

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Virginia

COUNTY:
Newport News (in city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Crafford

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 3375 ft. on heading of 236° from Control Tower (Bldg. 2408),
Felker Army Airfield, Fort Eustis

CITY OR TOWN: Newport News

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First; Thomas N. Downing

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

COUNTY: In City

CODE: 700

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" 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)
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY c/o J. P. Frechette, Colonel, AGC

OWNER'S NAME:
U. S. Government, Department of the Army

STREET AND NUMBER:
U. S. Army Transportation Center and Fort Eustis

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Eustis

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clerk of Courts

STREET AND NUMBER:
City of Newport News

CITY OR TOWN: Newport News

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971

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 (IN CITY): Newport News

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- (Check One)
- Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed
- (Check One)
- Altered Unaltered
- (Check One)
- Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This pentagon-shaped Fort is a perfect example of its type and is remarkably well preserved. It includes an outer wall about 8 feet high, a moat, and an inner wall 18-20 feet high and covers approximately 7.5 acres, excluding the outer wall and moat. The Crafford family graveyard, the Crafford slave graveyard, three magazines, two bomb-proofed shelters, and seven gun emplacements are contained within.

Also within its walls is the foundation of the colonial house. The house was used as headquarters for the Fort during the War Between the States, and in World War I was repaired and used for observing and plotting artillery fire. In 1925 the house was sold by the U. S. Army for forty-five dollars to the College of William and Mary which urgently needed the Colonial bricks to repair the Wren Building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (if Applicable and Known) 1861-1862			
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Located on Mulberry Island Point within the military reservation of present-day Fort Eustis and overlooking the James River is an historic site now known as Fort Crafford which has figured in American history since 1610.</p> <p>In that year, disheartened colonists plagued with sickness and near starvation decided to give up the settlement at Jamestown and attempt the return journey to England. They were met off Mulberry Island Point by a supply ship from the Mother Country, thus making it possible to continue the first permanent English colony in the New World.</p> <p>In 1749, Carter Crafford obtained land here, built his home, and operated a ferry between Mulberry Island Point and Isle of Wight on the other side of the James.</p> <p>It is believed that during the Revolutionary War a fortification was built here by the Patriots to defend the river against British ships and to fend off possible landings by the British attempting to reinforce Yorktown.</p> <p>Fort Crafford itself dates from the summer of 1861 when it was constructed at General Lee's order to serve as the James River anchor of General "Prince John" Magruder's line which stretched from Yorktown across the Peninsula to Mulberry Island. In conjunction with another fort across the river and with the James River Fleet of gunboats, the Fort served to control the advance of Union shipping and prevented a Union landing on Magruder's right flank. It played a part in the April-May 1862 Peninsular Campaign in which the Union Army advanced from Fort Monroe up the Peninsula in an attempt to take Richmond. Magruder's line, weak as it was, served to delay General McClellan a month, giving the Confederate Army enough time to assemble a force capable of successfully defending Richmond. No major action occurred on Mulberry Island; the fortifications were abandoned 3 May 1862 when the Confederate forces withdrew to Williamsburg.</p>			

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, E. J., "Mulberry Island and the Civil War, April 1861-May 1862" Quarterly Bulletin. The Archaeological Society of Virginia, Vol 26, No 3, Mar. 72, pp. 109-135.

"Ft. Eustis Historical Society to Preserve Old Ft. Crafford", The Daily Press, Newport News-Hampton, Va., Sunday, Mar. 27, 1966, pp. 6-7.

War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington, D.C.: Gout Printing Office, 1880-1901. VOL II, pp. 788-9, 970-2, 979; VOL III P.503; VOL IV pp.640-1, 644-5, 668-70, 674, 680-1, 702-3; VOL IX pp.34, 38, 40, 49, 51, 68; VOL XI Part I pp.8, 411-5, 633; VOL XI Part III pp.404, 418-9, 422, 430-1, 462; VOL LI, Part II, pp. 185-6, 256, 308, 499-500, 507-10.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	07'	42"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	76°	37'	06"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.5

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:
Mrs. Emma-Jo L. Davis, Curator

ORGANIZATION: U. S. Army Transportation Museum

DATE: 17 July 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Eustis

CITY OR TOWN: Newport News

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., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Title: _____

