

VLR-6/1/71 NRHP-9/28/71

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: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Brooke's Bank

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Brooke's Bank

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1.4 mi. N of Rt. 17, 1 mi. E of Loretto

CITY OR TOWN:
(Loretto vicinity)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 057
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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:
Mrs. Enos Richardson, Sr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Brooke's Bank

CITY OR TOWN: Loretto	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Essex County Court House, Clerk's office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Tappahannock	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Essex	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house and setting of Brooke's Bank form a classic picture of a Tidewater Virginia plantation. The land approach to the house is across broad level fields bordered by hedgerows and woodlands. A small forecourt is formed on the land front by two one-story dependencies that were formerly of wood but have been rebuilt in brick, incorporating the old chimneys. These chimneys and an old smokehouse located to the west of the house are all that remain of the plantation's early outbuildings. The river front overlooks a terraced yard planted with shade trees and shrubbery down to the Rappahannock River. The view across the river is of a broad marsh with the hills of the south side of the Northern Neck forming a backdrop. To the west of the terraced yard is an old-fashioned flower garden.

The house is small in scale compared to other mid-Georgian Virginia plantation houses of similar type, but very sophisticated in architectural treatment. Its walls are laid in even-colored Flemish bond both above and below the molded water table, and an elaborately molded belt course is carried across all four sides. Rubbed brick is employed at the corners and at the window jambs, and gauged brick jack arches are over all the openings. The house is covered by a shallow hipped roof that is surrounded at its base by a wooden cornice with small, closely spaced modillions. The most interesting architectural features of the house are the two tall interior end chimneys decorated with glazed bricks forming a pattern of superimposed lozenges on three faces of each shaft. This treatment is believed to be a unique survival. Both chimneys are topped by very fine molded caps.

Later additions to the exterior of the house include two one-story brick wings added by the present owner toward the north front. The two small one-story wings that are slightly set back from the plane of the south wall were probably added in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The one-story porch sheltering the south entrance is also a later addition. A porch of similar design on the north front has been removed. None of the sash appears to be original, although the cases and sills may be.

The original interior woodwork of Brooke's Bank survives almost completely intact. The outstanding interior feature is the elliptical arch with paneled soffit and pilaster supports in the center of the hall. The arch frames the stair which ascends against the south end of the hall. The stair is very unusual for its period in that it makes a ninety degree curve in the last eight steps. The principal rooms on each side of the hall are all embellished with cornices, chair rails, baseboards, paneled window seats, and corner chimney pieces. The parlor chimney piece is the most elaborate, being decorated with fluted pilasters, crossetted frame with strapwork, a carved cornice shelf supported on molded consoles, and an architrave fireplace surround. An unusual interior feature located in the dining room is the built-in cupboard with scrolled top, paneled doors and a concealed compartment. The building's almost completely unaltered basement is also a rare survival. It retains its earth floor, and the storage rooms still have their large wooden doors with their original locks and stenciled numbers.

Although the house suffered a shelling from a Northern gunboat and stood vacant for many years, it has since been carefully and sensitively repaired by the present owners and stands in excellent condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

II. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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

Brooke's Bank survives not only as a well preserved Tidewater plantation house of the highest quality but as a monument to the lady who built it. Mrs. Sarah Taliaferro Brooke supervised the construction of her new house and moved in upon its completion in 1751. She had inherited the property on which the mansion stands from her husband, William Brooke, who died in 1735.

William Brooke was the son of Robert and Catherine Brooke and came from an established Tidewater family. His parents had been living in Essex County as early as 1689 and there was a William Brooke serving as clerk of the county court in 1665.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Brooke took charge of his affairs. She was familiar with the area, being the daughter of Lawrence Taliaferro, who was serving as Sheriff there in 1720. Besides managing a sizeable plantation, Mrs. Brooke ran a ferry that connected Essex County with Leedstown in Westmoreland County. This ferry had been authorized by an Act of the General Assembly in 1748 that authorized the trustees of Leedstown to make a causeway through the marsh to connect with a ferry between their side of the Rappahannock and Brooke's Bank.

Upon its completion in 1751 Mrs. Brooke moved into the new house with her son and daughter. At her death in 1764 she left the property to her son, William, with the provision that her daughter be allowed to continue to reside there until her marriage. In her will Mrs. Brooke specifically mentioned that she was leaving her son the house that she had built.

William Brooke inherited the plantation from his mother and lived there until his death. It later passed to his son John and through two more generations of Brookes until it went into other hands early in the twentieth century. After standing long abandoned and neglected it was purchased and restored by the present owner in the 1930's.

