

VLR/NMHP - 1969

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

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: James City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Carter's Grove

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Carter's Grove

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: .2 mi. W of Grices Run, .7 mi. SW of Rt. 60, .2 mi. SE of intersection of Rt. 60 and Rt. 667.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45      COUNTY: James City      CODE: 095

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
Sealantic Fund, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
c/o Williamsburg Restoration

CITY OR TOWN: Williamsburg      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
James City County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Williamsburg      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 477 acres

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 08

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: James City

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER      DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As originally built, the central structure of Carter's Grove was a massive two-story rectangular building crowned by a forty-five degree hipped roof with splayed eaves. Two nearly square interior chimneys with molded caps pierced the side slopes of the roof. Flanking the house on the east and west were nearly similar one-and-a-half-story free-standing dependencies with gable roofs. Although the dependencies were built some years before the main house, their actual date of construction is uncertain. Both dependencies are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers.

The main house, even as it now stands, exhibits all the classic features of a Virginia Georgian mansion, including molded brick water table, rubbed brick quoins, gauged brick splayed arches, rubbed brick belt course, brick pedimented doorways, and modillion cornice. The finely laid Flemish bond walls exhibit evenly matched bricks with no glazed headers.

Although a long one-story porch was added across the south front, and the kitchen connected to the main house by a one-story passage-way, the house suffered little serious alteration until the remodelling of 1927-28. During the remodelling the ridge of the roof of the main house was raised eleven feet to allow rooms to be inserted in the attic. These new rooms were lit by a series of dormers placed around the raised roof. The two chimneys were correspondingly raised in proportion to the roof. Other changes to the main house included the removal of the original semi-circular stone steps on the north and south fronts and their replacement by rectangular steps. The dependencies were connected to the main house by one-and-a-half-story brick hyphens. The roofs of both dependencies were raised, and the ground floor area was increased by projecting the south walls of both buildings to align with the south front of the main house. The gabled dormers of both dependencies were sacrificed in favor of hipped roof dormers.

The famous woodwork in the interior of the main house was little changed except that all of the first floor paneling was stripped and given a natural finish. Also, the service lobbies in the two north rooms were removed, causing the rooms' present assymetry. The second floor stairhall was altered to allow the stairs to be extended to the rebuilt attic story. The decorative details of the stairway extension were copied exactly from the original stairway.

Carter's Grove stands impressively at the top of a series of broad terraces looking across the low fields towards the James River. Of the original landscaping the row of large tulip trees across the south front, and the avenue lined with cedars approaching the north front remain.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |  |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/>       | Industry <input type="checkbox"/>     | Science <input type="checkbox"/>             | <u>History</u>                                      |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>    | Invention <input type="checkbox"/>    | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>           | _____   |
| Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>    | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____   |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/>             | _____   |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>   | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>      | _____   |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input type="checkbox"/>     |  | _____   |
|   | Music <input type="checkbox"/>        |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

One of the best documented of Virginia's colonial mansions, Carter's Grove was begun ca. 1750 for Carter Burwell, grandson of Robert ("King") Carter of Corotoman and son of Nathaniel Burwell of Fairfield, Gloucester County. According to the plantation's account book of 1751-53, the house was constructed by David Minitree of Williamsburg. The mansion's magnificent woodwork was apparently executed by Richard Bayliss, an English joiner whose passage to Virginia was paid for by Carter Burwell.

After Burwell's death Carter's Grove passed to his son, Carter Burwell II, who sold the plantation about 1790 and moved to Clarke County where he built Carter Hall. Although Carter's Grove passed through the hands of several owners during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the house stood until 1927 as perhaps the most perfectly preserved of Virginia's great plantation houses. However, in 1927-28 the exterior was radically altered and enlarged in an attempt to give the house a more grandiose appearance.

