

VLP - 9/9/89 NHP - 10/10/86 NHL - 10/9/80

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: Charles City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
WESTOVER 1825

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
7 miles southwest of Charles City

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charles City

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Charles City CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input 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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" 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	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Bruce C. Fisher

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Westover 1201 McLean Court

CITY OR TOWN:  
~~Charles City~~ Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Charles City Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charles City

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
HABS

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: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Charles City  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Located on one of the earliest of Virginia plantations, first occupied in 1619, the present mansion was built by William Byrd II in the years 1730-34. Typical of the tidewater tobacco plantations, Westover was a vast 1,200-acre estate which barely sufficed to provide a living for its owner. So hard pressed was Byrd that on more than one occasion he had to sell land or Negroes to make ends meet. Byrd, typical of his class, eked out his existence as a tobacco planter with large-scale speculation in western lands.

The mansion, called by Morrison "perhaps the most famous Georgian house in America," is noted for the quality of its construction and its architectural completeness. The mansion proper consists of a two-story central section on a high basement and two attached wings, the one to the east a replacement of the original, which was destroyed during the Civil War. Several dependencies, including the original kitchen which is reputed to antedate the present house, stand nearby. Notable features of the mansion include formal doorways in Portland stone on both main facades; a steeply pitched hip roof, rising to a sharp ridge instead of a deck; an off-center main hall, utilizing one of the regularly spaced facade windows as a light source; and a finely detailed exterior with full-length paneling and enriched plaster ceilings. Exterior features include three original gates, the central one called by Morrison the "finest old wrought iron gates in America," probably made by Thomas Robinson, of London; an underground tunnel from the house to the river bank; formal gardens, containing the grave of Byrd; the site of the first Westover Church, about 400 yards west of the house, where a number of prominent Virginians are buried, including the first Benjamin Harrison of Berkeley, the first William Byrd and his wife, and Capt. William Perry, who died in 1637; and the remains of an old ice house. The mansion group was restored about 1920 and came into possession of the present family shortly thereafter. It appears to be in excellent condition.

b. **BOUNDARIES:** Bounded on the north and east by Herring Creek and on the south by James River. Beginning on a dirt road, identified as Route 633, at a point about 3,200 feet east of the junction of Routes 5 and 633, proceed in a northeasterly direction for about 3,150 feet to the center of Herring Creek; follow center line of Herring Creek in an easterly then southerly direction for about 14,150 feet to the eastern tip of Ducking Stool Point; thence west along the James River (northern) shoreline for about 8,800 feet; thence north for about 4,150 feet to Route 633; thence in a northwesterly direction, following northern boundary of Route 633, to point of beginning.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A noted example of early Georgian architecture, built by William Byrd II about 1730-34.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thomas T. Waterman, The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776 (Chapel Hill, 1946); Edith T. Sale, Manors of Virginia in Colonial Times (Philadelphia, 1909); Sale, Interiors of Virginia Houses of Colonial Times (Richmond, 1927); Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period (New York, 1952).

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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37 °	19	58 "	77 °	10	23 "
NE	37 °	19	43 "	77 °	08	30 "
SE	37 °	18	33 "	77 °	08	13 "
SW	37 °	18	35 "	77 °	10	41 "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.025

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:  
Frank S. Melvin

ORGANIZATION: Virginia State Office, National Park Service

DATE: 6/30/72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 10008

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia 23240

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

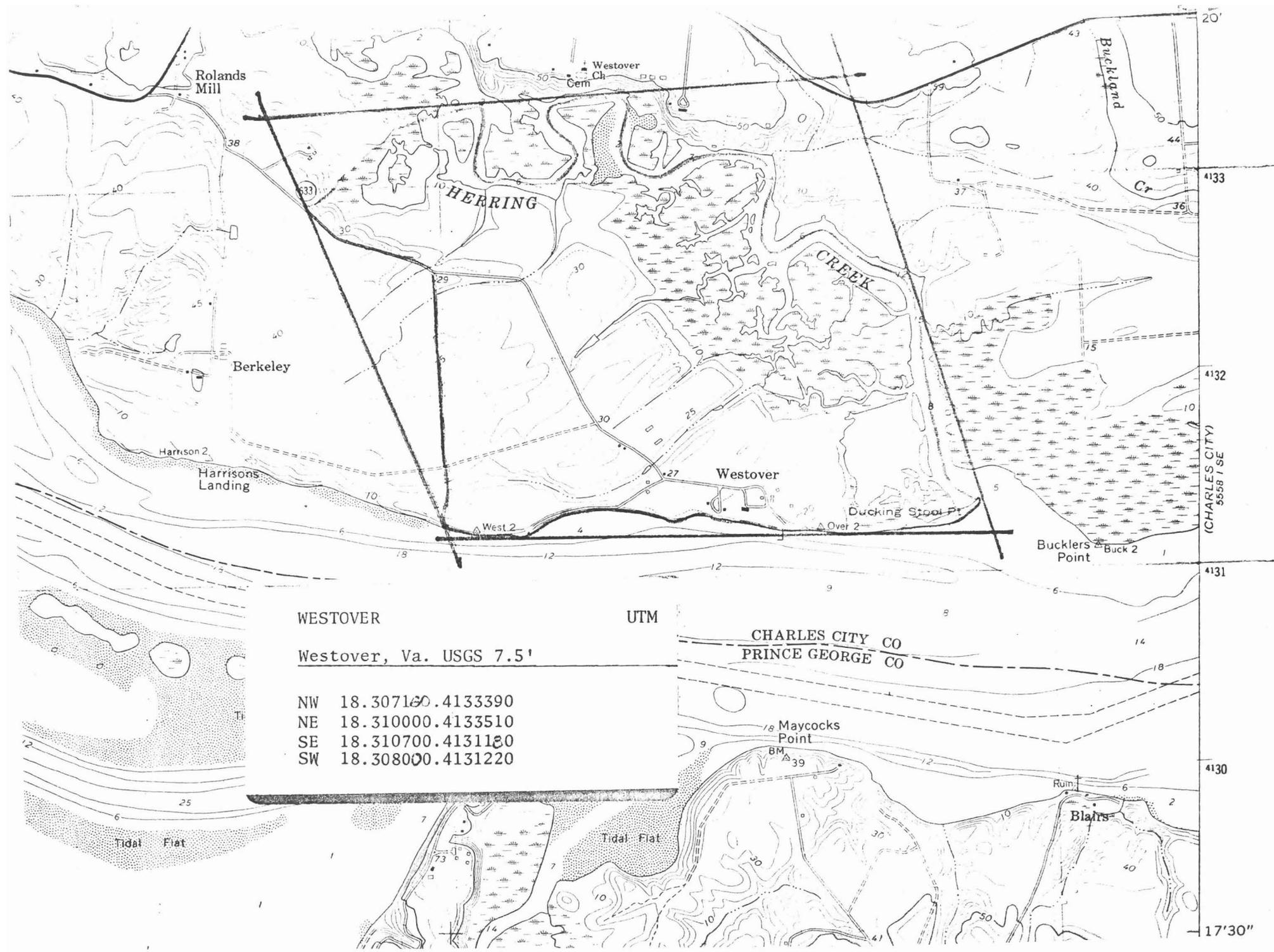
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



WESTOVER

UTM

Westover, Va. USGS 7.5'

NW	18.307160	4133390
NE	18.310000	4133510
SE	18.310700	4131180
SW	18.308000	4131220

CHARLES CITY CO  
PRINCE GEORGE CO

20'  
4133  
4132  
4131  
4130  
17'30"

(CHARLES CITY)  
5658 1 SE