

VLR-6/17/75 NRHP-7/17/75

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

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: Nottoway
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE 7/17/75

1. NAME  
COMMON:  
Burke's Tavern  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER: 1.5 miles west of Burkeville; 100 feet north of the eastern intersection of Route 621 and Route 607; east side of the Nottoway/Prince Edward County line.  
CITY OR TOWN: (Burkeville vicinity)  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth (W. C. Daniel)  
STATE: Virginia  
CODE: 51  
COUNTY: Nottoway  
CODE: 135

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION:	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a - : u s - : :	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. B. B. Abrams  
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1, Box 146  
CITY OR TOWN: Burkeville  
STATE: Virginia  
CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Nottoway County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: Nottoway  
STATE: Virginia  
CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969, 1975  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
STREET AND NUMBER: 221 Governor Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond  
STATE: Virginia  
CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Nottoway  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Burke's Tavern, at the rural crossroads of the same name, is a one-story frame building set upon a ground-level basement. It has three bays of windows and brick exterior end chimneys which, like the basement, are laid in five-course American bond. A lean-to ell is attached to the eastern half of the facade, which has six-over-six sash in the basement and nine-over-nine sash on the first floor. The whole building is covered with weatherboards and a sheet-metal roof.

The building is entered through the center bay of the basement, which is the principal living floor. There is an interesting Greek Revival frontispiece consisting of symmetrically molded pilasters and a ramped lintel with a Greek-key molding in the frieze.

The tavern has a central-hall, single-pile plan. In the parlor (west room) is a heavy late Federal mantel with flat-paneled pilasters, entablature blocks, and central tablet. Access to the full-width brick lean-to against the chimney end, which is presently a library, is through this room. The mantel in the dining (east) room is similar to that in the parlor. It is from the dining room that one enters the front lean-to.

The stairs with their open stringer, rectangular balusters, square newel, and oval banister rise from the rear to the front of the house. Two plain mantels embellish the second-floor rooms. There is, in addition, a wide double-beaded chairboard, close to the floor, used throughout this story. In the east room, in the attic of a twentieth-century ell, can be seen early beaded weatherboards on the former rear wall of the main house.

A Greek Revival store and the Burke cemetery survive south of the house.

DIU

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Burke's Tavern, the principal building in a tiny rural settlement on the Nottoway-Prince Edward County line, is a reminder of a flourishing period in the history of the area. The tavern was probably built by Samuel D. Burke, a prominent local politician in ante-bellum Prince Edward County. Although the present building was erected in the 1820s, a tavern had existed on the site since the mid-eighteenth century. The tavern business declined when the routing of the Richmond and Danville and the Southside Railroads prompted the removal of trade a few miles to what became the present Burkeville.

Charles Burke of Norfolk, a merchant, acquired the land on which the tavern stands in 1731. In 1750, his son Richard, a vestryman of the old Sandy River Church in the present Prince Edward County, obtained a license to operate a tavern there. Soon afterwards, the Burkes also began to keep a store at Burke's Tavern, or Burkeville, as it was sometimes called.

In 1800, the tavern license was granted to Anderson P. Miller, a prominent local citizen who served on the Prince Edward County Court after 1810 and on the first board of county school commissioners. Miller may have been a relative of the Burkes, for in 1818, after working for Miller for a year, young Samuel D. Burke (1794-1880) became his partner in the commercial firm of Miller and Burke. An 1820 map by John Wood shows the tavern, a store, and two other buildings at the settlement.

The ordinary license was granted to Samuel Burke alone in 1827. It is probable that he built the present tavern at about that time and remodeled it during a prosperous period about fifteen years later.

Burke was a militia colonel, local politician, and entrepreneur of some influence. Whig meetings were frequently held at Burke's Tavern in the 1830s and 1840s. In 1840, Burke was the successful Whig candidate for the House of Delegates from Prince Edward County. He lost a race for the state Senate in 1843.

Burke's Tavern was at the peak of its prosperity at this time. Burke built a handsome new store building with Asher Benjamin-style detailing, which still stands across the road from the tavern. A school was opened under the direction of William B. Featherston in 1840, and its eight or ten boarders lived at Burke's Tavern. With the coming of the railroads, however, Burke moved his business nearer the line, to what became "new" Burkeville.

(see continuation sheet #1)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Nottoway	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Two minor events associated with the War between the States occurred at Burke's Tavern. The Union generals Wilson and Kautz used the former tavern as their headquarters during a raid in 1864. In 1865, Brigadier General Thomas A. Smythe of Delaware, wounded at the Battle of High Bridge near Farmville, was brought to the house, where he died on April 9, the last Union general to be killed in the war.

The Burkes owned the house until 1905, when the Farrar family purchased it. Col. and Mrs. B. B. Abrams bought it in 1971.

