

VLR-2/20/73 NRHP-10/3/73

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: Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Gloucester County Court House Square Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The parcel of land surrounded by Main Street and those structures bordering the square.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Gloucester

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Gloucester CODE: 073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934, 1935  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: Gloucester

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STATE	
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(Number all entries)

6.  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1959 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gloucester County Court House Square contains an assemblage of period structures ranging from the mid-eighteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. The district consists of the Gloucester County government buildings located on a parcel of land surrounded by Main Street (U. S. Route 17) and those structures bordering the square, housing private businesses, offices and residences.

The two most important structures, both architecturally and historically, in the district are the courthouse and the Botetourt Hotel (now the Botetourt Administration Building). Other structures include the Martin Hicks, Attorneys, Building; the RTO Building; the Daniels, Turnbull and Freeman, Certified Public Accountants, Building; the Ralph K. Vanlandingham and Company, Certified Public Accountants, Building; the Catesby G. Jones, Attorney, Building; the John M. Folkes, Attorney, Building; the Jones House; Gardiner's Shoe Repair; the Botetourt Lodge; the State Farm Insurance Building; the Reserve Life Insurance Company Building; the Gloucester Veterinary Hospital; W. C. Tucker's Department Store Building; S and S Hobbies; and the Kearn's Real Estate storage house.

The Courthouse is a high-styled colonial structure with Flemish bond brick construction. An excellent example of its style and form, the Courthouse is the focal point for the square. The one-story structure has a T-shaped plan, and a Colonial Revival portico addition. The building's extreme dimensions measure approximately 48' by 68'. The three-sectioned facade consists of two symmetrical wings on either side of the projecting tetrastyled Ionic portico which shelters the main entrance. A sunburst fanlight is set in the portico's pediment. The main entrance consists of a double door with a square grid, arched fanlight above the architrave. The main body of the building is covered by a hipped roof and has an interior brick chimney stack at either end of each wing. The wings have two bays each with the windows containing six-over-six sash and a sunburst fanlight between the architrave and the cornice. Similar windows are found in the rear section; those on the south end are later. A beveled brick water-table surrounds the entire structure. The rear section of the building has an exterior chimney stack which is a later addition. The Courthouse has been renovated several times, is kept in good condition and is still used for its original purpose. Little but the walls, roof framing and possibly the modillioned cornice are original however.

The other colonial structure within the boundary of the district is the Botetourt Hotel (originally John New's Ordinary, now the Botetourt Administration Building). Constructed in the mid-eighteenth century, the impressive two story structure has unusually fine detailing for a structure of its type. The building is large, rectangular in shape and of Flemish bond

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7.  
brick construction. The first floor front is sheltered by a hexastyled Tuscan porch which was installed in a recent restoration and is thought to follow the lines of an early porch. Facing the building from Main Street and beginning at the left end, entrances are placed in the first, second, fourth and fifth bays. Six-over-six sash are used on the second floor and nine-over-six sash on the first floor. The steep gable has two wide interior end chimneys and is shingled with slate. The cornice on the front and rear facades has large modillions. The rear facade has a full English basement with six-over-six sash and a beveled brick water-table. The basement is entered through the rear.

The Botetourt Hotel was restored in 1968 for use as Gloucester County offices and as a cultural center. The interior had been greatly altered, but remaining period details have been preserved in a suitable manner. A basement kitchen has been adapted into public meeting space. All the fireplaces are in working order. The rear area of the building has been appropriately landscaped.

The other structures in the county government complex within the square and those surrounding the square serve a variety of purposes, ranging from the Sheriff's Office, inside the square, to the various lawyer's offices, accountant's offices, and commercial stores and residences which surround the area. These structures are constructed of various materials including brick, (plain and covered with stucco), and weatherboarding. Their relatively harmonious scale, ranging from one to two stories in height, gives the district an architectural unity which has become increasingly rare today in areas surrounding county courthouses. Although the Courthouse and the Botetourt Hotel are the two main architectural landmarks of the district, all of the structures within its confines of the historic district are important for contributing to its overall effect.

J.L.F.

