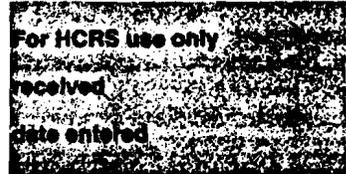


Listed On:
 VLR 03/17/1981
 NRHP 08/02/1982

042-0114

**United States Department of the Interior
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
 Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Patrick Henry's Birthplace Archaeological Site

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number [redacted] not for publication

city, town [redacted] vicinity of congressional district 7 J. Kenneth Robinson

state Virginia code 51 county Hanover code 85

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Francioni, Jr.

street & number Route 2, Box 105

city, town Mechanicsville, N/A vicinity of state VA 23111

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hanover County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Ashland state VA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Research Center for Archaeology
 title Site Survey Form 44HN83 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Research Center for Archaeology

city, town Wren Kitchen, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg state VA 23186

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Patrick Henry was born in 1736 in [redacted] Hanover County, Virginia, [redacted] a tract which today consists of cleared, gently rolling farmland bordered by rural residential property. Research has confirmed the oral tradition that the archaeological remains of a colonial brick cellar, overgrown with trees and dense vegetation is the eighteenth century [redacted] manor house in which Patrick Henry was born (Photo 1). A graveyard containing one intact tombstone dated 1812 is located within the acreage nominated.

An archaeological survey, performed by the VRCA at the request of the Hanover County Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, located the intact walls of a brick cellar measuring 38 feet by 10 feet within a dense concentration of eighteenth century cultural material in a plowed field. The dimensions of the brick cellar correspond in length to those of the house in which Patrick Henry was born. The cellar is aligned parallel to [redacted], a modern secondary road which follows the bed of an earlier thoroughfare. The cellar-house site has been traditionally believed to be the birthplace of Patrick Henry, an association which has been substantiated by documentary research.

The artifact scatter which surrounds the cellar site consists entirely of ceramics dating to the eighteenth century. Fragments of white salt-glazed stoneware, including a chamber pot base, plate base, bowl base and plate rim in the Barley pattern, were found in the plowed field immediately surrounding the cellar site. The presence of an elaborately decorated Rhenish stoneware tankard and a plate rim and base of Chinese porcelain suggests that the owners were persons of upper economic level, a status enjoyed by the Syme, Henry and Lyons families who successively occupied the house during the eighteenth century. Scratch blue stoneware, brown stoneware and one fragment of an Iberian olive jar were also found at the site.

According to Robert Douthat Mead, the foundations of the Studley manor house were partially uncovered by local antiquarians in 1936 during the bicentennial of Patrick Henry's birth. The brick cellar later became overgrown with vegetation. This same structure, the Studley house site, was redefined by the 1977 and 1980 VRCA surveys.

Mutual Assurance Society policies dated 1796 and 1805 describe the Studley manor house as a two story brick dwelling, measuring 30 feet by 40 feet, to which was attached a one story high wing extension, also constructed of brick. A 4 foot by 6 foot closet was located to the rear of the wing extension which measures 24 feet by 28 feet and a porch adjoined the wing of the house. The entire structure was roofed over with wood (Figure 1).

Insurance documents also show that several wooden outbuildings were located nearby. A kitchen was placed 15 feet from the porch of the house, with a dairy to the rear. A wooden "studdy", 16 feet by 20 feet and one story high, was situated 45 yards from the dwelling. Two stables with attached sheds and a barn were located 44 yards away.

See Continuation Sheet #1

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			Birthplace site

Specific dates 1736 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Patrick Henry, American patriot, statesman and the first Governor of Virginia, was born on May 29, 1736 at [REDACTED] the Hanover County home of his parents, John and Sarah Winston Syme Henry. The foundation remains of a brick structure traditionally believed to be the Studley dwellinghouse, Patrick Henry's birthplace and boyhood home, has been verified by archaeological and documentary research. Because of the unique association of this archaeological site with a prominent figure in American History, scientific excavation could yield research data otherwise unavailable on the early life of Patrick Henry.

