

36-61

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

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:	Gloucester
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Fairfield Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Carter's Creek

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .5 miles West of Route 633, .6 miles South of intersection with Route 614.

CITY OR TOWN: White Marsh vicinity (Thomas N. Downing, 1st District Congressman)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Gloucester CODE: 073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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 _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Stacy B. Lloyd, III c/o Thomas H. Beddall

STREET AND NUMBER: 1729 H Street, N W

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 20006

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Gloucester

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" 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

Fairfield, a late seventeenth-century plantation house with important transitional architectural forms, stood until about 1897 on the south side of Carter's Creek, upstream from Rosewell. The mansion site is overgrown with vegetation, and the surrounding fields are cultivated. The walls above ground level were removed after the fire, but the building's exterior appearance is recorded in several early photographs. The Flemish bond brick building consisted of a two-story rectangular block with a single-story ell. The wing was covered with a hipped roof, believed to be the earliest example of this roof form known in America. The hipped roof, a common feature of most major eighteenth century Virginia houses, contrasted with a Tudor-Stuart style triple diamond-stack chimney at the east end of the wing. The chimney was similar to examples surviving at Bacon's Castle in Surry County and Winona in Northampton County, although the Fairfield example was interior-end and pierces the eaves, while the others are exterior. Two sets of short double diamond-stack chimneys pierced the ridge of the gable roof on the main block of the house. These chimneys, unique in America, had the same corbelled caps and double bands of plaster found on the large chimney, and they rose from similar low bases with mouse-tooth courses and plaster bands. A sketch of the west side, drawn about 1930 and said to follow an old photograph, shows the belt course rising above a door on the two-story section. This is a typical seventeenth century feature and is also found on Criss Cross and Foster's Castle, both in New Kent County. The sketch shows the north end of the one-and-a-half-story wing as having a gable roof rather than hip. Fairfield exhibits early use of a modillioned cornice, while the small square dormer on the east roof may have been a rare seventeenth century feature.

The house appears to have developed in three stages. The southern three bays of the two-story section may be the earliest, and its gable is said to have held an iron brace forming the date 1692 with initials "L.A.B." - for Lewis and Abigail Burwell. This southern section would have had a side hall plan, with one exterior and one interior-end chimney. The wide northern bay of the two-story section may be the latest stage of construction connecting the earlier building to the south with the story-and-a-half block to the north. Varied belt-course width, window treatment, and watertable brick bond show that the two-story block was of two construction periods. The story-and-a-half wing may have been built as a free-standing structure after completion of the 1692 block. Four tiles framed by molded bricks formed a decorative square on the triple-stack chimney base. This feature may be related to a note, written in an old hand, on the back of an early photograph in the Virginia Historical Society: "1694 on this chimney on the new part of the house." Dormers on the north wing appear to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. (1)  
date from the early nineteenth century, as does all sash visible in the photographs. A wing is said to have once existed at the south end, forming a complete U-shaped plan. No evidence for such a wing is visible above ground, and if placed symmetrically, it would have resulted in an extremely large house for the period. There are a number of possibilities, such as the existence of a south detached advance building matching the northern wing, which was probably originally detached. Archaeological excavation will be necessary to determine the entire house plan, and to more firmly establish the sequence of construction.

Little definite information survives regarding the interior of Fairfield, although the north wing is said to have contained a ball room with rather elaborate architectural detail. Unusual marble mantel fragments from this room survive at nearby Shelly and Timberneck Hall, and a description in the November 12, 1911 Richmond Times Dispatch gives a hint of its elegance: "The reredos of the fireplace [was] of wood wonderfully carved. Especially beautiful was a female head carved at the intersection of wooden curtains, which were drawn back with exquisite grace." This interior trim is said to have been removed before the fire.

The basement of the southern section was lighted by windows in the shoulder-high watertable. The north wing basement, which was not lighted by windows, was entered through a gabled English bond bulkhead at its east end. One or more basement rooms had brick vaulted ceilings, and the remains of one of these arches is still visible in the ruins.

A plat in the Gloucester County court house shows the site as it appeared when owned by the Leavett family in 1847. A sketch of the house is rough, but recognizable, and several outbuildings are shown. Brick rubble and eighteenth century domestic refuse mark a site, said to be a kitchen, a hundred feet west of the house. This appears to be the site of the single story outbuilding with central chimney shown on the 1847 plot. Mr. Cecil Page, an elderly local resident who visited the house before it was destroyed, recalls a tunnel six feet or so in height leading from the house to the kitchen, which was then still standing. One hundred and fifty feet south-east of the mansion site is the site of another building. The basement of this building was dug into about 1965, and it was found to have brick paving and early eighteenth century fill. A number of different bottle seals were found, the latest date being 1710. It has been postulated that this was the earlier house of Lewis Burwell's father, and its early destruction date would not preclude the possibility. The building remains largely unexcavated, and nothing is known of its plan.

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7. (2)

The seventeenth and eighteenth century Burwell table tombs were removed from the cemetery located south-west of the mansion site to Abingdon Church in 1911. They are limestone, of English manufacture, and among the earliest Baroque style tombs in Virginia.

E.A.C.

3. 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) 1692

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/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy                                  | <u>history</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fairfield is a notable Virginia example of the transition in architectural style from Tudor-Stuart to later more formal buildings. Much is known about the exterior appearance of the structure, but information about its plan and sequence of development can only be established by excavation. Archaeological examination of secondary building sites could also prove informative, and there is at least one adjoining site that may pre-date the mansion.

Lewis Burwell, grandfather of the builder of Carters Grove, is believed to have built Fairfield in 1692. Lewis' father, of the same name, had patented the 2350 acres on the south side of Carter's Creek in 1648. Lewis the builder was a member of the Governor's Council, and he gained financially from his marriage to Abigail Smith of York County, heiress of President Nathaniel Bacon. Upon Lewis' death in 1710, Fairfield passed to his son Nathaniel, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert "King" Carter; and upon Nathaniel's death, to his son Lewis. This third Lewis (1710-1752) was president of the Council and acting governor of Virginia. His daughter Rebecca was the "fair Belinda" who rejected Thomas Jefferson to marry Jacquelin Amler. His son, also named Lewis, sold the Fairfield tract to Colonel Robert Thurston in 1787. Thurston, his wife Frances Simmons Jones, and descendants are buried in unmarked graves at Fairfield. The plantation, then called Carter's Creek, was owned by the Leavett family when a plat was made of the property in 1847. The house burned about 1897, when it was owned by the Elizabeth G. Booth estate.

E.A.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carter's Creek plat, #248, September, 1847, Surveyors Book #1 (1817-52), Gloucester County Court House.  
 Lancaster, Robert A., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Philadelphia, 1915.  
 Richmond Times Dispatch, November 12, 1911.  
 Thurston, Rogers C. B., "Genealogical Chart of the Thurston Family of 'Fairfield', Gloucester County", 1926. (Copy in Virginia Historical Society archives).  
 Waterman, Thomas T. and Barrows, John A., Domestic Colonial Architecture of Tidewater Virginia, New York, 1932.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Waterman, Thomas T., The Mansions of Virginia, New York, 1945.

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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37 ° 20 ' 54 "	76 ° 33 ' 37 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37 ° 20 ' 54 "	76 ° 32 ' 39 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	37 ° 20 ' 06 "	76 ° 32 ' 39 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	37 ° 20 ' 06 "	76 ° 33 ' 37 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 220 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:  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: February 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      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 \_\_\_\_\_

Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

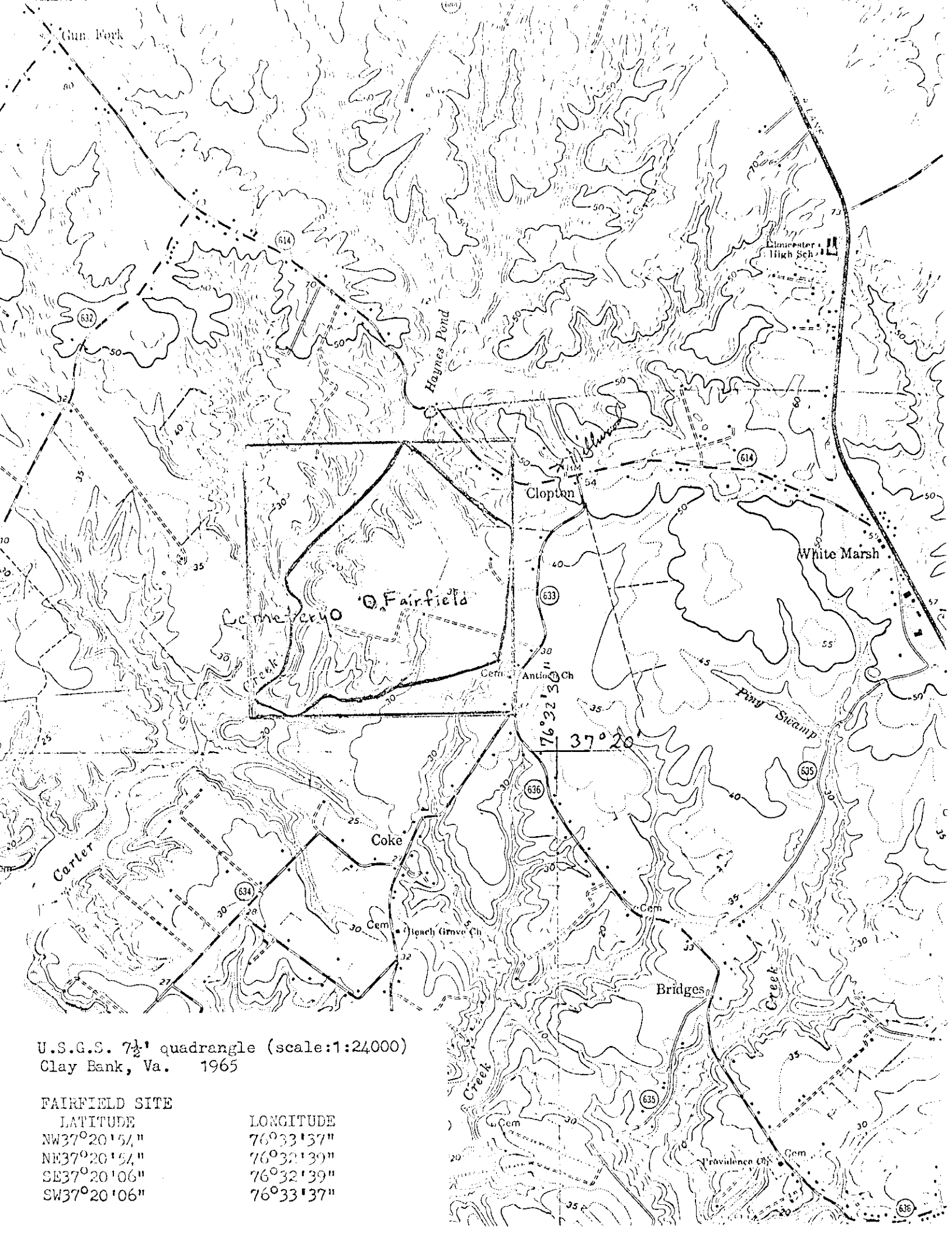
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Clay Bank, Va. 1965

**FAIRFIELD SITE**

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW37°20'54"	76°33'37"
NE37°20'54"	76°32'39"
SE37°20'06"	76°32'39"
SW37°20'06"	76°33'37"