

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP-2/16/70

284-47

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Caroline	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Port Royal Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Port Royal

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
See continuation sheet

CITY OR TOWN:
Port Royal

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Caroline	CODE 033
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Varied ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Port Royal

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Caroline County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Bowling Green

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE: 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
COUNTY: Caroline		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		

7. DESCRIPTION

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

The town of Port Royal is laid out on a grid plan and consists of approximately a dozen blocks with eight principal streets. It is bounded on the north by the Rappahannock River, on the west by U. S. Route 301, and on the south and east by open fields. Some unattractive commercial development is located on Route 301; however, the former principal commercial street, King Street, is now almost entirely residential. King Street extends the entire length of the town and ends on the north at the Rappahannock River where the wharves for the port formerly were located. Still remaining on King Street is the eighteenth-century Fox's Tavern, the now vacant mid-nineteenth century Masonic Hall (the Masonic Lodge was first chartered in Port Royal in 1755, making it the second oldest lodge in Virginia), and the eighteenth-century frame mansion of the Brockenbrough family, the interior woodwork of which is now displayed in the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art, Kansas City, Missouri. On Water Street, which parallels the river, stand the enlarged Hipkins-Carr House which contains interesting folk murals in its library, the now deserted and decaying Gray House with its outstanding late-eighteenth century interior woodwork, and the Federal frame mansion of the Lightfoot family. Also located on Water Street is St. Peter's Episcopal Church (circa 1836), an extraordinary little Greek temple-form building with all Gothic detail. Behind the church is the rectory, parts of which date from the colonial period.

In all, there are some thirty-five structures of architectural or historic interest remaining in the town, and nearly all of these date from either the eighteenth or early-nineteenth centuries. Unfortunately the town is now in a decline, and several of the most important structures are either vacant or in very poor repair. Few late-nineteenth or twentieth century structures have been built in Port Royal, and those which do exist are of such simple design as not to detract from the historic character of the town.

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
<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 checked="" 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 town of Port Royal was officially established by an act of the Virginia Council in October, 1744. Richard Taliaferro was authorized to survey the town site, and a group of seven men, including William Beverley and Lunsford Lomax, were named trustees to convey lots to purchasers. Largely settled by Scots, the town was originally called Port Roy as it was located near Roy's tobacco warehouse, an establishment owned by a Thomas Roy. A tobacco warehouse had been located on the site since the late-seventeenth century. The town had an excellent harbor, and during the eighteenth century enjoyed a prosperous tobacco trade directly with England. In 1745, the Port Royal merchants formed a guild to promote commerce, thus in fact creating one of the earliest chambers of commerce in America.

In the late-eighteenth century Port Royal had been important enough to be considered as a potential site for the United States capital. However, the town's prosperity was eclipsed in the nineteenth century when the railroads superceded the rivers as the principal channels of Tidewater commerce. As a result, Port Royal saw little of the commercial growth and expansion experienced by most port cities during the nineteenth century. Yet it was not allowed to decay seriously until recently, being transformed instead into a small residential community. Thus the town today possesses a notable collection of eighteenth and early-nineteenth century structures with few modern intrusions. Furthermore, Port Royal is extremely significant because it is one of the few colonial Tidewater towns to be contained entirely within its original boundaries and to retain a semblance of its early atmosphere and appearance without the benefit of restoration or special protection.

Among the prominent residents of Port Royal have been the Reverend Jonathan Boucher, a noted eighteenth-century author; Professor George Fitzhugh, early prophet of an industrialized South; Captain Sally Tompkins, the only lady Confederate officer of the War; and, more recently, the late Thomas T. Waterman, prominent Virginia architectural historian.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Campbell, T. E., Colonial Caroline. Richmond, Va.: The Dietz Press, Incorporated, 1954.
 Wingfield, Marshall, A History of Caroline County, Virginia. Richmond, Va.: Trevvet Christian & Co., Inc., 1924.

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	38° 10' 26"	77° 11' 48"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 10' 26"	77° 11' 13"				
SE	38° 09' 58"	77° 11' 13"				
SW	38° 09' 58"	77° 11' 48"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 200 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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: November 7, 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 John

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date December 2, 1969

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

