



7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although the Peter Francisco House stands in a semi-ruinous condition, enough of its early fabric remains so that its original appearance can be ascertained. The house is a simple, one-and-one-half story, single-pile dwelling covered by a gable roof with two shed dormers on either slope. At the base of the roof is a simple box cornice. There are two exterior-end chimneys on the building: the Flemish bond east chimney is original, while the American bond west chimney appears to be a replacement, apparently built when a one-story wing (now destroyed except for its chimney foundation) was added to the west end. The house is set on an English bond foundation and has a full basement. Although broken and decayed in various sections, most of the building's original framing survives. From what has been exposed, it is evident that the house is of the typical timber-frame construction of the period. Also surviving are most of the original window enframements with their molded sills, and a large amount of early beaded siding. Only fragments of early sash remain, however.

The interior of the house is divided into two principal rooms on each floor with a central stair hall. Like the exterior, the interior is in poor condition: all the mantels and wainscoting have been removed, as well as the floor boards of the second floor east room. The floor in the first floor east room has completely fallen in. The original closed-string stair is in relatively sound condition, however, and features a square newel and molded handrail. Unfortunately all the balusters have disappeared. Most of the door enframements remain as well as several original raised-panel doors. The original flush-panel north exterior door is still in place.

In spite of its poor condition it is evident that the Peter Francisco House was a refined and carefully built structure, exhibiting the usual high standards of colonial craftsmanship. The picturesque quality of the house is enhanced by its isolated rural setting. The house stands at the edge of a hill overlooking the valley of Payne Creek to the south. The immediate vicinity of the house is cleared but most of the surrounding fields and pastures have been allowed to grow into forest. The approach to the house is from the north over a winding tree-lined lane.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) History |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Peter Francisco died (January 16, 1831), the General Assembly passed a resolution of regret. His funeral was held at the Capitol with Governor John Floyd, Members of the Senate and House of Delegates, and other public and civic officials in attendance. Francisco remained what he had been since Camden, Guilford Court House, and his private encounter with Tarleton's troopers at Ward's Tavern--a Virginian folk hero.

A contemporary, Alexander Garden of Lee's Legion, observed that he had "scarcely ever met with a man in Virginia who had not some miraculous tale to tell of Peter Francisco." At Guilford Court House he is credited with killing eleven British troops, striking blows of such power and viciousness that he split in two the body of one guardsman. He is supposed to have salvaged an 1100 pound cannon at Camden, carrying it to safety on his shoulders! A well-known folk painting records the essential details of the Ward's Tavern skirmish at which Francisco routed a squad of Tarleton's troops, capturing their horses, all within a short distance of the main British force.

While these stories were certainly embellished in successive retellings, they appear substantially in proportion to the facts of Francisco's military service and of his physical strength and courage. Francisco enlisted in 1776, at the age of sixteen, serving in several northern battles--Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Stony Point, and Paulus Hook--prior to the campaign against Cornwallis in the South.

Francisco worked as a blacksmith in Buckingham County after the war. One of his customers in December 1784, Samuel Sheppard, recorded a detailed and apparently objective, account of the young blacksmith's physique. Sheppard had never before seen "muscles as great and developed in so young a man." After noting the size and proportion of his fingers and hands, he concluded, Francisco's "feet are as exceptional for length and thickness as his whole body. His shoulders like some old statue.... His jaw is long, heavy, the nose powerful. . . ."

"Locust Grove," now known as the "Peter Francisco House," was the residence of the war hero from 1794 to the mid-1820s. Francisco had grown to maturity at "Hunting Towers," the home plantation of Anthony Winston, an uncle to Patrick Henry. Judge Winston brought the boy, then aged five or six, from Prince George County, where he had been abandoned. Francisco's origins and voyage to the New World remain as mysterious today as they were during the mid-1760s when he discovered at the City Point (modern Hopewell), Virginia wharf. The youth bore the countenance

(cont.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

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	37° 29' 25"	78° 22' 34"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 29' 25"	78° 21' 35"				
SE	37° 28' 23"	78° 21' 35"				
SW	37° 28' 23"	78° 22' 34"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 360 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Virginia	51	Cumberland	049
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: January, 1972

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

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 \_\_\_\_\_

James W. Moody, Jr., Director  
Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

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 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
BUCKINGHAM	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