Background

When Patrick Henry was born in 1736 his parents living at [REDACTED] the home of his mother's first husband, Colonel John Syme. Sarah Winston, a Hanover County native, had married Colonel Syme in the 1720's and was living [REDACTED] at the time of his death in 1731.

Colonel John Syme, an immigrant to Virginia from Aberdeen, Scotland, became a large landowner, prominent political figure and a vestryman of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County. In 1729 he was among Hanover County's first representatives to the House of Burgesses. At the time of his death Colonel Syme owned several large tracts of land in Hanover and adjacent King William and Goochland Counties.

Sarah Winston Syme's son by her first marriage, John Syme, Jr., was born in 1729. After Colonel Syme's death, his widow continued to reside at [REDACTED], property which she held in trust for her young son until he came of age.

John Henry, Patrick Henry's father, like Colonel Syme, came from Aberdeen, Scotland. Educated at King's College in Aberdeen, he was a teacher and surveyor and the brother of the Reverend Patrick Henry, rector of the aforementioned St. Paul's Church. John Henry immigrated to Virginia in 1727 and joined the Syme household.

After Colonel John Syme's death, John Henry married the widow Syme and they continued to reside at Studley. John Henry soon became a prominent figure in his own right. He served as vestryman at St. Paul's Church in 1737. A skilled surveyor and cartographer, he laid off the boundaries of Hanover and Louisa Counties and by 1770 had prepared a map of Virginia which was published in London. He later attained the rank of Colonel in the militia. As Hanover County's official surveyor and presiding magistrate, John Henry associated with some of the colony's most distinguished personages, including diarist William Byrd of Westover. Byrd paid several visits to the home of John Henry in 1740 and 1741, where he dined and played cards, enjoying the fellowship of his friend, the Reverend Patrick Henry.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gilmer, J.F., "The Vicinity of Richmond and the Peninsula...", 1864.
Hanover County Deed Books

Meade, Robert Douthat, Patrick Henry: Patriot in the Making (1969). (See Cont. Sheet 4)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6 acres

Quadrangle name [REDACTED]

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

[REDACTED]

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date March, 1981

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804)786-3143

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date MAY 10 1982

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Chief of Registration

date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

After fire destroyed the manor house in 1807 and death claimed the owner, Peter Lyons, in 1809, Peter's son, John Lyons, built and insured another house [REDACTED]. An 1815 insurance policy described the newer house as a two story wooden dwelling and study, flanked on each end by a wing. The central portion of the house measured 17 feet by 32 feet, whereas the wings measured 16 feet by 16 feet and 16 feet by 20 feet, respectively. Outbuildings, some of which had the same dimensions as noted in the 1805 policy, were located contiguous to the old kitchen. All buildings referenced were of frame construction (Figure 2).

The acreage nominated includes the original dwellinghouse site and its immediately adjacent outbuildings. The site of the house built by John Lyons in the early nineteenth century is also expected to lie within the area nominated. The fact that the Lyons house is not shown on John Wood's highly detailed 1820 map of Hanover County suggests that it may have been destroyed or dismantled by that time, although Union cartographer N. Michler in 1867 indicated two clusters of structures at the site. A farmhouse located to the east of the acreage nominated dates to the early twentieth century. According to local tradition, it was built by W.W. Redd, who owned Studley between 1893 and 1903 (Photo 2).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 1

John and Sarah Henry produced nine children during their years [REDACTED]. Their second son, Patrick, was named for John's esteemed brother, the rector of St. Paul's. The Henry family resided [REDACTED] until ca. 1750 when John Syme, Jr. married, attained his majority and assumed both title and possession of the property he had inherited from his father. At that time, John and Sarah Henry moved with their children to Mount Brilliant in upper Hanover County.

John Syme, Jr. retained for many years the Hanover County land he had inherited from his father. Syme is listed as owning 1,200 acres of land in 1782, the first year for which Hanover County land tax records are available. By 1783, however, [REDACTED], a 600 acre tract mentioned by name in the tax records, had come into the possession of Peter Lyons, the prominent Hanover County attorney who, ironically enough, had faced Patrick Henry across a Court of Law in the well known 1763 case known as the Parson's Cause. Peter Lyons was named to the newly created State Court of Appeals in 1789 and in 1803 served as its President.

