Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: James Monroe Family Home Site

AND/OR COMMON: James Monroe's Birthplace

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: State Route 209 — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Monroe Hall — X VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1 (Thomas N. Downing)

STATE: Virginia — CODE: 51 — COUNTY: Westmoreland — CODE: 096

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	X PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	X WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors

STREET & NUMBER: County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN: Montross — __ VICINITY OF — STATE: Virginia 22520

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER: Westmoreland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Montross — STATE: Virginia 22520

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: "Report on the Proposed Monroe Birthplace National Monument or Park at Monroe Hall, Virginia"

DATE: 1937 — X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service

CITY, TOWN: Washington — STATE: D. C. 20000

Title: "Final Report on James Monroe Project"
Date: 1976
__Federal __xState __County __Local
Depository for Survey Records: Virginia Research Center for Archaeology
Wren Kitchen, The College of William and Mary
City/ Town: Williamsburg
State: Virginia 23186

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	X_RUINS	X_ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	X_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Monroe Family Home Site is within a Westmoreland County park east of Monroe Hall, Virginia, ¼ mile west of Monroe Creek, an area located by deed tracing and reaffirmed through local tradition.

The Monroe house is depicted in an 1845 engraving as a wood frame single story and loft house with a central entranceway flanked by two windows. The house is set on masonry piers, with end chimneys and an end addition. The plantation also included a kitchen, barn, stables, and other outbuildings.

Archaeological investigations revealed a series of symmetrical trenches, the sole remains of removed brick foundations of a house 57' x 18'6". The evidence suggests that the house plan included a cellar with a bulkhead entrance, two chimneys and a two room end addition in conformance with the 1845 engraving. Artifactual findings indicate a construction date of ca. 1750, eight years before James Monroe's birth.

Bricks were removed from the cellar foundation ca. 1910 by local inhabitants. State Route 209, constructed in 1953, greatly disturbed the eastern half of the house.

The floor plan of the house is presently delineated where the original house stood using wood timbers set on the surface of the ground. The space between the wood timbers is covered with gravel.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES April 28, 1758 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

James Monroe, the fifth President of the United States, in his autobiography, commented briefly on his childhood years. Through the combined efforts of archaeology and historical research, the Monroe home has been located and more is known of the environment in which James Monroe lived until the age of sixteen.

James Monroe, born in 1758, lived with his parents, Spence and Elizabeth, his older sister, and three younger brothers, on a sizeable plantation. He resided there until 1774 when he enrolled in the College of William and Mary.

The socio-economic status of the Monroe family is reflected in the 1774 inventory made after Spence Monroe died, and by the artifacts uncovered at the site. The Monroes were a genteel family of moderate means holding most of their wealth in slaves, cattle, and land. Spence supplemented his nearly self-sufficient plantation with income from carpentry. The family satisfied the pragmatic needs of the plantation by purchasing or making utilitarian objects, apparently having only a few decorative pieces in the house. This indicates that James Monroe came from a modest background.

After the death of Spence Monroe, the various family members dispersed, resulting in the sale of the plantation by James Monroe in 1781. Following this initial sale, the plantation entered a period of decline. As it passed through a succession of tenants, the condition of the manor house gradually deteriorated until its eventual abandonment and systematic dismantling ca. 1850.

The James Monroe Family Home Site, preserved within a Westmoreland County park, is a tribute to the early life of President James Monroe.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Egloff, Keith and Martha McCartney. Final Report on James Monroe Project. ms., Virginia Research Center for Archaeology: 1976.

Sears, Robert. The Pictorial History of the American Revolution. New York: 1845.

The Virginia Gazette (Richmond), December 30, 1780.

