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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:
 Surry

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
 Swann's Point Plantation Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
 [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN:
 (Scotland Vicinity)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
 Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Surry CODE: 181

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Woodland

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
 Mr. Stanley Yeskolski

STREET AND NUMBER:
 P. O. Box 705

CITY OR TOWN:
 Surry

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
 Surry

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973-1974
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN:
 Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Surry

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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

The seventeenth-century plantation and house of Colonel Thomas Swann were located on [redacted] James River [redacted] and [redacted] Thomas Swann's financial position and the fact that his home was used as a meeting place for royal commissioners in 1677 suggest that the house was one of the larger residences then standing in the colony; however, no contemporary descriptions of the edifice are known. A general indication of its appearance was gained in 1973-74 when the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission staff located and tested foundations believed to be those of the Swann house at the northern end of a cultivated field overlooking the James River. Probing and selected excavation revealed two abutting structures, placed diagonally to the river. The outside dimensions of the combined foundations measure approximately 60'6" long and 23' wide, with a cellar approximately 15' by 23' at the northeast end. The foundations of both sections are of brick laid in English bond, the length of two bricks thick, and therefore capable of supporting a two-story frame building. The dimensions indicate that rooms were ranged in a single file, creating a long rectangular house of a type similar to William Berkeley's Green Spring. Wings or projections may have existed, but no indication of them was found by probing. The section of cellar fill examined in 1974 contained slate, a roofing material rarely used in eighteenth-century Virginia, but found on a number of seventeenth-century sites at Jamestown. Also recovered from the Swann basement were several pieces of Challis earthenware, thus tentatively dating demolition of the house to circa 1700. Surface artifacts indicate occupation of the site from the second quarter of the seventeenth century through the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Probing and surface evidence indicate the existence of at least one out-building located approximately 70 feet east of the house's south end. In 1656 Swann entered into an agreement with James Hugate for the latter to build a group of wooden subsidiary buildings to Swann's design:

one small quarteringe house of twentye five, or thertye foot Long & Soe much other out houses as will make up the same nintye Foote of houseing, the Bredth of them not to be under fiveteene nor above twentye Foote, all to be done as the sd. Swann Shall Contrive & give directions...

In addition to being paid in tobacco for his services, Hugate was allowed to live with his wife in "the house next to the water side...the same houseinge two rooms, the house beinge fortye foote Long, & twentye Foote wide". He was further permitted to plant corn "within the field...the sd Hugate helpinge to mend the Fence" and to plant tobacco on land around the house by the water side. The location of Hugate's lowground house has not been established, but in 1974 a well apparently of seventeenth-century date was excavated in the James River [redacted]. The well, whose upper part had eroded away, was lined with compass bricks based on a heavy lap-jointed oak ring. Brick fragments and roofing slate of the same type found in the Swann basement give evidence of a structure on the low bank just south of the well, although no foundations were located.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

As the home of one of the more prominent seventeenth-century planters on [redacted] the James River, Swann's Point is of both historical importance and archaeological potential. William Swann emigrated from England and patented 1200 acres of the point and adjoining land in 1635. Although the location of his house is not recorded, surface artifacts indicate occupation prior to 1650 on what is a logical site for the dwelling.

William Swann died in 1638 and the patent was renewed by his son, Thomas. While little is known about William, the son held the standard political positions of the Virginia upper class, and his activities received coverage in the colonial and county records. He was a county tobacco viewer in 1639, a Burgess as early as 1646, both sheriff and colonel of the Surry militia in 1652, variously a local justice and member of the General Court in Jamestown, and a member of the Council at the time of his death in 1680. When the Burgesses were dissatisfied with actions of Governor Samuel Mathews and the Council in 1658 during the Commonwealth period, Swann was on the committee to draft a resolution asserting the power of the House.

Swann became involved in a more significant resistance when he took the side of Nathaniel Bacon in the rebellion in 1676. He, like his daughter-in-law's father William Drummond, was among the minority of the Virginia elite who chose to oppose Governor William Berkeley. Drummond was executed for his part in the rebellion, but Swann did not suffer. Swann, a member of Berkeley's Council, was the first to sign Bacon's radical August 3rd and 4th Middle Plantation declarations against Berkeley. One Thomas High declared that "the Great Toad" Thomas Swann had gathered men to oppose the governor and plotted to burn Jamestown. Swann's position led Berkeley to exclude him from the general pardon extended after suppression of the rebellion. Oddly enough, he was excluded from the pardon on February 10, 1677, four days after Berkeley had asked and received Swann's permission for the royal investigating commissioners to stay and meet at Swann's Point. The Swann house, whose foundations are believed to be those tested in 1974, offered the best available accommodations, being one of the few large houses in the vicinity not despoiled by the rebels. It was perhaps the presence of the commissioners that saved Swann from punishment. After returning to England the Commissioners recommended retention of Swann on the Council, claiming that his support of Bacon was the result of coercion.

(see continuation sheet #2)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boddie, John B. Colonial Surry. Baltimore, 1966.
 Chappell, E. A., Excavation of a Seventeenth Century Well at Swann's Point, Surry County, Virginia, ms. report in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.
 Gilmer, Col. J. F., C. S. A. Chief Engineers Office, "Map of Surry, Sussex and Southampton Counties", 1863, Virginia Historical Society Archives.
 McIlwaine, H. R., ed. Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1619-1659. Richmond, 1915.
 McIlwaine, H. R., ed. Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia. Richmond, 1924. (see continuation sheet #3)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
NE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
SE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
SW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **67 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **December 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

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 _____
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date **DEC 17 1974**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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7. DESCRIPTION

(Continuation Sheet) #1

(Number all entries)

Thomas Swann's son Samuel wrote a family record before his death in 1707, and in it noted those buried at Swann's Point. Among them were Samuel's grandparents William (1585-1638) and Judith Swann (1589-1636); his father (1616-80), "buried at my Grandfather's feet"; four of Thomas' five wives and a number of his children; Samuel's own first wife Sarah Drummond (1654-96); and her mother of the same name, wife of William Drummond. Thomas Swann's slab tombstone with armorial decoration survives in the northeast corner of the field, but there is a local tradition that the stone is not in its original position.

A structure site dating from the second and third quarters of the eighteenth century located 400 feet southeast of the Swann foundation is known from surface artifacts of the period and a heavy concentration of brick fragments. The artifacts indicate occupation of this site after the Swann family had removed from the property. The Surry County processioners returns of 1836 make reference to "the old road leading to Swan's Point House", and various other returns note that the Edwin White family occupied the house for the following thirty years.

A map made by Confederate Engineers in 1863 shows that the White house and outbuildings were near [REDACTED] of the Swann house site and outside the Register boundary.

E.A.C.

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(Continuation Sheet) #2

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Swann's Point passed to Samuel Swann after the death of his father in 1680. Samuel moved to North Carolina about 1694, returning to bury his first wife in 1696, and in December 1706 he sold the plantation to Joseph John Jackman for £450. Jackman sold the property to George Marable in February, 1707, for £250. Tentative archaeological evidence places the destruction of the house in this general period, so the reduction in property value may represent loss of the house. Through family relationships, Swann's Point passed from Marable to the Hartwell and Cocke families, remaining in the latter family until the early nineteenth century. The property was owned by Edwin White from prior to 1832 through the War Between the States. The buildings then on the property do not appear to have been of great consequence, being valued at \$287 in 1845 and \$400 in 1860.

Swann's Point has valuable archaeological potential for increasing our knowledge of the material culture of seventeenth-century America. Excavation of the site should reveal much about the architecture and artifacts associated with a person of identifiable status in the Virginia colony. In addition to the main house, both contemporary subsidiary plantation building remains and the site of later occupation are located within the boundaries. Swann's Point's archaeological value is enhanced by the undisturbed nature of the evidence and the apparent early date of abandonment of the major building.

E.A.C.

mlp

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nugent, Nell M. Cavaliers and Pioneers. Baltimore, 1963.
Surry County, Deeds, 1652-72.
Surry County, Land Tax Books, 1845-63.
Surry County, Processioners Returns, 1832-44.
Swen, E. G. Virginia Historical Index. Gloucester, Mass., 1965.
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.
Washburn, Wilcomb E. The Governor and the Rebel. Chapel Hill, 1957.