

VLR-10/6/70 NRHP-12/18/70

36-30

Form 10-363  
(July 1969)

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: Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Little England

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Little England

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
W side of western end of Rt. 672, 1.2 mi. W of intersection with Rt. 642.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Gloucester CODE: 073

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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:  
~~Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Pratt~~ DR. JOHANN RINECKER (Dec. 1978)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Little England

CITY OR TOWN: Hayes STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Gloucester

ENTRY NUMBER:  

DATE:  

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input 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

Little England stands at the end of a narrow point of land bounded on the north by Sara's Creek, and on the south by the York River. The main house is approached from the east by a long axial avenue, part of which has been incorporated into a county road. The house itself is a finely proportioned, two-and-a-half story, single-pile Georgian mansion with two interior end chimneys. Although the house is five bays long, the land front has only three dormers in the gable roof, while the river front has five. At the base of the roof is a modillioned cornice. The academically treated brickwork is of superior quality, featuring Flemish bond throughout with only widely scattered glazed headers. All openings are topped by rubbed and gauged splayed arches. The second floor level is indicated by a rubbed belt course. The two-course water table consists of a cove above a torus molding.

The interior of Little England contains some of the finest colonial paneling in Virginia. The fully paneled drawing room features a chimneypiece consisting of a full Doric entablature supported on fluted Doric pilasters set on the mantel shelf. The rest of the principal rooms are half paneled, but have fully paneled fireplace walls. The center of the house is occupied by a spacious stairhall with a classic Georgian staircase that ascends to the third floor. It is interesting to note that prior to the acquisition of the house by the present owners, the interior had not been painted since the eighteenth century, and the original colors were well preserved. These colors were carefully copied by Colonial Williamsburg Inc., and were used extensively in the Williamsburg restoration. Although the paint has been renewed on the interior of Little England, the original color scheme has been retained.

Little England stood in poor, but little altered condition until 1939 when it was carefully restored by the present owners. The architect of the restoration was Charles Willing of Philadelphia, and the contractors were Claiborne and Taylor of Richmond. At the time of the restoration a one-story frame wing in the center of the land front was moved to the north end of the house and converted into a modern kitchen. It is said that this wing was formerly a free-standing late-seventeenth-century house originally located near the family graveyard. In 1954 the firm of Claiborne and Taylor supervised the addition of a one-and-a-half frame wing to the south end of the house. Although tastefully designed, this wing was carefully screened by planting so that it does not detract from the main part of the house. Since 1939, Little England's setting has been enhanced by handsome landscaping and by the laying out of extensive formal gardens.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. 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 type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <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

The Perrin grant at Sarah's Creek, Gloucester County, was dated April 1651. This four-hundred acre tract was awarded to John Perrin for transporting into the colony, at his own expense, eight persons--including three Negroes. The plantation and family apparently prospered from an early date: by the eighteenth century, Perrins occasionally sat on the County Court or held other prominent offices. In 1747, John Perrin deeded to his son, John, Jr. one "half part of every Sea Vessel which I am now possessed of and 22 negroes".

Unlike many another Tidewater family, the Perrins continued prosperous following the War for Independence. In 1790, John Perrin purchased three hundred acres, adding this land to an estate which had included 1300 acres, 64 Negroes, 33 head of cattle, and nine horses, at the time of the tax enumeration in 1782. The observation of an late-nineteenth-century visitor indicates that the house, at least, continued to fare well:

"In Gloucester county, at the mouth of the York river, opposite Yorktown, the old Perrin Mansion is still standing in good condition. It is the style of architecture so usual in Virginia during the reigns of the Georges, a large brick building two stories high, and four rooms on each floor, wainscoted and panelled. The house is in full view of Yorktown, at the mouth of Sarah's Creek, on the east side of Gloucester Point".

Thomas T. Waterman attributes "Sara's Creek House (now known as "Little England)" to the Virginia-born architect, John Ariss. The house probably dates from the latter-half of the eighteenth century although there is a tradition that it was built earlier.

Little England survives as one of Virginia's least altered and best preserved colonial plantation houses. Its form, brickwork and interior paneling are classic examples of mid-Georgian design and craftsmanship.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Houses: The Mobjack Bay Country, 1955.  
 Mason, Polly Cary (Compiler), Records of Colonial Gloucester County Virginia,  
 2 vols., 1946, 1948.  
 Waterman, Thomas Tileston, The Mansions of Virginia, 1945.  
Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, V (1896):94.

