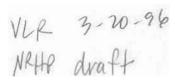
NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in Mow to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin ±6A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "NA" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions, Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

Name of Property							
	don Plant	ation					
historic name <u>Upper Bran</u>	idon Flanci	acron					
other names/site number <u>VDHF</u>	R File No_	74-2	7				
2. Location							
street & number 2300 Upper	· Brandon	Road			N/	<u>′A</u> □ n	ot for publication
city or town Spring Grove)						
state Virginia							p code 23881
3. State/Federal Agency Certific	ation						
Signature of certifying official/Title Virginia Department State of Federal agency and burea In my opinion, the property mercomments.)	u	oric	Pate Resourd		See continuat	ion sheet	for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title			Date				1
Stata or Federal agency and burea	U						
. National Park Service Certific	eation						
nereby certify that the property is	ation		Signature of	the Keeper			Date of Action
entered in the National Register Sea continuation sheet.			- -				
determined eligible for the National Register							
See continuation sheet.						ST IN	The second section is
determined not eligible for the National Register.					2		
removed tram the National Register.	-						_
other. (explain:)							

Pri	nce	George	Co.,	Va.
OUNTY	and St	ale .		_

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)		Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)			
	😾 building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	l	
public-local	☐ district ☐ site	3	6	buildings	
□ public-State □ public-Federal	structure	3	2	sit es	
	☐ object	2	3	structures	
		0	0	objects	
		8	11	Total	
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A		Number of co in the Nation N/A	ontributing resources al Register	previously listed	
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
DOMESTIC: single du	welling		orporate retr		
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIS	TENCE: outbuildings	AGRICULTURE	S/SUBSISTENCE:	outbuilding:	
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: fields		AGRICULTURE	E/SUBSISTENCE:	fields	
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	m instructions)		
EARLY REPUBLIC: Ear	rly Classical Revival	foundation Bri	ck		
		wallsBri	ck		
		roofSla	ite		
		other			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

recorded by Historic American Engineering

8. Statement of Significance	
	14
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
for National Register listing.)	ARCHITECTURE
🗴 A Property is associated with events that have made	AGRICULTURE
a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	
our history.	
The Contract of the Contract o	
□ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
-	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
of a type, period, or method of construction or	
represents the work of a master, or possesses	·
high artistic values, or represents a significant and	Period of Significance
distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	•
individual distinction.	1825-1859
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	
information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1825
Property is:	1859
	1039
A owned by a religious institution or used for	
religious purposes.	
	Significant Person
B removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
C a birthplace or grave.	
_ C a birtiplace of grave.	Cultural Affiliation
	Cultural Affiliation
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
F a commemorative property.	
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
within the past 50 years.	
with the past of yours.	
Narrative Statement of Significance	
Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets	3.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibilography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on c	one or more continuation charle !
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	
CFR 67) has been requested	☑ Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency ☑ Local government
 previously determined eligible by the National Register 	☐ University
designated a National Historic Landmark	☑ Other
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository Va. Historical Society
#	, ,, a, miscoridar society

Upper Brandon Plantation	Prince George Co., Va.
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 2,138.5 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Helen S. T. Reed	
organization Reed Restoration	date
street & number Box 29053	(004) 704 5610
city or town Richmond state	77-
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's	s location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large	acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
nameJames River Corp., Mr. Pete Trexler	
street & number 1802 Upper Brandon Road	telephone (804) 866-5000
city or town Spring Grove state	<u>Va.</u> zip code 23881
Security Parking Ant Clatemants This information in height authorized for configuration	nes to the National Conjetes of Historic Places to comingte

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

OMB ARRESTS No. 1024-0016

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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	Prince George Co., Va.

Description

Upper Brandon is a nineteenth-century plantation complex on the James River in Prince George County, Virginia. Built in two phases, 1825 and 1859, the brick house is noteworthy for its large-scale, five-part plan, and its sophisticated woodwork derived from Asher Benjamin's pattern book. The farmland has been in cultivation since the seventeenth century.

The nomination consists of eight contributing resources (site plan 1-8): main house and connected dependencies; overseer's house; slave house; garden archaeological site and reconstruction; Sunbury field archaeological site; smokehouse; icehouse; and slave cemetery.

