



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <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

Built in pure Italian Villa style, Camden is a massive two-story frame structure covered with flush siding of cypress which was originally sanded to resemble stone. The base of the now truncated tower projects from the center of the land front. Around the first floor of this tower base is a semi-circular porch which is similar in detail to the wide verandah across the entire first floor of the river front. On the west side of the house is a semi-circular projecting conservatory, the interior of which has recently been converted into an informal parlor. The roofs of both the conservatory and the verandah have lost their original balustrades. A two-story service wing projects from the east side of the house. All of the openings are enriched by a variety of decorative enframements, and are topped by either segmental or semi-circular arches. The house is covered by a cross-gable roof, the deep eaves of which are supported by an unusually rich bracketed cornice. A gable similar in appearance to that on the river front now covers the base of the destroyed upper portion of the tower.

The rich interior has changed little from the earliest days of occupation. The principal first floor rooms include the broad hall, library, dining room, downstairs bedroom, and parlor. The parlor is the most elaborate and best preserved room in the house, retaining its original suite of Victorian Rococo furniture, silk brocade curtains, rosewood piano, bronze chandelier, and floral carpet of 1859. Also remaining in the house are such period items as the original speaking tubes, and the still operating floral china basins in each bedroom.

In the extensive basement with its massive granite walls there survive two raised panel doors of eighteenth-century style, which were apparently retained from the early house. No other colonial fabric appears to remain, however.

Camden is dramatically located on a high bank of the Rappahannock River and is approached by a long avenue across the broad flat bottom-land.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Caroline	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Camden property description:

Boundary following the southern bank of the Rappahannock River to mouth of small creek. Following creek to intersection with Rt. 17. Following Rt. 17 to intersection with Rt. 686 and continuing in a northwesterly line with Rt. 17 approx .25 miles, turning south to a fence line. Following fence in northwesterly direction to Rappahannock River.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857 - 1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The present Camden is built on the site of the Pratt family's colonial house which dated from circa 1760. The earlier house was a two-story frame structure on a brick foundation. This frame house was inherited by William Carter Pratt who had it demolished circa 1850 so that he might build the existing house. For the design of his new house Pratt engaged the services of a noted and able Baltimore architect, Nathan G. Starkwether. Construction of the house was begun in 1857 and completed in 1859. As stated by Richard Howland, "The new Camden was one of the greatest houses in Virginia at the time, and the most modern. Starkwether designed it in the Italian Villa Style, then the most fashionable choice of the cultivated eastern taste. He installed central heating that was equipped also to circulate cool air in the summer, gas lights (and a private gas works), and running water in every bedroom. There were inside toilets, a shower bath as well as tubs, and a profusion of closets and built-in cupboards."

Starkwether's creation for William Carter Pratt stands as one of the most complete and best preserved Italianate country houses in America. With the exception of the elaborate upper story of the tower (destroyed by action from a Union gunboat in 1863), Camden appears today almost exactly as it does in Starkwether's beautiful renderings, which are framed and preserved at the house.

In addition, the Camden tract is archeologically significant for it contains the site of a single house, probably occupied by one Indian family of the late-seventeenth century. This site, which measures only thirty feet by forty feet, has yielded a number of artifacts including pottery, pieces of tobacco pipes, iron tools, and two silver medals inscribed "The King of Machotick" and "The King of Patomeck," respectively. Many of the artifacts reflect the influence of the white man upon the Indian culture, while the silver medals were probably gifts of the English settlers to lesser tributary Indians, or they may have served as passes for the chiefs or their messengers entering the settled parts of the colony.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Caroline	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Camden

Camden

Statement of Significance: NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Camden was built between 1857 and 1859 for William C. Pratt on the site of a previous frame residence on the bank of the Rappahannock River near Port Royal Virginia, the architect for Camden was the English-born Nathan G. Starkwether who also practiced in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington. Camden is one of the finest and most fully developed examples of the Italian Villa style which so captured the romantic spirit of mid- 19th century America. The house is marked by broadly projecting eaves supported by a strongly scaled bracketed cornice, and also by wide semi-circular verandahs front and rear and a semi-circular conservatory. The top level of the tower was shot off by a gunboat in the Civil War and was not replaced. Camden is of particular interest because the architect's original drawings survive in the house, and also because the house retains much of the original furniture, draperies, carpeting, and light fixtures. Maintained in an excellent state of preservation, Camden is not open to the public.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackford, Memories of Life in and out of the Army of Virginia, Vol. II, pp. 133-135.  
 Caroline County Historical Guide Book, compiled by the Caroline County Jamestown Festival Observance Committee.  
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Museum, 1968.  
 Wingfield, Marshall, A History of Caroline County, Virginia. Richmond, Va.: 1924.  
 MacCord, Howard A., Sr., "A Virginia Indian Family in 1680", Virginia Cavalcade (Summer 1967), vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 39-42.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	10'	10"	77°	10'	38"
NE	38°	10'	10"	77°	07'	50"
SE	38°	08'	28"	77°	07'	50"
SW	38°	08'	28"	77°	10'	38"

