

THEME: ARCHITECTURE

NHL COPY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Prince George
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Brandon, Brandon Plantation "Lower Brandon"
AND/OR HISTORIC: Brandon, Brandon Plantation "Lower Brandon"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Brandon Plantation
CITY OR TOWN: Spring Grove (near Burrowsville) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 004
STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Prince George CODE: 149

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Congressman Robert W. Daniel, Jr. (804) 866-8486
STREET AND NUMBER: Brandon Plantation Claremont
CITY OR TOWN: Spring Grove (near Burrowsville) 23881 STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of the Circuit Court, Prince George County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: on Courthouse Road off Route 106, 3 miles from the junction of 106 & 460, across street from Guerin's store, Mailing addr. P.O. Bx. 98
CITY OR TOWN: Prince George County 23875 STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: History American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER: Capitol Hill
CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

With Brandon, as with many other buildings, we have an example of European taste being imported into the colonies via the medium of the architectural handbook. Here it is a variant on the English Palladian style of Lord Burlington, but the same progression was repeated over and over again, regardless of style. Although half a century out of date with the Palladian movement in England. Brandon has the same separateness of parts and staccato accents typical of the genre.

The house is double-fronted, as were all of the finer ones in the South. This is especially true of those like Brandon, which had an important dependence upon river transport. The porticos at either front were added in the 19th century, and demonstrate a mildly incongruous jigsaw detailing when compared to the earlier more skilled Georgian joinery. The pineapple at the peak of the hipped roof center is the oft-used Georgian symbol of hospitality. The original 18th century lights were replaced throughout the house in the 19th century.

The exterior of Brandon is characterized by excellent uniform brickwork and an interesting massing of elements. The detail is sparse, but includes a fine, modillioned cornice in the central block with scrolled and carved modillions, and the pineapple finial. The minor cornices have uncarved modillions.

The interior of Brandon enjoys a good deal of 18th century panelling with handsomely-carved overmantels, dados, ballusters, chair rails, and other detail, although the interior of the central hall was replaced late in the 19th century after Yankee troops had occupied the house during the war and used paneling in that room as firewood.

The stair leading to the upper storey of the center block was originally a double run, rising at the southwest corner of the livingroom, whereas since the 19th century, it is a straight flight built against the south wall of the room. The broad stair has slender square ballusters characteristic of this later period. The entrance hall itself is bisected by a striking triple-arch screen, one of the finest features of the house, along with the Roman Doric cornice in the North wing and the Chinese Chippendale (lattice) ballustrade in that same wing. This last feature is a seldom-seen one (outside of New England), although there are examples in Williamsburg. It derives from use of the form in England in the 18th century, as at Boughton House, for example.

The Morris plan gives a clue to the original arrangement of the Hall. This apparently consisted of a large salon facing the river, with an entrance across one front and the stair ascending at one end. The Chippendale trelis stair in the North wing probably had a counterpart in the original stair of the main hall. In spite of the smallness of that hall, a full Doric entablature is used with triglyphs, metopes, and mutules. The South wing is simply trimmed, but has a fine example of a large kitchen fireplace

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. Description second page

Brandon Plantation still is worked as an agricultural enterprise, with nearly 7,000 acres controlled. A number of 20th century buildings have been constructed near the main house, but generally they are reasonably integrated into the site, although, of course, do not contribute to the national significance of the National Historic Landmark. As may be seen, for instance, from the sketch map, a pair of flanking buildings were constructed in the 1920's and now are used as a garage and a so-called game house. There is an obvious sensitivity to the land front of Brandon and they acceptably compliment the long and low profile of the 18th century buildings. Beyond the "game house" is a block house with narrow slit windows, probably built in the 17th or very early 18th century. Otherwise, the grounds of the property are dotted with such modern conveniences as tennis courts and swimming pool but again, sensitively treated and screened carefully from intruding into the vista of the Brandon house itself.

