

**(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)**

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

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: Halifax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10-11-45-0110	DATE 11/25/69

1. NAME

COMMON:
Berry Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Berry Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **.6 mi. S of Rt. 659, 1.5 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 659 and Rt. 682.**

CITY OR TOWN:
with Motor vicinity

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Halifax	CODE 083
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <i>(Specify)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
L. E. Watkins

STREET AND NUMBER:
Watkins Motor Co

CITY OR TOWN: South Hill	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Halifax County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Halifax	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1275.46 acres**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1941** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

State letter 10-30-71

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Halifax
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The large Greek Revival mansion that is Berry Hill actually incorporates an earlier red brick house. The exact form of the earlier house is difficult to determine, however portions of its fabric are extant in the rear of the present house. The result of James Coles Bruce's remodeling is apparent chiefly in the two-story stuccoed facade of five bays. The distinguishing feature of the facade is the great octastyle Greek Doric pedimented portico which stretches across the entire front. Flanking the principal building are two matching one-story outbuildings - the office and the schoolroom. These buildings are both temple-form and have tetrastyle Greek Doric pedimented porticoes.

The most important interior feature of Berry Hill is the entrance hall with its superb pair of stairs which curve after a long run and meet overhead. Directly behind the entrance hall is the dining room with its fireplace on axis. To the left of the hall is a pair of drawing rooms, both having deep Greek Revival cornices decorated with water leaf mouldings. The drawing rooms also contain fine marble Empire mantels with caryatid supports. An interesting feature of the house is the conservatory behind the second drawing room. This conservatory with its large windows is one of the earliest in the country to be built within the main mass of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

James Coles Bruce inherited from his father a tract of land in Halifax County which was once owned by William Byrd of Westover. On this land stood a red brick house with two principal outbuildings. Bruce had the house transformed (circa 1839) into one of the greatest Greek Revival mansions in the country and certainly the purest in style of Virginia's surviving Greek Revival houses. Berry Hill is also one of the last large plantation houses to be built in Virginia. It is thought that the architect Bruce chose for this remodeling was John E. Johnson, the architect of Bruce's half brother's house, Staunton Hill. The great octastyle portico of the house was based on that of the Parthenon. William B. O'Neal noted of Berry Hill that "Its isolated site lends an almost overpoweringly romantic aura to the distinction of its carefully executed portico flanked by two small Doric pavilions. The entire composition is on as grand a scale as any of Virginia's domestic architecture, with the possible exception of the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nichols, Frederick D., "Mansions that Merchandising Built", Arts in Virginia, Vol. 6, No. 3, Spring 1966.

O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker and Company, 1968.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36° 43' 10"	78° 58' 08"		36° 41' 54"	78° 56' 40"	
NE	36° 43' 10"	78° 55' 50"				
SE	36° 41' 05"	78° 55' 50"				
SW	36° 41' 05"	78° 58' 08"				

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:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: April 25, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

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 Edw. P. Alexander per form
Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date June 2, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Cooney
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date NOV 25 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Swartz
Keeper of The National Register

Date NOV 7 1969

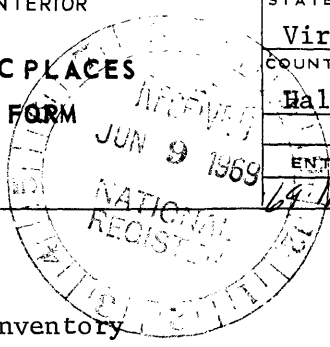
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Halifax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
64-1145-0110	11/25/69



(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
 1968 Federal
 Library of Congress
 Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #41-4
 1968 State
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
 Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 45

