

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP-2/26/70

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: Northampton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Brownsville

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Brownsville

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. NE of end of Rt. 608, 1.2 mi. SE of intersection of Rt. 608 and Rt. 600.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Northampton CODE: 131

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Woodrow Bralley c/o M. LEE PAYNE BROWNSVILLE ASSOCIATES AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY 1800 NORTH KENT ST. ARLINGTON, VA. 22209

STREET AND NUMBER: BROWNSVILLE UNITED VIRGINIA BANK-SEABOARD NATIONAL

CITY OR TOWN: Nassawadox NORFOLK, VA. 23510

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Court Square

CITY OR TOWN: Eastville STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Northampton
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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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

Brownsville is a two-story brick structure with a gable roof and one interior end chimney. The walls are finely laid in Flemish bond with white marble lintels over the windows. The off-center door on the land front is framed by a finely executed pedimented Doric portico with a Chinese railing. The corresponding door on the ocean front had a similar portico, but it has disappeared. A one-and-a-half story frame wing erected in 1809 contains the present dining room. Attached to the wing by an enclosed passage is the kitchen, formerly located further from the house and moved to its present location in the late-nineteenth century.

The chief distinction of Brownsville is the superlative Federal woodwork on the interior. Especially notable is the drawing room trim with the applied decoration on the mantel and the tassel-and-swag decoration on the chair rail. The woodwork varies in elaboration but not in quality throughout the house. Both the interior and exterior of the house are in a fine state of preservation.

The spacious shaded yard surrounding the house contains several outbuildings and the family burying ground. The whole complex is set on a point of land from which a broad prospect of the marshlands and islands separating the house from the ocean is obtained.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1907, approved March 3, 1907, and the Act of October 3, 1917, approved October 3, 1917, the following is a description of the property described in the foregoing report, and of the same as it appears on the ground as shown on the map of the property described in the foregoing report, and of the same as it appears on the map of the property described in the foregoing report, and of the same as it appears on the map of the property described in the foregoing report.

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) 1806

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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input 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

The land on which the present Brownsville farm is located was included in a 1262 acre tract, patented in 1652 by John Browne. The property was inherited by Browne's daughter Sara, wife of Arthur Upshur, and has remained in the hands of their descendants to the present day, making it one of the oldest family holdings in Virginia. The first building known to have been built on the tract was a small frame dwelling, 25' x 35', with a brick dated 1691. This house, which was known as "Brownsville Old Hall," was originally located a short distance to the east of the present house, but in 1898 it was moved across the creek and is now in ruins.

The present brick house was built in 1806 by John Upshur at the relatively high cost of \$10,000. Because of the many relatives who shared his new house, Upshur declared, "There is no place to put the sole of my foot," so in 1809 he added the one-and-a-half story frame wing. The main part of Brownsville is an unusually carefully built structure, constructed of materials of the highest quality. The interior woodwork is considered to rank among the most sophisticated and elaborate Federal woodwork on the Eastern Shore. Many of the details are similar to those of woodwork found in other important houses on the Shore such as Kerr Place, Wharton Place, Eyre Hall, and Wesley. It would seem that these examples, as well as others, were executed by a single talented craftsman who unfortunately has not been identified. Despite the anonymity of Brownsville's designer and builder, the house stands as a distinguished homestead for one of the Eastern Shore's oldest families.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lancaster, Robert A., Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1915.
 Nugent, Nell, Cavaliers and Pioneers. Baltimore: 1963.
 Robertson, Dr. John William, On Land and Sea. Onancock, Va.: The Eastern Shore News, Inc., 1962.
 Whitelaw, Ralph T., Virginia's Eastern Shore. Vol. II. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968.