While Brandon is surrounded by a very large tract of land which now is maintained as farm and woodland, a boundary around the house and gardens may be devised by a combination of natural features and state highways, creating a perimeter around an area of slightly less than 110 acres. The James River bounds the property at the Northeast, and from a point determining the Northeast boundary limit where a tree-line meets the river, the boundary proceeds southwesterly along the line of that stand of trees, and then beyond it directly to a junction with state highway 653. The line then continues southeasterly along that road to a point where it joins state route 611 and follows that route first northeasterly, then southeasterly, and finally northeasterly, departing from 611 where that route begins to bend easterly. At that point, the boundary continues straight into the James River.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) plan completed c. 1765-1770			
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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The plan of Brandon was completed about 1765-1770, and represents an excellent example of a brick plantation house in the style of Palladio's "Roman Country House". That plan is completely different from those of early and middle-Georgian houses of the Southern Colonies, which, typically, comprised a large central block, two and a half or three stories, with detached dependencies. Brandon, on the other hand, and the country house style it represents, is an extended, multiple-part, symmetrical arrangement of connected units two storeys high at the center, decreasing to low one-storey hyphens and wings, accented by two-storey terminal pavilions at the ends. The Brandon Plantation House, its formal gardens, and its vista to the James River, link the history of the property securely with the first struggling days of the Virginia Colony. It also might afford a glimpse into the emerging architectural genius of Thomas Jefferson, who may very well have designed the 1765-1770 plan. Finally, Brandon represents one of the longest continuous agricultural enterprises in the United States, insofar as there is historical evidence to support the claim that the land has been tended there from 1614 definitely, and possibly from as early as 1607.</p> <p>The first buildings at Brandon were erected sometime before 1720, when the property was acquired by Nathaniel Harrison from a group of three owners who in turn had acquired the land from the original grantee in 1637, John Martin, Esq. In 1720, Harrison acquired two four-room buildings, each of one-and-a-half storeys, aligned with the James River. They were arranged in fact with such precision as to suggest that they might have been intended as wings or dependencies of a great house.</p> <p>Harrison never occupied the house but rather lived on the estates of his successive wives in Stafford and Warwick Counties. His son Nathaniel, however, did assume tenancy and it was he who undertook about 1765-1770, the completion of the Brandon complex substantially as it stands today. It was then that a center structure of two storeys was built, flanked by those of one storey. The two earlier buildings were converted from 1 1/2 storeys into 2 storey ones and connected by one storey hyphens to the center group. Since Thomas Jefferson, 22 years old in 1765, had been one of the groomsmen at the younger Harrison's wedding in 1765, family tradition has attributed the completion of the Brandon scheme to</p>			

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LANDMARK)

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8. Significance second page.

him. Additionally, there is an arguable case for this attribution purely on the grounds of Architectural History. T. T. Waterman, for instance, has attributed Brandon to Mister Jefferson because of its radically different design when compared to typical Virginia-Georgian designs. While Robert Morris' Select Architecture, published in 1757, had found its way to the Tidewater area within a few years, it was used only rarely. Jefferson however, owned a copy of Select Architecture, and it is readily demonstrable that the plan of Brandon, as well as its general massing, come directly from plates in Morris' book.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).
 T. T. Waterman, The Mansion of Virginia (Chapel Hill N.C. 1946).
 William H. Pierson, American Buildings and their Architects; The Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles (New York, 1970).
 Robert Lancaster, Historic Virginia Homes and Churches (Phila., 1915).
 Architects Emergency Committee, Great Georgian Houses of America, Vol. I (New York, 1933).

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 TEN ACRES				
CORNER	UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds			Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW		18.322640.4125150	0 . .			0 . .	0 . .	0 . .	0 . .
NE		18.323360.4125400	0 . .			0 . .	0 . .	0 . .	0 . .
SE		18.323620.4125020	0 . .			0 . .	0 . .	0 . .	0 . .
SW		18.322800.4124680	0 . .			0 . .	0 . .	0 . .	0 . .

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 105

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 James Dillon Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Historic Landmarks, Landmark Review Project DATE: 10/17/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1100 L. Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name _____

Title _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date _____

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) _____
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation date Apr 15, 1970

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) _____
 Chief, Field & Arch. Surveys date 9-18-75

ATTEST: _____
 Boundary Assistant: _____
 Keeper of The National Register date 9/25/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BRANDON, PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Boundaries of the Historic Site:

Approximately 18.56 acres of land, including Brandon Plantation House, in the shape of trapezoid, starting at the southeast corner on the south bank of the James River, at latitude $37^{\circ}15'24''N.$, - longitude $76^{\circ}59'18''W.$, and proceeding in a southwesterly direction about 1050 feet to the southwest corner at lat. $37^{\circ}15'15''N.$ - long. $76^{\circ}59'43''W.$, then proceeding northwest about 770 feet to the northwest corner at lat. $37^{\circ}15'29''N.$ - long. $76^{\circ}59'51''W.$, then proceeding in a northeasterly direction about 900 feet to the northeast corner at lat. $37^{\circ}15'36''N.$ - long. $76^{\circ}59'30''W.$, and then returning southeast along the south bank of the James River to the beginning, the southeast corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U. S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey Map: Brandon Quadrangle, Virginia 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1965, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.

