

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Charlotte County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Intersection of State routes 40 and 47

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Charlotte Court House

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

VICINITY OF

STATE Virginia

CODE 51

COUNTY Charlotte

CODE 037

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Charlotte County c/o Board of Supervisors

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Charlotte Court House

VICINITY OF

STATE Virginia zip code 23923

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charlotte County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Charlotte Court House

STATE Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

(2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)
Has this property been determined eligible?

Yes No

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington

STATE D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED |

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charlotte County Courthouse is a brick, temple-form structure approximately 45 feet wide and 71 feet deep. It is fronted by a tetrastyle Tuscan portico with whitewashed stuccoed columns. In the pediment is a large lunette with intersecting tracery. The lights in the lunette have been painted out. The portico entablature is carried around the entire building. The pediment is repeated on the rear where it has a large round window with its lights similarly painted out.

The front wall of the courthouse is of even-colored Flemish bond. American bond is employed on the side and rear walls. The bottom courses on all but the front have been cemented over, probably because of rising damp. Each side has five bays; there is a door with a plain transom in the center of each side. A similar doorway serves as the main entrance. Both the side windows and the first-story front windows have early 12/12 sash with plain architraves and sills; the gallery windows on the front have 9/12 sash. All the windows are hung with louvred shutters painted dark green. On the rear wall is a large, three-part window with an entrance on each side. Contained within each entrance opening is a door above which is a panel and a twelve-light fixed-sash hung with shutters. The concrete steps and iron railings are modern.

The interior of the courthouse has undergone alterations but preserves its early character. Indeed, it is one of the few courthouses of the period that retains its original two-story space. The gallery, the pair of gallery steps, railing, and the four columns supporting the gallery all appear to be original. The main alteration was the moving of the wall immediately behind the bench forward to create space for a rear vestibule, jury room, and judge's chambers. The woodwork of the bench and the paneling above it are all 20th-century Colonial Revival. The cornice surrounding the room appears to be Colonial Revival also, but the boarded main ceiling and that beneath the gallery are probably original. The courtroom seating is provided by Victorian wooden benches with high backs. The brick floor is modern. Ornamenting the room are four magnificent Italian colored marble busts (possibly Renaissance) of Roman emperors. The busts were given by the late David K. E. Bruce, the noted diplomat and native of Charlotte County.

Directly behind the courthouse is a handsome two-story, three-bay, brick office building of antebellum origin now used as a law office. Immediately behind that is the late Victorian Clerk's office, made distinctive by its entrance tower with a steep pyramidal roof and arched entrance. The complex is set in an unusually pleasant shady lawn and forms the visual focal point of the tiny settlement of Charlotte Court House.

CCL

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Charlotte County Order Book 23, September 1821, p. 115 .
- Charlotte County Order Book 24, August 1823, p. 52.
- Gaines, William H. Jr. "Courthouses of Bedford and Charlotte Counties." Virginia Calvalcade, Summer 1971.
- Lunenburg County Order Book 24, 1821-23, p. 408.
- Martin, Joseph, ed. A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia, and the District of Columbia, Charlottesville, 1835.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres
 QUADRANGLE NAME Charlotte Court House, Virginia QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>7</u>	<u>710060</u>	<u>4103460</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point in Charlotte Court House, at the intersection of State Routes 40 and 47, approximately 2 mi. SE of Roaches Branch; thence extending 00' NE along S side of State Route 645; thence extending 400' S; thence extending 300' SW to side of said Route 47; thence extending NNW along said side of said route 400' to point of origin.
 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
ORGANIZATION	Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
DATE	February 1980
STREET & NUMBER	221 Governor Street
TELEPHONE	(804) 786-3144
CITY OR TOWN	Richmond
STATE	Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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.

Julian Hill
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE FEB 19 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

Charlotte County Courthouse, Charlotte County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

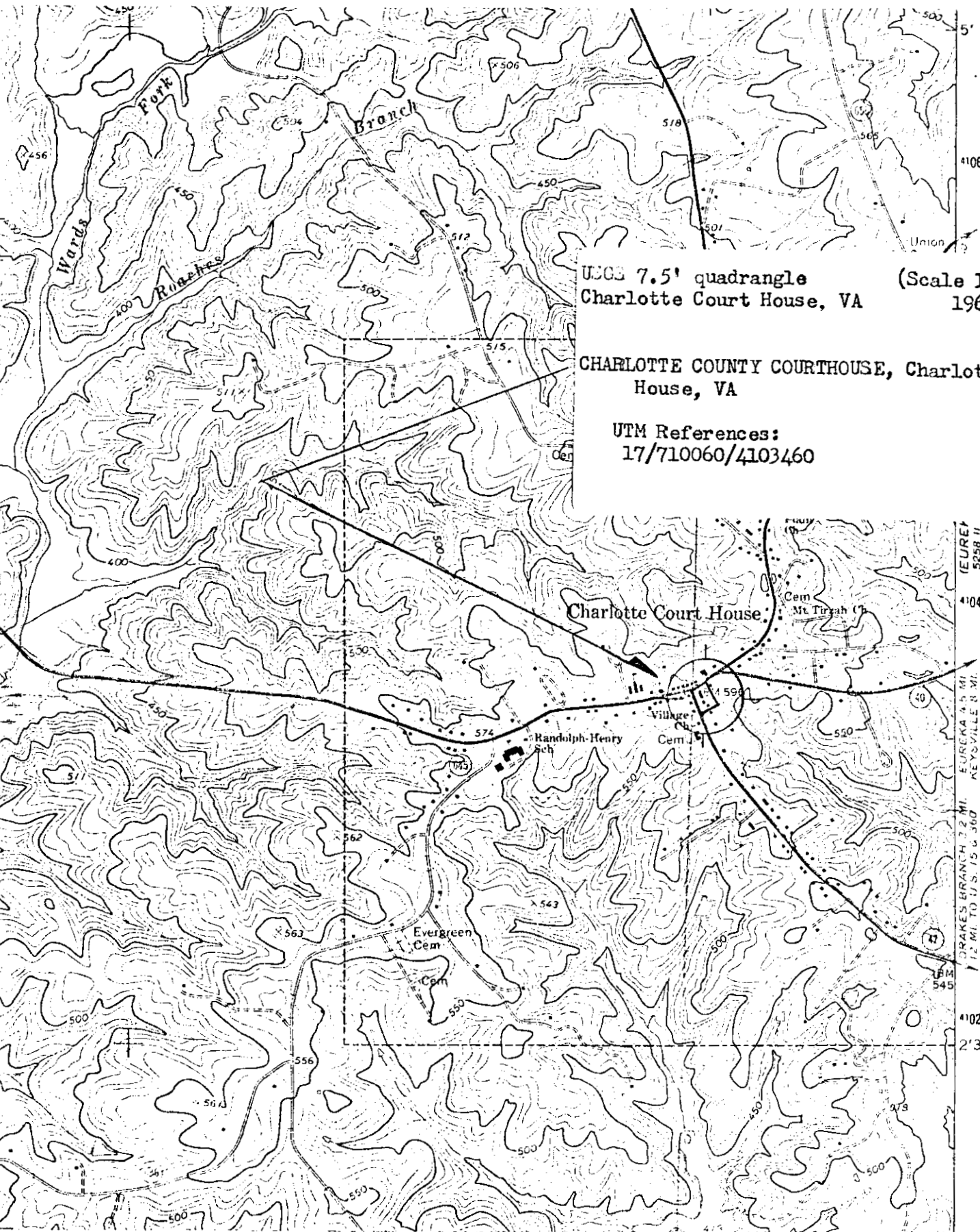
ITEM NUMBER 6, 8 PAGE 1, 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1969, 1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- ¹ Martin's Gazetteer, 1835, p. 150.
² Charlotte County Order Book 23, September 1821, p. 115.
³ Lunenburg County Order Book 24, 1821-23, p. 408.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Charlotte Court House, VA (Scale 1:24,000)
1968

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Charlotte Court
House, VA

UTM References:
17/710060/4103460

EUREKA 4.5 MI
BRACKS BRANCH 7.2 MI
KEYSVILLE 8 MI

2'30''

4102

4104

5258 II