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

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: July 29, 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 by JWA  
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 10-7-69

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Cassinly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 12 1969

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

ATTEST:

William F. Buckley  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 1 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

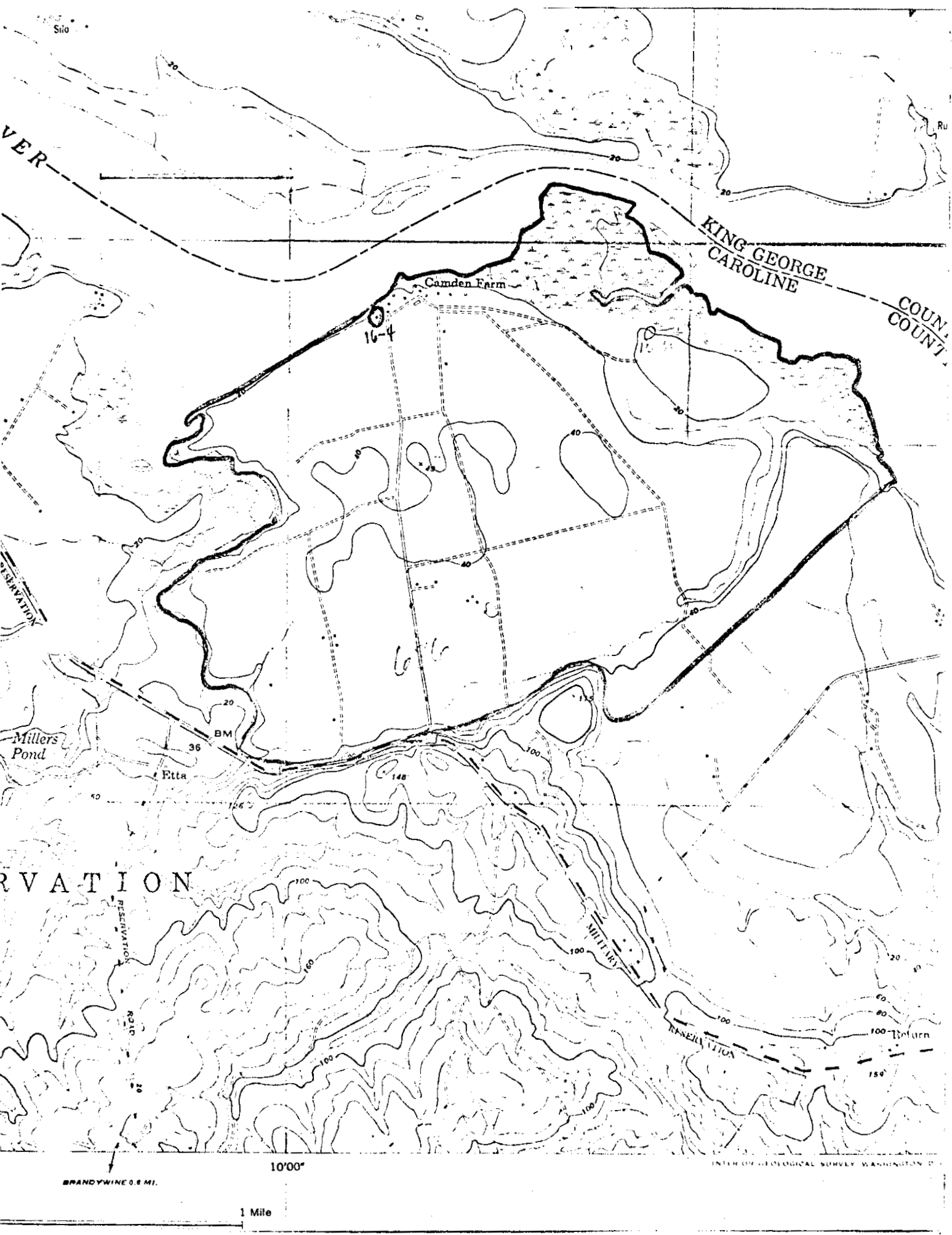
STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Caroline	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-1145-0065	1/12/69

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
 1957 Federal  
 Library of Congress  
 Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #16-4  
 1968 State  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
 Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 45





Silo

VER

KING GEORGE  
CAROLINE

COUN.  
COUNT

Camden Farm

16-4

RESERVATION

Millers Pond

BM

Etta

RESERVATION

RESERVATION

ROAD

MILLERS

RESERVATION

Return

10'00"

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D.C.

BRANDYWINE 0.8 MI.

1 Mile