

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Charles City</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Charles City County Court House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Charles City County Court House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**.8 mi. N of Queens Creek, S side of Rt. 628, .1 mi. S of intersection of**

CITY OR TOWN: **Rt. 628 and Rt. 5 in Charles City.**

STATE: **Virginia**      CODE: **45**      COUNTY: **Charles City**      CODE: **039**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP			STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:	
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Bath <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work In progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
**Charles City County**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Charles City**      STATE: **Virginia**      CODE: **45**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Destroyed**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1937**      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **District of Columbia**      CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Virginia**  
COUNTY: **Charles City**  
ENTRY NUMBER:      DATE:      FOR NPS USE ONLY

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Charles City County Court House is a one-story T-shaped structure of brick laid in Flemish bond both above and below the finely molded water table. Rubbed brick is found at the corners of the building and in the jambs of the windows and arches. Gauged brickwork is found in the segmental arches over the windows and in the round arches of the arcade. The entire structure is surrounded by an apparently original modillion cornice above which is a steep hipped roof covered in tin. During the extensive alterations undertaken on the building the five bay arcade across the front of the building was enclosed and windows were installed in the voids. All of the original window openings except for the two in the east arm of the T have been lowered several courses and have lost their original sash. The two unaltered windows have nine-over-nine sash with wide muntins. A simple one-story front porch has been added to the south end of the building which now has a door cut into it which is used as the main entrance of the building.

Hardly any original woodwork remains on the interior of the building except for the architraves and doors of the chambers in the T. Each of these rooms have fireplaces but their chimneys are replacements. The walls in both these rooms are bare plaster. The judge's bench is now located across what was the center arch of the exterior arcade. No original court furnishings appear to remain.

The area around the courthouse contains a Confederate monument, a late-nineteenth century clerk's office with later additions, and a circa 1867 frame jail which retains its original iron bar windows.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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)

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/Phi- <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>History</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human- <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Italian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

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

Named for Prince Charles who later became King Charles I, the Charles City Corporation was established in 1618, and became Charles City County in 1634 when the colony was divided into eight "shires". This original shire or county contained lands on both sides of the James River between James City County on the east and Henrico County on the west, and extended to the south and west for an indefinite distance.

It is believed that the first county seat was located at City Point, originally known as Charles City Point, now part of the modern city of Hopewell. In 1639 the court was meeting on the north side of the river at Westover Plantation, and for the remainder of the seventeenth century the court alternated between sites on both sides of the James. In 1702 the County was divided into two sections - the portion below the James becoming Prince George County, and the north side of the river retaining the name Charles City County. The court continued to meet in the old courthouse at Westover until circa 1730 when the county seat was moved to its present and more centralized location on the river road between Williamsburg and Richmond. Because the Charles City court records were destroyed during the Civil War the construction date of the present courthouse is uncertain but it is believed that it was built in the early 1730's. The similarity between the brickwork of the courthouse and that of nearby Westover has caused experts to assume the two structures were erected by the same builder.

The courthouse was rifled during the Civil War and was radically altered in the years following. Fortunately the alterations are rectifiable by careful restoration. Despite these changes the Charles City Courthouse is probably the most sophisticated surviving example of the small group of arcaded front colonial courthouses. The county seat has never been commercially developed, causing the courthouse to retain its isolated setting at a country crossroads, much as it was in colonial times.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Christian, George L., Charles City: Some of Its Noted Places... Richmond, 1910, pp. 13 ff.  
 Gaines, William H., "Courthouses of Charles City and Prince George Counties," Virginia Cavalcade, Summer, 1968, pp. 5-12.  
 Street, Elwood, "Charles City County Courthouse," Richmond Times Dispatch, Jan. 18, 1942.  
 Whiffen, Marcus, "Early Courthouses of Virginia," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historian, Vol. 18, No. 1, p. 2 ff.

**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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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 24, 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: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title: Virginia 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



lat. 37° 20' 28"

long. 77° 04' 21"

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)  
Charles City, Va. (1965)

Charles City County Court House  
Latitude                      Longitude  
37° 20' 28"                      77° 04' 21"

TY CO  
RGE CO  
Project  
W