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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**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Hanover Town**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Mechanicsville** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)**

STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51** COUNTY: **Hanover** CODE: **085**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Multiple Owner - Mr. James A. Rice**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route 2**

CITY OR TOWN: **Mechanicsville** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Hanover Court House** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**

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: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

Two tobacco warehouses [redacted] established in 1762. Substantial English and Flemish bond brick foundations of what is believed to have been Pages Warehouse were [redacted] washed away by floods in 1972. The other warehouse, Crutchfields, [redacted] remains of its foundation probably survive below ground.

In the two decades following 1762, domestic and commercial structures were built along Hanover Town's several streets. Goldsmith and jeweller Thomas Glass, and physician John Walker are both recorded as having shops in the village in 1773. The following year the property of an English gentleman, Samuel Gist, was advertised for rent. It consisted of "a large commodious Brick Store with two convenient rooms a large granary, a kitchen, stable with two sheds, and a garden well paled in." Also in 1774 Agnes Tinsley offered her deceased husband's property for sale, thus describing another Hanover Town complex: "the Lot and Houses thereon, being a Dwelling - House, Smokehouse, Dairy, Kitchen, Stable, Billiard House, two very good Shops, and a Garden . . . ."

Such buildings were clustered [redacted] as shown on a map of Hanover Town drawn by a French cartographer in 1782. [redacted] The turn in the road recently has been changed to a more gradual curve, and the new construction probably destroyed archaeological remains. The 1782 map shows an open space [redacted] that may represent a market place or green. A surface archaeological examination in 1971 indicated intense occupation of the second half of the eighteenth century in the area surrounding the turn. (See attached map).

Henry Howe wrote in his Historical Collections of Virginia in 1845 that although Hanover Town "once had a large population, and was a place of considerable business, even within the memory of those living," it presented in his time an appearance little different from today's: "The site is now a cultivated field and shows but a few traces of its having been a town." Most of the town site is still cultivated, [redacted]. Several houses have recently been built within the area of the town, and at least one may have disturbed eighteenth century foundations. The vast majority of the town's archaeological remains would appear to be preserved beneath the plow zone, however.

E.A.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     |  | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <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                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The eighteenth-century port village of Hanover Town grew up beside tobacco warehouses [redacted] navigable for cargo ships of the period. The town did not survive long into the nineteenth century, a fate that now makes the site available for archaeological study.

In 1672 Colonel John Page of Rosewell patented the land located in what was then New Kent County. Little is known of the land's use until 1730, when a warehouse called "Crutchfields" was established on Pages' property. The warehouse was successful in attracting planters who brought their tobacco there for shipment to England, and by 1734 the annual rent for "Pages alias Crutchfields" was set at 50 pounds -- the highest warehouse rent in the colony. That the warehouse was a center of social activity is established by an advertisement entered in a 1736 Virginia Gazette by "several merry dispos'd Gentlemen" who proposed to celebrate St. Andrews Day there by offering prizes, including "A neat Hunting-Saddle with a fine Broad-cloth Housing, fringed and flower'd, & c., to be run for - - - a fine Cremona Fiddle to be plaid for by any number of Country Fiddlers, - - - With divers other considerable Prizes, for Dancing, Singing, Foot-ball-play, Jumping, Wrestling, & c. particularly a fine Pair of Silk Stockings to be given to the handsomest Maid upon the Green, to be judg'd by the Company."

Several Glasgow merchants established a store-house dealing in dry goods and other commodities near Pages Warehouse, and in August, 1744 they had the misfortune of having their store house set afire and burned by "some evil disposed Persons." The merchants' unhappy situation was compounded by local residents who refused to pay their debts because full records of the transactions had been destroyed by the fire. Although it is uncertain if there was more than one tobacco warehouse at Pages in 1734, Crutchfields and Pages warehouses are listed separately in records from 1752 on, and in 1756 Crutchfields suffered a fire that destroyed forty hogsheads of tobacco.

Mann Page of Rosewell owned 950 acres in Hanover County adjoining the warehouses, and in 1762 he petitioned the Virginia Assembly for 100 acres to be set aside for a town, noting that Pages had become a "place of considerable trade and commerce." The Burgesses obliged and in 1762 an Act for Establishing Hanover Town was enacted. In 1766 Page advertised a lottery in hopes of disposing of some of the 146 lots that then remained unsold.

