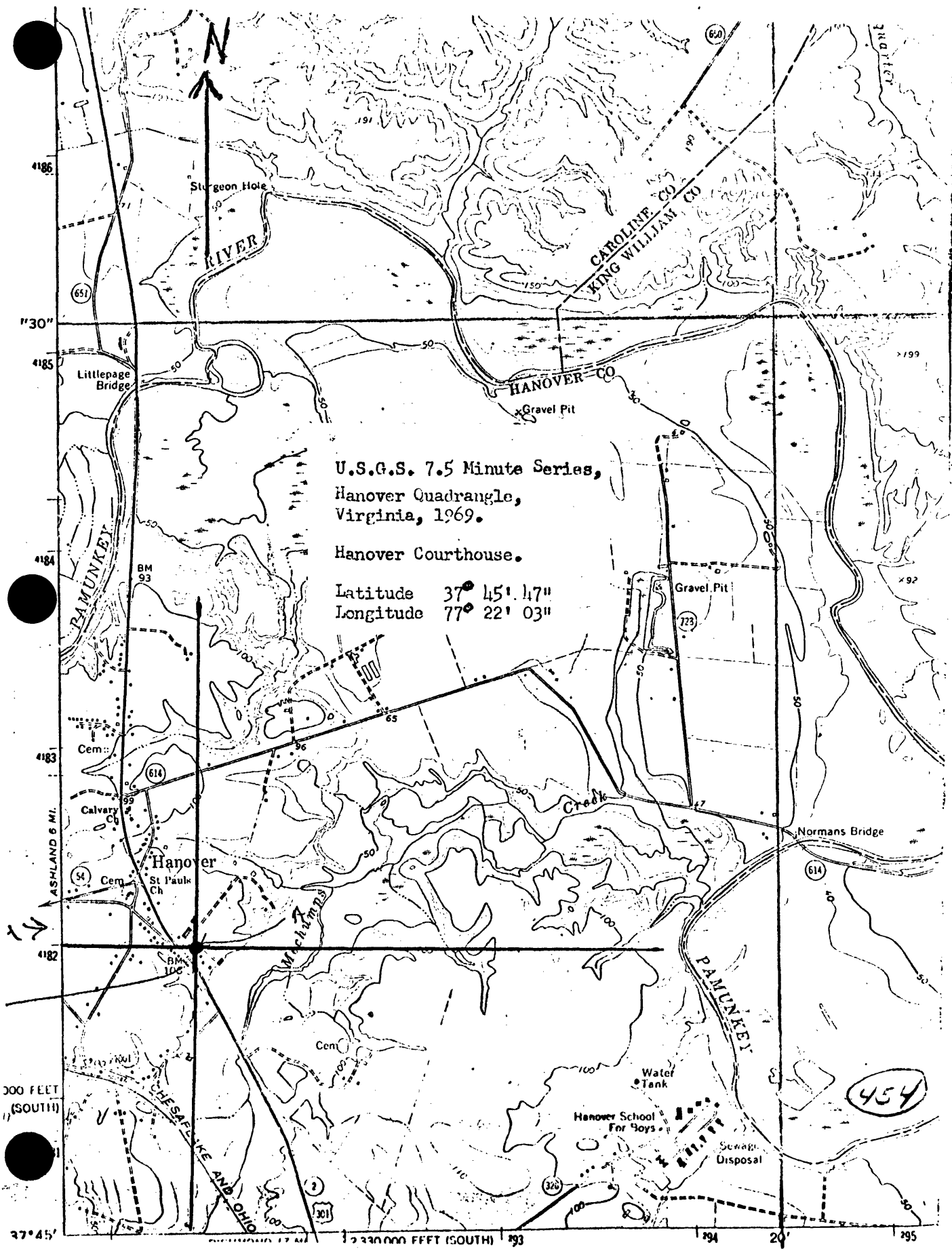
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **(455)**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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1000 FEET (SOUTH)

37° 45'

23000 FEET (SOUTH) 293

294

20'

295