During the War between the States it was shelled by the USS Pawnee, a Union gunboat on the Rappahannock. During the bombardment a hidden compartment in the woodwork in the dining room came open, disclosing a cache of family papers that had been secreted there since the middle eighteenth century. From this source much of the early documentation of the property under the ownership of Mrs. Brooke has been made possible.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

V. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooke, St. George Tucker, "Brooke's Bank," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, IX, 314-318.
 Garnett, William C., Tidewater Tales (Dunnsville, 1927).
 Hening, William Waller, The Statues at Large, V, 250.
William and Mary Quarterly, first series, XX, 270.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			C R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38 ° 05' 34 "	77 ° 01' 33 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38 ° 05' 34 "	77 ° 00' 52 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	38 ° 04' 48 "	77 ° 00' 52 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	38 ° 04' 48 "	77 ° 01' 33 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 435 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 DATE: May 27, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Edward P. Alexander by A

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 6/1/71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Topographic map of the CCUPACIA QUADRANGLE
 Virginia, 1949

CCUPACIA QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA
 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

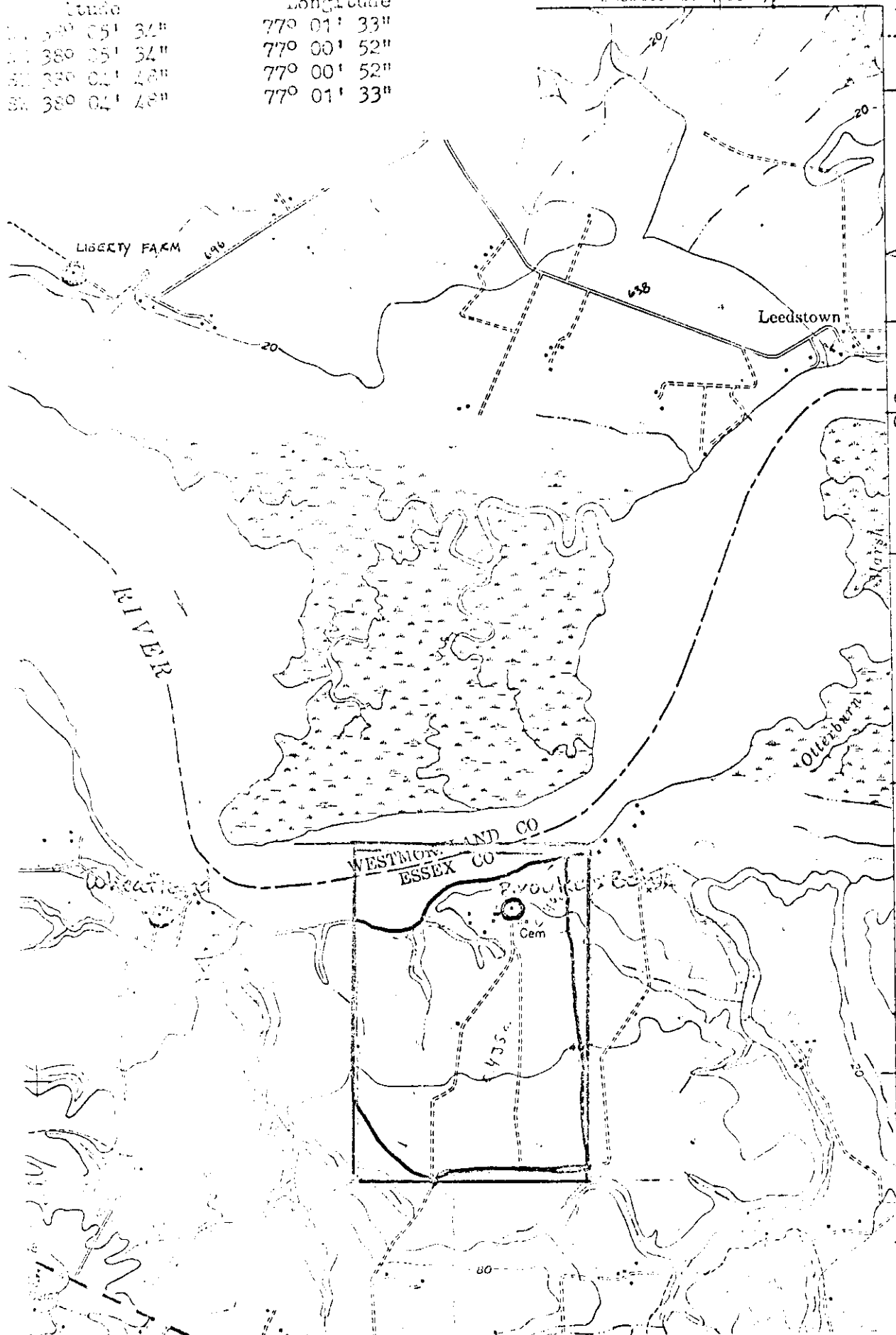
(WAKEFIELD)

Brook's Bank
 Wheatland
 Elmwood
 Vauters Church

Latitude	Longitude
38° 05' 34"	77° 01' 33"
38° 05' 34"	77° 00' 52"
38° 04' 48"	77° 00' 52"
38° 04' 48"	77° 01' 33"

2 430 000 FEET (SOUTH)

77° 00'
 38° 07' 30"



LIBERTY FARM

mins - old house

650 000 FEET
 (SOUTH)

Kinloch

Brook's Bank
 Wheatland
 Elmwood
 Vauters Church

5'

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. Code: 11