The Upper Brandon residence with two dependencies (see plan) was completed on the south bank of the James River in 1825 by William Byrd Harrison; two wings were added to the main structure in 1859 following his second marriage. William Byrd Harrison (1800-1870), an 1820 graduate of Harvard University, gave careful attention to the construction. The ornate interior woodwork and exterior detail were achieved by accomplished workmen using Asher Benjamin's popular

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Upper Brandon Plantation Prince George Co., Va.

pattern book, The American Builder's Companion, first issued in Boston in 1806 with the help of Daniel Raynerd, who subsequently worked in Virginia. The itinerant craftsmen involved may be responsible for several other equally important contemporary Virginia houses discussed later (Magnolia Grange, Chesterfield Co.; Hampstead, New Kent Co.; Horn Quarter, King William Co.; the Governor's Mansion in Richmond; and Lower Brandon alterations). The style would be described as Federal or early Classical Revival.

The 1825 floor plan shows a large Tidewater rectangular dwelling with a center hall and four corner rooms, repeated in the basement and on the second floor, each floor with approximately 3,756 square feet. The smaller dependencies had similar configurations with the kitchen on the west combining the hall and cooking area. This five-part Palladian format was established among the grander Virginia plantations such as Carter's Grove, Westover, Blandfield, Mount Airy, Lower Brandon, and Battersea. The brickwork is Flemish bond, and the roof is slate; smaller bricks are used for the dependencies. Classical porches complete the two facades using the Ionic order on the south land entrance and the Composite order on the north river entrance. Academic mutule blocks from Benjamin appear under the cornice. An 1870 photograph shows a parapet railing (not restored) identical to that at Hampstead (Benjamin, plate . 53) and similar to the recently restored railing at the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Governor's Mansion. The widow's walk illustrated in the same photo with a simple railing has been restored instead to a Chinese Chippendale design.

The interior woodwork is especially fine. It is all original with the exception of the second-floor southwest bedroom mantel. The hall contains a guilloche banded arch with the keystone motif from Benjamin (plate 33); elaborately shaped overdoors with scroll and leaf consoles from Benjamin (also plate 33); and a grand staircase with double fan shaped brackets and simple square balisters. At Magnolia Grange, Ionic columns and the keystone in the hall are identical to Upper Brandon, and the northwest office mantel is supported by leaf and scroll elements similar to the Upper Brandon door consoles. The four upstairs Magnolia Grange mantels with cutout geometric panels relate to Upper Brandon mantels. At Hampstead the same Benjamin keystone (plate 33) appears in the brick arch above the entrance door. The handsome Benjamin parapet railing is original, and the design (plate 53) is likewise the source for the Upper Brandon example in the old photograph. mutule, mantels, shaped overdoors, and Ionic hall columns directly relate Hampstead craftsmen to Upper Brandon. Research linking these houses possibly to Daniel Raynerd has yet to be explored although the same workmanship is evident. The Upper Brandon hall has been returned to the original light green paint although photographs show a false grain

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Upper Brandon Plantation Prince George Co., Va.

mahogany finish in the later nineteenth century. The unusual doors each have eight cross shaped panels, a design from a yet unidentified source.

The northeast and southeast parlors are connected by a large double door, making the space interchangeable according to the light and seasons. The southeast mantel is especially intricate with open arches and full Ionic colonettes.

The northwest dining room and southwest room have finely carved arches flanking the mantels. A similar configuration appears in the four mantel walls of the bedrooms above as well as at Horn Quarter. The southwest room, now used as a breakfast room, was altered in size in the 1980s renovation to accommodate a first floor coatroom and lavatory. Elaborate plaster ceiling medallions and cornices found in the comparative houses may once have been in Upper Brandon, but no evidence or photographs document this.

The large second floor hall is approached from the stair landing which crosses the land facade window in an elementary construction. The river facade includes a matching three-part window. Simple stairs rise to an unfinished attic, and a ladder gives access to the rooftop widow's walk.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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the main house, facilitating service from the kitchen and access to both buildings in bad weather. Small windows on the north side illuminate the passages; lower walls make the land elevation inconspicuous due to the slanted roof.

