

VLR-9/16/80 NRHP-11/28/80

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stratton Manor

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 642 not for publication

city, town Cape Charles vicinity of congressional district First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)

state Virginia code 51 county Northampton code 131

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Jones

street & number Stratton Manor, Box 289

city, town Cape Charles vicinity of state Virginia Zip Code 23310

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northampton County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Eastville state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys 2 (See Continuation Sheet #1)

title (1) Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1940; Inventory 1958 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Stratton Manor is located off route 642 on the east side of Old Plantation Creek in Northampton County. Built in the third quarter of the 18th century, the single-pile, gable-roof house has a wood-frame core of three bays with brick ends. A two-story ell was added to the rear (south) elevation in the first quarter of the present century. The brick ends and exterior chimneys of the main block are executed in Flemish bond with a stepped brick water table, also in Flemish bond. The brick has been heavily painted, and the wood-frame elevations are covered with aluminum siding. Chevrons in glazed headers are discernible in the gables.

The front (north) elevation contains the main entrance which consists of an early 20th-century door framed within a three-part architrave. The entry is sheltered by a gabled porch supported by slender columns set on a brick foundation. The porch is a mid-20th-century addition. A side entrance is located on the 20th-century wing. The original rear entrance of the main block now serves as an interior entry into the wing. The main entrance and east side chimney are flanked by 12/12 sash windows, and the west chimney is flanked by 9/9 sash. The sash on the east wall was added in the present century, while that on the west wall is original to the house. Smaller windows on the attic story have 4/4 hung sash. The dormer windows on the front (north) elevation have 6/6 hung sash. A modillioned cornice embellishes the eaves on the north and south elevations. Exterior end chimneys with steep sloping haunches flank the main block while a single small interior chimney serves the ell.

The plan of Stratton Manor consists of two equal-sized rooms with a central passage in the main block. The passage leads to the ell and contains the main stair. The open-well, closed-string stair has a paneled spandrel, turned balusters, a molded handrail, and a square newel. The hall has a molded chair rail, original to the house. The rear door survives and is framed by a three-part architrave.

The west parlor is the most elaborate room in the house. Its western wall is fully paneled; the mantel and delft tile surround are a later addition. A paneled wainscot embellishes the remaining walls. The east parlor was rebuilt ca. 1920 after a fire caused by a boiler explosion in the basement. The second-floor chambers in the main block are undistinguished, as are the first-floor service and second-floor chambers in the later ell.

Outbuildings include an early 19th-century, wood-frame kitchen that was moved from the rear of the house into the front (north) field for use as a tenant's house. The building has undergone considerable alterations. A 19th-century smokehouse survives to the south of the main house. A small 19th-century, wood-frame office, also south of the main house, was moved to the property from an adjacent farm. A noncontributing 20th-century machine shop sits to the west of the main house and has no historic precedent.

The house is set in an open field on Old Plantation Creek. The landscape that surrounds the house remains unchanged since the edifice was erected in the 18th century. The early settlement of the land near what was called "Old" Plantation Creek in the 17th century would suggest archaeological potential. The land has been continually farmed since the 17th century.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property of fifteen acres (approximately) is a small fraction of the

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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"/> 1600-1699	<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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Third quarter 18th century **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Stratton Manor survives as a characteristic example of the 18th-century vernacular architecture distinctive of Virginia's Eastern Shore. Features associated with the region are frame construction with brick ends laid in Flemish bond, chevroning in the gables, exterior chimneys with steep sloping haunches, and finely paneled chimney walls. The story-and-a-half structure was erected in the third quarter of the 18th century by Benjamin Stratton, a member of an old Northampton County family that had owned the land since 1636. Stratton was a chairmaker, making the house interesting as a reflection of a dwelling owned by an artisan.

The earliest mention of the Stratton family occurs in the Accomack-Northampton County Court Records of 1636 when Thomas Stratton received one hundred acres of land from his mother, Alice Bagwell. His stepfather, Henry Bagwell, a prominent citizen of the county, had also patented land on Old Plantation Creek. It is probable that the Stratton land was undeveloped until Thomas was of age, ca. 1651. His will was recorded in November 1659 and suggests that he lived and farmed his land on Old Plantation Creek.

