

THEME: Architecture

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: James City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Carter's Grove Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Carter's Grove Plantation

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 60, James City County

CITY OR TOWN:
vicinity of Williamsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
001

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: James City CODE: 095

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	The kitchen dependency is occupied by Mr. & Mrs. McGinley. The rest of the house is open to the public.
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., Carlisle H. Humelsine, President

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Williamsburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Clerk of the Circuit Court P.O. Box 385

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street (2 blocks south of Duke of Gloucester)

CITY OR TOWN:
Williamsburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1939, 1941 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Capitol Hill

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11

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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
	(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

Carter's Grove, a few miles from Williamsburg Virginia has been, since 1928, a five-part structure, in the manner of a late-Georgian design. It was built by David Minitree, a Williamsburg builder, from 1750-1753 for Carter Burwell, grandson of Robert 'King' Carter of Corotoman and was probably designed by the architect Richard Taliefferro. Its design derives from William Salmon's book published in 1734, Palladio Londonensis, or The London Art of Building. Until this century, Carter's Grove was a two-story mansion with flanking, balanced, completely detached dependencies. It had a low-pitched (about 40 degrees) hipped roof, unbroken by the fourteen dormers which today mark the exterior. Carter's Grove was the culmination of Virginia's early-Georgian style, and remained virtually unchanged for over 150 years.

In 1908, a hyphen was constructed, connecting the kitchen to the house, and in 1928 when the property was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Archibald MacCrae, very extensive changes were made to the fabric of the building. The roof was raised eleven feet, the hyphen to the kitchen was rebuilt, and a similar one was added to the other side of the house. Both of the flanking outbuildings were broadened and were changed from 1 to 1½ stories.

All of the this notwithstanding however, Carter's Grove is an extremely beautiful example of Southern Colonial architecture, although appearing today in a style later than the original conception. The interiors of the first floor are without peer in the Southern Colonies. Paneled throughout in pine and walnut, they present a stunning atmosphere which captures the grace and elegance of the Georgian colonial experience in Virginia.

The exterior of Carter's Grove is in dark red bricks laid in a Flemish bond. A double moulded brick water table and a rubbed brick belt course articulate the location of separate functions. The moulded and gauged brick entrance at the North (land) front is a tour-de-force of great skill and beauty. The one at the river front (South) is slightly less so since it is scarred by the incisions of vandals. The striking and surprisingly elaborate interior of Carter's Grove was and is prepared for by the great visual simplicity of the exterior. Some of that is lost now with less area of blank wall space, and a greater sense of movement created by the new lines of the dormers, hyphens, barrel tops on the chimneys of the dependencies, and so on.

The entrance hall, the most impressive room in the house, introduces us, through its symmetry, sweeping archway, and grand staircase, to the insistent formality of this Georgian house. The room is fully paneled with pine, with a full entablature around it, while each of the openings is framed by perfectly executed Ionic pilasters. Throughout Carter's Grove, the architectural detail is not only beautiful, but authentic in its classical proportions, setting a new standard of 'correctness' in colonial America.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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) c. 1750-1753

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 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

Carter's Grove plantation was constructed from 1750-1753 for Carter Burwell, grandson of Robert 'King' Carter of Corotoman. It was built by David Minitree, a Williamsburg builder, with the interior joinery executed by Richard Bayliss, an Englishman brought here specifically for that purpose. The original design of Carter's Grove is derived from William Salmon's Palladio Londonensis, or The London Art of Building of 1734 and was likely designed from that source by Richard Talieferro, the Williamsburg architect. Carter's Grove represented the culmination of the early-Georgian Virginia plantation house with a two story central block flanked by completely detached, balanced dependencies. Its appearance was radically changed in 1928 and today exemplifies the broad, sweeping five-part plan more prevalent about 1775. The exterior of Carter's Grove is quite simple, in its early-Georgian manner (although now livened by the 20th century dormers, barrel-top chimneys, broad hyphens, and so on) but represents a real tour-de-force in some of its brickwork. The double-moulded water table, the rubbed brick belt course, and the handsomely-executed moulded and gauged entranceways at the North and South fronts stand out. The first floor interiors are of unparalleled beauty in the South. Executed not only with an obvious skill and appeal, the carving and panelling shows a standard of 'correctness' in classical detail which had not been seen before in colonial America.

