

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>VIRGINIA</b>
COUNTY: <b>HALIFAX</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**CARTER'S TAVERN**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **.5 mile northwest of northern tributary of Big Toby Creek, south side of Rt. 659, .5 mile west of intersection of Rt. 659 and Rt. 662.**

CITY OR TOWN: **(Paces vicinity)** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Fifth (W. C. Daniel)**

STATE: **VIRGINIA** CODE: **51** COUNTY: **HALIFAX** CODE: **083**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" 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) <b>Exhibition</b>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **MR. AND Mrs. Robert H. Edmunds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **405 Sunset Drive**

CITY OR TOWN: **Greensboro** STATE: **North Carolina** CODE: **37**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Halifax County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Halifax** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

TITLE OF SURVEY: **(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (see continuation sheet)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958**  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

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent   
  Good   
  Fair   
  Deteriorated   
  Ruins   
  Unexposed

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(Check One)

Altered   
  Unaltered   
  Moved   
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Carter's Tavern is set in a clearing just south of Halifax County's historic River Road. The building stood derelict and much decayed until 1972 when it was thoroughly restored by its present owner. As a result, much of the exterior fabric such as siding, roofing and chimneys had to be renewed, although the original interior woodwork, including flooring, wainscoting, mantels and stairs, is almost completely intact. The building had never suffered major alteration, thus anyreplaced fabric could be carefully matched to the original.

The tavern is in the Country-Federal style and has a two-story, double-pile, side-hall-plan main section and an earlier one-and-a-half-story wing on the west end. Two exterior end brick chimneys are on the east end while the wing has a single exterior end chimney. Both the main part and the wing are covered by gable roofs with simple box cornices. The wing is fronted by a shed-roof porch framed into its main roof. Beaded weatherboarding, copying the original, is used throughout except under the wing porch where flush siding is employed. The house is underpinned with rubble fieldstone.

The first-floor interior is divided into four main rooms and a stair hall. A secondary enclosed stair leading to the innkeeper's private quarters is located in the southwest room of the main section. The main, or public room, contains doors and wainscoting grained to imitate inlaid cabinet woods, as well as marbelized baseboards. The marbelized mantel is richly ornamented with reeded pilasters, bands and sunbursts. The remaining rooms in the first-floor's main section are similarly treated but are less ornate. In the wing is the "tap room" which has horizontal wooden sheathing on all its walls. The room's other distinctive features include the exposed ceiling joists and built-in cupboards. The main stairway is likewise sheathed in horizontal boarding. Its simple open-string staircase has a square newel, oval handrail and square balusters.

Above the main, or public room, is a room of equal size which also has handsomely grained and marbelized woodwork. Reeding is employed on the marbelized mantel but the sunbursts are omitted. Behind this room are the innkeeper's private quarters which are reached by the enclosed stair mentioned earlier. Above the wing is a single room formerly used as a sleeping loft.

Although modern conveniences such as heating, electricity and plumbing have been installed, special care was taken to preserve the building's historic character. At present the tavern is furnished with antiques and is used for special tours and meetings as well as a place for entertainment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CCL

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       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 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    | osophy   | _____                                    |
| <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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Long a familiar landmark on Halifax County's historic and scenic River Road, Carter's Tavern is a handsomely restored example of an early southern Virginia ordinary. With virtually all of its original interior fabric intact, the venerable frame building provides a rare picture of the character and arrangement of this once common Virginia institution. An outstanding feature of the tavern is the great quantity of well-preserved grained and marbelized woodwork, some of which is unusually ornate.

The building's earliest portion is the one-and-a-half-story wing, probably erected before 1773 by Joseph Dodson. Licenses issued in 1802 and 1804 indicate that Dodson's younger son, Joseph, Jr., operated an ordinary there in what was also his residence. In 1807 Dodson sold the building and 67 acres to Samuel Carter. Carter is believed to have enlarged the building to its present size by tearing down part of the Dodson house and erecting the two-story main section. In any case, the enlarged building enabled Carter to operate an overnight stage stop. The earliest recorded license issued to him, in 1821, authorized Carter to keep "a house of private entertainment" at his residence. His license was renewed in 1824, 1829, 1830, 1833, 1834, and 1835.

Following Carter's death in 1836 his wife, Elizabeth, took over operation of the establishment. As the River Road was a lap on the main stage road between New York and New Orleans, Carter's Tavern remained an important stopping place. "Betsy" Carter continued as proprietress of the tavern until her death in 1843, at which time it was permanently closed. In 1860 Samuel Carter's son, Philemon, sold the property to Dr. Thomas Haynie. The Haynie family owned it until 1898 when the building and 150 acres was sold to Mrs. Martha E. Reaves. After the Reaves family sold the property in 1941 it passed through various owners until 1972 when the derelict, decaying building was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Edmunds, of Halifax County and Greensboro, North Carolina. The Edmunds munificently undertook a thorough restoration of the building for no other reason than to preserve it. Handsomely furnished, Carter's Tavern is now made available for special tours and meetings.