The property continued to remain in the Stratton family and was inherited by a Benjamin Stratton in 1760. It was this Stratton who probably erected the present dwelling. While very little is known about the builder, his name appears in 1776 on a list of taxpayers of Northampton County as the owner of "chears" for which he was charged 1 pound, 4 shillings. This notation may refer to his occupation as a chairmaker. His will of 1784 also survives and records a substantial estate. He bequeathed "to my son William the plantation where on I now live on 585 acres...to my son Benjamin my plantation on the seaside 284 acres..."

William Stratton, who inherited Stratton Manor, was born in 1759 and was also a man of considerable property. His will, recorded in November 1815, records at least thirty-six new Windsor chairs which suggests Stratton's occupation as an artisan or chairmaker. Stratton most likely learned the profession from his father.

Stratton Manor is a good example of an estate type that would have served the rural artisan in 18th-century Virginia. Unlike the craftsman in the larger towns of Williamsburg or Alexandria who benefited from a larger population, the rural artisan needed the additional means of support from farming to supplement his cottage industry. It is probable that Benjamin Stratton turned the balusters found on the stair. Their fine execution attests to his skill as a craftsman.

The house left the family in 1878, when it was purchased by William H. Cottingham. It is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Jones who have maintained its farm-like setting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Ames, Susie, ed. "County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia 1632-1640." American Legal Records. Vol. 7. Washington, D.C.: The American Historical Association, 1954.
- Hiden, Martha Woodroof. Adventures of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1625. Order of First Families of Virginia, 1964. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 15 acres
 Quadrangle name Cheriton, Virginia Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 8	4 1 2 9 4 0	4 1 2 4 3 3 0	B	1 8	4 1 2 9 4 0	4 1 2 4 0 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 8	4 1 2 4 7 0	4 1 2 4 1 0 0	D	1 8	4 1 2 4 7 0	4 1 2 4 1 6 0
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on 15' contour line about 2250' SW of intersection of State Route 642 with U.S. 13; thence extending about 650' S across field to 15' contour line; thence extending about 100' NW, thence about 200' SW along said contour to S side of private road; thence extending about 100' W along said side to SE corner of intersection with perpendicular drive; thence extending about 150' SW along E side of latter drive to 15' contour; thence extending about 1300' W along said contour and curving N then NE for about 1400'; then curving SE about 100' and continuing 200' E across perpendicular drive, then curving about 300' N then about 200' NE -- all along said contour to point of origin.

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1980

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

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 [Signature]
 title Tucker Hill, Executive Director date SEP 16 1980
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date _____

Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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

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

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date entered

Stratton Manor, Northampton County, Va.