Owned today by the Colonial Williamsburg Corporation, Carter's Grove is maintained in excellent condition and is open to the public for eight months of the year.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects (New York, 1970).
 Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).
 Ivor Noël Hume, Digging for Carter's Grove (Williamsburg, 1974).
 T. T. Waterman, The Mansions of Virginia (Chapel Hill, 1946).

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	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0	0		0	0	
NE	See Continuation Sheet					
SE	0	0		0	0	
SW	0	0		0	0	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 406.9

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James Dillon, Architectural Historian, Landmarks Review Program

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, NPS DATE: October 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street

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 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title _____

Date (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Designated: Apr. 15, 1970 date

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Boundary Certified: Comalmanline 6-20-75 date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Date _____

Chof. H. & Arch. Surv. 3

ATTEST: _____

Boundary Affirmed: AP [Signature] 7/2/75 date

Keeper of The National Register

Director, OAHP

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(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description: (1) Carter's Grove Plantation

The most arresting visual feature of the entrance room is the broad and sweeping elliptical archway which nearly reaches from one side of the room to the other. Through the arch, one sees the rather ceremonial stair to the upper story. Its ballusters are round-shafted and all of the same pattern, with three of them to a tread. The handrail and ballusters are of walnut, while nearly all of the other paneling and carving in the house was done in pine which today has acquired an extremely beautiful and mellow honey tone. This results from the oil of the paint which covered the interiors of Carter's Grove for two centuries. Painting was certainly the fashion during the eighteenth century, but it was removed and the paneling waxed during the 1928 restoration.

The other rooms on the first floor are also a treasure of classically carved detail and of marble mantels. Some of those decorative elements were probably imported from London, as Richard Bayliss was brought from England to carry out the woodwork for David Minitree, the builder.

The original holding at Carter's Grove is estimated to have been 1400 acres, a small portion indeed of King Carter's 300,000, and today the holding is down to a mere 522 acres, less than half the original. The question of what buildings, plantings, and activities were once a part of that land, was turned over to a team of archeologists in June 1970, who made a quick (fourteen month) study of this large area. Their report was published as Digging for Carter's Grove by Ivor Noël Hume in 1974 and among other details, outlines their findings of artifacts, outbuildings, brick kilns, wells, and so on. That report shows, among other things, that the original approach road is now by-passed, that there is no definite evidence of a wharf having stood at Carter's Grove during the eighteenth century, that a large number of the dard-red bricks for Carter's Grove were probably made right on the property, that oystershell lime mortar was still being used here in the middle of the eighteenth century, that some sort of colonial building which has not been yet identified stood immediately to the north and east of the kitchen, that there were tanning pits and an ice-house, or possibly two, built nearby, and that our appreciation of the landscaping at Carter's Grove derives more from subsequent development than from eighteenth century work.

The wharf and the landscaping deserve further mention. It had been hoped when the dig began that some evidence could be found connecting the known existence of a wharf built in the nineteenth century, with the one that was known to have existed at Trebell's Landing in the eighteenth. The only surviving map is a 1782 French military map showing the site of that landing, where intensive activity took place during the American Revolution. No evidence could be found, however, that the later wharf was on the same site as Trebell's Landing. It is entirely possible that the eighteenth century Carter's Grove never did have a wharf of its own, but instead

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7. Description: (2) Carter's Grove Plantation

simply relied upon the common practice of off-loading merchandise in shallow-draft lighters and then beaching them, or alternatively, they may have simply carried bulk goods overland from Yorktown or elsewhere.