DTU

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Amelia County Deed Book I.  
 Amelia County Order Books.  
 Bradshaw, Herbert Clarence. History of Prince Edward County. Richmond:  
 Dietz Press, Inc., 1955.  
 Turner, W. R. Old Homes and Families of Nottoway County. Blackstone, Va.:  
 Nottoway Publishing Co., Inc., 1932, revised 1950.

**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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM References:  
 17/745130/4119900

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: June 1975

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.  
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date JUN 17 1975

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

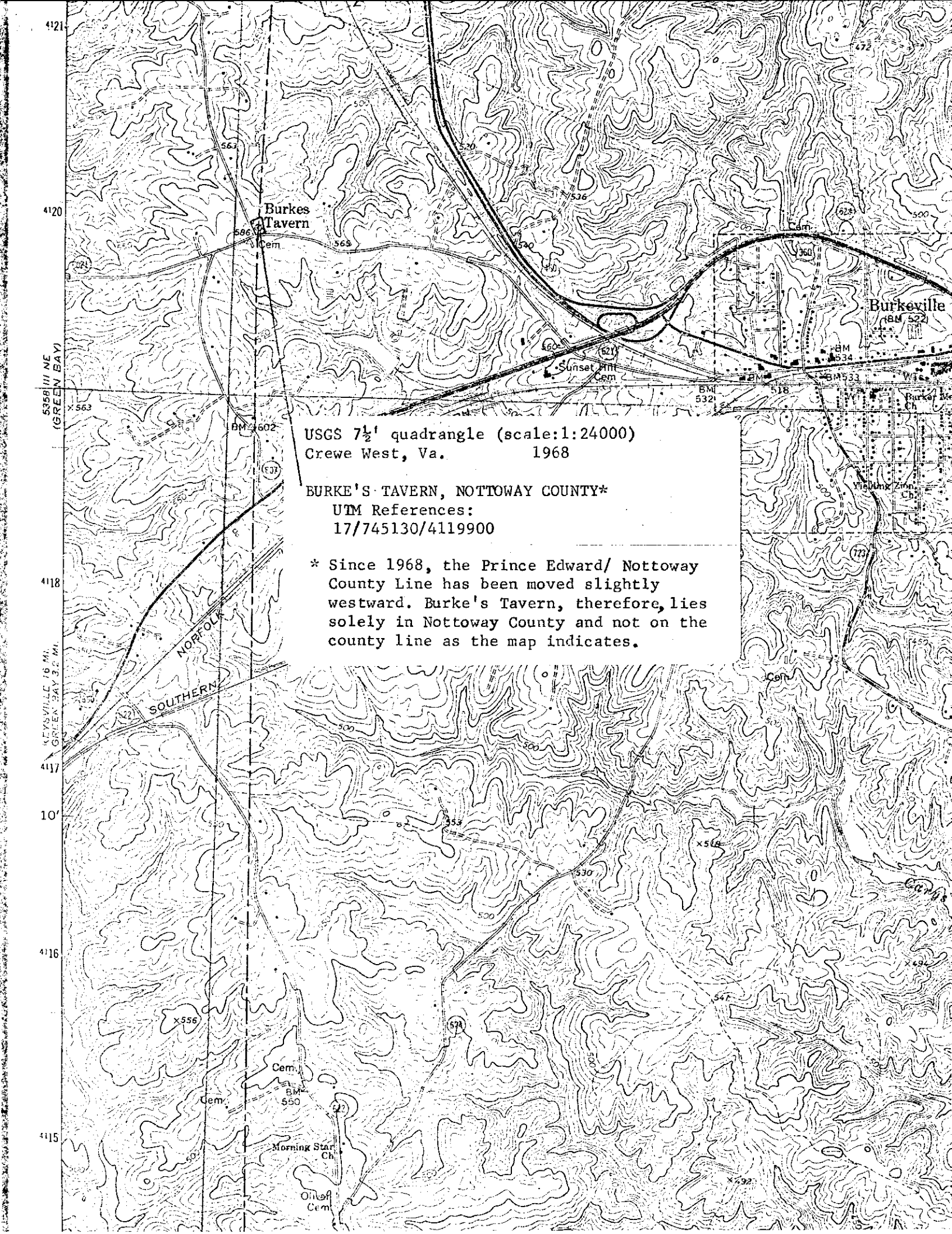
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



USGS 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Crewe West, Va. 1968

BURKE'S TAVERN, NOTTOWAY COUNTY\*

UTM References:  
17/745130/4119900

\* Since 1968, the Prince Edward/ Nottoway  
County Line has been moved slightly  
westward. Burke's Tavern, therefore, lies  
solely in Nottoway County and not on the  
county line as the map indicates.