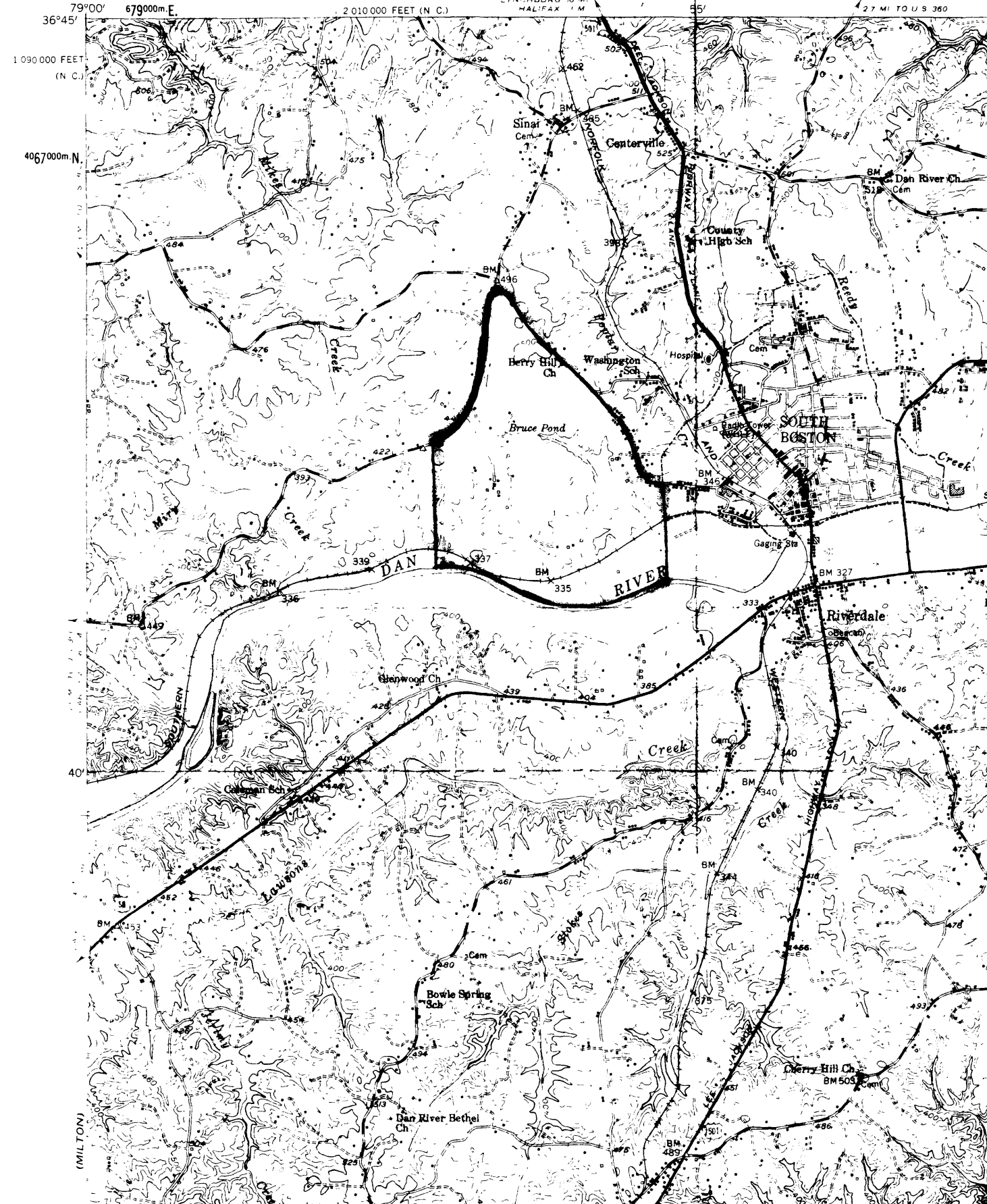
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF
DIVISION OF MINES
JAMES L. CALVER

(RICEVILLE)

LYNCHBURG 56 MI
HALIFAX 1 M

27 MI TO US 360



1 090 000 FEET
(N. C.)

4067000m N

40°

(MILTON)