The huge tulip poplars which today dominate the south front of Carter's Grove, and are themselves a century old, are the antithesis of eighteenth century taste, which sought the carefully controlled vista in preference to the kind of dominance we have now. Then, the house was to be the center of the landscape, a focal point, not shrouded as today, in its private world of shade trees.

The site today of the attractive boxwood garden near the dairy, was nothing so genteel in the eighteenth century. Then, it was a kitchen yard paved with brick bats, oystershells, and domestic rubbish to give it a good drainage surface.

Immediately to the south of the house where the ground drops off through terraces and fields to the river, a fenced-off area existed, 242 feet wide and 540 feet towards the river. Most likely, these were beds of vegetables with the flat area nearest the house used for a flower garden, the two possibly divided by a wall, a hedge, or just the falling of the terrace. This thesis could be proved or disproved by archeologically excavating the area, but has not been done for fear of damaging the root systems of the poplars. It is clear, however, that any re-creation of a colonial environment by the Colonial Williamsburg Corporation will have to bear closely in mind the discrepancy between what we think the eighteenth century may have been about and what it actually was.

BOUNDARIES

Since the 500 acres remaining at Carter's Grove constitute the last remaining piece of the original holding and is still made up of fields and woods, not unlike the setting two centuries ago, there seems every reason to place a boundary line around this landmark co-extensive with the ownership lines today. Following Mrs. MacCrae's death in 1960, Carter's Grove was sold to the Sealantic Fund Inc., and a few years later turned over to Colonial Williamsburg Inc., the present owner. They have plans to develop the property further, now open to the public, into a working illustration of an eighteenth century southern plantation.

A plat map of the Colonial Williamsburg holding is attached with this form and it gives detailed information about the boundary. Essentially it is a 406 acre piece of land between state highway 60 and The James River, descending towards the river in a series of flat terraces and framed on either side by woods and ravines. It is designated therein as parcel I.

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(Number all entries)

10. Geographical Data: (1)

Carter's Grove Plantation

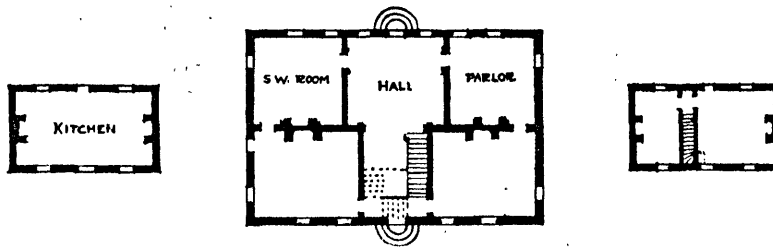
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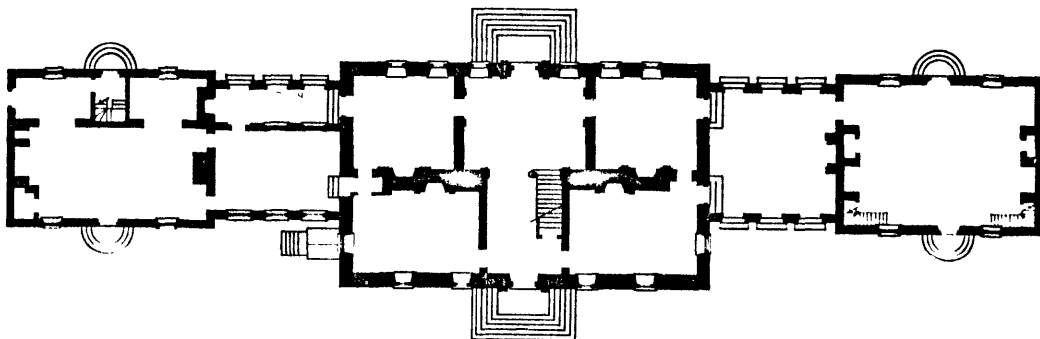
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY James City	
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Original first floor plan of Carter's Grove.



first floor Plan AFTER 1928