

ME: ARCHITECTURE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Prince George
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Brandon, Brandon Plantation "Lower Brandon"

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Brandon, Brandon Plantation "Lower Brandon"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Brandon Plantation

CITY OR TOWN:
Spring Grove (near Burrowsville)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
004

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Prince George CODE: 149

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 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:
Congressman Robert W. Daniel, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Brandon Plantation

CITY OR TOWN:
Spring Grove (near Burrowsville) 23881

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Prince George County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
on Courthouse Road off Route 106, 3 miles from the junction
106 & 460, across street from Guerin's store, Mailing addr. P.O. Bx. 98

CITY OR TOWN:
Prince George County 23875

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
History American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 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	<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

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 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 screen, 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 seldom-seen 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

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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.

B. 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) **plan completed c. 1765-1770**

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 checked="" 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

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. It 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

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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.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).
 T. T. Waterman, The Mansion of Virginia (Chapel Hill N.C. 1946).
 William H. Pierson, American Buildings and their Architects; The Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles (New York, 1970).
 Robert Lancaster, Historic Virginia Homes and Churches (Phila., 1915).
 Architects Emergency Committee, Great Georgian Houses of America, Vol. I (New York, 1933).

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		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes
NW		18.322640.4125130	0 . "	0			0		
NE		18.323360.4125400	0 . "						
SE		18.323620.4125020	0 . "						
SW		18.322800.4124680	0 . "						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 105

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

ORGANIZATION: National Historic Landmarks, Landmark Review Project DATE: 10/17/74

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name _____

Title _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date _____

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

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Secretary Certificate: Coneluis Home 9-18-75 Date

ATTEST: _____ date

Chof. Div. of Arch. Surveys

Boundary Adjusted: _____ date

Keeper of The National Register: John J. Turner 9/25/75 Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS