

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP-11/17/69 NHL-4/15/70

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

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: Prince George	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Brandon

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Brandon

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
W bank of James River at end of Rt. 611.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Prince George	CODE 149
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
Robert W. Daniel, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Brandon

CITY OR TOWN: Spring Grove	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Prince George County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Prince George	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4500 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Prince George  
ENTRY NUMBER: 08  
DATE:  

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brandon Plantation presently consists of some 4500 acres of woodlands, pastures and gardens. The plantation house, located near the river, is fronted by an informal park on the land side with extensive formal gardens on the river side. The house is a seven part brick structure with a two-story center section covered by a pyramidal roof, at the apex of which is carved pineapple. Flanking the center section are one-story wings with a half-hipped roof over each wing. This main part of the house is linked to the two-story terminal wings by low one-story hyphens. The terminal wings are set perpendicular to the main house and are covered by hipped roofs. Because the terminal wings were originally free-standing one-and-a-half story dependencies, their lower halves are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above an English bond water table. The second floors are laid in uniform color Flemish bond as is the rest of the house. The original sash throughout the house was replaced in the early nineteenth century with thin muntin sash. The one-story Corinthian porticoes on each front of the center section are replacements of earlier one-story pedimented porches.

Brandon's center hall was also altered in the early-nineteenth century, at which time the triple arch Ionic screen and present staircase were installed. The arrangement of the center hall as originally completed is uncertain, but it may have been divided into a stair hall with saloon as at Battersea. The drawing room and dining room which flank the center hall are fully panelled and have pedimented chimney pieces. Much of the panelling in the drawing room has had to be restored because of Civil War damage. The interiors of the hyphens are simply treated and each contains a staircase to the basement. The east terminal wing contains the original kitchen, and what were originally simply treated service rooms. The west terminal wing contains four panelled rooms of the same period and style as the center part of the house. One of the most notable features of Brandon's interior is the Chinese trellis stair in the central hall of the west wing. The hall is further enriched by full Doric entablatures around the ceiling and over the doors. A projection on the west side of the west wing has been added to allow for modern bathrooms.

The only early surviving outbuilding at Brandon is the "blockhouse," located to the west of the main house. This small one-story structure is laid in fine Flemish bond with glazed headers and is covered by a fine jerkin-head roof. The door and shutters of the building are covered in iron. To the west of the blockhouse is the walled Harrison family cemetery. Two modern, architecturally unobtrusive, brick outbuildings flank the main house. A vista from the garden front of the house extends through the formal gardens to the river.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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/Phi- <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	osophy <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>History</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human- <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	itarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The some 5000 acres which originally made up the Brandon property were patented by John Martin (1562-1632) in 1616. It is believed that the name Brandon was derived from the family name of Martin's wife. Martin had been one of the original adventurers to sail to America with Capt. Christopher Newport and had served the Jamestown Colony as a member of the first Council. Robert Bargrave, Martin's grandson, inherited Brandon on Martin's death, and in 1635 sold it to Richard Quiney. It is interesting to note that Richard Quiney's brother Thomas was married to William Shakespeare's daughter Judith. Quiney and his heirs farmed Brandon until 1720 when it was sold to Nathaniel Harrison (1677-1727). Harrison never set up residence at Brandon, but his son and heir Nathaniel Harrison II (1703?-1791) decided to make the plantation his home.

Because of the lack of proper documentation the structures at Brandon are difficult to date. Probably the earliest building is the brick "blockhouse" which may date from the Quiney ownership. The date and builder of the story-and-a-half symmetrically placed dependencies (which were later made two-story terminal wings of the main house) is uncertain, but it has been assumed that they were built by Nathaniel Harrison II with the idea of adding a mansion between them in the traditional manner of Virginia plantation complexes. The building of the center portion of the mansion and the alterations to the wings were probably carried out by Nathaniel Harrison II sometime after 1757 since the design was obviously based on Plate 3 of Robert Morris' Select Architecture, published in that year. The fidelity of Brandon to this plate in Morris has been used to support the Harrison family tradition that Thomas Jefferson was responsible for Brandon's design since it is known that Jefferson owned a copy of Morris.

Despite the ambiguities of Brandon's architectural history, the house is one of the most sophisticated of Virginia's eighteenth century structures. Next to Monticello it is probably the most purely Palladian Virginia house of its period, though the Palladian influence is through Morris.

Brandon suffered damage during the Civil War when Federal troops fired on the house, desecrated the interior by ripping off panelling, and burned the barns and outbuildings. The house was extensively renovated circa 1926 and stands today in an excellent state of preservation. Its setting is enhanced by its extensive gardens, considered to be among the most beautiful in the Commonwealth.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Waterman, Thomas Tileston, The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776, New York: Bonanza Books, 1945.  
 Coffin, Lewis A., Jr. and Arthur C. Holden, Brick Architecture of the Colonial Period in Maryland and Virginia. New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1919.  
 Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Houses Along the James. New York: Bonanza Books, 1957.  
 Lancaster, Robert A., Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1915.  
 Lutz, Francis Earle, The Prince George-Hopewell Story. Richmond: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 16' 35"	77° 03' 36"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 16' 35"	76° 59' 08"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	37° 13' 16"	76° 59' 08"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	37° 13' 16"	77° 03' 36"		° ' "	° ' "	

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: July 24, 1969  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
 CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, Virginia  
 STATE: Virginia  
 CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
Virginia Historic Landmarks  
Commission  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