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)

- |  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" 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) <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    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gloucester County Court House Square survives as a classic example of an early Virginia county seat complex. The walled courtyard with its cluster of governmental buildings, and its surrounding offices and commercial structures comprise one of the most picturesque groupings of its type in the Commonwealth.

The square is dominated by the brick T-shaped colonial courthouse which, though having undergone several alterations, follows the general pattern of eighteenth century courthouse architecture. With its careful proportioning, fine brickwork, and round-arched windows, the building is one of the most architecturally sophisticated of Virginia's important collection of colonial courthouses. The traditional construction date of the courthouse is circa 1766, although this date has not been definitely established. Documentary evidence recently to light suggests that portions of the present structure could be earlier.

The courthouse is the only colonial structure within the square. The other governmental buildings, including the jail, the clerk's office, the treasurer's office, and sheriff's office, all have construction dates spanning the period from the early nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century. These buildings may stand on or near the sites of their colonial counterparts, however.

The prodigious Botetourt Hotel building, located just to the south of the square, was built circa 1770, and was known originally as John New's Ordinary. A notable example of colonial architecture, the two-story structure is one of the largest as well as one of the few brick taverns surviving from the pre-revolutionary era. It recently has been restored and adapted to county offices.

Besides the tavern, a number of law offices were among the necessary appurtenances of any early county seat. The series of small law offices, mostly of nineteenth and twentieth century origin, facing onto the square complete the picture of this venerable complex.

J. L. F.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Farrar, Emmie F., Old Virginia Houses, New York: Bonanza Books, 1955.  
 Gray, Mary Wiatt, Gloucester County, Virginia, 1936.  
 Whiffen, Marcus, "The Early County Courthouses of Virginia,"  
The Journal of Architectural Historians, March, 1959.  
 Files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

**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 ° 24 ' 57 "	76 ° 31 ' 54 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37 ° 24 ' 57 "	76 ° 31 ' 45 "				
SE	37 ° 24 ' 50 "	76 ° 31 ' 45 "				
SW	37 ° 24 ' 50 "	76 ° 31 ' 54 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 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:  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: January, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.  
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr. Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date FEB 20 1973

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

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Gloucester County Court House Square Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: The parcel of land surrounded by Main Street and those structures bordering the square.			
CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Gloucester	CODE 073
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle Gloucester, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1965			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Gloucester County Court House Square Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: The parcel of land surrounded by Main Street and those structures bordering the square.			
CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Gloucester	CODE 073
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Phil Flourney			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1965			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Chamber of Commerce; Richmond, Va.			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  View of courthouse from southeast			

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GLOUCESTER COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORYNOTE: ALL RESOURCES ARE CONTRIBUTING UNLESS MARKED (NC) FOR  
NONCONTRIBUTING.

- 36-21-~~1~~<sup>25</sup> c.1810, Flemish-bond brick (front) and 5-course  
(also 36-14) American-bond brick (other sides), tin gable-roofed,  
Federal-style structure; originally a debtor's prison,  
presently the Historical Committee office.
- 36-21-2 c.1873, stretcher-bond brick (front) and random-course  
American-bond brick (other sides), main section has  
slate hip-roofed, vernacular structure with corbeled  
brickwork and round-arched second-floor windows;  
originally a jail, presently a division of the  
Sheriff's Department.
- 36-21-3 c.1896, 7-course American-bond brick, pressed tin hipped  
roof, Folk Victorian structure with a string course of  
brick, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, 2/2  
double-sash windows, and a front hipped dormer;  
presently a museum.
- 36-21-4 c.1823, 7-course American-bond brick, slate gable-  
(also 36-47) roofed, Federal-style Clayton building with neo-Gothic  
elements; parapets at gable ends and 3 courses of brick  
corbeling on north and south elevations; presently the  
General Registrar's office.
- 36-21-5 c.1766, 1956 (alterations), Flemish-bond brick, slate  
hip-roofed, Georgian-style courthouse with a water table  
, 3 capped interior end brick chimneys, 6/6 double-sash  
windows with fanlights, a modillion cornice, and a 3-bay  
pedimented Ionic portico.
- 36-21-6 1956, Flemish-bond brick, slate gable-roofed, Colonial  
Revival-style office with a water table and 3 gable-  
roofed dormers. (NC)
- 36-21-7 Late-19th-century, frame and aluminum siding,  
composition shingle hip-roofed, vernacular Botetourt  
Masonic Lodge with 1/1 double sash windows and a bell  
tower projecting from the central bay.

