

VLR- 11/16/71 NRHP- 5/5/72

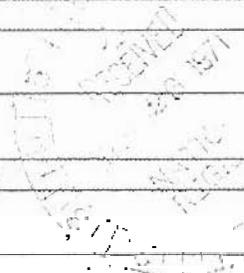
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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: STAFFORD
 : OFNPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:



1. NAME
 COMMON: FERRY FARM (George Washington's Boyhood Home)
 AND/OR HISTORIC: FERRY FARM

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: 712 Kings Highway
 CITY OR TOWN: (Fredericksburg Vicinity) William Lloyd Scott, Eighth District Congressman
 STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Stafford CODE: 179

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel P. Warren
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1111 North Jefferson Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Arlington STATE: Virginia CODE: 22205 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Stafford County Court House
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Stafford STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1934, 1935 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE IN SECTION

STATE: Virginia
 COUNTY: Stafford
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CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

Although the original acreage has been reduced to ninety-four the site of Washington's boyhood home retains its rural setting on the Rappahannock. All vestiges of the colonial farm, with the exception of the old road leading to the ferry, have been eradicated although a structure reputed to be Washington's surveying office remains. The present buildings, consisting of a late nineteenth century farm house, a smokehouse, barns and miscellaneous buildings, are of a much later vintage. With its picturesque setting and archaeological potential, Ferry Farm remains as an eminent site in commemorating the life and accomplishments of President Washington.

The building traditionally designated as George Washington's surveying office stands near the edge of the bluff above the bottom lands of the Rappahannock River, some twenty feet to the south of the site where Washington's mother's house is reputed to have stood. The tiny frame building measures approximately 13' x 12', and has its sill resting directly on loose stones. The building was originally free-standing, but a modern structure was placed against its west wall sometime prior to the 1930's. This building has since been removed. The "office" is covered by a steep gable roof and has one exterior end chimney laid in common bond. Little original fabric remains visible; the clapboarding, roof shingles, window sash, door, chimney cap, and flooring are all modern. The frame, roof structure, and chimney breast are original, but there is little to indicate that this material is of colonial origin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th 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)
<u>History</u> |
| <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 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

Wrapped in the history and lore of George Washington's boyhood days, the remnants of Ferry Farm remain situated on the bank of the Rappahannock River overlooking Fredericksburg. Although born at Wakefield in Westmoreland County and more often associated with his later home at Mount Vernon, Washington spent his formative years on this land. Here also legend merges with fact, and it is said the stories of the cutting of the cherry tree by the youthful George and his later feat of throwing a Spanish dollar across the river was enacted here.

Washington was born on Pope's Creek, Westmoreland County, in 1732, the son of Augustine and Mary Ball Washington. Shortly before his seventh birthday he had moved with his family to Ferry Farm which his father had purchased in the Fall of 1738. This property, consisting of approximately 280 acres, had originally belonged to William Strother who had died there in 1732/33. Strother's widow inherited the farm and in 1738 offered it for sale, describing the land as "lying about 2 miles below the Falls of Rappahannock, close on the River side, with a very handsome Dwelling house, three store houses, several other convenient out houses, and a Ferry...."

By 1 December, 1738 Augustine Washington had moved to Ferry Farm and was enlarging his holdings there with an additional purchase of 300 acres. He was to live here until his death on 12 August, 1743. In his will he left his son George "the land I now live on which I purchased of the Executors of Mr. Wm. Strother deceased. . . ." At the time of his death the main dwelling house consisted of seven rooms, described as "the Hall," "Hall Back Room," "Parlour," "Back Room," "Passage," "Hall Chamber," and "Parlour Chamber," leading to the conjecture that it was an one-and-a-half story house with a side-hall plan.

Under the care of his widowed mother, Washington grew up here on the banks of the Rappahannock. As he approached manhood, he spent more and more time away, often staying with his elder half-brother, Lawrence Washington at Mount Vernon. Nevertheless, he owned the property and continued to visit his mother there.

By the 1770's Mary Ball Washington was growing old and, probably hastened by the loss of the main house through fire, moved into Fredericksburg to a small house adjacent to Kenmore, the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fielding Lewis. On 13 September, 1771 Washington surveyed his holdings there and in October, 1772, offered the property for sale or rent. It was described as having "one of the most agreeable situations for a house that is to be found on the whole river."

Sometime between 1772 and 1776 the farm was sold to Doctor Hugh Mercer, a Brigadier General who was killed at the Battle of Princeton on 1777, leaving a will that documented his purchase. Members

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	STAFFORD	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

(Number all entries)

No. 8.

of Mercer's family owned the property until 1826 when it was offered for sale. At that time Mercer's son pointed out "The Land was purchased...from Gen. Washington, who resided some years of his early life on the estate--altho' not the native spot of this illustrious man, yet he was in part reared upon it--an interesting fact which gives some degrees of interest to the estate, and somewhat consecrates the soil."

No. 6.

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
(n.d.) Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Freeman, Douglas Southall, George Washington: Young Washington, New York, 1948.