Continuation sheet

#1

Item number 6, 7, 9

Page 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

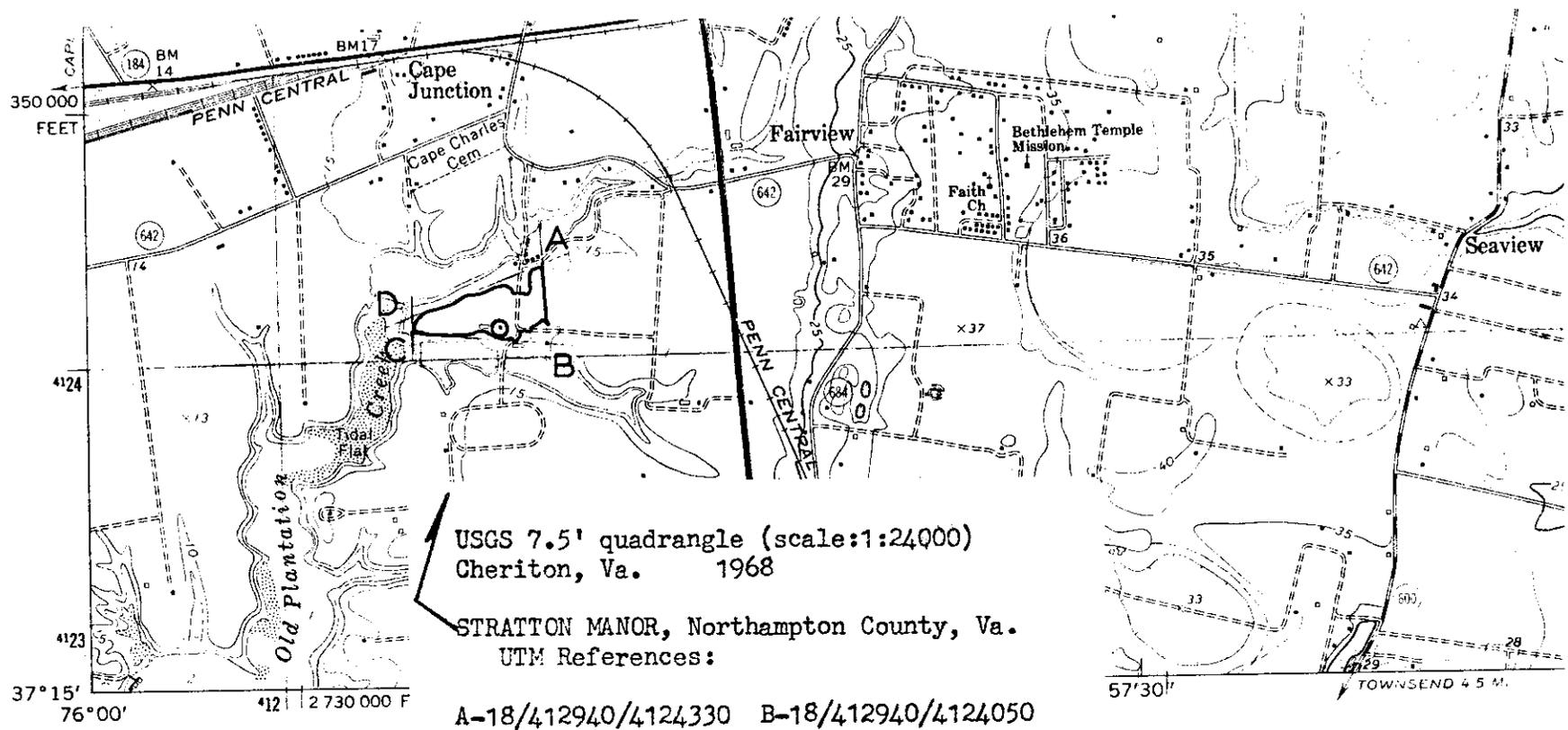
- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1980 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION - BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

585 acres of land inherited by William Stratton from his father, Benjamin Stratton, in 1784. The property includes the main house, outbuildings, and the old kitchen all situated on Old Plantation Creek. The creek appears as a boundary in a description of the property in a Northampton County land patent as early as 1654 when Thomas Stratton acquired 257 acres on what was then "Old Plantation Creek." The nominated acreage parallels the creek on the north, south, and west and is partially bounded on the east by an open field that has provided a dramatic setting for the house since the 18th century.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

- Northampton County Records: Deed Book 39; Land Tax Books, 1782-1864; Personal Property Tax Books 1815; Will Books XXII, 20, 4.
Nugent, Nell M. Cavaliers and Pioneers. Vol. 1, 1623-1666. 2nd. ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1963.
Stratton, Harriet Russell. A Book of Strattons. Vols. I and II. New York: Grafton Press, 1908.
Whitelaw, Ralph T. Virginia's Eastern Shore—A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Cheriton, Va. 1968

STRATTON MANOR, Northampton County, Va.
 UTM References:

A-18/412940/4124330	B-18/412940/4124050
C-18/412470/4124100	D-18/412470/4124160

ELLIOTT'S CREEK
 5758 II NE

Mapped, edited, and published
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric m
 photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
 Supersedes map dated 1955

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 563 (1969)
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes

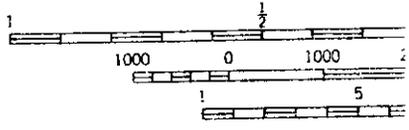
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue

Short dashed blue lines indicate elliptical bay outlines
 visible on aerial photographs

7 1/2°
 133 MILS

0°34'
 10 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONT
 DAT

DEPTH CURVES AND SOU
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPR
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TI
 AND

THIS MAP COMPLIES
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEO
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINE
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGR/