

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 13 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON: Ampthill
AND/OR HISTORIC: Ampthill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: W side of Rt. 602, 3 mi. N of intersection with Rt. 45 (Cartersville vic.)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Cumberland	CODE 049

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: James C. Rea, Jr.		
STREET AND NUMBER: Ampthill Farm		
CITY OR TOWN: Cartersville	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cumberland County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 11



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ampthill is composed of two separate houses placed back to back and connected by a short one-story frame passage. The older house of the two is a two-story frame dwelling which appears to have been built in the eighteenth century and extensively remodeled at about the same time the brick house was built. In its original form, the frame house was apparently a story-and-a-half structure with a side hall plan and one-story flanking wings. In the remodeling the center of the house seems to have been raised to two full stories and given a shallow hipped roof. All of the foundations were rebuilt except for that of the east wing which retains its eighteenth-century style Flemish bond foundation. The center section and the wings also received simple Roman Doric cornices matching those on the brick section. It is thought that these alterations occurred no earlier than 1830, because the three mantels on the interior are copied from the three designs for mantels illustrated in Asher Benjamin's builder's handbook, Practical House Carpenter, the first edition of which was published in 1830. Although these mantels and a Federal style stair were installed in the remodeling, much of the original woodwork was left intact. This woodwork includes paneled wainscoting, raised paneled doors, chair rails, and door and window enframements.

The brick portion of Ampthill is more sophisticated architecturally than the frame portion. It is a long, single pile one-story structure covered by a hipped roof with two interior chimneys. The facade is subtly asymmetrical; the principal architectural element, a one-story tetrastyle Roman Doric portico, has three bays to the left of it but only two bays on the right. The unusually large windows have six-over-six sash and flat lintels and sills of white marble. The very even Flemish bond used throughout the building is an example of nineteenth-century masonry at its best.

The plan of the later section consists of two large rooms on either side of a large hall. At the west end of the house are two small rooms separated by a passage leading to an exterior door at that end. The interior trim is quite simple but sophisticated. Most of the moldings and trim are of Greek Revival type and appear also to have been based on Asher Benjamin's examples. The three mantels in the brick section are black marble with gold veins, and are original.

Ampthill retains several of its brick outbuildings which are to the west and north of the house. These outbuildings are all laid in American bond and all appear to date from the second or third quarter of the nineteenth century.

Most of the lands that comprised the original Ampthill tract of the Harrisons have remained intact and are farmed by the present owners of the estate. This well-maintained farm with its rolling fields, rich bottom lands, and scenic views across the James River provide a handsome historic setting for the house.



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

SIGNIFICANCE

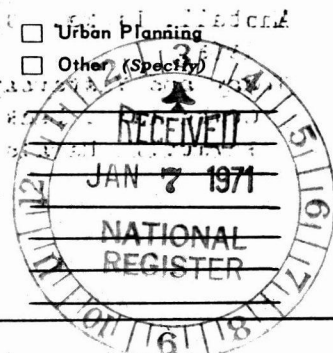
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ 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/Philosophy ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Historic ☐ Industry ☐ Science ☐ Agriculture ☐ Invention ☐ Sculpture
☒ Architecture ☐ Landscape ☐ Social/Humanitarian ☐ Art
☐ Commerce ☐ Literature ☐ Theater ☐ Communications ☐ Military ☐ Transportation
☐ Conservation ☐ Music



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ampthill began as one of the tracts on the large estate, Clifton, patented by Thomas Randolph in 1723. Clifton was sold by Randolph to Robert "King" Carter, who in turn willed it to his grandson, Carter Henry Harrison. (Carter Henry Harrison is remembered as being the author of the Cumberland Resolutions -- the first publicly approved instructions for continental independence.) In 1781, Carter Henry Harrison became caught up in financial difficulties and was forced to give Clifton to his third son, Randolph. The Ampthill portion of Clifton was later purchased by Randolph Harrison from his older brother, Robert Carter Harrison. Although Randolph Harrison took up residence in the large frame mansion at Clifton, by 1815, he apparently was considering building a house for himself, for in that year he asked his friend Thomas Jefferson to provide him with a set of plans. In September 1815, Jefferson sent Harrison a ground plan and elevation for a one-story, six room house. It is believed, however, that Harrison did not build his house until 1835, following the death of his wife. It is said that he built then in the hope that a new house might help him attract a new wife. The site chosen for the house was the Ampthill tract, named for the Cary estate in Chesterfield County.

The house built by Harrison at Ampthill was attached to a frame dwelling already standing on the farm. Little is known of this earlier house, but it is thought that it was built prior to the Revolution. Architectural evidence would bear out a pre-Revolutionary date. Interestingly, Harrison made no attempt to tie the two buildings architecturally, even though the frame house appears to have been substantially remodeled about the same time the brick house was built. Although built in Roman Revival style the plan of the new brick house bore little resemblance to the plans identified by Fiske Kimball as Jefferson's copies of the Ampthill plans. Unfortunately, Jefferson's elevation for Ampthill has been lost, but it is conceivable that Harrison may have based the general outline of the house on Jefferson's scheme. As Jefferson indicated to Harrison when he sent his drawings: ". . . the elevation is merely a sketch to give a general idea. The workman, if he is anything of an architect, will be able to draw the particulars." Whether or not Jefferson can be directly credited as the architect of Ampthill, the characteristics of his style -- whitewashed Roman details set against red brick walls, tall rectangular windows hung with dark green shutters, and compact but carefully proportioned outline -- are certainly apparent. Though long neglected, both structurally and intellectually, Ampthill is now handsomely restored and stands as a visual witness of Jefferson's architectural ideals.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Benjamin, Asher. The Practical House Carpenter: Grecian Orders of Architecture. Boston: The Proprietors, 1835.

