

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

CITY, TOWN

Monroe Hall

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF  
CODE

51

1 (Thomas N. Downing)

COUNTY

CODE

Westmoreland

096

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> 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

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C. 20000

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

Title: "Final Report on James Monroe Project"

Date: 1976

Federal  State  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

**77 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**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, 1/4 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			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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

A	1,8	3	2,6	4,4	0	4,2	3,3	9,9	0	B	1,8	3	2,6	2,1	0	4,2	3,3	8,0	0
	ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING				ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING		
C	1,8	3	2,5	6,6	0	4,2	3,4	1,1	0	D	1,8	3	2,5	8,9	0	4,2	3,4	5,5	0

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

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

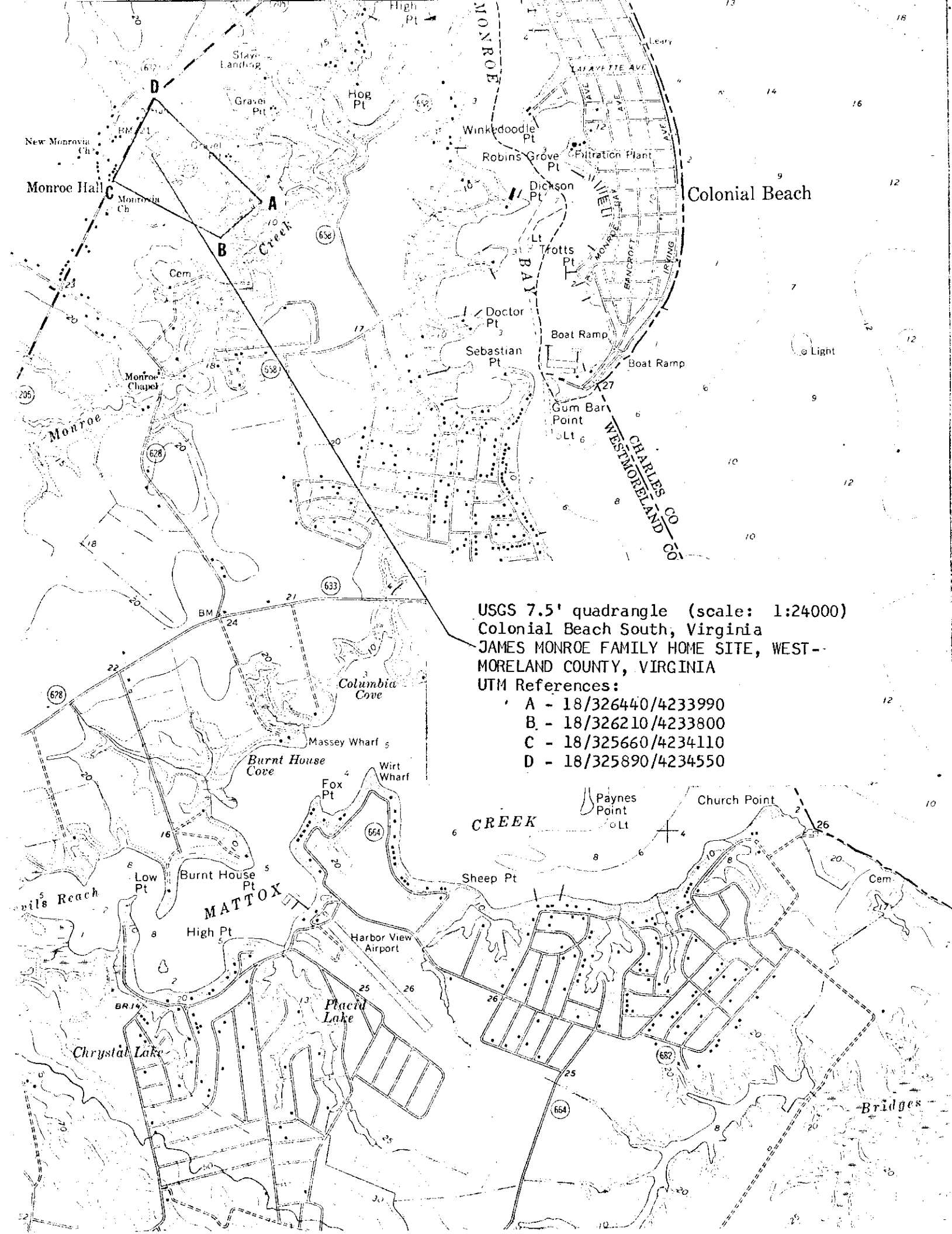
DATE

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