

NHL

NHL Designation: 4/13/1972

THEME: WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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: Charles City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Berkeley - (Benjamin Harrison V Birthplace and Home)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Berkeley Plantation

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8 miles west of Charles City Court House via Va. 5 and south 0.2 miles

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charles City Court House

STATE Virginia	CODE	COUNTY: Charles City	CODE
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:  
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Jamieson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Berkeley Plantation

CITY OR TOWN: Charles City Court House	23030	STATE: Virginia	CODE
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Charles City Court House, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charles City Court House	STATE: Virginia	CODE
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey (VA-363) (5 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934-35  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Berkeley was built by its owner, Benjamin Harrison IV, in the early Georgian style in 1726, as the date and his initials in the brickwork indicate. The mansion is two-and-a-half stories high, about 60 feet long by 41 feet deep, and has a dormered gable roof with two tall interior ridge chimneys. The brick walls are of Flemish bond, the window jambs and corners are treated with narrow rubbed brick dressings, and the openings with gauged, flat, brick arches. The house has a beveled water table and gauged, flat, belt course. The existing central doors of the north and south five-bay facades have broad piers supporting pediments, all in gauged brick, but these are reconstructions, and little of the originals remain. A fragment of a stone cornice in the basement suggest that they were of stone. The roof line and gable ends have modillioned cornice and the ends are treated as pediments. An another unusual feature is the size of the windows, which are four lights wide, instead of the usual three, and have 12 over 12 light sash. The existing sash are reconstructions, but the openings are such that any other arrangement with standard size colonial glass would be difficult. An original transom with lights of this size also still remains in place over the west side door.

By 1800 Berkeley was flanked by two brick dependencies, each 20 by 45 feet and set slightly forward or south of the house, facing the James River. The existing two-story brick dependencies, which occupy the same positions, were erected in the period 1840-50.

The plan of the mansion is the familiar center hall plan, with two rooms on either side and two interior chimneys, a plan widely utilized in the second half of the 18th century. The original plan has been modified by at least one, and perhaps two, alterations, but the basement brickwork makes it apparent that the main elements have not been changed.<sup>1</sup> The center hall, 12 feet wide, extends through the house and on either side are two pairs of large square rooms. Space for a small stair has been taken from the office in the northwest corner. This change probably dates from about 1800 when the house was largely retrimmed. The existing center hall stair, located on the west wall near the south end of the hall, has been reconstructed in the position where such stairs were usually situated. The framing and some fragments of 18th-century trim also indicated that Berkeley was altered and its woodwork largely redone in the Adam style, probably by Benjamin Harrison VI, in the period 1790-1800. The only finish on the interior that indubitably belongs to the early are the two fine mottled-grey marble facings of the east fireplaces on the first floor, and in the east of the each chimney, the floor and trim also appear to antedate the 1790-1800 alteration.

The mansion and 1400 acres of land were acquired by Mr. John Jamieson in 1915. The house, then in poor condition, was put into good repair. In 1937-38 the present owners carried out an extensive program of restoration and reconstruction to return the structure to its 18th-century appearance. This work involved the removal of a large 19th-century porch that surrounded the house on all four sides, replacement of the window sash, exterior door framings, and reconstruction of the center stairs. The

SEE INS. RECONSTRUCTIONS

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(Number all entries)

2. Boundaries for Berkeley Plantation

BERKELEY, CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Boundaries of Historic Site:

Approximately 133.15 acres of land in the shape of a rectangle, including Berkeley Plantation House and its two brick dependencies, starting at the southwest corner on the north bank of the James River at latitude 37° 18' 48" N. - longitude 77° 10' 58" W., proceeding north about 2550 feet to the northwest corner at lat. 37° 19' 13" n. - long. 77° 10' 58" W., then continuing east about 2000 feet to the northeast corner at lat. 37° 19' 13" W. - long. 77° 10' 33" W., then proceeding south about 2900 feet to the southeast corner on the north bank of the James River at lat. 37° 18' 44" N. - long. 77° 10' 33" W., then returning west along the north bank of the James River to the beginning, the southwest corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: Westover 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 in the Berkeley Plantation in 1969 is about 1,400 acres.

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7. Description

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first floor and basement are open to visitors and the upper floors and used as a residence.

