

VLR-8/15/72 NRHP-12/5/72

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: RICHMOND	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME
COMMON: RICHMOND COUNTY COURT HOUSE
AND/OR HISTORIC: RICHMOND COUNTY COURT HOUSE

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
S side of intersection of Rt. 360 and Rt. 3
CITY OR TOWN: Warsaw (William Lloyd Scott, Eighth District Congressman)
STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Richmond CODE: 159

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: RICHMOND COUNTY
STREET AND NUMBER: RICHMOND COUNTY COURT HOUSE
CITY OR TOWN: WARSAW STATE: VIRGINIA CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEED - ETC.: RICHMOND COUNTY COURT HOUSE
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: WARSAW STATE: VIRGINIA CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
DATE OF SURVEY: 1938 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: WASHINGTON STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA
COUNTY: RICHMOND
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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Richmond County Court House is located in Warsaw south of the intersection of Rt. 360 and Rt. 3. It is a rectangular brick building laid in Flemish bond with outside dimensions of approximately 52' X 41'. The building has only random glazing but consistent glazed closers at each corner suggest a quoining effect. The building is covered by a hip roof with interior corner chimneys with paneled caps, which were possibly added in the later half of the nineteenth century. Widely spaced quarter round brackets make up the cornice which has been raised several courses from its original line. Although an arcade of six rounded arches with stone keystones and springers originally lined either side of the building, these arches have been bricked up and the space behind them was incorporated into the body of the building in the remodelling of 1877. There are windows set into four of the original arches on each side, and two windows with rounded arches were added on the front. Of two original windows at the rear of the building, one window with a rounded arch remains and two small modern windows have been added. A modern shed addition covers part of the rear wall. A modern brick passage now connects the court house to the adjacent clerk's office which is contemporary with the court house. The presumed original plan of the court house was described in 1877 by T. Buckler Ghequiere, the architect who remodelled the building. His description is as follows:

The whole arrangement of the court-room is very peculiar, and such as is shown on plan. The public space in front of the return in which is contained the usual court house furniture is 20 feet by 21 feet. The judges' seats with a rail in front, are raised 2½ feet above the floor, and extend all around the segment. I believe the arrangement now is that the judge sits directly between the two windows, and the jury are placed along the sides. The windows are all about 4 feet wide by 7 feet high, and contain 15 panes of glass. The room is 13½ feet high.

The entrances were then along the sides under the arcades. The two front windows were "square headed", and there was a modillion cornice.

The original clerk's office is a small one-story gable end building with interior end chimneys and a box cornice. The brown sandstone foundation presumably continues above the water table line; although that part of the structure is now covered with stucco. A later ell conforming to the style of the original office has been added. Little original fabric remains in the interior.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond County was formed from the Old Rappahannock County in 1692, and the first court house was erected on the lower part of Lansdown, now a part of Sabine Hall. About 1730, the county seat was moved near its present site, but the present building was not constructed until 1748-50. On the sixth of Mar 1748, "An agreement between the Court and Loudon [sic] Carter, Esqr. was...confirmed for the building of a new Court house, according to the plan lodged..." Landon Carter is also credited with the building of the nearby clerk's office. The brown sandstone which is visible in the foundation of the clerk's office is believed to have been obtained from the same source as that of the nearby Tayloe mansion, Mount Airy.

The Richmond County Court House varies from the usual colonial form in that it has an arcade along each side of the building. Other colonial Virginia court houses such as those of Hanover and King William Counties were often faced with an arcade on the front, but Richmond Court House's double arcade stands out as a unique feature. T. Buckler Ghequiere, the Baltimore architect, who remodelled the court house in 1877, published a letter in the American Architect and Building News describing the building as it was then. Ghequiere did not wish to alter the building and peculiar plan "without preserving in some suitable way - such as in your journal - a description of them as they stand and have stood for a great number of years." Prior to the remodelling, six arches of each arcade were open, with the two remaining arches on each side bricked up and plastered. It is not known if this was an original feature or an early alteration.

Despite changes the court house remains a unique type among Virginia's important collection of colonial court houses. The building also stands as the chief visual focal point for the historic community of Warsaw.

No -
LATER
by
John
Tayloe
1816-18

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Green, Jack P., Landon Carter, An Inquiry..., Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1967.
 Gwathmey, J. H., Legends of Virginia Courthouses, Richmond, 1933.
 Pearson, Virginia D. M., "Richmond County, Va. Courthouses," Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine, December 1970, pp. 1989-2000.
 Simmons, C. K. "Public Buildings c. 1748," Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine, December 1953.
 Street, Elwood, "Richmond County Courthouse," Richmond Times Dispatch, April 12, 1942.

--SEE CONTINUATION SHEET--

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	57'	29"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	76°	45'	30"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 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: June, 1972

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 _____

J. R. Fishburne, Director

Title Va. 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 _____

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
RICHMOND	
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(Number all entries)

9.

Ghequiere, T. Buckler, "Richmond County Court House, Virginia," The American Architect and Building News (23 June, 1877) p. 199.

6.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY

1958

Federal

Library of Congress

Washington, D. C.