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 °	15 '	30 "	76 °	28 '	52 "			
NE	37 °	15 '	30 "	76 °	28 '	25 "			
SE	37 °	15 '	00 "	76 °	28 '	25 "			
SW	37 °	15 '	00 "	76 °	28 '	52 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **70 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:  
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: August 27, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

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

*Dr. E. P. Alexander*

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date 10-6-70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

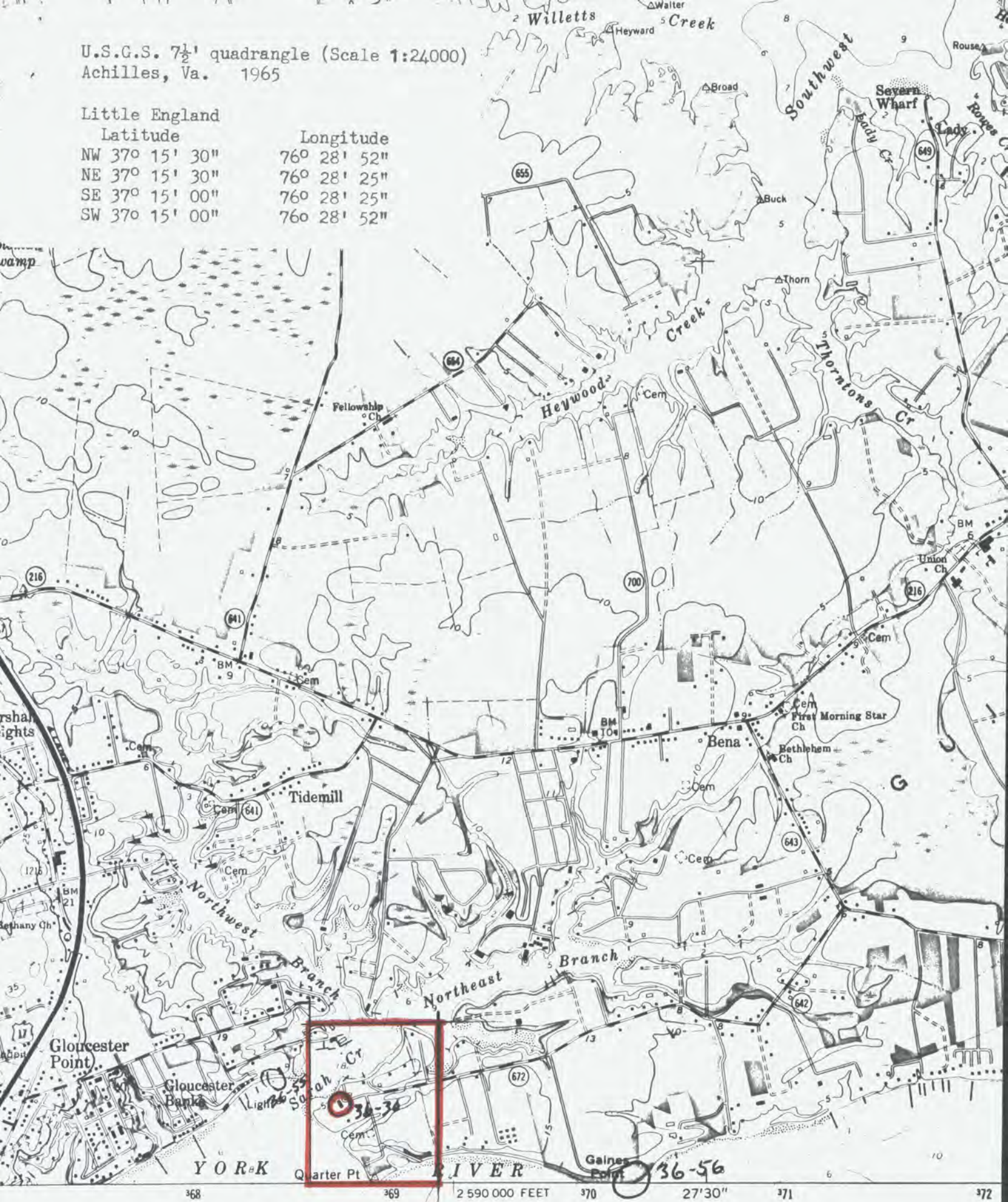
(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1959 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

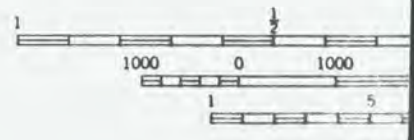
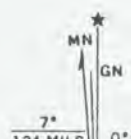
U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)  
 Achilles, Va. 1965

Little England

Latitude	Longitude
NW 37° 15' 30"	76° 28' 52"
NE 37° 15' 30"	76° 28' 25"
SE 37° 15' 00"	76° 28' 25"
SW 37° 15' 00"	76° 28' 52"



Compiled, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Virginia Fisheries Commission  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
 photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965  
 Overseas Army Map Service map dated 1957



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