Although Hanover Town never grew beyond the size of a small village (only 45 lots were owned by other than Mann Page in 1782), it was a center of activity for the surrounding countryside. Contemporary newspaper entries

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indicate that the town's period of ascendancy was the 1760's and 70's. In 1771 John Meriwether opened a tavern there, where according to his advertisement, "Gentlemen may depend on being genteelly entertained." Although Meriwether stated his intention to move and offered his property for sale in 1773, he was still operating the tavern in 1774. The troubled tavern keeper was called before a committee of Hanover citizens on June 6, 1776 on the charge of being a tory sympathiser, but was found innocent of the charge. Other taverns were being operated at Hanover Town by William Clarke in 1770 and Crutchfield Tinsley in 1772. Tinsley stated his intention of offering "as good, or the best Entertainment in the Colony." The taverns may have enjoyed enthusiastic local patronage, as evidenced by a note in William Rhind's May 26, 1768 Virginia Gazette regarding the drinking habits of Hanover Town residents: "A fashion prevails here, which is that of drinking liquor made of roasted rye, instead of coffee. By means of this change much money is saved, and the physicians alledge, rye is much more wholesome than coffee."

Hanover Town, like a number of other tidewater Virginia villages, experienced the Revolutionary War toward the end of the conflict. A hospital for American wounded was established there in August, 1781. In late September and early October, 1781, the French supply wagon train commanded by quartermasters general Collot and Berthier, moving from Annapolis to Williamsburg, passed through Hanover Town. The itinerary, probably written by Berthier, notes: "Hanover town, a small town on the south bank of the Pamunkey has suffered war damage. Cornwallis had the fine warehouses burned, as well as several private houses whose owners were suspected of devotion to the cause of independence. There was once a bridge, which is now broken." George Mason, had written his son George in June that the British had lately burned the warehouses "where the greatest part of the York River Tobacco was collected."

Over 150 British prisoners were somehow left unguarded at Hanover Town in October or November, 1781 and they caused considerable disturbance among the residents. Foster Crutchfield wrote Colonel John Syme on November 15 asking for relief from these "hearty Fellows," but nothing had been done by November 25th, when A. Kirkpatrick wrote in behalf of the local inhabitants to Colonel William Davies requesting removal of the prisoners. Kirkpatrick described the deprivations of the prisoners "who are daily committing some wanton destruction either on public or private property. Two nights ago they broke open the Issuing house and took out Several Barrels of flower -- they have burnt three houses already, that was empty, all fencing within half a mile of town and most pailing around their gardens."

Count Rochambeau's troops camped at Hanover Town July 7-10, 1782, in their march from the Yorktown area to New England to sail for home. A French cartographer drew a map showing the camp south of Hanover Town and the village itself with scattered houses and garden plots. The map has survived as the only early pictorial representation of the village.

Scottish merchants dealt at Hanover Town, and tobacco continued to be shipped from there for some time after the Revolutionary War, but the village declined in size and activity. Continued silting of the river damaged commerce, and in 1794 Edmund Pendleton chose Bowling Green over Hanover Town as the seat of the Court of Appeals. Arms were requested to defend the area when Gabriel's

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abortive slave insurrection threatened Richmond in 1800. Although Hanover Town was said to be the route of retreat planned by Solomon, Gabriel's brother, should the revolt fail, there is no indication that he came there. Surface archaeological evidence indicates little post-eighteenth century occupation of the village, and little more than a ferry remained when U. S. Grant's troops crossed the Pamunkey there in the Virginia campaign of May, 1864.

Hanover Town has important potential for archaeological study, a value that is enhanced by the village's early demise. The site is relatively free of nineteenth and twentieth-century intrusions, so the undisturbed below-ground remains of the town survive, awaiting careful examination. Excavation could reveal much information about the form of this late colonial American village, with its streets, dwellings, warehouses, shops, and refuse deposits.

E.A.C.

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Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission archives.

Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg: p5, July 1776; PD 20, June 66; PD 22, January 67; PD 3, January 71; PD 28, October 73; PD 10, December 73; PD 30, December 73; PD 10, February 74; PD 4, August 74; PD 20, October 74; R26, March 68; R31, May 70, R4, February 73.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harris, Malcolm H., "The Port Towns of the Pamunkey," William and Mary Quarterly, 2nd ser., v. 23, no. 4 (October, 1943), pp. 493-516.  
 Howe, Henry, Historical Collections of Virginia, Charleston, 1845.  
 McIlwaine, H.R., ed. Journals of the House of Burgesses 1742-47, 1748-49, Richmond, 1909.  
 Rice, Howard C., Jr. and Brown, Anne S.K., trans. and ed., The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780-83, Princeton, 1972.  
 Swen, E.G., Virginia Historical Index, Gloucester, Mass., 1965.  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, "A Surface Archaeological Survey of Hanover Town, 1971," ms. map in 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		LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
NE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
SE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
SW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx. 85 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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: June, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

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., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

**JUN 18 1974**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS