



## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The complex of buildings comprising Fort Philip Long is on a hill overlooking broad bottom land on the east side of the Shenandoah River. This section of Page County, stretching between the Massanutten Range and the river, takes its name from these mountains. A three-bay random rubble limestone house sits on the slope of the hill giving the one-and-a-half-story structure a full English basement room on the west end. The building has a gable roof with two shed dormers on the south slope. A massive exterior asymmetrical stone chimney rises on the east end; the western chimney is interior. About one hundred yards south of this structure a modern frame outbuilding stands over the fort. Originally the fort lay in solitude entirely underground, but erosion through time has now exposed parts of it and the outbuilding has been constructed. The random rubble limestone walls of the tall barrel vault forming the fort are pierced by loopholes. These loopholes, large in height and breadth on the interior, giving a defender ample room to handle a firearm, narrow to more inconspicuous slots on the exterior. Presently the fort may be entered through a modern door, although originally the entrance is believed to have been a secret trapdoor in the east end, which was further defended by being closed by a large boulder. The fort may also be entered by means of a tunnel, sunk into the limestone, running from the basement of the stone house, across a well and into the vault. Thought to have been built during or soon after the French and Indian War as a defense against the Indians, the fort, concealed from hostile eyes with secret entrances, was believed to be secure.

Dominating the grounds today is the large brick three-bay square house built in 1856. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with header over-lapping header in the front, and common bond on the sides and back. There are two partially exterior-end chimneys with corbelled caps on either end. A single-bay porch shelters the front door and sidelights. At the rear a modern one-story brick structure has been added. The most striking feature of the interior is the living room, painted by an itinerant Italian painter in lights and shadows to resemble panelled walls with molding. The ceiling has received similar treatment. A carved marble mantel, imported from Italy completes the elegant appearance of the room. Doors and windows in the house are bordered by symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks. An open string stair with brackets ascends in the hall.

Behind the brick house is a stone slave quarter which has a gable roof with an overhanging, slightly flared eave and a central stone chimney.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**C. 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               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>history</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input 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

Fort Long is a significant example of the fortifications undertaken by the families in the Massanutten country of Page County in the later half of the eighteenth century. Although it is unusual in that the fort is so far removed from the dwelling house, for the majority of the forts are under the houses, the vaulted structure itself shares definitive features, such as vaulting, material and loopholes with the other forts in the county. Fort Long is unique in having a long tunnel connecting the house, well and fort, and therefore providing a safe means of ingress, as well as having a sheltered water supply in case of siege.

The Massanutten area was settled in the late 1720's and early 1730's by Germans who came down the valley from Pennsylvania. The settlers had lived in relative peace with the Indians until the French and Indian War. After that time, the Indians began to menace the valley, causing severe depredations to life and property. This culminated in the massacre of the entire Stone family in 1758 and of seven member of the Knoades family in 1764. A letter written to fellow members of the Mennonite sect in Holland in September 1758 illuminates the threat.

One family was murdered and the remaining of us and many other families were obliged to flee for our lives, leaving our all and go empty handed. /Since/ last May the Indians have murdered over fifty persons and more than two hundred families were driven away and made homeless.

It is believed that the vaulted stone forts were built for defense against the Indians during and shortly after this time.

Philip Long, German immigrant, settled in the Massanutten country on this tract in 1733. It is probable that his son, Paul, or his grandson, Philip, built the fort after the Indian threat became severe. The fort and the surrounding buildings remained in the Long family until 1879, when the property was purchased by C.D. Price, Sr., whose descendants still live there.

Fort Philip Long represents a significant group of structures developed to meet the Indian attacks which seriously threatened continued settlement in the area. It should be also noted that in the Fort Long complex the brick house, built in 1856 by Isaac Long for his son, Isaac, Jr., has a striking and unusual painted interior of the living room.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kerkhoff, Jennie Ann, Old Homes of Page County, Virginia. Luray: Lauck and Company, Inc., 1962.

