

VLR-8/15/72 NRHP-7/24/74

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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: Hanover
FUR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON
Sycamore Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
South-west side of Route 33

CITY OR TOWN:
Montpelier

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE: **Virginia** COUNTY: **Hanover** CODE: **085**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted Unrestricted <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>library</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Hanover County School Board

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hanover County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Richmond Virginia 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Virginia**

COUNTY: **Hanover**

ENTRY NUM BER

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural character: Sycamore Tavern is an example of a vernacular typical one-and-a-half-story, hall-and-parlor Piedmont Virginia house.

B. Condition of the fabric: Structurally sound, but in need of a few minor repairs.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Overall dimensions: This one-and-a-half-story structure is three bays long and two bays deep with a single bay shed extension on the rear. A small gable roof shed shelters the cellar entrance on the east side.

B. Foundations: Brick, heavily repointed.

C. Wall construction: White weatherboard, not original.

D. Porches: A shed porch framed into the roof, is supported on four square posts and extends the length of the facade. It has rectangular balusters and molded rail.

E. Chimneys: Two exterior chimneys are on the east end; the larger, original chimney is laid in Flemish bond, has sloping tiled shoulders and a very narrow stack set away from the gable. The smaller, later chimney at the shed addition is laid in American bond, and has two sets of stepped shoulders. The chimney on the west end appears to be early nineteenth century and is laid in American bond, has two sets of stepped shoulders, and a stack set away from the gable.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The six-panel entrance door is surrounded by architrave trim.

2. Windows: The rectangular basement windows are surrounded by solid, plain pegged frames with diagonally set square bars. The first floor windows have six-over-nine sash, square sills and architrave trim. In the shed addition the windows have six-over-six sash. The smaller upper windows have four-over-four sash in the dormers and two-over-four sash elsewhere.

G. Roof: The gable roof is covered with wooden shingles and is broken by two pedimented dormers on the north side.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor plan: Typical hall-and-parlor plan.

B. Stairway: The stair ascends in the interior corner of the west room. It is enclosed by wide boards with a slight bead at one edge, and employs a series of winders near the bottom.

C. Flooring: Random-width pine.

D. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster.

E. Doorways and doors: The six-panel doors are surrounded by architrave trim. The door opening to the stairway is composed of three vertical boards, and the doorway has very plain trim. H-and-L hinges remain on most of the doors.

F. Trim: The floor joists of the second floor are left exposed, and are beaded on both edges. A beaded chairboard surrounds both rooms.

G. Heating: The building is presently heated by electricity. The fireplace in the east room has a segmental rowlock arch. The mantel consists of a shelf set on a narrow series of moldings, and a surround of architrave trim. The mantel in the west room appears to be of a later date and features molded pilasters, reeding in the frieze, and a shelf with molding.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Hanover	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

IV. Site:

A. General setting: Sycamore Tavern is set just south of Route 33 in Montpelier, and faces north. Immediately northeast of the building is the old well, which formerly possessed a well sweep, but is now covered by an iron hand pump, and is sheltered by a pyramidal roof.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input 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

Sycamore Tavern at Montpelier has long been a familiar landmark on Route 33, the old Mountain Road. Built in the late eighteenth century, the building was first used as an ordinary or tavern. Because of the paucity of Hanover records, the exact date of construction is not known, but its use as an ordinary is recorded by 1804. The tavern was the fourth stage-coach stop on the road from Charlottesville to Richmond and it was there that the horses were changed on the first stage of the journey. The building continued to serve as a tavern during the nineteenth century and around 1850 it was acquired by Reverend Silas Shelburn, who combined his pastoral duties with those of innkeeper. The place was known as Shelburn's Tavern during the latter half of the nineteenth century. After Shelburn's tenancy, the tavern was owned by the Wickham family and later the Braugh family.

During the first quarter of the twentieth century, Thomas Nelson Page, the noted Virginia author, founded a library in the structure in memory of his wife, Florence Lathrop Page. Although owned by the Hanover County School Board, the old tavern and its library have been maintained by the trust fund established by Page. The Florence L. Page Memorial Library remains the only public library serving a large portion of the county. Appropriately, the lives of the citizens of Hanover County continue to be touched by the endeavors of Thomas Nelson Page, for his most successful works were based on his life in the county.

Architecturally Sycamore Tavern is typical of vernacular structures of Tidewater and Piedmont Virginia dating from the early Federal period. The one-and-a-half story elevation and hall-and-parlor plan are characteristic features of the modest but picturesque frame building. The Hanover School Board, the Board of Supervisors, the Page family, and local citizens continue to work together to ensure the preservation of the tavern as a local landmark and community service.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rosewell Page, Hanover County -- Its History and Legends (Richmond, Va., 1926).