Total acreage of Brandon Plantation in 1969 is approximately 4,400 acres.

LINE OF TREES



ROUTE 653

FAMILY GRAVEYARD

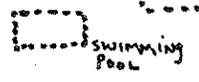
20th CENTURY
COTTAGE



BLACKHOUSE

TENNIS COURT

GAME HOUSE



PRIVY

ROUTE 611

office



PRIVY

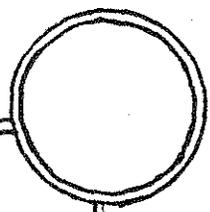
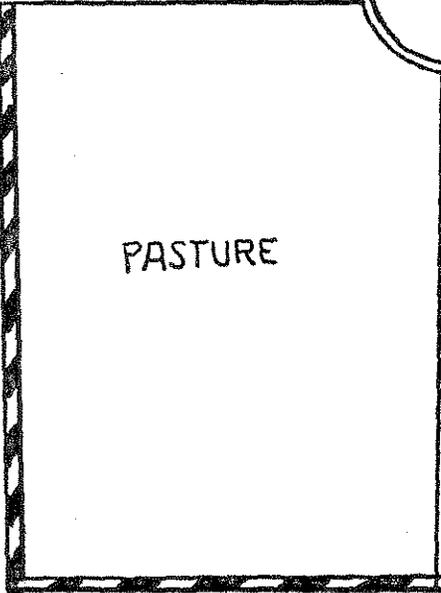
GARAGE

SHED...

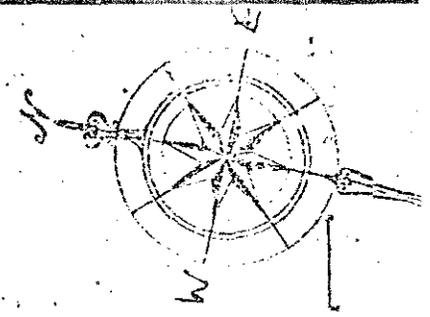
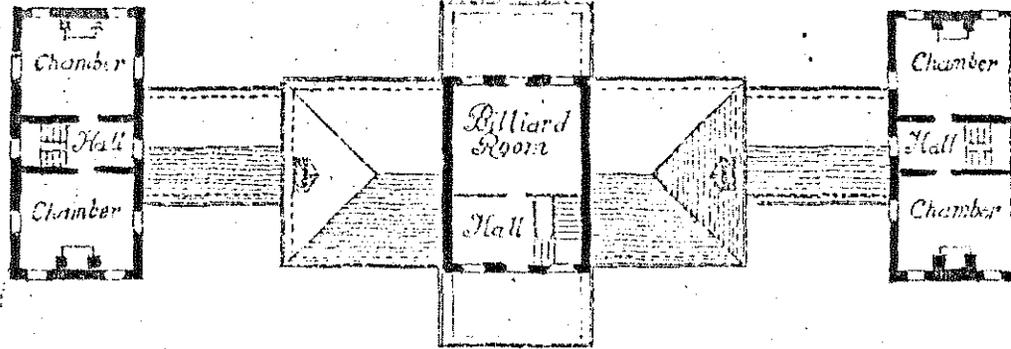
PASTURE

