

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LISTED IN:
VLR 03/15/1977
NRHP 01/30/1978

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Burlington

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER .6 mile West of Mattaponi River, East side of State Route 600;
.8 mile ENE of intersection of State Routes 600 and 609.
(See Continuation Sheet #1)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Aylett VICINITY OF First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)

STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY King William CODE 101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John Ryland Gwathmey - deceased
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Aylett VICINITY OF Virginia STATE 23009 23212
Lewis F. Powell, III
Trustee
Gwathmey Memorial Trust
Hunton + Williams
P.O. Box 1535, Richmond, Va.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. King William County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN King William STATE Virginia 23086

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE 1958 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington, D. C. STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Burlington is a working Tidewater plantation of some 700 acres located along the south bank of the Mattaponi River in upper King William County. The property is dominated by a small plateau in the center of which is the main house. From this plateau one obtains panoramic views of the surrounding lowlands most of which are fertile fields devoted to crops. The river to the northeast is shielded from view by the trees lining its banks. A considerable portion of the plantation, including most of its less level land is planted in timber. The top of the plateau is surrounded by a board fence enclosing the house's park-like yard, which is studded with large old trees and a quantity of boxwood and other shrubbery.

Dominating the yard is the residence, an interesting two-part structure consisting of the main portion, erected in 1842, and a fragment of a Colonial-period frame dwelling serving as the rear ell. The main section, a plain but somewhat formal Classical-Revival house, measures approximately 23 feet x 34 feet, and has two stories over a medium-height basement. It is a single-pile building of brick covered with scored stucco. Its gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam sheet metal and has interior end chimneys. The three-bay facade has six-over-six sash windows on both stories although the second-floor windows are diminished in height. All the windows, including the basement ones, are hung with louvred shutters. The windows are surrounded by the simplest of architraves and the main cornice is only a shallow molding. The chief architectural ornament is the small porch sheltering the entrance which consists of four slender paired Doric columns supporting an entablature. The entablature is decorated with guttae and dentils. The door is set in a larger frame surrounded by a symmetrical architrave with corner blocks. On the south end of the house, at basement level, is a frame green house--a glazed shed the width of the house.

The rear ell is a two-story structure with a hipped roof where it joins the main section and a gable at the opposite end. A tall interior chimney projects from the approximate center. Very little of the ell's surface material appears to be original: the sash, siding, and brick foundation all appear to date from the mid-nineteenth century or later. Indeed it is difficult to determine if the structure has been moved or if it occupies its original site. Also confusing is deciding exactly what part of a larger whole the structure may be. In its present form it has two bays with nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-nine sash in most of the second floor windows. An exterior entrance is at the southeast corner under a plain porch that also shelters the rear entrance of the main section.

The interior of the main section has a center hall plan with a stair ascending between the walls of the hall and the north room. The hall woodwork consists of eared door frames and two-panel Greek Revival doors with original graining. The front door has a somewhat elaborate architectural frame: four slender pilasters framing sidelights and supporting a full entablature. The woodwork of the parlor (south room) and library (north room) is fairly plain Greek Revival work. Corner blocks are at the parlor window frames, and mitered architraves are used in the library. The door leading from the parlor to the hall has paneled pilasters supporting a full entablature. The parlor mantel has columns supporting an entablature, while the library mantel entablature is supported on long consoles. To the left of the library mantel is a built-in bookcase; the upper portion is glazed while the lower portion has flat-panel doors. None of the rooms has cornice work.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Burlington is the seat of the Gwathmeys, one of Virginia's prominent landed families. A comparatively large holding of, some 700 acres, the property presents an accurate image of a Tidewater Virginia plantation, having a riverside location, cultivated bottomlands, extensive stretches of timber, and an antebellum residence with park, out-buildings, and cemetery. The plantation is dominated by a small plateau which is the location of the house and from which are obtained commanding views of the surrounding unspoiled countryside. Because of these beautiful prospects Burlington is regarded as one of the most scenically dramatic properties in the region. The whole estate is now in the process of being protected from inappropriate change through the owner's granting of an open-space easement to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Burlington lands were originally occupied by Indians, most probably by the Mattaponi and related tribes. Many prehistoric artifacts have been found on the property over the years including an Indian canoe now owned by the Valentine Museum in Richmond. The fields still hold potential for archaeological activity.

Because of the destruction of many of the King William County records the seventeenth and eighteenth century history of Burlington is difficult to reconstruct; however, it is known that all or part of the present plantation was owned by the noted Burwell family as early as the mid-eighteenth century. The Burwells may have lived at Burlington and resided in a frame dwelling, a part of which now serves as the rear ell of the present residence. The original configuration of this interesting eighteenth-century structure, with its handsome Georgian stair, has not been determined.

The first Gwathmey to live at Burlington was probably Owen Gwathmey II, who was known to have been living in King William County in 1767, and who is described in an 1831 letter as being "of Burlington." He was the grandson of Owen Gwathmey I, who emigrated to Virginia from Wales and patented land in Gloucester County in 1704. When the Gwathmeys acquired Burlington is not certain but it seems likely to have been around the time of the Revolution. Owen Gwathmey II's son, Joseph Gwathmey (1758-1824), served as a major during the Revolution. He was considered a prosperous planter for his time; his personal property was listed in 1788 as including twelve adult male slaves and a stage and chair (vehicles). William Gwathmey, Joseph Gwathmey's son, was a physician and took possession of Burlington at his father's death in 1824. It was he who erected the front section of the plantation's residence in 1842. This structure, a two-story, stuccoed building is a cleanly proportioned example of Virginia Classical-Revival architecture whose exterior is very conservative for its date. Untouched by any extensive modernization, the house with its early wing conveys a credible aura of life in "Old Virginia."

Burlington is owned today by John Ryland Gwathmey, fifth generation of the family to live there, who maintains the place as a working plantation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gwathmey Family Genealogy, provided by the family.
 Gwathmey Family Records, from Gwathmey family Bible.
 King William County Land Books.
 King William County Records, Book II.
 Ryland, Elizabeth H. King William County, Virginia From Old Newspapers and Files, Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 1955.
 Smith, Captain John. Map of 1806. Williamsburg, Virginia: 1957.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 782 acres

E 18 310250 4190260

F 18 311760 4191240

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,8 | 3 | 1,2 | 4,6,0 | 4,1 | 9,0 | 7,8,0 |

B | 1,8 | 3 | 1,2 | 5,0,0 | 4,1 | 9,0 | 0,0,0 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1,8 | 3 | 1,1 | 1,3,0 | 4,1 | 8,8 | 7,5,0 |

D | 1,8 | 3 | 1,0 | 6,8,0 | 4,1 | 8,9 | 1,6,0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The acreage comprising the Burlington property is bounded by a line beginning at a point (C) on NE side of State Route 600; a little over 1.1 miles SE of intersection of state routes 600 & 609; then following NE side of State Route 600 for a distance of approximately 5900' in a generally NW direction; then running approximately 200' N; then running approximately 5800' NE in a straight line to intersection with SW side of Mattaponi River; then following SW side of said river for a distance of approximately 5600' in a generally SE direction; then running approximately 6200' SW in a straight line to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond,

STATE

Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE MAR 15 1977

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Burlington, King William County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,2 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1976 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

2. LOCATION

(Location for publication in "Federal Register")

On Route 600, East of Beulahville, Virginia.

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Burlington, King William County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

(7) DESCRIPTION

The partitions of the early rear ell seem to be in their original location although it is difficult to determine from its plan what sort of plan type the original house might have had. The western end contains the dining room and stair hall; the eastern end is divided into a bedroom and kitchen. Surviving original woodwork includes a handsome Georgian closed-string stair with vase-and-column balusters, molded hand-rail, and square newel. The stringer is plain and the spandrel is planed and beaded vertical boards. Original, six-panel doors with HL hinges in their original frames survive throughout the ell's first floor. A four-panel door remains under the stair. Old pine flooring is intact also. Little other original trim remains. However, the dining room mantel is a mid-nineteenth-century country Federal example similar to that in the parlor. The interior as a whole is given much interest by the quantity of furniture, books, and pictures representing two centuries of family accumulation.

Other points of interest on the property include an old smokehouse to the west of the residence and an early framed barn across the field to the west. To the north, near the edge of the plateau's brow, is the somewhat spacious family cemetery containing several generations of Gwathmeys. The markers date mostly from the mid-nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. The cemetery is surrounded by a brick wall erected in recent years.

CL

Justification of Acreage:

The 782 acres being nominated comprise the total amount of land which was granted by Mr. John Gwathmey to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in May of 1977 under the terms of an open space easement.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Beulahville, Va.

(scale: 1:24000)
1968

BURLINGTON, KING WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| A | 18/312460/4190780 | B | 18/312500/4190000 |
| C | 18/311130/4138750 | D | 18/310680/4189160 |
| E | 18/310250/4190260 | F | 18/311760/4191240 |