Wallace Nutting, Virginia Beautiful (Framingham, Mass., Old America Company, 1930).

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		37 ° 49 ' 22 "	77 ° 41 ' 16 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

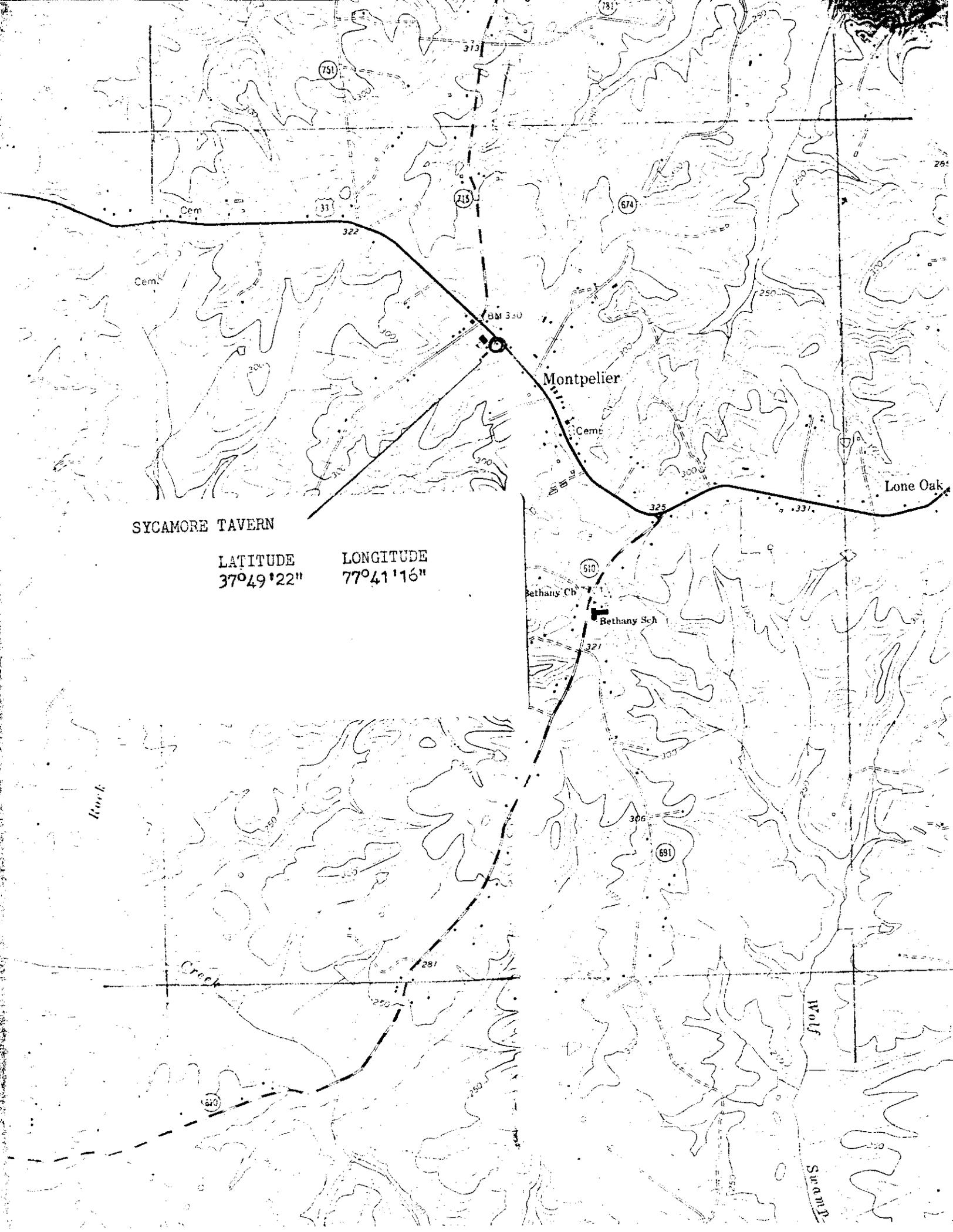
ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: January, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____ <u>Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director</u> <u>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission</u> Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SYCAMORE TAVERN

LATITUDE
37°49'22"

LONGITUDE
77°41'16"

Montpelier

Lone Oak

Bethany Ch

Bethany Sch

Rock

Creek

Wolf

Swamp

Cem.

Cem.

Cem.

BM 330

33

715

674

610

691

322

325

331

320

250

320

300

300

250

281

250

250

670

250