King, George H.S., "Washington Boyhood Home," William and Mary Quarterly, 2nd Series, vol. 17 (April, 1937), pp. 265-281.

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° 17' 48"	77° 27' 06"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 17' 48"	77° 26' 43"				
SE	38° 17' 20"	77° 26' 43"				
SW	38° 17' 20"	77° 27' 06"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 94 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff; James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION DATE: September, 1971

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 _____
James W. Moody, Jr., Director
Title Va. 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
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY STAFFORD	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: FERRY FARM (George Washington Boyhood Home)			
AND/OR HISTORIC: FERRY FARM			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 712 Kings Highway			
CITY OR TOWN: (Fredericksburg vicinity)			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Stafford	CODE 179
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle, Fredericksburg, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1966			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

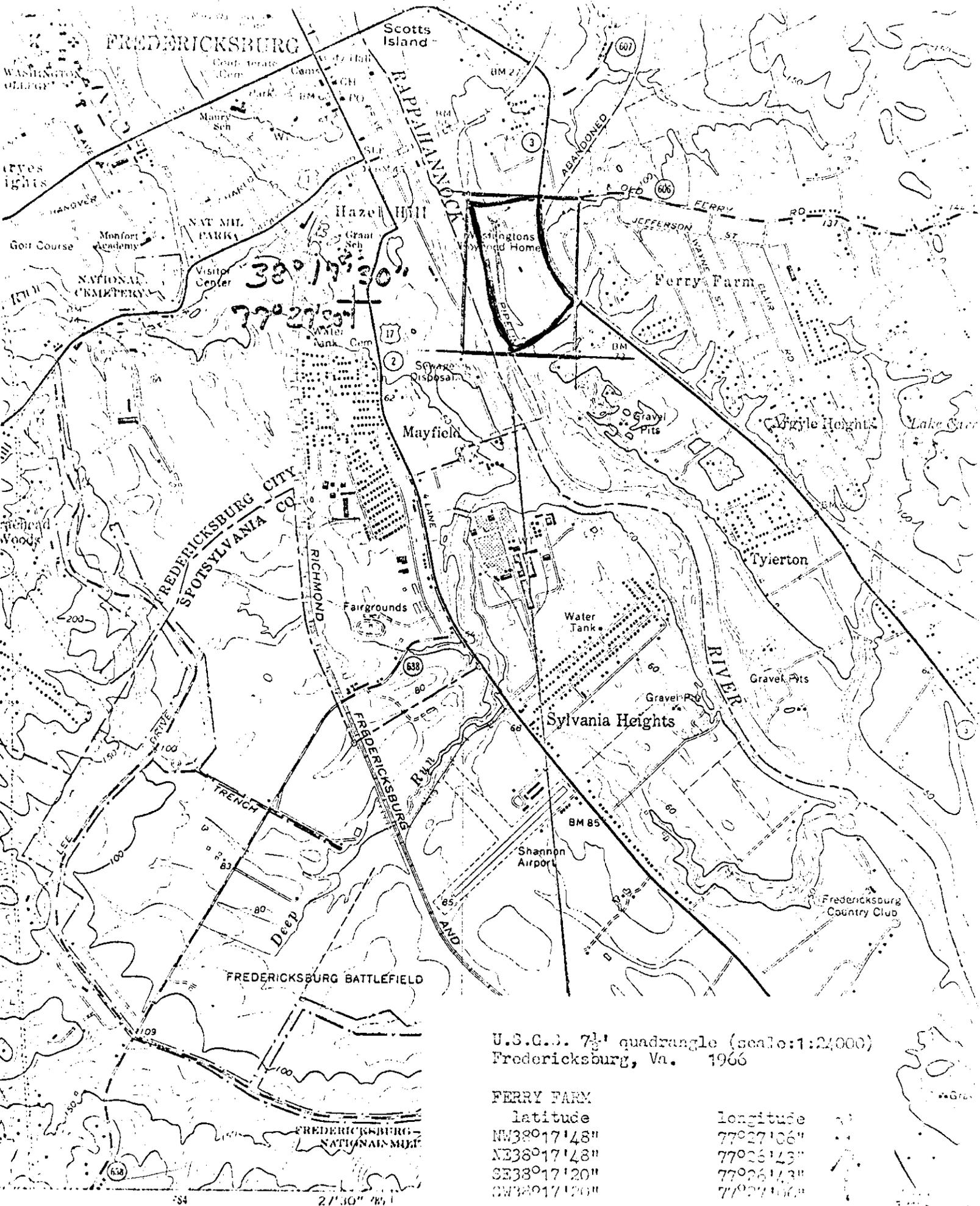
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Stafford	CODE 179
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Richmond, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. VIEW OF TWO STORY FRAME HOUSE FROM EAST.			



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
 Fredericksburg, Va. 1966

FERRY FARM	latitude	longitude
	NW38°17'48"	77°27'06"
	NE38°17'48"	77°26'43"
	SE38°17'20"	77°26'13"
	SW38°17'20"	77°27'06"