<sup>1</sup>In the basement the brickwork is largely visible, though some has been plastered over. Only the exterior walls, hall walls, and chimneys seem to be original; the longitudinal walls and the stair partitions are later, probably dating from around 1800. All of the early brickwork is laid in English bond, but ~~three~~ brick sizes are used.

Berkeley is marked by State Historical Marker V-7, located 7.2 miles west of Charles City on Virginia Route 5. This sign reads:

"Berkeley and Harrison's Landing

A short distance south. The place was first settled in 1619 but was abandoned. It was repatented in 1636. Benjamin Harrison, Signer of the Declaration of Independence lived here; his son, William Henry Harrison, President of the United States, was born here, 1773. In July-August, 1862, General McClellan had his headquarters at Berkeley while the Army of the Potomac was here."

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**4. 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) 1726-1791

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" 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 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

Berkeley, erected in 1726, was the birthplace and life-long home of Benjamin Harrison V, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for Virginia, planter, politician, and Governor of Virginia. Berkeley was also the birthplace of William Henry Harrison (1773-1841), soldier and President of the United States.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Benjamin Harrison V (1726-1791).

Benjamin Harrison V, the son of a well-to-do planter, was born at the family seat, "Berkeley," probably in 1726. He attended the College of William and Mary but left without graduation in 1745, on the death of his father, to take up the management of the family estate. Shortly thereafter he also married Elizabeth Bassett. In 1749 Harrison was elected to the House of Burgesses and served in this body from 1749 to 1775, often as its speaker. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1774 to October 1777. He was a member of the Virginia conventions of 1775 and 1776 and of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1776 to 1781 and from 1784 to 1791. He was speaker of Virginia House from 1778 to 1781. In November 1781 Harrison was elected Governor of Virginia and twice reelected (1781-1784). He died April 24, 1791, and was buried in the family cemetery adjacent to his plantation home "Berkeley."

History of the Berkeley Plantation House

Berkeley was built by its owner, Benjamin Harrison IV, in the early Georgian style in 1726. It was apparently the first Georgian mansion in Virginia to use the pedimented end gable -- a gable roof with each end being treated as a pediment, complete with modillioned cornice and rake mold. Benedict Arnold, leading British troops in 1781, plundered the Berkeley plantation. The mansion was architecturally altered and its interior redecorated in the Adam style sometime during the period 1790-1800. In 1862, during the Civil War, the plantation, then known as Harrison's Landing, sprang into prominence again with the withdrawal of the Union Army of the Potomac from the Battle of Malvern Hill. The plantation was the supply base for the Union Army, which lay camped in the fields about and General George McClellan maintained his headquarters in the mansion itself until his army was withdrawn to northern Virginia. While the army lingered here in 1862, General Daniel Butterfield originated the bugle call, "Taps," on Berkeley Plantation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. VIII, 330-331. Article by Edmund C. Burnette.  
 Thomas T. Waterman, The Mansions of Virginia (Chapel Hill, 1946), 163-168.  
 William B. O'Neal, Architecture in Virginia (New York, 1968), 51.  
Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion (American Guide Series) (New York, 1947), 631.  
 Robert A. Lancaster, Historic Virginia Homes and Churches (Philadelphia, 1915), 86-90.  
 Richard and Dorothy Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes - South (New York, 1956), 17.

**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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 37° 19' 13"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 77° 10' 58"		Degrees Minutes Seconds 37° 19' 02"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 77° 10' 51"	
NE	37° 19' 13"	77° 10' 33"		Location of House		
SE	37° 18' 44"	77° 10' 33"				
SW	37° 18' 48"	77° 10' 58"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1400 acres; Estate Total 133 acres in Land

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:  
**Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **5/28/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**801 19th Street, N.W.**

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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Significance

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The mansion and 1400 acres of land were acquired by Mr. John Jamieson in 1915. In 1937-38 the present owners carried an extensive program of restoration and reconstruction to return the house to its 18th century appearance.