Harrison, Margaret Scott. Sketch of the Family of Carter Henry Harrison (1736-1793) of "Clifton". Hampton, Va., 1959.

Kimball, Fiske. Thomas Jefferson Architect. New York: Da Capo Press, 1968.

Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia. Historical Research in Cumberland, Buckingham, and Prince Edward Counties. Farmville: The Farmville Herald, 1935.

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	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	37°	42'	15"	78°	07'	00"			
SE	37°	42'	15"	78°	05'	25"			
SW	37°	40'	50"	78°	05'	25"			
	37°	40'	50"	78°	07'	00"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 900 acres

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

DATE: December 15, 1970

CODE: 51

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: Edw. P. Alexander by JWM

Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 1/5/71

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/13/72

ATTEST:

William M. H. H. H.
Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 13 1972

UTM REF
10-16-75wm
A 17/756430/4176890
B 17/756510/4174140

C 17/754340/4174090
D 17/754240/4176820

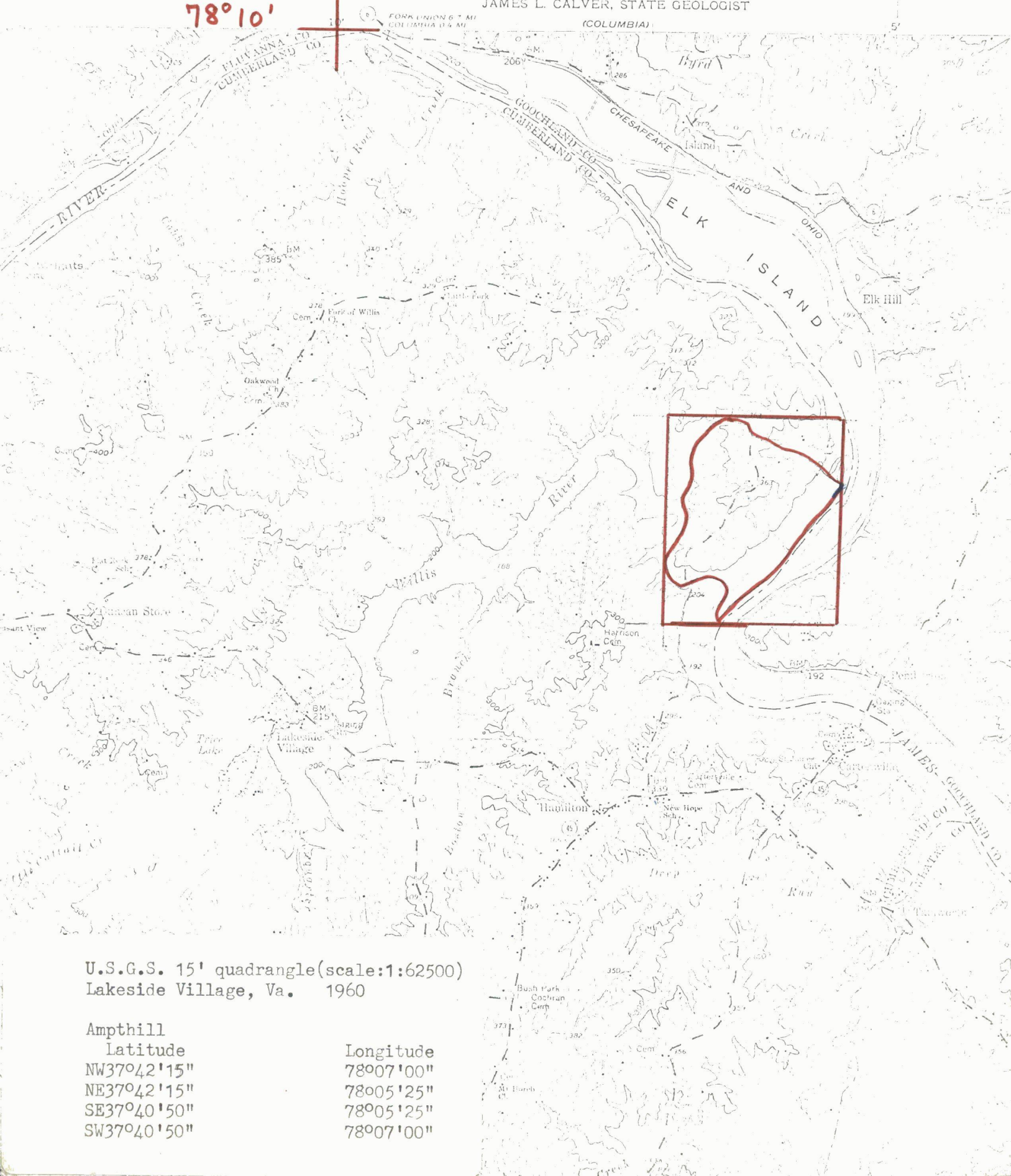
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ERIOR

37°45'
78°10'



STATE OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST
(COLUMBIA)



U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle(scale:1:62500)
Lakeside Village, Va. 1960

Amphill

Latitude
NW37°42'15"
NE37°42'15"
SE37°40'50"
SW37°40'50"

Longitude
78°07'00"
78°05'25"
78°05'25"
78°07'00"