Before its alteration the exterior of Carter's Grove was considered to be a superlative and classically proportioned example of an early-Georgian colonial house. Its interior woodwork, which fortunately has not been seriously altered, is regarded by many authorities as the most beautiful of the colonial period in America. While much of the architectural quality of Carter's Grove has been lost as a result of the 1927-28 changes, the house yet remains as one of the supreme examples of colonial craftsmanship.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Waterman, Thomas Tileston, The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776, New York: Bonanza Books, 1945.  
 Waterman, Thomas Tileston and John A. Barrows, Domestic Colonial Architecture of Tidewater Virginia, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932.  
 Coffin, Jr., Lewis A., and Arthur C. Holden, Brick Architecture of the Colonial Period in Maryland and Virginia, New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1919.  
 Lancaster, Robert A., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1915.

**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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 13' 03"	76° 38' 06"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 13' 03"	76° 36' 55"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	37° 11' 55"	76° 36' 55"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	37° 11' 55"	76° 38' 06"		° ' "	° ' "	

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: July 28, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF VIRGINIA

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

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

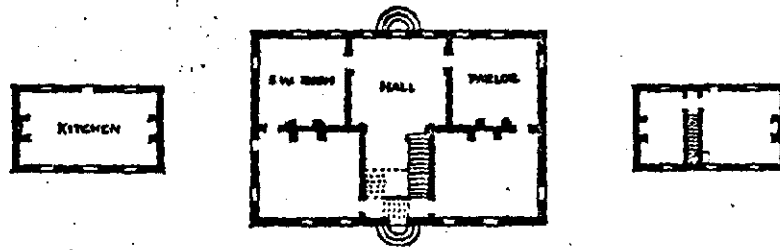
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

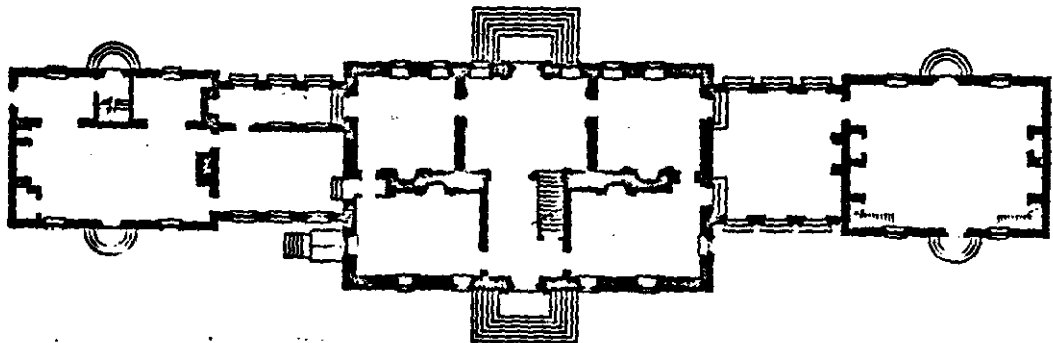
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY James City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