Peter Lyons was living at the [REDACTED] manor house in 1807 when it was destroyed by fire. In a May 22, 1807 letter to his granddaughter, Lucy Hopkins, Lyons states in consecutive sentences that his home had burned and that a succession of destructive wind and electrical storms had plagued Hanover County and the Richmond area that year. The text implies that his home had burned as a result of being struck by lightning. As the heading of Lyon's letter indicates that he was writing [REDACTED], he had apparently relocated elsewhere on the property, perhaps in an outbuilding, until another house could be built. Peter Lyons died [REDACTED] on July 30, 1809.

Mutual Assurance Society fire insurance policies for 1796 and 1805 describe the Studley manor house before the fire, whereas an 1815 policy details the home of John Lyons built as a replacement. A comparison of these insurance policies indicates that only the manor house was destroyed and replaced; the outbuildings remained essentially unchanged.

[REDACTED] remained in the Lyons family until ca. 1847 at which time it was sold to Phillip R. Norment and his wife, Julia. Although cartographers John Wood and J.F. Gilmer mapped Hanover County in 1820 and 1864, respectively, showing no manor structures [REDACTED] during that period, Union General N. Michler in his 1867 map, "The Battle-Field of Totopotomoy, Virginia," sketched two clusters of three and four buildings each, labeled "Norman" and located in the immediate vicinity of 44HN83. The configuration of these buildings bears a strong similarity to the 1815 Mutual Assurance Society policy graphics (Figure 3).

Michler's map, however, contains one inaccuracy, for Phillip and Julia Norment had sold Studley to A.M. Broach by 1864. At that time the tract consisted of 439 and a third acres. Broach's widow, Indiana, sold Studley to W.W. Redd in 1893. Redd, in turn, conveyed the tract to John M. Greenlee, a resident of North Carolina in 1908.

See Continuation Sheet #3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 2

Greenlee's widow, Mary Tait Greenlee, resided with her daughter, Georgena Greenlee Hall, in the farmhouse to the east of the acreage nominated. After Mary Greenlee's death in 1935, her heirs deeded a 77 acre portion [REDACTED] to Georgena G. Hall in appreciation for the care she had furnished their mother. The balance of Mary Tait Greenlee's real estate was settled among her heirs in 1967. The property, consisting of 112 acres, was sold to G.R. Balducci, R.E. Balducci and J.A. Francioni, Jr. On August 10, 1977, Francioni and his wife, Norma, acquired exclusive ownership of six acres of the 112 acre tract, including the land containing the [REDACTED] house site and the grave of Dr. Thomas Chrystie, a Revolutionary War veteran who died in 1812. Chrystie, a surgeon in the American Army, had, according to the inscription on his tombstone, "distinguished himself for humane skill, Assiduity in his Professional Duties."¹

Scientific archaeological excavation of the [REDACTED] house could yield new insight into the early life of Governor Patrick Henry and also reveal much about the architectural evolution of eighteenth and nineteenth century plantation architecture on land which was in the possession of a succession of prominent families. As the home plantation of Burgess John Syme, cartographer and magistrate John Henry, Governor Patrick Henry and Judge Peter Lyons, the [REDACTED] manor house site is closely associated with several prominent Virginians, significant to the history of the state and the nation.

M.W.M.

1. Quoted from the tombstone of Dr. Thomas Chrystie, Studley Farm, Hanover County, Virginia.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

4

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE 1

Michler, N., "The Battle-Field of Totopotomoy, Virginia," 1867.

Mutual Assurance Society policies, 1796, 1805, and 1815, Studley Farm
(microfilm, Virginia State Library).

Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County, quoted in Helen K. Yates'
"Genealogy of Patrick Henry and Studley - its Land and its Owners," n.p. (1978).

Wood, John, " Hanover County," 1820.