11

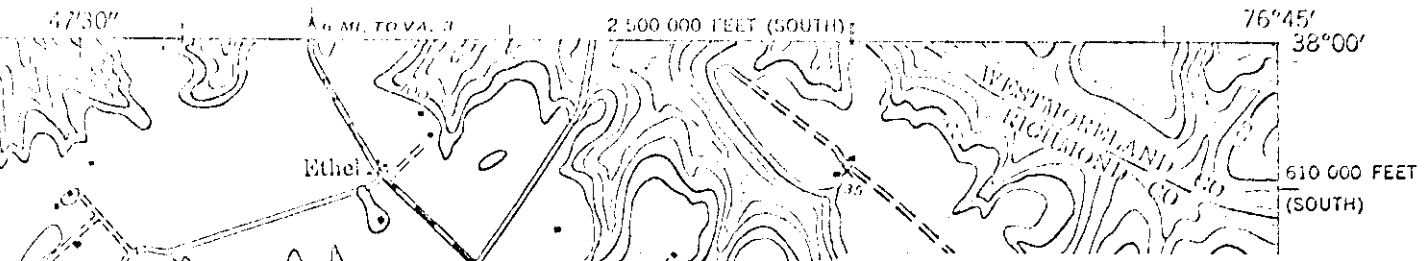
TAPPAHANNOCK QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 TAPPAHANNOCK 15' QUADRANGLE

(MACHODCC)

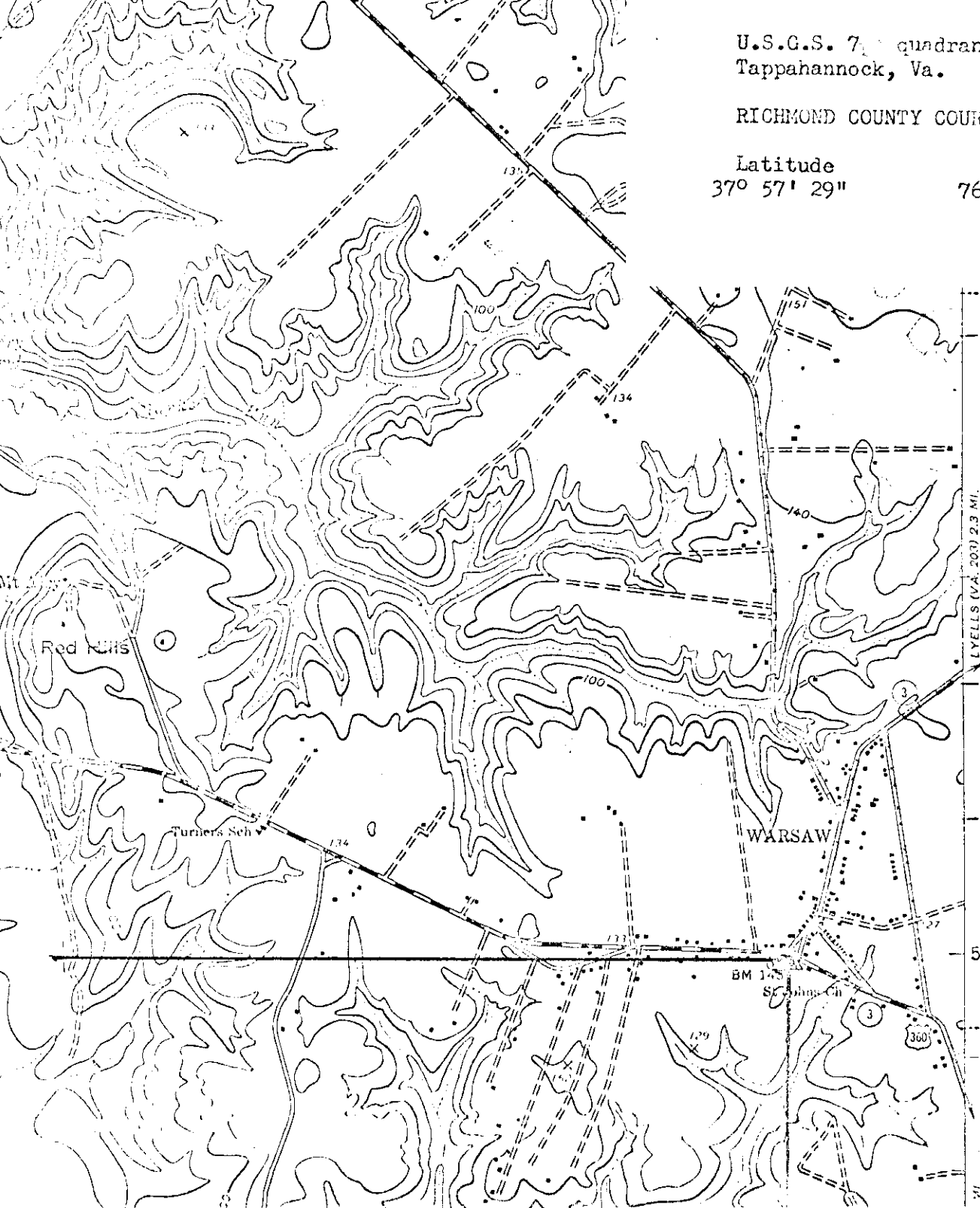


U.S.G.S. 7.5 quadrangle (Scale:1:24,000)
Tappahannock, Va. 1944

RICHMOND COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Latitude
37° 57' 29"

Longitude
76° 45' 30"



LYELLS (VA. 200) 2.3 MI.

HAYNESVILLE 4.9 MI.

57°30'