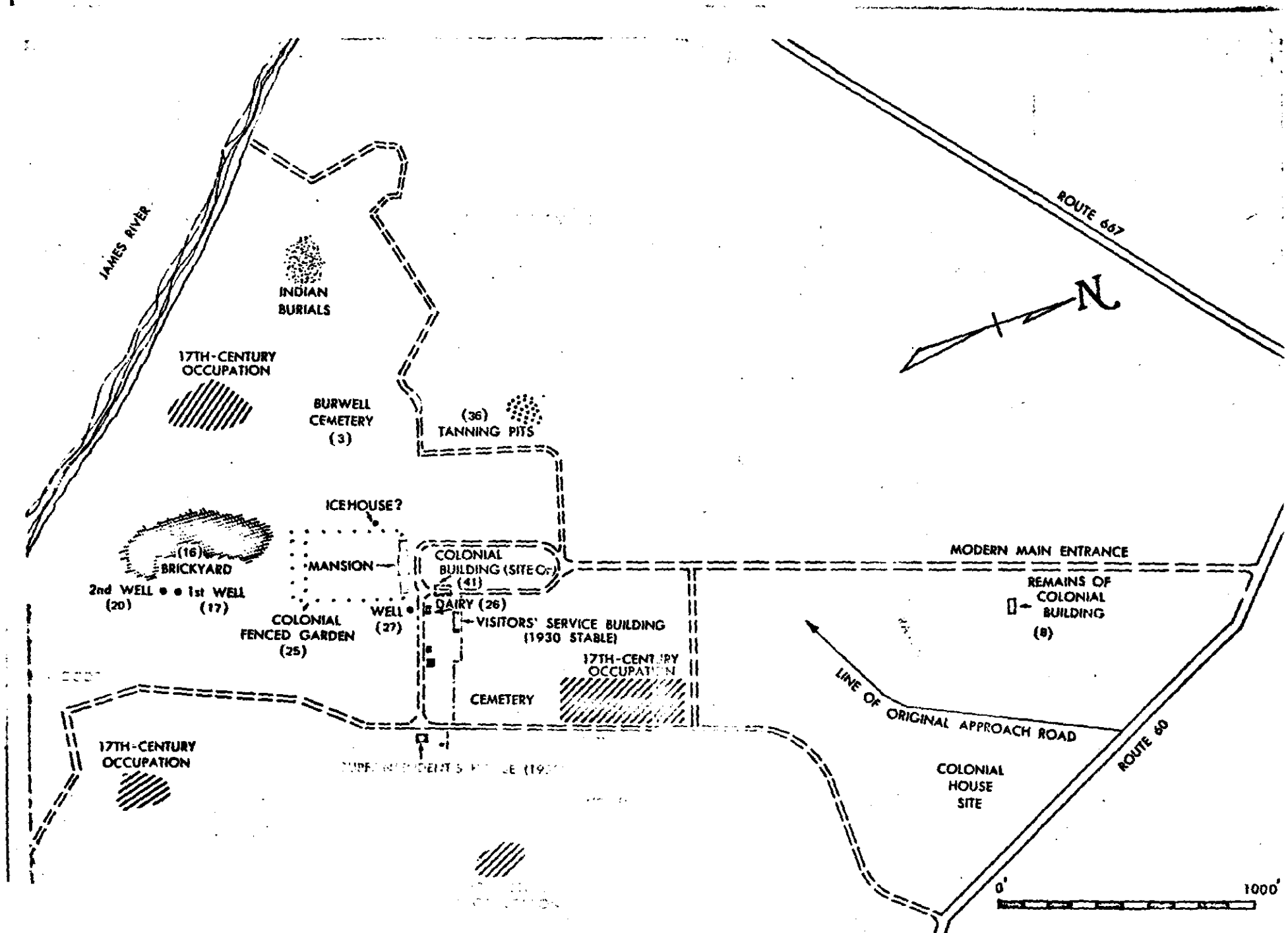
(Number all entries)



Original first floor plan of Carter's Grove.



first floor Plan After 1928



JAMES RIVER

ROUTE 667

INDIAN  
BURIALS

17TH-CENTURY  
OCCUPATION

BURWELL  
CEMETERY  
(3)

(36)  
TANNING PITS

ICEHOUSE?

(16)  
BRICKYARD

2nd WELL • 1st WELL  
(20) (17)

MANSION

COLONIAL  
FENCED GARDEN  
(25)

WELL (27)

COLONIAL  
BUILDING (SITE OF)  
(41)

DAIRY (26)

VISITORS' SERVICE BUILDING  
(1930 STABLE)

17TH-CENTURY  
OCCUPATION

CEMETERY

MODERN MAIN ENTRANCE

REMAINS OF  
COLONIAL  
BUILDING  
(8)