The west dependency served as a large kitchen and laundry room with two chambers above. The east dependency served as an office and/or schoolroom. The small center hall divides two rooms with two chambers above. Simple utilitarian woodwork characterizes both buildings.

In 1859, the main residence was enlarged on each side, adding a library to the east and a pantry and back stairs to the west. Triple-hung sashes on the north gave access to small porches with unusual Ionic columns. The spaces above served as bathrooms. To accommodate the back stairs, a side hall was cut through the northwest bedroom, eliminating the fireplace.

Upper Brandon remained in the Harrison family until 1948 when it was sold by F. Otway Byrd. It was owned by Fred Watkins until the James River Corporation acquired the property in 1985 for a corporate retreat. The restoration was done to the highest standards with minimal changes: adding the coat room as noted, renovating the bathrooms and kitchen, adding heat and air conditioning, and dividing the hall/dining room door to simplify serving.

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Another original building on the property is the overseer's house (2) moved in 1986 from its original site (2) and enlarged with two wings to serve as an office. Only some doors, windows, upstairs flooring, and a partial staircase remain. It was documented by Colonial Williamsburg Agricultural Building Project CW81.170.

Mearby a slave house (3) with two rooms and a central fireplace remains, the sole survivor of three such buildings noted in 1948. It was restored in 1987 with the help of Colonial Villiamsburg (Ed Chappell CW81-170) and serves as a museum now.

The spectacular site of Upper Brandon is enhanced by many old trees (mostly labeled) and extensive boxwood gardens. Extensive archaeological research and restoration was done 1986-91 by William Kelso with landscape architect William D. Rieley; an appropriate fenced garden (4) has been reconstructed including the brick forcing wall. The ongoing horticultural program is supervised by Beth Corker. The mysterious mound on the riverside lawn was once a rose garden. William Byrd Harrison was interested in Edmund Ruffin's theories of improved scientific land use, and Upper Brandon continues to operate a successful farming operation.

Other archaeology includes the Sunbury field site (5) west of Kennon Marsh. It was documented in 1985 by Nick

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Luccketti to the Archaic or Early Woodland periods (8,000 BC-1,000 BC) with pottery dating from the Middle and Late Woodlands Periods (500 BC-AD 1607). Remains of an early colonial settlement of about 1640 also exist. Preliminary informal excavations were done at the Lodge site before construction. Shards and evidence of these prehistoric and early colonial locations are displayed in the slave cabin museum.

The old smoke house (6) just west of the kitchen dependency is a large octagonal building with an unusual conical roof structure.

The original icehouse (7) built into the side of the hill is located east of the main house. It is near the roadway to the wharf.

The slave cemetery (8) has not been explored and is identified by a local farmer, Cecil Ruben May.

Eleven noncontributing resources include: the dairy barn (A) built in the early 1900s; the farm barn (B) and nearby grain bins also built in the early 1900s; the manager's house (C) built in the colonial style in 1985; the larger farmhouse (D) and small farmhouse (E) both built in 1986; the corporate lodge (F) designed by Gordon Galusha and built in two sections in 1986 and 1990; a wharf site (G) and road bed

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

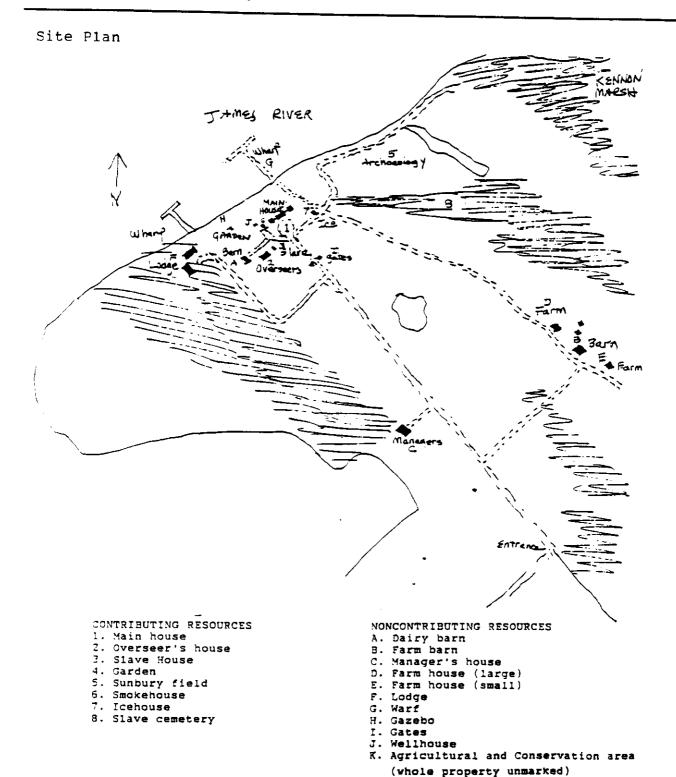
		Upper Brandon	Plantatio
Section number .	 Page8	Prince George	Co., Va.

from the original boat landing on the James River; a large octagonal gazebo (H) designed by William D. Rieley in 1988 incorporating the Benjamin railing design originally on the Upper Brandon roof; entrance gates (J) of brick and wood located part way down the driveway designed by Rieley in 1989; a small octagonal wellhouse (J) built over the original well in 1985 in imitation of the nearby octagonal smokehouse; 2138.5 acres (K unmarked) from the original 1616 grant of 5,000 acres (comprising agricultural land, conservation areas, and archaeological sites).

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Upper Brandon Plantation Prince George Co., Va.



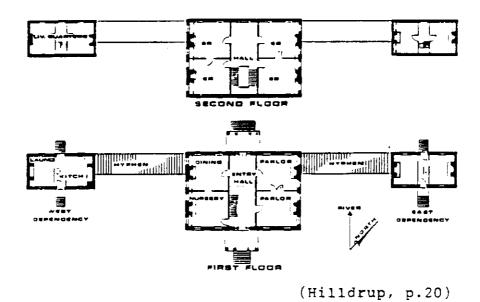
#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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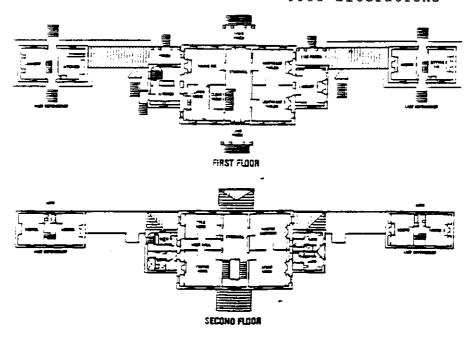
Upper Brandon Plantation Prince George Co., Va.

Floor plans: 1825, 1859. 1988

Upper Brandon Plantation, as built 1825



Upper Brandon Plantation, 1859 additions 1988 alterations



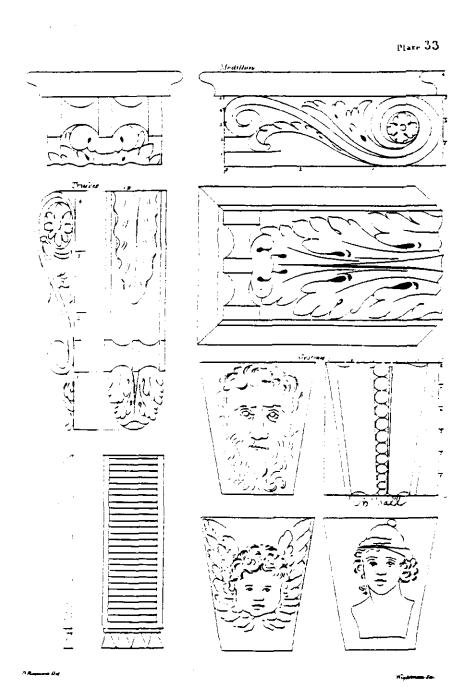
(JRC brochure)

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Upper Brandon Plantation Prince George Co., Va.

Asher Benjamin, American Builder's Companion, plate 33

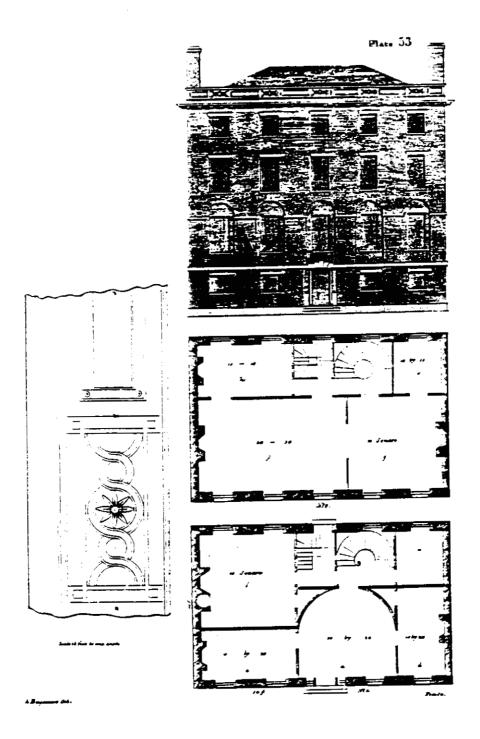


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Asher Benjamin, American Builder's Companion, Plate 53



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Significance

Upper Brandon Plantation is architecturally significant as one of the states largest and most significant Federal plantation houses and for its consistent land cultivation since the mid-seventeenth century. The buildings of the nineteenth century continue the plantation tradition on property historically documented since 1617 and owned by the Harrison family from the early eighteenth century. Upper Brandon was a portion of the 5,000 acres granted in 1616 by King James I to Captain John Martin, a founder of the Jamestown Colony. Martin died in 1632 and the property was maintained by absentee owners until the early eighteenth century. Benjamin Harrison II, of Wakefield, Surry County, acquired Brandon and added acreage that exceeded 7,000 acres by 1712. His grandson, Colonel Nathaniel Harrison I, built the original Brandon Plantation (VDHR 74-2) in 1765-70. Colonel Harrison's grandsons inherited the property at the death of their father, Benjamin Harrison III, in 1807. George Evelyn Harrison received Brandon and its manor house; William Byrd Harrison inherited 3,555 acres, which became Upper Brandon Plantation.

Many members of the Harrison family have been distinguished in national and local history. The builder, William Byrd

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Harrison, had enlightened views on agriculture and on slavery. His neighbor Edmund Ruffin was known for his advocacy of states' rights and his improved agricultural practices, published in his monthly <a href="Farmers">Farmers</a> Register.

Harrison contributed articles on his experiments to improve crops, such as the use of lime and the necessity of crop rotation. Commercial success was important, and the Upper Brandon wharf on the James River provided the transportation necessary to participate in a market economy of grain; this continued trade practices established in the seventeenth century with tobacco. The continuity of family ownership lasted until 1948.

The architecture of the main house and dependencies places
Upper Brandon among a group of elegant and sophisticated
Virginia houses built about 1830 by an accomplished group
of workmen using the Asher Benjamin pattern book and
possibly working under the direction of its co-author,
Daniel Raynerd. These houses mostly mentioned specifically
before include: Magnolia Grange (1822), Horn Ouarter
(1829-30), Hampstead (1825-27), the Governor's Mansion
(1813;1830s), and Lower Brandon alterations (1830s).
Following the 1859 additions, Upper Brandon had little
modernization, leaving it mostly intact for the 1980s
professional restoration.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	8	. 3		Upper Brandon	Plantation
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James River which provided into the twentieth century a scheduled landing for Tidewater shipping. Archaeological excavations show evidence of prehistoric occupation and of early colonial settlements. The area has long been known for its excellent game and sporting opportunities. Historic trees, boxwood and plantings in addition to the reconstructed garden retain the 19th century atmosphere. Roads, boundaries, and field patterns are generally original. 1,831 acres of land were donated in 1994 to the American Farmland Trust and Nature Conservancy. New houses and buildings on the property are compatible with the nineteenth century atmosphere.

of the 5,000 acres patented in 1616, most remains today under cultivation. The 2,138.5 acres owned by the James River Corporation includes much of the original land as well as the Edloe plantation to the west. An important five-part clapboard house owned by John Edloe was insured in 1805 and 1810. When John T. Robertson remodelled the house on Willow Hill road (see plat of small acreage exempted from 1995 Robertson sale of Edloe to James River Corporation) the contractor noted old framing and beams hidden within the structure. These may be remnants of the original Edloe Plantation house

The current use as a corporate retreat has made the restored buildings, gardens, and wildlife preserve accessible to many

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groups, historical associations, and specialized tours as well as Garden Week visitors.