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

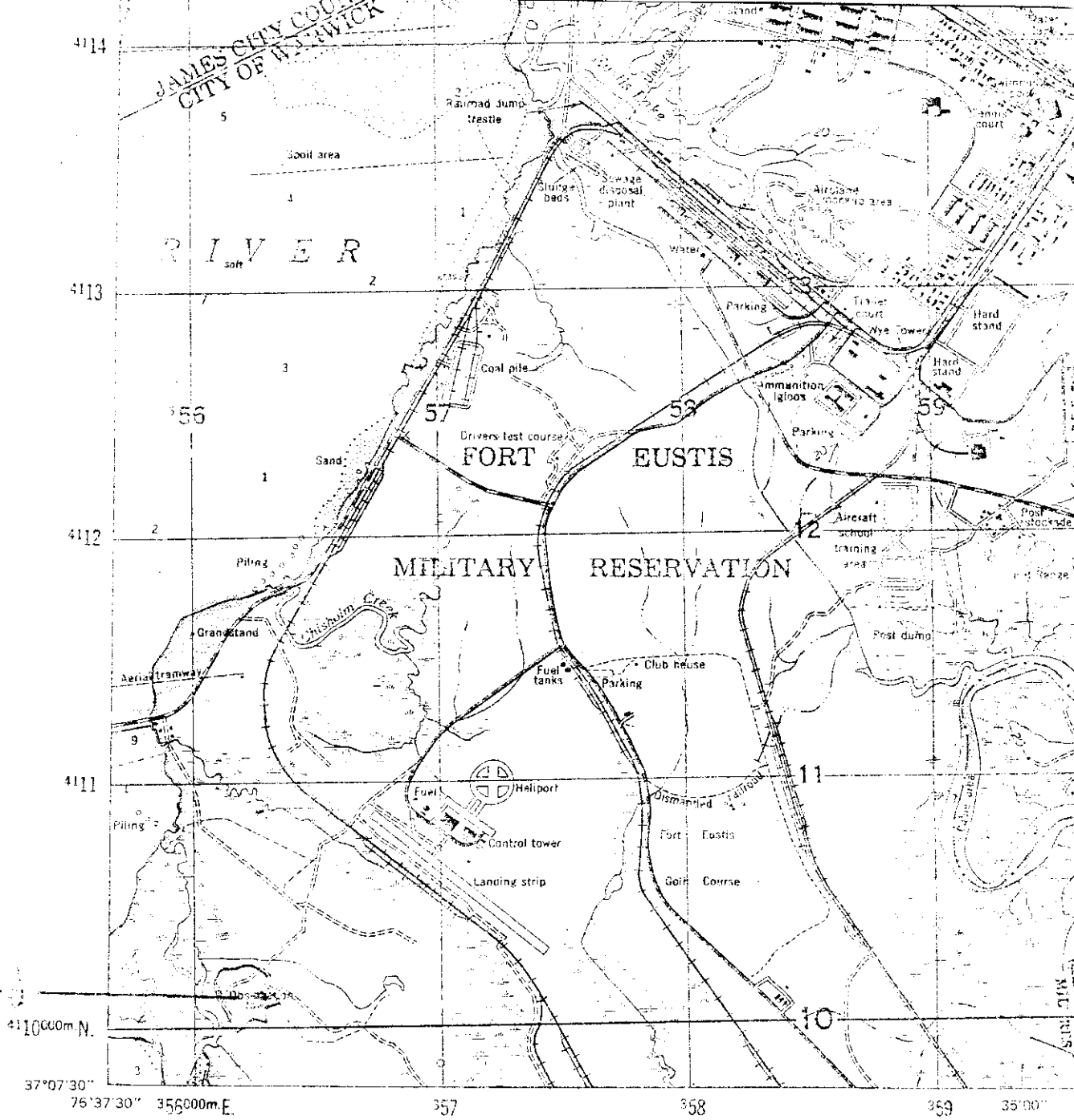
Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



V834
Edition 4-AMS

Prepared by the Army Map Service (LD), Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. Compiled in 1957 from Virginia, 1:25,000, AMS Sheet 5658 II NE, 1950. Planimetric detail revised by photoplanimetric methods. Aerial photography Nov. 1955. Original map compiled by photogrammetric methods by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Coastal hydrography compiled from USC&GS Charts 492, 1957; 529, 1955. Horizontal and vertical control by USC&GS, USGS and Commission of Fisheries of Virginia. This map complies with the national standard map accuracy requirements. Map field checked 1957.

LEGEND
ROAD DATA 1957
In developed areas, only through roads are classified

Hard surface, heavy duty road, four or more lanes wide	<u>4 LANES 6 LANES</u>	Improved light duty road, street	_____
Hard surface, heavy duty road; Two lanes wide; Three lanes wide	<u>12 LANES</u>	Unimproved dirt road; Trail	_____
Hard surface, medium duty road, four or more lanes wide	<u>4 LANES 6 LANES</u>	Route markers: Federal, State	
Hard surface, medium duty road; Two lanes wide; Three lanes wide	<u>12 LANES</u>	Light, lighthouse; Windmill, wind pump; Water mill	
Buildings		Barns, sheds, greenhouses, etc.	
RAILROADS	Single track Multiple track	BOUNDARIES	Marsh or swamp; Dam
Standard gauge	_____	National	_____
Narrow gauge	_____	State (with monument)	_____
In street	_____	County	_____
		Intermittent lake and stream	
		Large rapids; Large falls	_____
		Rapids; Falls; Pier	_____
		Wrecks: Exposed; Sunken	

Handwritten notes:
 4110600m N.
 37° 37' 12"
 76° 37' 06"