

HR 571 NR-F 3/20/73

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

VIRGINIA 131-0023

CHESAPEAKE (in city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

Type all entries - conform to applicable sections

1. NAME
SITE OF GREAT BRIDGE BATTLE

2. LOCATION
Chesapeake

3. CLASSIFICATION
Virginia Chesapeake (in city) 550

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

COLLECTIONS		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> Archeological	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Geological	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Literary	<input type="checkbox"/> Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Numismatic	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric				<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other					
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Maritime				

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
Mr. H. D. Johnson

5. ORDER OF PRIORITY
Chesapeake Virginia 51

15. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Municipal Court House
Chesapeake Virginia 51

16. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
Virginia Historic Landmarks Survey
Survey 1977
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond Virginia 51

STATE: VIRGINIA
COUNTY: CHESAPEAKE (in city)

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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

[REDACTED]

To the west of the site of the causeway lay a small island on which the 1781 star-shaped British fort was located, an area now probably destroyed by the canal.

It was from this fort that British soldiers marched south across the Great Bridge to confront American patriots entrenched on dry ground beyond. Although many modern intrusions disturb the area adjacent to the Great Bridge, the battlefield retains its original marshland character.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) <u>1775</u>			
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
<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 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			
<div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p>The bridge itself was but the central portion of a causeway which carried traffic over approximately 360 yards of marsh and open water. It was a vital link in the land route to Norfolk. The Village of Great Bridge had thriven as a transshipping point for the naval-stores and wooden-wares trade of the Great Dismal Swamp.</p> <p>During the autumn of 1775, Governor Dunmore's troops made several forays into the countryside of Norfolk and Princess Anne County for the purpose of capturing rebel cannon, and generally to "show the flag." There was considerable loyalist sympathy in the extreme south-east portion of Virginia during the last months before the Declaration of Independence. The accuracy of the Governor's intelligence information attests to the fact that many persons -- and not only the numerous Scott merchants -- had, as yet, been unable to overcome the allegiances of a life-time.</p> <p>The brief but, for the British, sanguinary Battle of Great Bridge was fought on December 9, 1775. Witnesses to this, the first pitched battle of the Revolution in Virginia, observed: "the vast effusion of blood on the bridge, and in the fort," as well as the "many bodies carried out of the fort to be interred." The casualties were British or Loyalist, Patriot losses being limited to the wounding of one man. Crown forces abandoned the fort at Great Bridge and other entrenchments. Their position at Norfolk was no longer tenable: the land route to the borough was open, Dunmore's regulars had suffered serious losses, and, perhaps most important, the Loyalists were thoroughly demoralized. Many of the latter fled the region as the Governor's forces withdraw to ships in Norfolk Harbor.</p> <p>Governor Dunmore maintained a semblance of Royal authority in the Old Dominion during the winter and spring of 1776. His efforts, given the weakened British military position, were arrogant. He publically portrayed the Virginians as savages, and continually attempted to incite the servile population to revolt. The destructive New Year's Day bombardment of Norfolk was a prelude to numerous predatory expeditions against the plantations and shipping of Lower Tidewater. These efforts were self-defeating in that they alienated many additional Virginians from their allegiance to the Crown. The final withdrawal of British forces from the Chesapeake coincided with the publication in Virginia of the Declaration of Independence.</p> <p>The British returned to Virginia in force late in the War for</p>			

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Noel Hume, Ivor, 1775 Another Part of the Field, New York, 1966.
 Riley, M.M., "Great Bridge, Va., A Composite of Details from Three British Maps of 1781,---," map, copy in VHLC files.
 Simcoe, John G., History of the ... Queen Rangers, (New York: new ed.: 1844).
Williamsburg Gazette (Pinkney), December 13, 20, 30, 1775.
 Wingo, Elizabeth B., The Battle of Great Bridge, Chesapeake, Va., 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
NW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	°	'	"
SE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			
SW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **130 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: **December, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

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., Director
 Title: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: **JAN 5 1971**

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: **3/28/75**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY CHESAPEAKE (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.

Independence. Great Bridge was fortified again. The Queen's Rangers -- a leading Loyalist unit -- was stationed at the newly established position. Their commanding officer, John Graves Simcoe, served the Crown with distinction during the War. He would later be appointed the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada.

The Great Bridge battlefield site is significant as a landmark to Virginia's role in the American Revolution, for in this marshy location took place the first armed conflict between British soldiers and the colony's patriot forces. Archaeological excavation in the area of Dunmore's fort might provide important information regarding the fort's exact location and the activity that took place there. British soldiers are believed to be buried in the marsh, and the wet conditions here are conducive to the preservation of remains.

Form 1000
10-1-60


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
CHESAPEAKE (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
SHEET NUMBER	DATE
1 of 1	10/1/60

Attach to or enclose with map

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2
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1. NAME			
Site of <u>James Bridge</u> <u>Salute</u>			
2. LOCATION			
			
Chesapeake			
Virginia		51 (in city)	CODE 550
3. MAP REFERENCE			
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle Pentress, Virginia			
SCALE 1:25000			
DATE 1951			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Property boundaries where required. 2. North arrow. 3. Latitude and longitude reference. 			