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- 36-21-8 c.1900, frame and weatherboard siding, tin gable-roofed, vernacular law office with 1 interior brick chimney and 2/2 double-sash windows.
- 36-21-9 c.1900-1910, frame and weatherboard siding, composition shingle gable-roofed, 2-story vernacular building with overhanging exposed eaves.
- 36-21-10 c.1890, frame and weatherboard siding, tin gable-roofed, vernacular office building with Italianate influences; cornice returns.
- <sup>3</sup>/~~2~~6-21-11 c.1930-1940, concrete block and stucco, composition shingle gable-roofed, vernacular office with a pediment over the doorway and a triangular vent in the gable.
- <sup>3</sup>/~~2~~6-21-12 c.1940-1950, 7-course American-bond brick, slate gable-roofed, Colonial Revival-style office with cornice returns and an ornate door surround with fluted pilasters and a fanlight. (NC)
- <sup>3</sup>/~~2~~6-21-13 c.1930, c.1950 (alterations), Flemish-bond brick, flat-roofed with a parapet, Colonial Revival-style office with a belt course of brick and 1-bay entrance porch.
- <sup>3</sup>/~~2~~6-21-14 c.1940, mixed garden wall-bond brick, slate pedimented gable-roofed, Colonial Revival-style office with a 3-bay pedimented portico, stuccoed in the porch and house gables, and 6/6 double-sash windows.
- <sup>3</sup>/~~2~~6-21-15 c.1900, frame and aluminum siding, composition shingle gable-roofed, vernacular office with 6/6 double-sash windows and a 1-bay porch.
- <sup>3</sup>/~~2~~6-21-16 c.1920-1930, rusticated concrete block, flat-roofed with a parapet, vernacular office building with 6/6 double-sash windows.
- <sup>3</sup>/~~2~~6-21-17 c.1890, frame and aluminum siding, tin gable-roofed, vernacular commercial building with Italianate influence; bracketed cornice with returns.
- <sup>3</sup>/~~2~~6-21-18 c.1975, concrete block with brick veneer, flat-roofed, vernacular office with a 1-light transom and 6/6 and 6/1

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double-sash windows. (NC)

<sup>3</sup>

~~36-21-19~~

Late-19th-century, frame and weatherboard siding, composition shingle gable-roofed, vernacular commercial building that has undergone extensive remodeling and retains integrity only partially.

<sup>3</sup>

~~36-21-20~~

c.1870, frame and weatherboard siding, tin gable-roofed, vernacular office with a 2-bay, hip-roofed porch and 2 interior brick chimneys.

<sup>3</sup>

~~36-21-24~~

c.1900, frame and asbestos shingle siding, tin gable-roofed, vernacular dwelling with cornice returns and a screened 2-bay front porch.

<sup>3</sup>

~~36-21-22~~

(also 36-9)

c.1770, Flemish-bond brick, slate gable-roofed with Georgian-style office building known as the Botetourt Building with a 6-bay front porch and one interior end brick chimney, modillion cornice, 9/6 and 6/6 double-sash windows, and a massive interior ridge brick chimney; presently a governmental/administrative office building.

