**Form No. 10-300**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

---

**NAME**

**HISTORIC**

James Monroe Family Home Site

AND/OR COMMON

James Monroe's Birthplace

---

**LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**

State Route 209

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**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>PARK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>INDUSTRIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**

Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors

**STREET & NUMBER**

County Administration Building

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**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC**

Recorder's Office

**STREET & NUMBER**

Westmoreland County Courthouse

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**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

"Report on the Proposed Monroe Birthplace National Monument or Park at Monroe Hall, Virginia"

**DATE**

1937

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

National Park Service

**CITY, TOWN**

Washington

**STATE**

D.C. 20000

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**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

1 (Thomas N. Downing)

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**COUNTY CODE**

Westmoreland 026

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**CODE**

Virginia 22520

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**MUSEUM**

---

**PRIVATE**

---

**UNOCCUPIED**

---

**PARK**

---

**EDUCATIONAL**

---

**PRIVATE RESIDENCE**

---

**ENTERTAINMENT**

---

**RELIGIOUS**

---

**GOVERNMENT**

---

**SCIENTIFIC**

---

**INDUSTRIAL**

---

**TRANSPORTATION**

---

**MILITARY**

---

**OTHER**

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Title: "Final Report on James Monroe Project"
Date: 1976

Federal  xState  County  Local

Depository for Survey Records: Virginia Research Center for Archaeology
Wren Kitchen, The College of William and Mary

City/ Town: Williamsburg
State: Virginia  23186
DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXCELLENT</td>
<td>DETERIORATED</td>
<td>UNALTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>RUINS</td>
<td>ALTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>UNEXPOSED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Monroe Family Home Site is within a Westmoreland County park east of Monroe Hall, Virginia, ½ mile west of Monroe Creek, an area located by deed tracing and reaffirmed through local tradition.

The Monroe house is depicted in an 1845 engraving as a wood frame single story and loft house with a central entranceway flanked by two windows. The house is set on masonry piers, with end chimneys and an end addition. The plantation also included a kitchen, barn, stables, and other outbuildings.

Archaeological investigations revealed a series of symmetrical trenches, the sole remains of removed brick foundations of a house 57' x 18'6". The evidence suggests that the house plan included a cellar with a bulkhead entrance, two chimneys and a two room end addition in conformance with the 1845 engraving. Artifactual findings indicate a construction date of ca. 1750, eight years before James Monroe's birth.

Bricks were removed from the cellar foundation ca. 1910 by local inhabitants. State Route 209, constructed in 1953, greatly disturbed the eastern half of the house.

The floor plan of the house is presently delineated where the original house stood using wood timbers set on the surface of the ground. The space between the wood timbers is covered with gravel.
James Monroe, the fifth President of the United States, in his autobiography, commented briefly on his childhood years. Through the combined efforts of archaeology and historical research, the Monroe home has been located and more is known of the environment in which James Monroe lived until the age of sixteen.

James Monroe, born in 1758, lived with his parents, Spence and Elizabeth, his older sister, and three younger brothers, on a sizeable plantation. He resided there until 1774 when he enrolled in the College of William and Mary.

The socio-economic status of the Monroe family is reflected in the 1774 inventory made after Spence Monroe died, and by the artifacts uncovered at the site. The Monroes were a genteel family of moderate means holding most of their wealth in slaves, cattle, and land. Spence supplemented his nearly self-sufficient plantation with income from carpentry. The family satisfied the pragmatic needs of the plantation by purchasing or making utilitarian objects, apparently having only a few decorative pieces in the house. This indicates that James Monroe came from a modest background.

After the death of Spence Monroe, the various family members dispersed, resulting in the sale of the plantation by James Monroe in 1791. Following this initial sale, the plantation entered a period of decline. As it passed through a succession of tenants, the condition of the manor house gradually deteriorated until its eventual abandonment and systematic dismantling ca. 1850.

The James Monroe Family Home Site, preserved within a Westmoreland County park, is a tribute to the early life of President James Monroe.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
The Virginia Gazette (Richmond), December 30, 1780.
Westmoreland County Records-Inventories #5, 1767-1776.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 70 acres

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1 3 6 4 1 0
B 1 3 2 1 1 0
C 1 3 2 1 6 0
D 1 3 1 5 1 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1 3 6 4 1 0
B 1 3 2 1 1 0
C 1 3 2 1 6 0
D 1 3 1 5 1 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
Bordered on the west by State Route 209, on the east by Monroe Creek, on the north by Freeneck Cut, and on the south by a dirt road and a line of houses.

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Keith Egloff

ORGANIZATION
Virginia Research Center for Archaeology

STREET & NUMBER
Wren Kitchen, The College of William and Mary

CITY OR TOWN
Williamsburg Virginia 23186

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Colonial Beach South, Virginia
JAMES MONROE FAMILY HOME SITE, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References:
  A - 18/326440/4233990
  B - 18/326210/4233800
  C - 18/325660/4234110
  D - 18/325890/4234550