20th CENTURY
COTTAGE

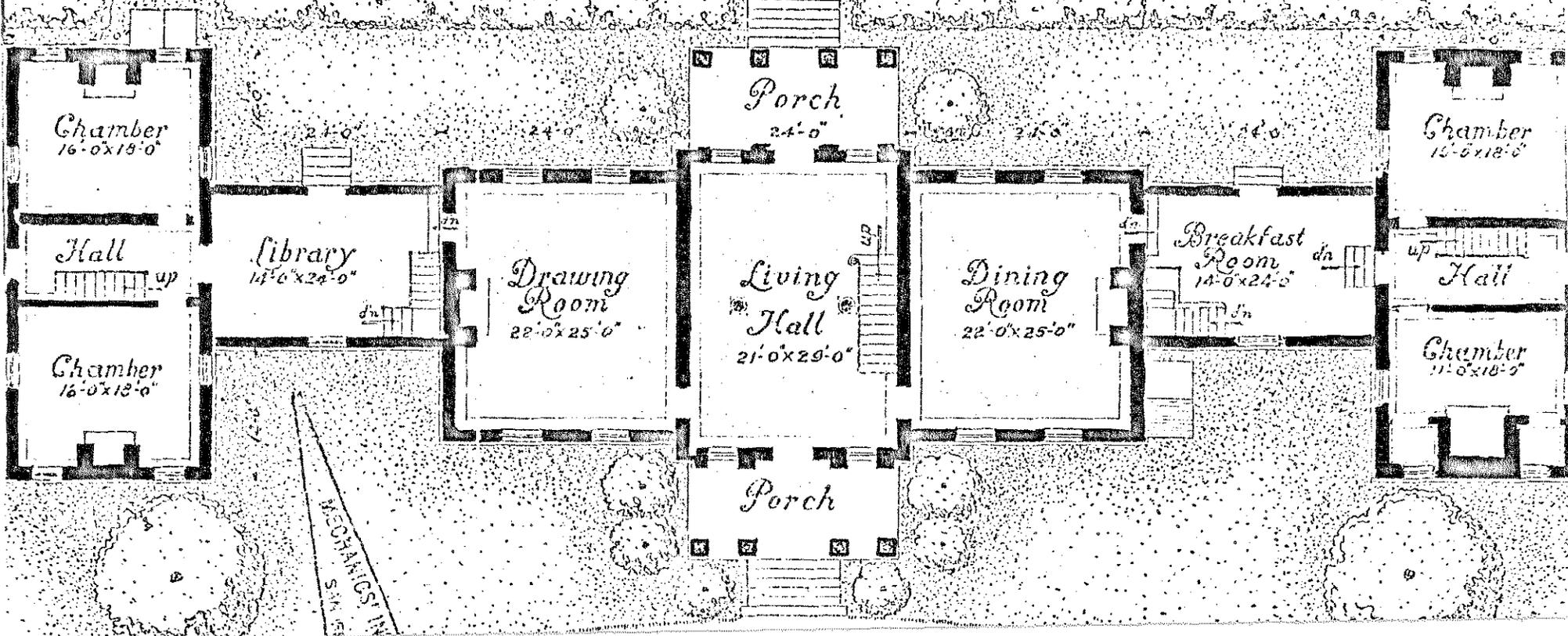
20th CENTURY
COTTAGE



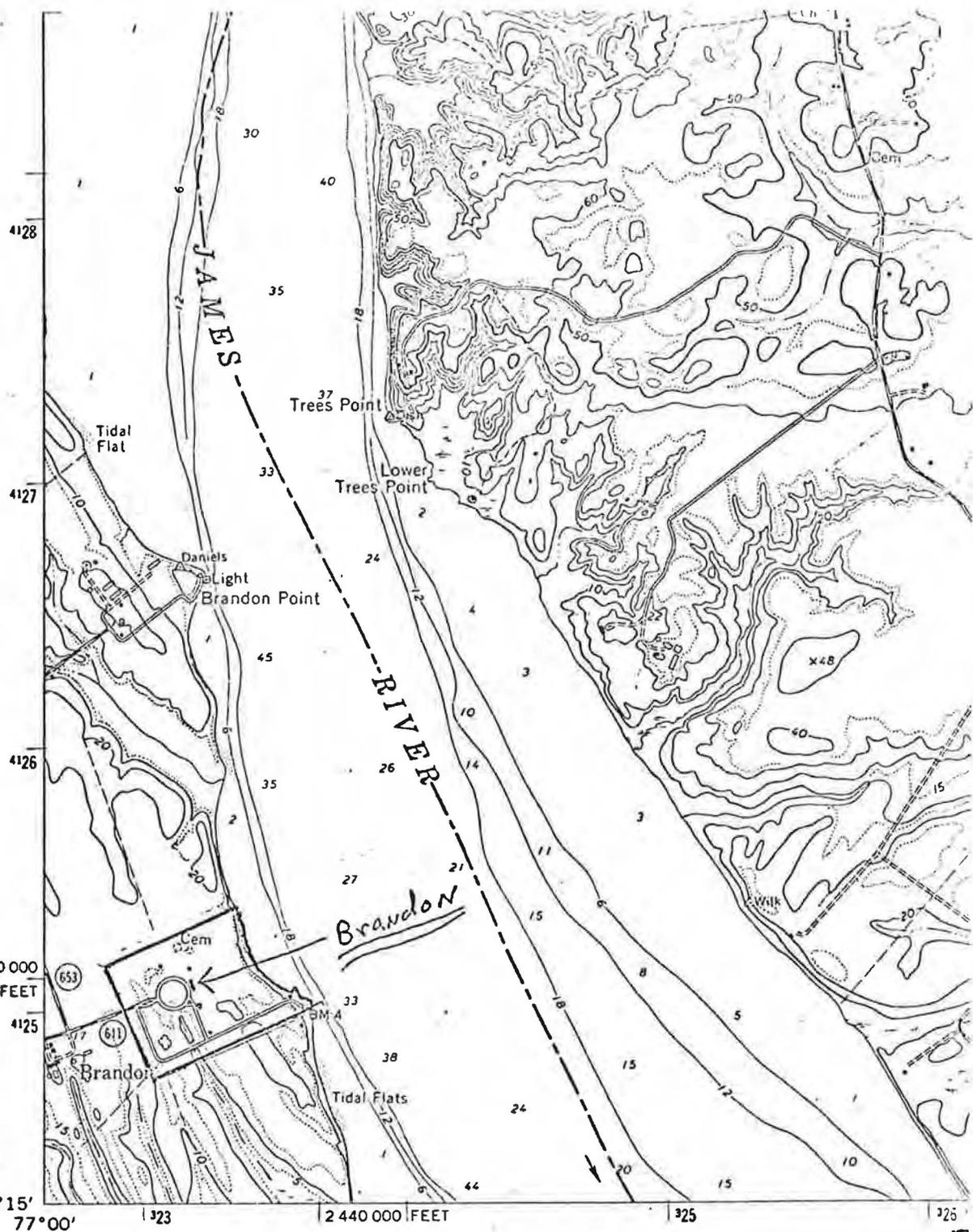
BRANDON
Prince George County
VIRGINIA



Second Floor Plan
Scale 1/32 in. = 1 foot.



London
Quad



900'
808,500
sq. feet
= 18,56
acres
1050'

(SAVED)
5558 11 NE

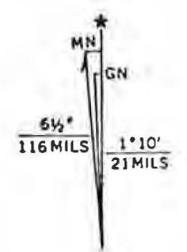
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
Supersedes USC&GS map dated 1952

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS
Chart 530 (1964). This information is not intended for
navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system,
south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF S-E

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Prince George	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Brandon Plantation; Lower Brandon			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Brandon			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Brandon Plantation			
CITY OR TOWN: Spring Grove (near Burrowsville)			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Prince George	CODE 149
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Sketch map of Brandon drawn by James Dillon, 1974. Not to scale.			
SCALE: none			
DATE: September 1974			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Property boundaries where required. North arrow. Latitude and longitude reference. 			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Prince George	CODE 149
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Map. 7.5 minute series. Brandon Quadrangle.			
SCALE: 1:24,000.			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Property boundaries where required. North arrow. Latitude and longitude reference. 			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Virginia	51	Prince George	149
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: James Dillon			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Historic Landmarks File, NPS			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. South Wing; large kitchen fireplace.			

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Virginia	51	Prince George	149
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: James Dillon			
DATE OF PHOTO: July 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: NHL file, Washington, D.C.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Chinese Chippendale stair in the North Wing.			

10 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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PHOTO REFERENCE:

PHOTO CREDIT: Charles Snell

DATE OF PHOTO: 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: NPS, NHL, Wash., D.C.

IDENTIFICATION:

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
West elevation; center block, hyphens, and wings.
This "historic" photograph verified by personal visit by James Dillon,
NHL Program, Landmark Review Project, July 1974.

10 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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