<sup>3</sup>

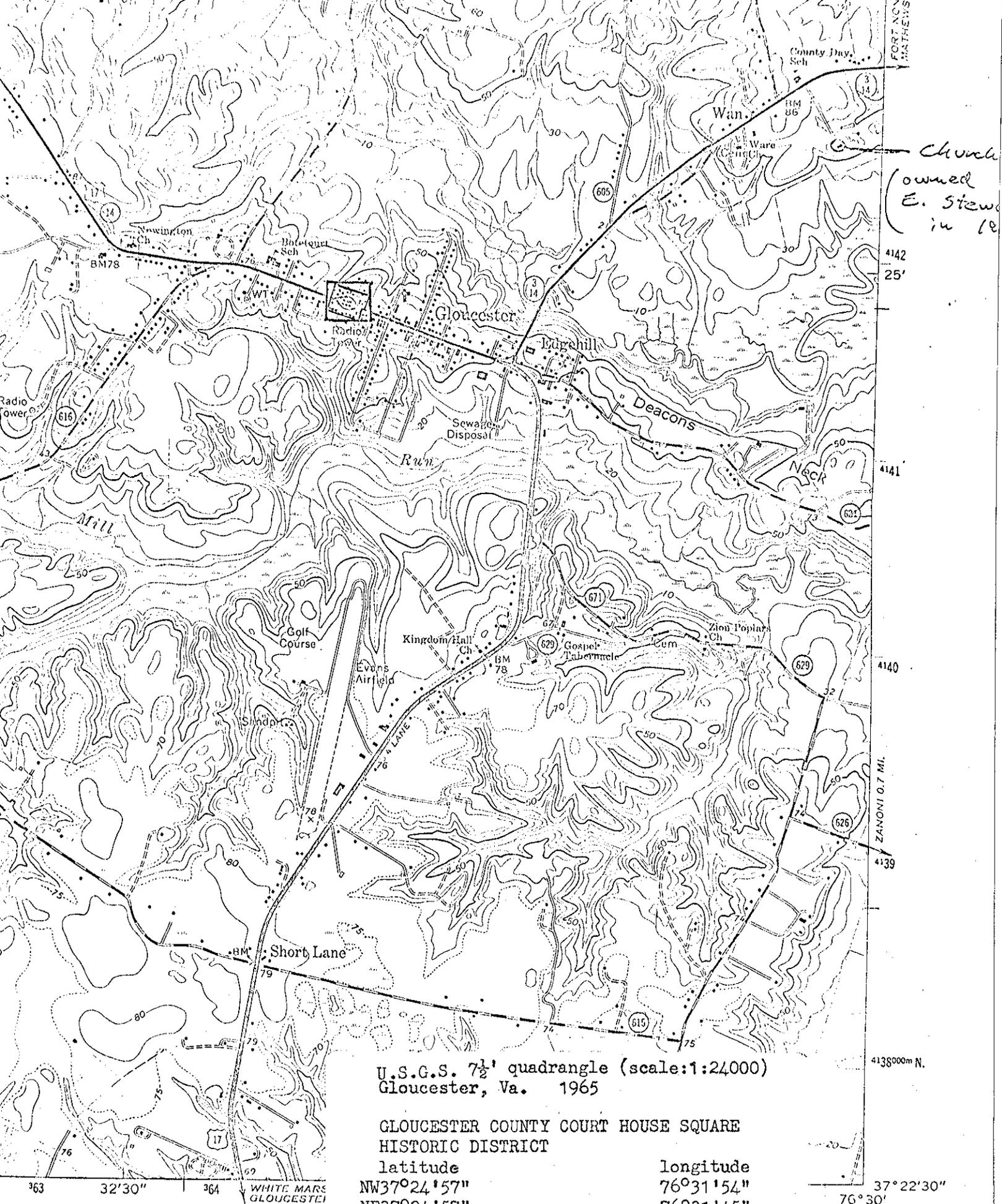
~~36-21-23~~

36-21-1

1889, rusticated ashlar stone and dressed ashlar stone monument to Confederate soldiers located on the Courthouse Square. (contributing object)

~~36-21-1~~ Confederate Memorial

36-21-21 vacant lot



Church  
 owned  
 E. Stew  
 in 18

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Gloucester, Va. 1965

GLOUCESTER COUNTY COURT HOUSE SQUARE  
 HISTORIC DISTRICT

latitude	longitude
NW37°24'57"	76°31'54"
NE37°24'57"	76°31'45"
SE37°24'50"	76°31'45"
SW37°24'50"	76°31'54"

1 MILE  
 320 FEET

ACHILLES  
 5755 N. 11