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° 28' 33"	75° 50' 17"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 28' 33"	75° 48' 52"				
SE	37° 27' 35"	75° 48' 52"				
SW	37° 27' 35"	75° 50' 17"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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:
 Staff,
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: October 3, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

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 _____

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

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

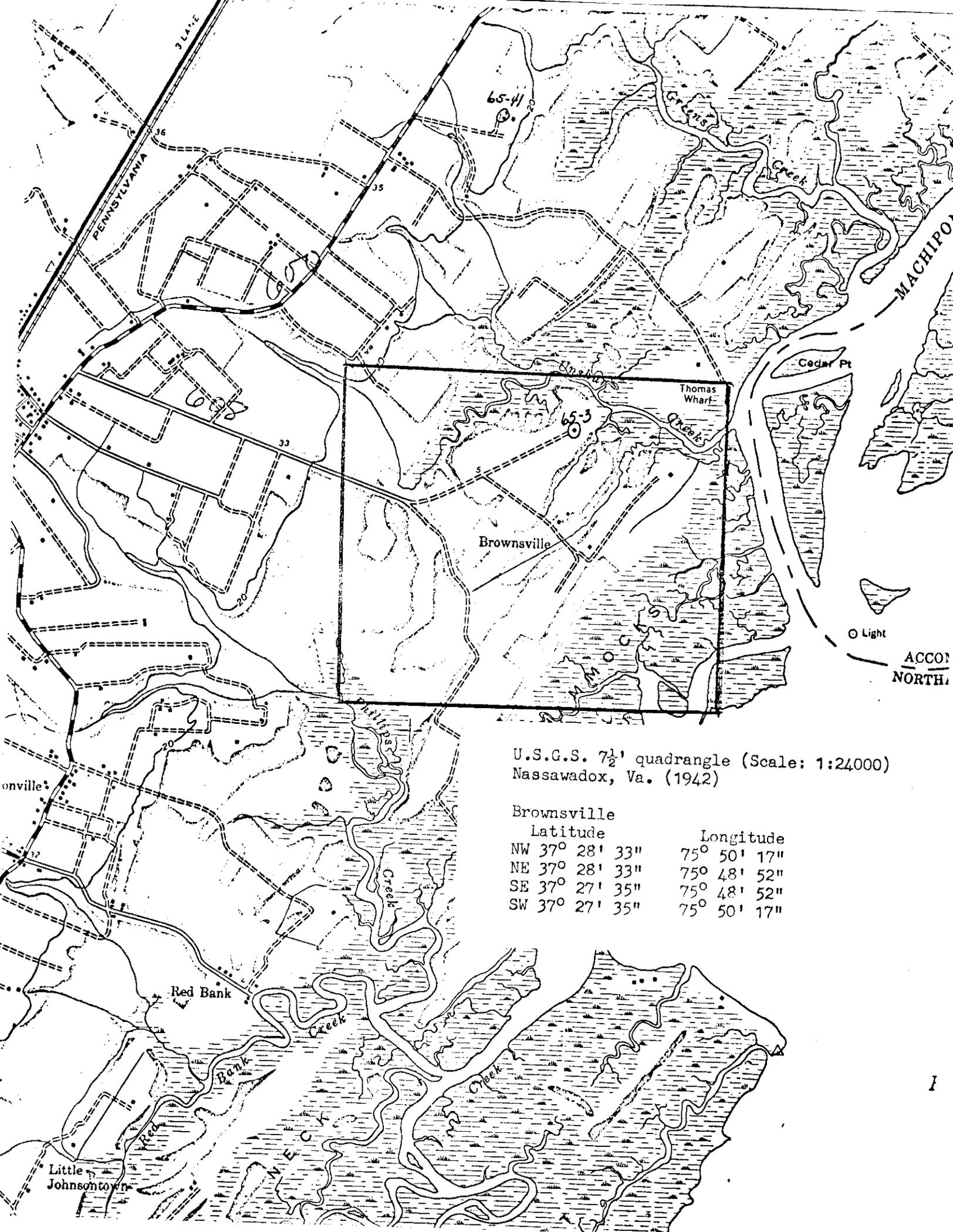
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Northampton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #65-3
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
 Nassawadox, Va. (1942)

Brownsville	
Latitude	Longitude
NW 37° 28' 33"	75° 50' 17"
NE 37° 28' 33"	75° 48' 52"
SE 37° 27' 35"	75° 48' 52"
SW 37° 27' 35"	75° 50' 17"