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Upper Brandon Plantation Prince George Co., Va.

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Harrison, Byrd and related family records, documents copied at Upper Brandon and in the Virginia Historical Society

عالم فضية المحارب الأنياء

NPS Form 10-900-a

الكالمستويد للأجاه فويور أجاره كالمتحشية فتتدالك أأكار استان والخديوة البواد دويون

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Upper Brandon Plantation Prince George County, Virginia

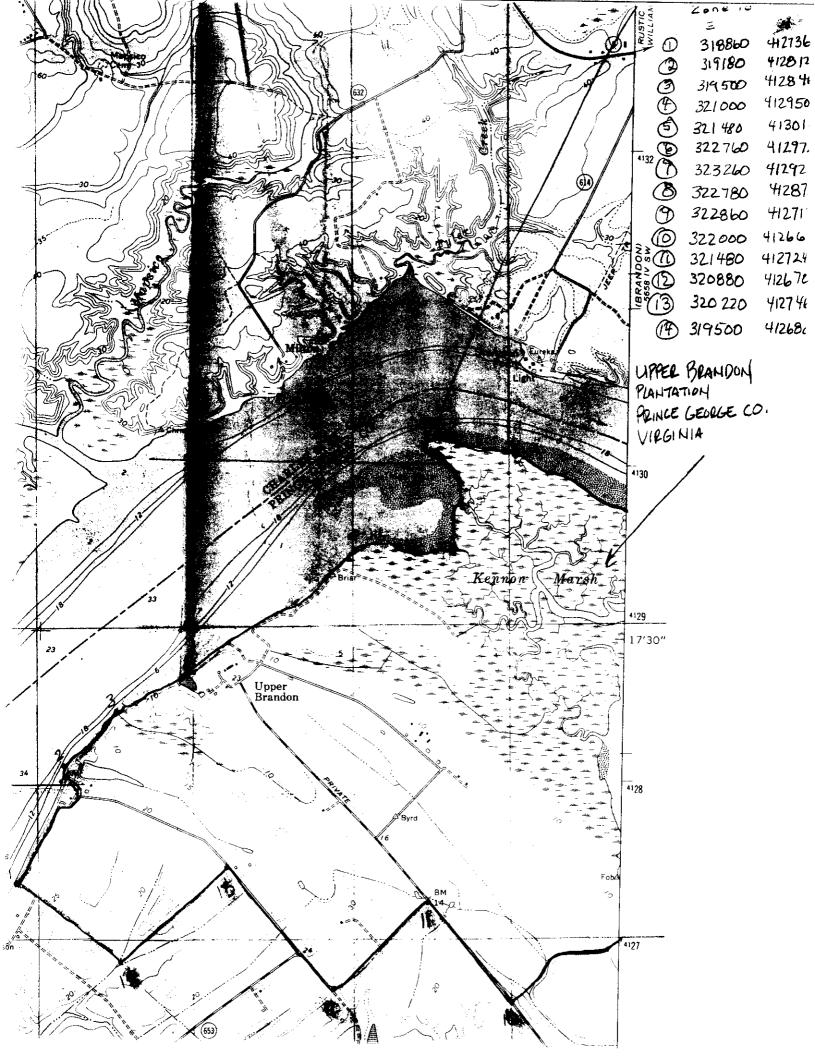
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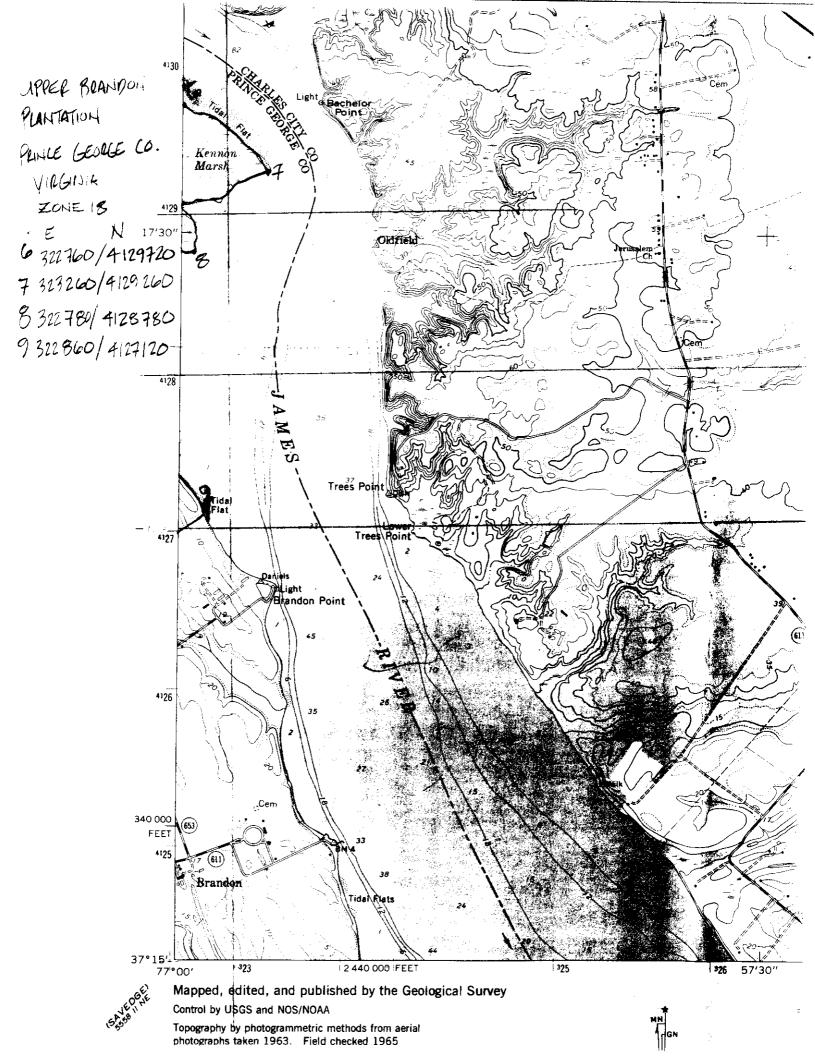
#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated boundaries of Upper Brandon Plantation are shown on the accompanying USGS map and are defined by UTM coordinate points. They are also represented by tax parcel maps. The property contains 3 parcels totaling 2,138.5 acres. Tax parcel numbers 190(04)00-00-A-0, 190(04)00-00-B-0 (House site), 190(04)00-00-C-0, and the area commonly known as Kennon Marsh, all listed with the Prince George County Real Estate Assesor's Office.