Westmoreland County Records-Inventories #5, 1767-1776.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 70 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	326440	4239990	B	18	326210	4239800
C	18	325616	4239140	D	18	325819	4239515

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bordered on the west by State Route 209, on the east by Monroe Creek, on the north by Freeneck Gut, and on the south by a dirt road and a line of houses.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Keith Egloff

ORGANIZATION
Virginia Research Center for Archaeology

DATE
December 1, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
Wren Kitchen, The College of William and Mary

TELEPHONE
804-220-2773

CITY OR TOWN
Williamsburg

STATE
Virginia 23186

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

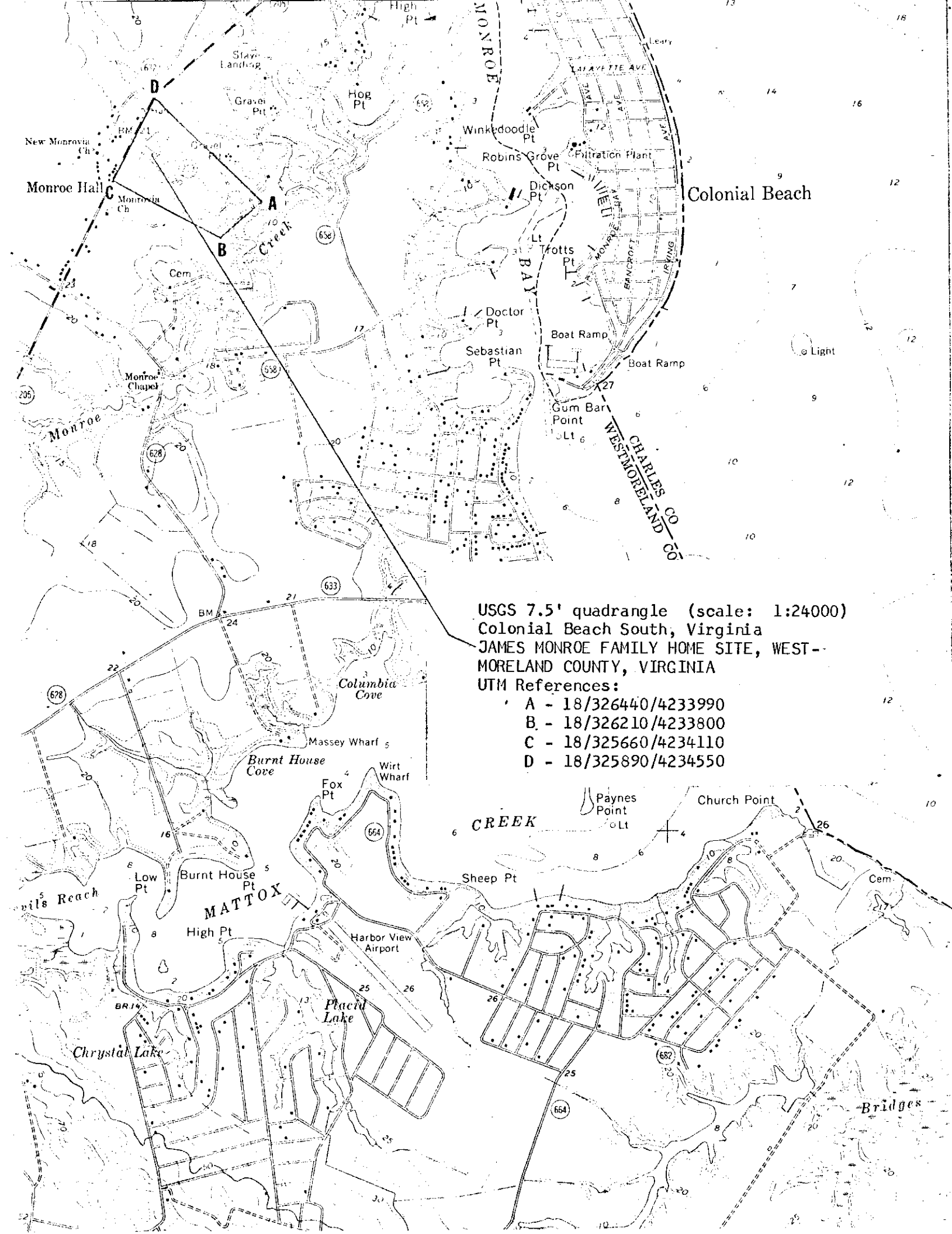
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Colonial Beach South, Virginia
JAMES MONROE FAMILY HOME SITE, WEST-MORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References:

A - 18/326440/4233990
B - 18/326210/4233800
C - 18/325660/4234110
D - 18/325890/4234550