

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

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: King William	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-10-45-0037	DATE 10/1/69

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: King William County Court House	
AND/OR HISTORIC: King William County Court House	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: E side of Rt. 619, .1 mi. N of intersection of Rt. 619 and Va. Rt. 30.			
CITY OR TOWN: King William			
STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: King William	CODE 101

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNERS NAME: King William County			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: King William	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	STATE: Virginia

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: King William County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: King William	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: King William
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 acres			

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08	FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

King William Court House is a one-story T-shaped structure with a steep hipped roof and modillioned cornice. Its most striking feature is the five-bay open arcade extending across the entire facade. The brickwork is finely laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers, while the arches of the arcade are dressed with rubbed brick stretchers. The rear of the building has been extended one bay and an exterior end chimney has been added to the rear wall. The original wooden shingle roof has been replaced by a slate roof. An interesting survival in the court yard is the early lowbrick wall with its stile-like steps built around the yard to keep out grazing cattle.

Unfortunately little of the eighteenth century fabric remains visible on the interior, but the plan with the jury room and the judge's chamber in the arms of the "T" is basically intact. A later partition, however, has been placed across the center section of the building, thus decreasing the original size of the court room in order to make an entrance hall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
King William	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-10-45-0037	10/1/69

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1959 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

Code: 08



Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #50-38  
1968 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Code: 45

## 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)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☒Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

King William Court House, erected circa 1725, is one of the oldest surviving and best preserved courthouses in Virginia, and is considered to be the oldest courthouse "still in use as such" in the United States. The form of the building was the prototype for several other eighteenth century Virginia courthouses. It should be noted that the building still retains its almost completely rural setting which was common for courthouses and churches in colonial Virginia because of the plantation society. Few other public buildings either in Virginia or the rest of the country can claim such a long record of public use and service.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarke, Peyton Neale, Old King William Homes and Families, Baltimore: 1966.  
 King, Archibald, King William Courthouse, B. C. Garrett, Jr., 1963.  
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker and Company, Inc., 1968.  
 Ryland, Elizabeth Hawes, compiler, King William County, Virginia, Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 1955.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		37° 41' 18"	77° 00' 46"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

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: Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director		
ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATE April 25, 1969	
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building		
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE Virginia	CODE 45

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Edw. P. Alexander per form  
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm

Date June 2, 1969

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date OCT 1 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Sturtevant  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date SEP 29 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18/300480/1170900

UTM 24F  
18-75-00





lat. 37°41'18"

long. 77°00'46"

King William County Court House