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	38° 36' 53"	78° 34' 43"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 36' 53"	78° 32' 47"				
SE	38° 35' 41"	78° 32' 47"				
SW	38° 35' 41"	78° 34' 43"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 900 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 Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: October 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

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 J.R. Fishburne  
J.R. Fishburne, Director  
Virginia Historic  
Title Landmarks Commission

Date NOV 21 1972

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

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
 DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
 JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

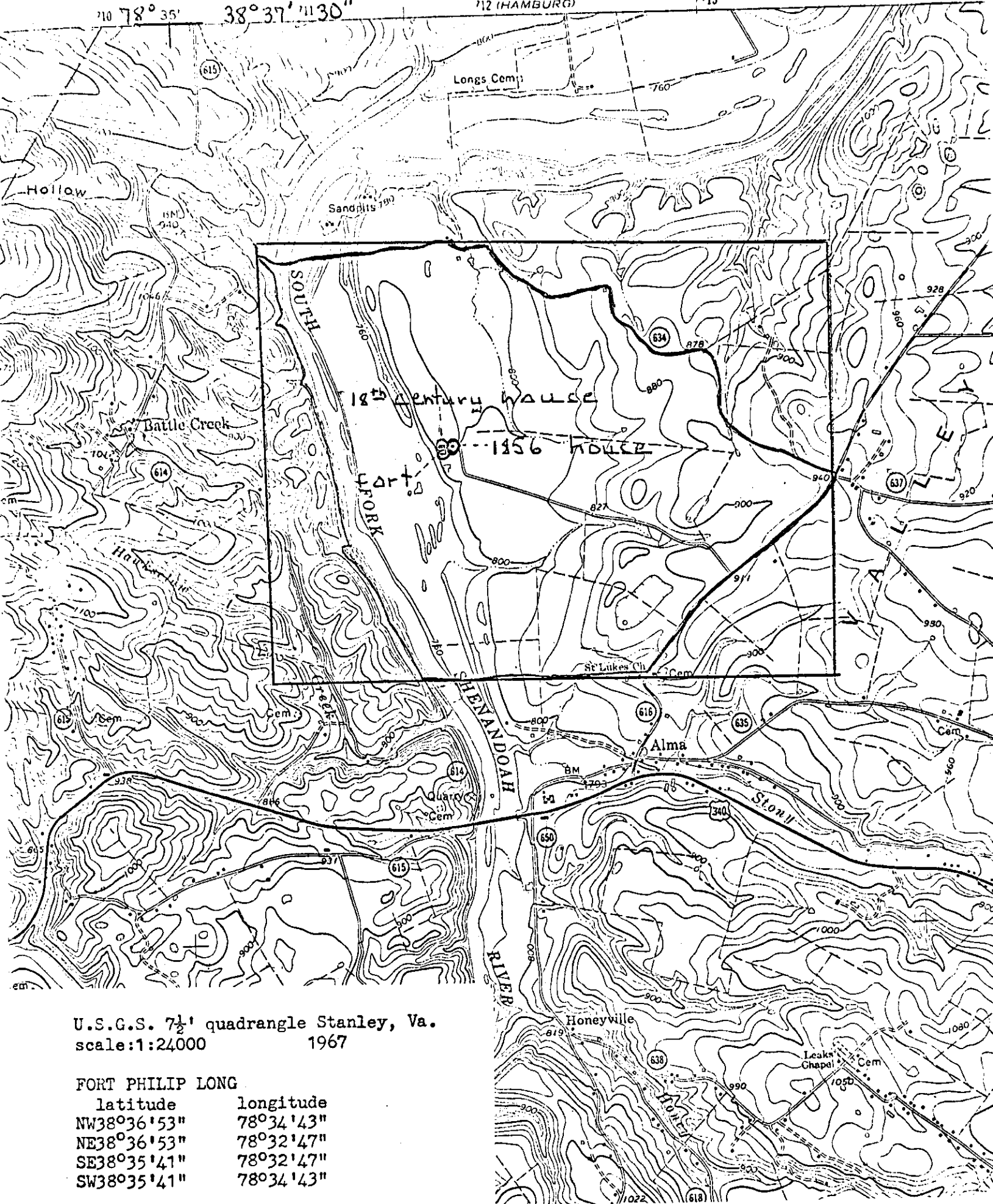
710 78° 35'

38° 37' 11.30"

5261 II NE  
 712 (HAMBURG)

713

32'30"



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle Stanley, Va.  
 scale:1:24000 1967

FORT PHILIP LONG

latitude	longitude
NW38°36'53"	78°34'43"
NE38°36'53"	78°32'47"
SE38°35'41"	78°32'47"
SW38°35'41"	78°34'43"