

VLR-5/13/69 NRHP-11/12/69

123-59

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: (in Petersburg City).	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 17 1969

1. NAME

COMMON:
Battersea

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Battersea

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
793 Appomattox Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Petersburg

STATE: Virginia CODE: 73045 COUNTY: (in City) CODE: 730

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP:	STATUS	'ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work In progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Acquisitions: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input 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"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Russell S. Perkinson

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~793 Appomattox Street~~ P.O. 455

CITY OR TOWN: Petersburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 730

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hustings Court

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Petersburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 730

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 35 acres 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Petersburg
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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

INTEGRITY

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original appearance of Battersea must be a matter of conjecture as the house underwent significant alterations in the early-nineteenth century. As one authority noted, however, these did not alter the basic integrity of the original design. The house is built on a five-part plan, having a two-story central block, one-story hyphens, and two-story pedimented gable end pavilions. The central block is covered by a pyramidal roof with a carved pineapple at its apex. Apparently the central block was fronted by a two-level portico as evidenced by the break in the cornice. The present one-story porch appears to date from the alterations although early materials may have been used. The finely executed dwarf porticoes at the ends of the building are original. Other alterations to the exterior include the stuccoing of the Flemish bond brick walls, the insertion of the Palladian windows in the end pavilions and three-part windows in the hyphens, and the installation of the fan-and side-light front entrance. The window arrangement on the rear of the house appears to be original although some of the windows may have been enlarged.

The plan of the house survives intact, however some of the original woodwork has been lost. The entrance hall retains its magnificent Chinese trellis stair and its original paneling. The paneled dadoes survive in the west pavilion and hyphen as well as in the drawing room, more properly known as a saloon.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) C. 1765-1770

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>History</u>
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

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

Although the early-nineteenth century alterations have given Battersea an Italianate feeling, it remains one of the finest Palladian houses in the state. There is strong circumstantial evidence that it was designed by Thomas Jefferson but positive authentication has never been established. However the house does contain many of the Roman and Palladian forms so admired by Jefferson.

Battersea was built circa 1765-1770 for Colonel John Banister, a close friend of Jefferson's. Colonel Banister served in the House of Burgesses, the State Assembly, the Continental Congress, and all the Revolutionary conventions. In addition, he also served as the first mayor of Petersburg.

Battersea was visited in 1781 by the Marquis de Chastellux who observed, "Mr. Banister's handsome country-house...is really worth seeing. It is decorated rather in the Italian, than the English or American style, having three porticoes at the three principal entries...."

It should be noted that the Chinese trellis stair in the house is considered to be the finest of its type in Virginia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kimball, Fiske, Thomas Jefferson, Architect, Boston: 1916.

Virginia Magazine of History, Vols. 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 28, and 36.

Waterman, Thomas Tileston, Domestic Colonial Architecture of Tidewater Virginia, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932.

_____, The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776, New York: Bonanza Books, 1945.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 13' 43"	77° 26' 42"				
NE	37° 13' 43"	77° 25' 35"				
SE	37° 13' 03"	77° 25' 35"				
SW	37° 13' 03"	77° 26' 42"				

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: June 2, 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

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 _____
Title Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 17 1969

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

NOV 17 1969

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Petersburg (in City)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NOV 17 1969

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1959 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report 123-59
1967 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 760 45

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle. (Scale: 1:24,000)
 Petersburg, Va. (1952)

Battersea

Latitude	Longitude
NW 37° 13' 43"	77° 26' 42"
NE 37° 13' 43"	77° 25' 35"
SE 37° 13' 03"	77° 25' 35"
SW 37° 13' 03"	77° 26' 42"