LINE OF ORIGINAL APPROACH ROAD

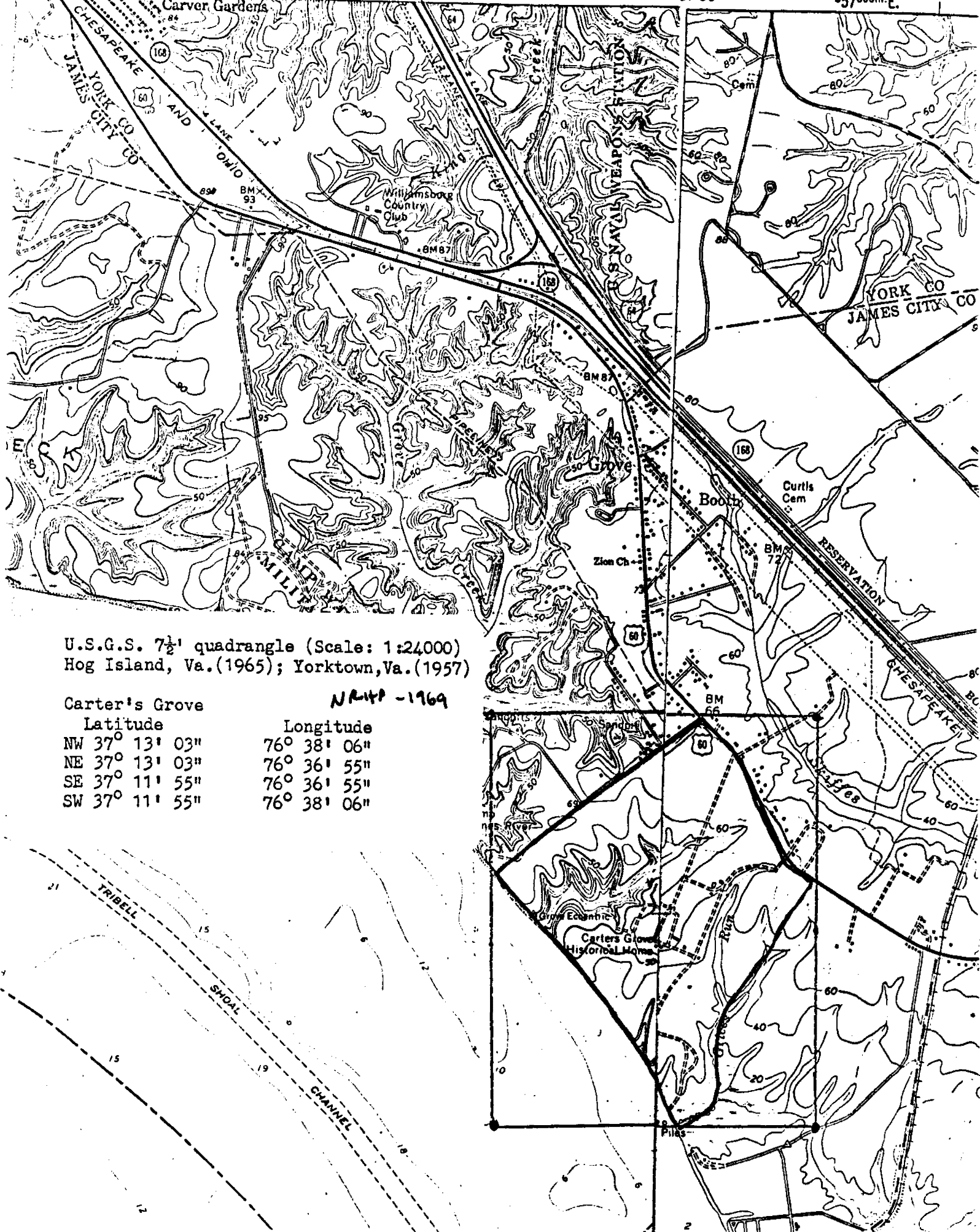
17TH-CENTURY  
OCCUPATION

SUPERVISOR'S HOUSE (1921)

COLONIAL  
HOUSE  
SITE

ROUTE 60





U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)  
Hog Island, Va.(1965); Yorktown, Va.(1957)

Carter's Grove

NR 44 - 1969

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 13' 03"	76° 38' 06"
NE	37° 13' 03"	76° 36' 55"
SE	37° 11' 55"	76° 36' 55"
SW	37° 11' 55"	76° 38' 06"