

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

THEME: Commerce; Distribution

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries completely in appropriate sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Fredericksburg (ind. city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Rising Sun Tavern
AND/OR HISTORIC: Rising Sun Tavern

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1306 Caroline Street
CITY OR TOWN: Fredericksburg
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventh
STATE: Virginia 22401
CODE: 51
COUNTY: Fredericksburg (ind. city)
CODE: 630

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): Building, Public, Object
OWNERSHIP: Public, Private, Both
STATUS: Occupied, Unoccupied, Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Museum

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities
STREET AND NUMBER: 2705 Park Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City Hall
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Fredericksburg
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934
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
COUNTY: Fredericksburg
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
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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

Rising Sun Tavern was built around 1760 by Charles Washington, youngest brother of George Washington. Rising Sun Tavern is a one-and-a-half story frame building covered with broad hand-beveled clapboards. It is approached by a small, restored stone porch. Its gabled roof is pierced by three tiny dormers and built-in end chimneys. The banquet room includes a paneled corner fireplace and a handsome built-in cupboard. A large ballroom burned to the ground many years ago.

The back yard has been decorated with grape vines and relocated outbuildings. The work there is purely conjectural.

Extensive restoration has recently been done on the interior of the tavern. The old Post Office has been restored. In the process of restoration some of the original railings from the 18th century bar were found under the plaster and the entire bar has now been rebuilt. Chair rails, cornices, paneled fireplace and unique stairway have all been repaired and painted in their original colors. Furniture and accessories all date from the late 18th century. The house is open to the public on an unlimited basis.

Boundary

The boundaries include all that plot of land owned by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities which contains Rising Sun Tavern and the small vineyard to its rear. The boundaries are described by the red line on the accompanying map A, labelled "City of Fredericksburg, Office of Commissioner of Revenue" and last dated 1973.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. 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) **1760-c. 1781**

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rising Sun Tavern was a favorite stopover for southern statesmen on their way from their own colonies to Philadelphia and the Continental Congress. Here, in 1777, George Mason, George Wythe, Edmund Pendleton, Thomas Lee, and Thomas Jefferson outlined the bill that Jefferson later phrased as the Statute of Virginia for Religious Liberty. The Peace Ball, attended by George Washington and his mother, his officers, La Fayette, Rochambeau, de Grasse, and others, in celebration of victory at Yorktown, was held in 1781 in the assembly room, long since burned. John Marshall, Patrick Henry and Hugh Mercer are a few of the other colonial leaders who met at Rising Sun Tavern. The inn ceased to be operated as a place of business sometime prior to the Civil War, and was made an historic shrine following its purchase by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities in 1907.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, "Rising Sun Tavern," (information leaflet).  
 Lathrop, Elise, Historic Houses of Early America (1936).  
 Work Projects Administration, Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion (1940).

**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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM 18.284690.4242500

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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: Feb. 10, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1100 L Street NW.

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.

Landmark Designated: Jan 21, 1964

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Boundary Certified: 7-16-75

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: Arch. Surveys

Boundary Affirmed: 7/24/75

Keeper of The National Register

Director, OAHPS      date

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS