

VLR-4/17/73 NRHP-6/19/73

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: Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Clifton
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1.1 miles NE of intersection of Route 605 and Route 690.			
CITY OR TOWN: Hamilton vicinity		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth; W. C. Daniel	
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Cumberland	CODE: 049

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: <del>Leflam Corporation (Mr. Lewis Levy, President)</del> JULIAN C. METTS	STATE: Virginia
STREET AND NUMBER: <del>927 Lincoln Road</del> 6740 FOREST HILL AVENUE	
CITY OR TOWN: <del>Miami Beach</del> RICHMOND	
STATE: <del>Florida</del> VIRGINIA	CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Cumberland County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Cumberland  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural Character: Clifton is a finely proportioned example of Mid-Georgian plantation architecture.

B. Condition of the fabric: The house is structurally sound, although it is now in need of maintenance and minor repairs.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Over-all dimensions: Clifton is a seven-bay, two-story house with a one-bay, one-story wing on the west end. A series of shed additions, one probably incorporating an early porch, covers the rear elevation.

B. Foundations: Brick laid in English bond.

C. Wall construction: The original portion of the house has early beaded weatherboarding, and the remainder is covered with plain weather-boarding.

D. Porches: On the south front a three-bay, one-story gable roof porch shelters the front door, is supported by elongated Tuscan columns, and has a non-original Chinese lattice balustrade. The shed porch on the west wing is supported by slender Tuscan columns and has turned balusters. Similar columns and balustrade are on the gable roof porch on the east wing.

E. Chimneys: Two interior chimney stacks with corbeled caps rise above the roof ridge.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: Architrave trim surrounds six-panel doors. The south entrance has louvered shutters flanking the door.

2. Windows: The window trim consists of architrave trim, and the windows have protruding molded sills and louvered shutters. The lower wooden double-hung windows have nine-over-nine sash and the upper windows six-over-nine sash.

G. Roof: The low-pitched hip roof is covered by slate and has a modillion cornice.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor Plan: Clifton originally followed the traditional single pile plan. At a later date the large rear porch was enclosed to form a longitudinal stair hall. There are various other additions to the rear.

B. Stairways: An early nineteenth century three-run, open-string stair with molded handrail, rectangular balusters, ornamental brackets and paneled spandrel ascends in the north west corner of the hall. The original stair, removed when this hall and stair were created, may have been located in the east room.

C. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls on the lower floor and some of the rooms on the upper floor in the original part of the building have wooden paneling consisting of large rectangular vertical raised panels above the chair rail and square raised panels below it. Most of the remaining walls and the ceilings are plastered and papered or painted, although simple paneled wainscoting is employed in some of the upper rooms.

D. Doorways and doors: Six-paneled wooden doors are surrounded by architrave trim.

E. Trim: In the original house a molded cornice and a molded chair rail are employed. In the upper stair hall the original exterior modillion

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Cumberland	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

cornice is visible.

F. Hardware: The original H-and-L hinges and iron locks are retained in the original part of the house.

G. Heating: Although fireplaces were originally the only source of heat at Clifton, a modern central heating system has recently been installed. The mantels in the lower rooms of the original part of the house are later additions of the second quarter of the nineteenth century and copied from plates 49, 50 and 51 in the 1830 edition of Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter. These mantels were probably installed by the same carpenter who placed identical mantels in nearby Amthill, also a Harrison home. The upstairs chimney pieces date from the eighteenth century and have shelves supported by a molded cornice and paneled friezes.

IV. Site:

A. General setting and orientations: Clifton is set in the midst of a broad expanse of cultivated fields, pasturelands, and woodlands and faces south. The house is approached by a dirt road winding through the woods and pastures from the south. The family cemetery is north of the house.

B. Outbuildings: Various frame outbuildings covered with white weatherboarding remain near the main house. These include dairy, offices, and various barns, granaries, and stables.

**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 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/Phi-        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy  | <u>Revolutionary 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

Clifton was the home of Carter Henry Harrison, who as a member of the Cumberland Committee of Safety, wrote the Instructions for Independence presented to the Virginia Convention of May, 1776. The Cumberland Instructions were among the first such declarations to be publicly approved. Carter directed the Convention with these words:

"We therefore your constituents instruct you positively to declare for an independency; that you solemnly adjure any allegiance to his Britannic Majesty, and bid him a good night forever." The convention delcared for independence.

Clifton survives as an outstanding example of a mid-eighteenth century plantation house, one of the few in the Upper James region. The stately character of the house's finely proportioned and well-preserved exterior is matched in quality by a suite of fully paneled rooms on the interior.

The Clifton tract was part of a large grant made to Thomas Randolph in 1723. It later was acquired by Robert "King" Carter and willed by him to his grandson, Carter Henry Harrison, for whom the present house was built. Harrison was the son of Ann Carter of Corotoman and Benjamin Harrison of Berkeley. Carter Henry Harrison was a brother of Benjamin Harrison, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and uncle of William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States.

Clifton remained in the Harrison family until after the War Between the States when Reverend Peyton Harrison sold it to James Miller. In 1881 the plantation was sold to Elijah G. Anderson, and it remained in the Anderson family for many years. The property recently was acquired by the Lefam Corporation of Miami Beach, Florida.

GPH

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clifford Dowdey, The Great Plantation: A Profile of Berkeley Hundred and Plantation, Virginia, 1957.  
 Margaret Scott Harrison, "Sketch of the Family of Carter Henry Harrison (1736-1793) of 'Clifton' in Cumberland County, Virginia," Hampton, Va., n.d., privately printed.  
 Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Philadelphia, 1915.  
 Henry R. McIlwaine (ed.), Proceedings of the Cumberland Committee of Safety, Richmond, 1919.  
 Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia, a reprint of the edition of the

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA of the Farnville Herald, March 29, 1935.

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	41	00	78	08	12			
NE	37	41	00	78	07	22			
SE	37	39	48	78	07	22			
SW	37	39	48	78	08	12			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 250 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: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: April, 1973  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

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, 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' quadrangles (scale:1:24,000)  
Lakeside Village; Cartersville, Va. 1969

CLIFTON

latitude  
NW 37° 41' 00"  
NE 37° 41' 00"  
SE 37° 39' 48"  
SW 37° 39' 48"

longitude  
78° 08' 12"  
78° 07' 22"  
78° 07' 22"  
78° 08' 12"