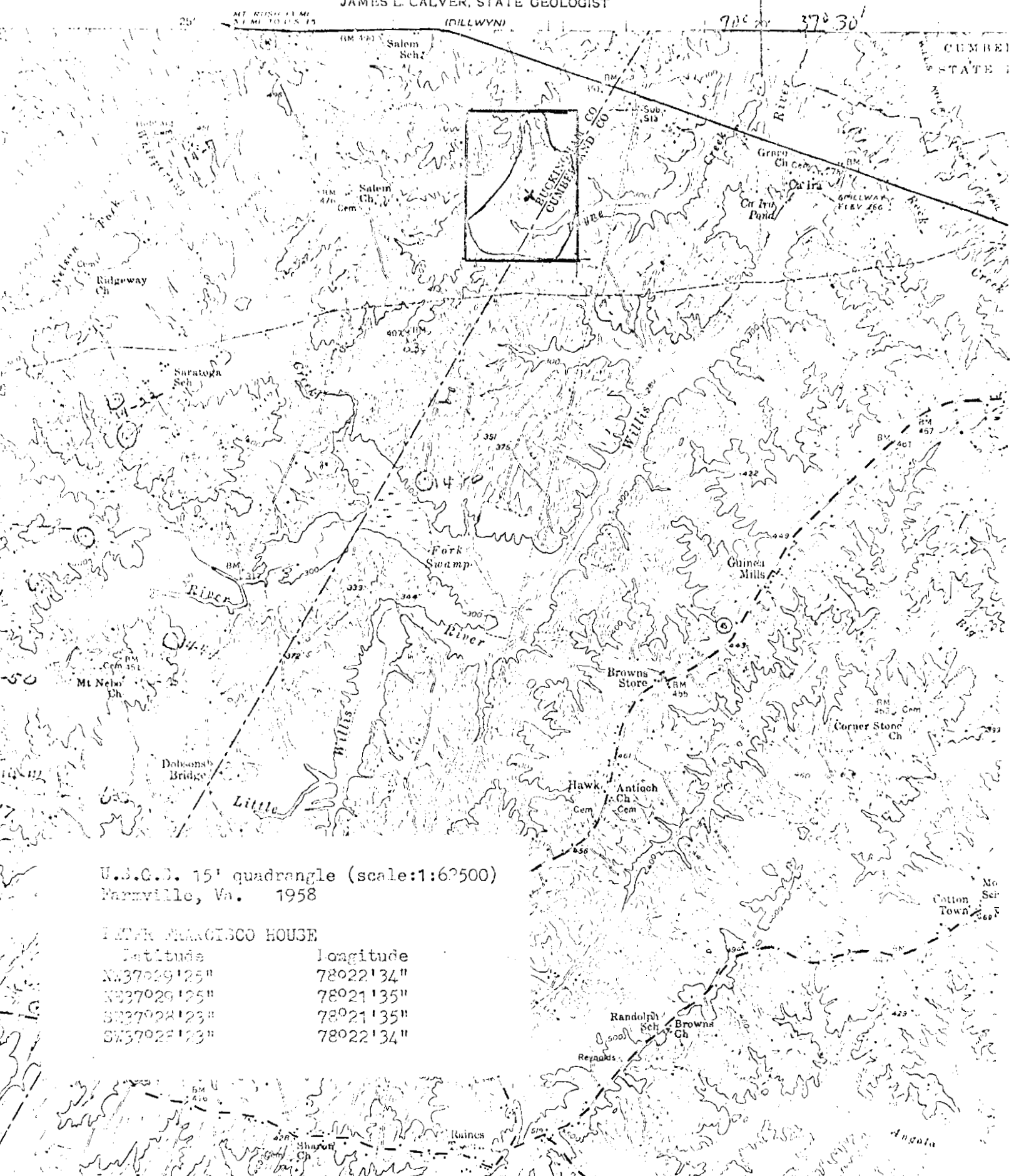
8.

of a Southern European and apparently spoke an Iberian dialect. The Spanish and Portuguese State archives have so far yielded no further information.

9.

- Cook, Fred J., What Manner of Man (1959), Chap. V: "Peter Francisco."  
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Porter, Nannie Francisco, and C. F. Albertson, The Romantic Record of Peter  
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Racer, Ralph A., Buckingham's Francisco, 1971.  
Sheppard, William, "Some Buckingham County Letters," William & Mary Quarterly,  
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U. S. Interior Department, Bureau of Pensions, MSS relating to Peter  
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Winston, N. B., Peter Francisco, Soldier of the Revolution, 1893.

STATE OF VIRGINIA  
 DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
 JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST



U.S.C.G. 15' quadrangle (scale:1:62500)  
 Farmville, Va. 1958

PETER FRANCISCO HOUSE  
 Latitude Longitude  
 N37°29'25" 78°22'34"  
 N37°29'25" 78°21'35"  
 S37°28'23" 78°21'35"  
 S37°28'13" 78°22'34"

No  
 Sch  
 Cotton  
 Town