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property represents the remaining portion of the original 1660 land patent of 5000 acres. The property maintains its working farm status and contains historic resources pertaining to agriculture and its development. The main house and its auxilary buildings are a good example of the plantation seat system common at this period in Virginia. The Harrison family owned this property from the early 18th century to 1948, giving it a lengthy period of continuous occupation.





#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Upper Brandon Plantation NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Prince George
DATE RECEIVED: 7/24/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/05/97 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/21/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/07/97 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000959
NOMINATOR: STATE
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
State requested substantive review to determine if there is sufficient justification
to include large acreage based upon claimed agricultural significance. I agree with State staff that the nomination does not justify agricultural significance for this plantation - there is not sufficient information provided on the history of agriculture practiced at the plantation, nor is there are explanation
State Staff that the nomination does not justify agricultural significance
to this plantation - there is not sufficient information provided on the
history of agriculture practiced at the plantation, nor is there ar explanation
of how the historic and archeological resources included in the nomination reflect the agricultural importance of the carea. It is not clear why the Site Plan RECOM./CRITERIA Return 11575 the agricultural area as non-contribute
the agricultural importance of the area. It is not clear why the site Plan
RECOM./CRITERIA Return /ists the agricultural area as non-contribute
REVIEWER Paturk Andres DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE DATE 9/4/97
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
Additional justification needs to be provided in order to include the over
2,000 aves of the Phentation