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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #21-95
1968 State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building Richmond, Virginia 23219

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7.	DESCRIPTION		·				·	·		
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Long Branch is a rectangular two-story brick mansion with seven bays on both its front and rear facades. The front facade has a tetrastyle two-story pedimented portico of the Greek Ionic order with a recessed porch, while the rear facade features a tetrastyle two-story pedimented portico of the Roman Doric order. The building is crowned by a simple molded cornice and a shallow deck-on-hip roof. The deck is surrounded by a balustrade which encloses a central rectangular lantern. The east side of the house features a one-story service wing which was originally fronted by an open loggia. The loggia was enclosed in the 1840's. It is not certain whether or not the battlemented roof of the wing is an original feature.

At about the same time the loggia was enclosed, the interior of the house was almost completely retrimmed, causing the loss of the original elegant but restrained Regency style decoration. Fortunately, however, the southeast corner bedroom escaped the retrimming and retains its original Traquair-type marble mantel and French landscape wallpaper. The remainder of the interiors were decorated with rather heavy Lafever type Greek Revival woodwork. Even the spiral staircase was rebuilt, and the original supports in the hall screen were replaced by Greek "Corinthianesque" columns. Despite its retrimming, Long Branch's interior with its large finely proportioned rooms possesses a harmonious grandeur.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Long Branch property description

Property is bounded on the east by State Route 624, on the south by State Route 622, and on the west and north by State Route 626.

PERIOD (Check One of	More as .	Appropriate)			
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Long Branch is one of only four houses standing in the country known to have been designed by Benjamin Latrobe, America's first professionally-trained architect. Built for Robert Carter Burwell, the house apparently had already been begun by 1811 when Latrobe was consulted on the design. Unfortunately the drawings which Latrobe sent to guide Burwell's builder have not survived; thus it is difficult to establish precisely Latrobe's full contribution to this stately edifice. It is known, however, that he is responsible for the addition of the service staircase. Also, many of the other architectural features such as the shallow hipped roof, the simple projecting eaves, the Greek Ionic portico and the spiral staircase are typical of Latrobe's work.

One of the more famous guests at Long Branch, Washington Irving, paid tribute to the house by writing, "We had glorious quarters that night." Even in its somewhat altered state, Long Branch is an excellent example of the American neo-classical style. In his biography of Latrobe, Talbot Hamlin, the noted architectural historian, said of Long Branch, "as one of the few existing houses Latrobe is known to have designed, (it) is an important monument in American architecture".

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Long Branch

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Statement of Significance

Long Branch was built ca. 1810 by Robert Carter Burwell near Millwood, Clarke County, Virginia. It would appear from extant correspondence between Robert Burwell and the architect, Benjamin Henry Latrobe that Latrobe was asked to comment on Burwell's plans and to suggest improvements. The extent to which Latrobe influenced the design of the two story, hipped roof brick house, already under construction, is open to discussion since his drawings for it are lost. In addition the house was retrimmed extensively on the interior in the Minard Lafever style ca. 1845. This work included the complete renovation of the entrance hall and replacement of the stair. It is also probable that one, if not both of the classical porticoes have been replaced.

In it present form the house gives a dignified and impressive appearance, however its development is as yet too unclear to place too much confidence in its being a major work of Benjamin Henry Latrobe.

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12	STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	11,114	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION						
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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