CCL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cook, Kenneth H. "Carter's Tavern Shines," The Record-Advertiser.  
South Boston, Va., Sept. 20-25, 1973.

**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	° ' "	° ' "		36°	40'	30"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		79°	08'	05"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.51 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

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION DATE: July, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
HALIFAX	
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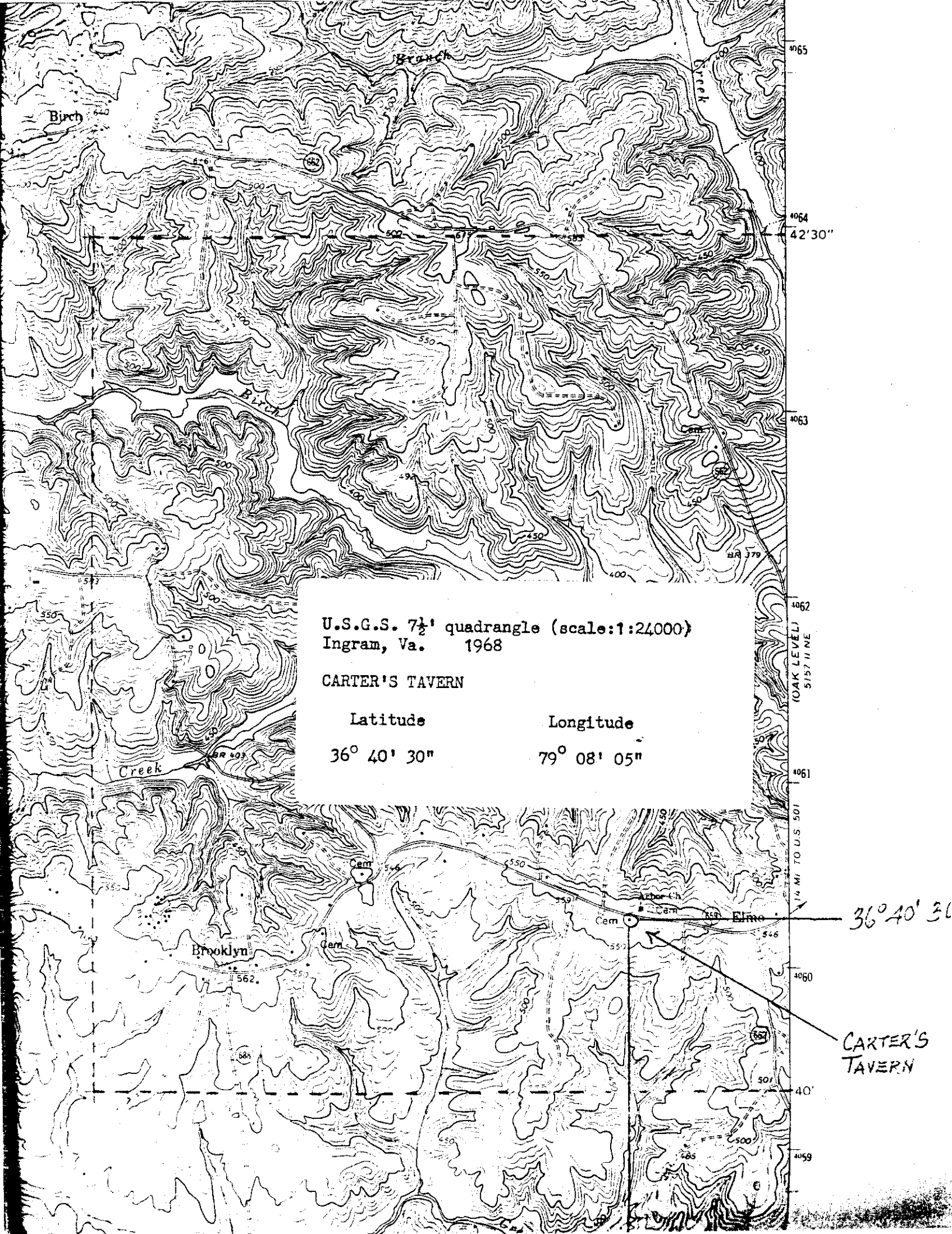
(Number all entries)

6.

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

1971 State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia (Code 51)



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Ingram, Va. 1968

CARTER'S TAVERN

Latitude	Longitude
36° 40' 30"	79° 08' 05"

4065  
4064  
4063  
4062  
4061  
4060  
4059

(OAK LEVEL)  
5157 II NE

1/4 MI TO U.S. 501

36° 40' 30"

CARTER'S TAVERN

40'  
4059