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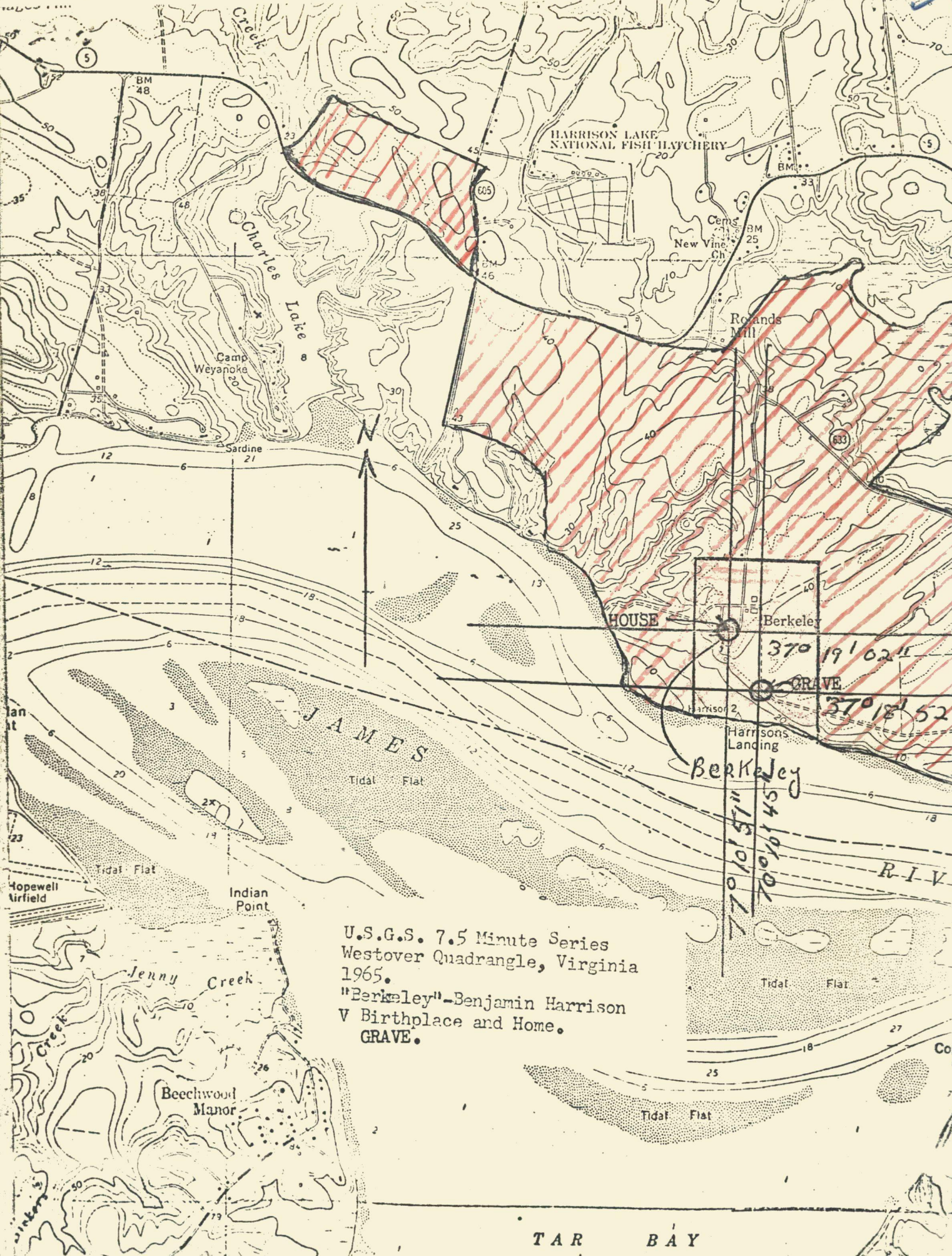
Berkeley

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References: Continued page 1

- Richard Pratt, A Treasury of Early American Homes (New York, 1949), 46-47.  
Edith T. Sale, Interiors of Virginia Houses of Colonial Times (Richmond, 1927), 435-448.  
"Berkeley Restored," Richmond Times Dispatch, Sunday Magazine Section, 1938, pp. 8-9, by Margaret Barker Seward.  
William Stannard, "Harrisons of James River," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography (Richmond, Vol. 30-33, October 1922-October 1925).  
Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J. E. Fields, "Here the Signers Lived," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 8.



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series  
 Westover Quadrangle, Virginia  
 1965.  
 "Berkeley" - Benjamin Harrison  
 V Birthplace and Home.  
 GRAVE.

HOUSE  
 Berkeley  
 37° 19' 02"  
 GRAVE  
 37° 18' 52"  
 Berkeley  
 77° 10' 57"  
 70° 10' 45"