

VLR-4/18/78 NRHP-9/8/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	9/8/80

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Chericoke

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3.2 miles ^{SW} of Falls; approximately 1 mile SW of intersection of
State Routes 666 and 600; 1000' E of Pamunkey River; .7 mile N of
Broad Creek

CITY, TOWN

Falls

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First (Paul S. Trible, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE
51

COUNTY
King William

CODE
101

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Guy Horsley

STREET & NUMBER

5900 Patterson Avenue, #8

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23226

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

King William County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

King William

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE
1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE
D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Chericoke is an open farm tract in southwestern King William County. The large, brick plantation house, set on a rise which drops off abruptly to the Pamunkey River bottom land immediately below it, is two-and-one-half stories tall, three bays wide, and set on a high basement. Built of brick laid in Flemish bond, it has recessed plastered spandrel panels separating the windows of each level. White wooden lintels and 6/6 sash are used in the first- and second-floor openings, with rowlock lintels and 3/3 sash in the basement. A box cornice and small gabled dormers with four-light casement sash at the front and rear mark the low hipped roof with its two square interior chimney stacks. On the river front of Chericoke is an original two-story portico with square Doric piers and a round banister with square balusters. A similar porch on the land front was replaced in the mid-19th century by a one-story pedimented portico with four Doric piers. To the south is a late 19th-century, two-story, three-bay frame kitchen wing. It is covered with weatherboards and has a low hipped roof and interior flue.

The plan of Chericoke is an interesting variation on the standard central-passage, double-pile Georgian plan. The front tier of rooms is deeper than the rear, and the chimneys are located on the lateral partition. The hall passage is L-shaped and occupies the entire left rear (northeast) corner of the house.

The open-string stair ascends in this rear extension, against the lateral partition. It has sawn brackets, a round ramped-and-eased banister, urn-shaped newels, and two rectangular balusters to a tread. Because the shape of the passage requires the omission of part of the front-to-rear partition, its function is filled by a freestanding baseless Tuscan column set in the line of the absent partition.

The (northwest) parlor, the most elaborate room in the plainly decorated house, has a pedimented chair rail with a fluted frieze and reeded, symmetrically molded trim with bull's-eye blocks. The mantel is composed of two Tuscan columns supporting entablature blocks with vertical fluted ellipses. The frieze and the shelf fascia are fluted. The southwest room is decorated in a similar manner but without the fluting on the chair rail.

In addition to the stair and Tuscan column, the passage is embellished with a fluted chair rail, a fluted fascia at second-floor level, and symmetrically molded trim with six-pointed stars in the corner blocks.

One early outbuilding survives. It is a pyramidal-roofed, frame smokehouse, and it may be contemporary with the house.

Southwest of the house is a cemetery in which Carter Braxton (1736-1797), signer of the Declaration of Independence, is reputed to have been buried in an unmarked grave. All of the other graves in the burying ground date from the mid-19th century.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries are drawn arbitrarily to include a relevant portion of the axial approach to the house with its park and early smokehouse, the site of the original house, the grave site, a modern barn northwest of the house, and the reputed site of the 18th-century plantation landing.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1828 (house)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Set on a bluff overlooking the flood plain of the meandering Pamunkey River, Chericoke, built in 1828, is notable for its handsome brickwork, sophisticated plan, and imaginative interior detailing. Built by Charles H. C. Braxton, grandson of Carter Braxton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the present house stands immediately adjacent to the site of the signer's own dwelling, an exceptionally large brick plantation house destroyed by fire in 1775.

Chericoke is built on land first acquired by George Braxton (d.1757), of Newington, King and Queen County, in the 18th century. The property subsequently passed to Braxton's son Carter (1736-1797), with an adjacent tract going to another son. Carter Braxton first lived at nearby Elsing Green (1758) but built a new house at Chericoke around 1770 supposedly because Elsing Green was too small. In 1775, the first Chericoke burned; its site is a few feet east of the 1828 house, under the present driveway. Carter Braxton is reputed to have been buried in an unmarked grave in the family cemetery southwest of the house, but the surviving markers suggest that this cemetery was begun, as were most visible family graveyards in Virginia, in the mid-19th century.

At Braxton's death, the property passed to his son George Braxton (d.1803), and then to Charles Hill Carter Braxton (d.1842). Surviving tax records and architectural evidence indicate that the house was probably built in 1828, when the valuation was increased by \$1,000 for additional buildings.

Chericoke has remained in the hands of Braxton descendants.

Architecturally, Chericoke represents the type of dwelling erected by prosperous Virginia planters in the Federal period. The sophisticated structure follows the pattern of Adam-influenced dwellings and is akin to the more elaborate freestanding town houses of Richmond. It is possible that Chericoke was designed and erected by a Richmond contractor.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Fields, Elizabeth and Dr. J. E. Fields. "The Signers Lived Here." Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, vol. 8, May 1951.
- King William County - Land Tax Books, 1782-1848.
- Morton, Richard L. "Braxton, Carter", Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. II. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943, pp. 609-610.
- Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.
- Virginia Writer's Project. Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion. American Guide Series.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 37

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	B	13	650	4	67	529	B	18	3	13	400	4	167	020
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING			ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING	
C	18	B	13	410	4	67	020	D	18	3	13	290	4	167	260
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING			ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on E bank of Pamunkey River, 5600' SW of intersection of State Routes 600 and 666, 4300' S of mouth of Clapper Creek and at edge of tree line; thence extending about 800' NE (following tree line for first 400'); thence extending about 1200' SE, then about 1400' SW, then about 900' NW to E bank of river; thence extending about 800' NE along said bank to point of origin.

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

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

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

Resubmitted December 28, 1979

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE APR 18 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 21 1978

DATE ENTERED

Chericoke, King William County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6, 9, 10 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New York: Oxford University Press, 1947, p. 601.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References
E 18/313430/4167420

40'
4170
4169
480 000
FEET
4168
4167

Piping Tree Ferry
Clapper Creek
HANOVER CO
KING WILLIAM CO RIVER
PAMUNKEY
Grimes Landing

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
King William, Va. 1968

CHERICOKE, King William County, Virginia

UTM References:

- A- 18/313650/4167520
- B- 18/313800/4167180
- C- 18/313400/4167020
- D- 18/313290/4167260
- E- 18/313430/4167420

Grave Site

