

VLR Listed: 7/17/1973  
 NRHP Listed: 10/3/1973

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: Stafford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 3 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
 Carlton

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 501 Melchers Drive

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Falmouth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
 Seventh; J. Kenneth Robinson

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Stafford CODE: 179

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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:  
 Dr. E. Boyd Graves

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Carlton 501 Melchers Drive

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Falmouth

STATE:  
 Virginia

CODE:  
 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
 Stafford County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Stafford

STATE:  
 Virginia

CODE:  
 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Washington

STATE:  
 D. C.

CODE:  
 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Stafford

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 3 1973

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Carlton is situated in a commanding position on a steep hill overlooking the towns of Falmouth and Fredericksburg. The main body of the frame, two-story Georgian-style house measures approximately 48'X 26' with a narrow shed addition on the north end. Covering the house is a hipped roof with three old-fashioned lightning rods along the ridge. Around the eaves is a simple cornice. At either end of the house is an interior-end brick chimney. The south chimney is laid in three-course American bond and is an early nineteenth-century replacement of the original. The chimney projects two feet into the interior and forms a chimney breast where the wall was formerly unbroken. The north chimney is laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers. The base is obscured by the shed addition; and the cap is a replacement, set off center.

The house was built with identical five-bay facades with the outer bays grouped as pairs and the center bays isolated. Most of the nine-over-nine first-floor sash and nine-over-six second-floor windows retain the original surrounds, glazing bars and early glass. All the windows are hung with dark green louvred shutters. The west entrance has an eight-light transom and a pair of two-panel doors hung on large H-and-L hinges. Surrounding the west doorway is a pedimented frontispiece with fluted pilasters, probably a later addition. Sheltering the doorway is a somewhat crude circa 1900 porch with exposed rafter ends and fluted columns. The east doorway has a transom similar to that on the west, but no frontispiece and no porch. Both entrances are approached by plain steps of local stone.

Carlton's foundation is whitewashed random rubble stone. The original basement windows with vertical grilles and horizontal iron bars survive. Also intact is much of the early beaded siding and rose-headed nails. The siding on the first floor of the south end is patched and indicates the removal of narrow windows on either side of the chimney.

Carlton's first floor plan consists of a central hall, a large parlor on the south, and two rooms on the north. The hall is divided in the center by a temporary partition which forms a sitting room in the east end. An interesting open-string stair with scrolled brackets, molded handrail, and thin bulbous balusters ascends on the east wall of the hall. A curious vertical scroll supported on a tapered column newell terminates the handrail. The stair has a paneled spandrel with applied panel molds. Surrounding the hall is a dentil cornice.

The parlor features a dentil cornice, chair rail, plain wainscoting, and baseboard. The simple federal mantel and projecting chimney breast date from the rebuilding of the chimney. The dining room in the northeast corner of the house features a corner fireplace with a mantel that has a deep panel separating the fireplace opening from the molded cornice shelf. Surrounding the dining room is a cornice with Wall-of-Troy fret, plain wainscoting, and baseboard. Most of the north wall is taken up by a fine four-section built-in press. Separating each section in the press's upper part are fluted pilasters. The glass panes in the two outer sections have recently been replaced with raised wooden panels. Each of the doors in the lower part has a single raised panel.

The first floor northwest room is now used as a kitchen. Ascending in the southeast corner of the room is a secondary stair. The stair is enclosed except for the bottom four steps. These steps are treated with a simple molded handrail, turned balusters and chamfered newell. Only one baluster per step remains, however. The shed addition on the north wall originally

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Virginia	
COUNTY	Stafford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		OCT 3 1973

(Number all entries)

7.

functioned as a service pantry but is now used as an informal sitting room. The trim on the second floor is similar to that on the first but more plain.

Carlton preserves three of its original outbuildings located in a complex just to the north of the house. The 16'X 32' frame kitchen has lost its chimney stack, but the large double-hearth stone center fireplace is intact. The kitchen's west section has been converted into a garage. To the east of the kitchen is a frame dairy with a steep gable roof. The dairy is in need of repair but preserves its early siding and batten door with strap hinges. To the west is a brick meathouse also with a gable roof. The original stable burned several years ago.

The house is approached from the west along a lane leading up from U.S. 17. The grounds on the west side are informally planted with shade trees and shrubbery. On the east side is a steeply terraced lawn, bordered at the bottom by thick undergrowth. Immediately to the north and south are steep wooded slopes. Both house and grounds are maintained in good condition. There is a family cemetery on the property.



CCL



**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)

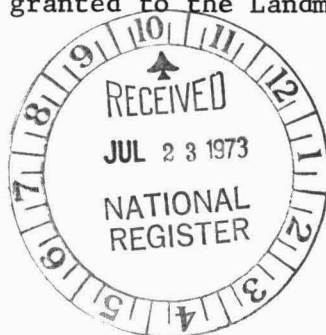
- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Carlton occupies a prominent position overlooking the once prosperous seaport of Falmouth. The imposing Georgian house is one of several that crown the wooded hills around Falmouth and adjacent Fredericksburg, providing a scenic setting for these historic communities. Architecturally important for its excellent proportions and little-altered state, the house, in addition, preserves two distinctive interior features: a fine four-section built-in cupboard and a curious vertical scroll terminating the main stair handrail. Three of the estate's original outbuildings survive.

The house was erected in the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century for John Short (1763-1794), third and youngest child of John Short and Theodosia Mathews of Belmont, Stafford County. Because of the loss of Stafford County records the exact construction date has not been determined, but the house is believed to have been built not long after Short's marriage around 1785 to Judith Ball of Cobham Hall, Lancaster County. Short had acquired the Carlton property from William Richards and Ann, his wife, of Stafford County. A prosperous Falmouth merchant as well as landowner, Short made at least one business trip to London. A well-founded family tradition relates that while there he purchased fine furniture for his new house. Upon Short's death at the young age of thirty, Carlton was inherited by his widow. His other holdings in Falmouth and Stafford, King George, and Frederick Counties were divided among his daughters. Judith Short left Carlton to her daughter Elizabeth, wife of the Reverend Cumberland George of Bell Park, Culpeper County. In 1837, Mr. and Mrs. George sold the property to John M. O'Bannon. Carlton remained in the O'Bannon family until 1941 when it was acquired by the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. E. Boyd Graves. The fifteen acres surrounding Carleton at the house itself are now protected by an open-space easement granted to the Landmarks Commission by the Graves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



CCL

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Mutual Assurance Society Policies: Vol. 3, No. 119, 1796; Vol. 67, no. 1059, 1811; Vol. 86, no. 6052, 1829.

Tylers Quarterly and Geneological Magazine, Vol. 32, no. 3 of January 1951.

NW 18/283830  
4244780  
CD  
0814424/2007/4244780  
SW 18/283830/4244480

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	38° 19' 38"	77° 28' 22"	0		
NE	38° 19' 38"	77° 28' 07"			
SE	38° 19' 27"	77° 28' 07"			
SW	38° 19' 27"	77° 28' 22"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **15 acres.**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff**

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**      DATE: **July, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Room 1116 Ninth Street State 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

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.  
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: **JUL 17 1973**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert M. Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/3/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

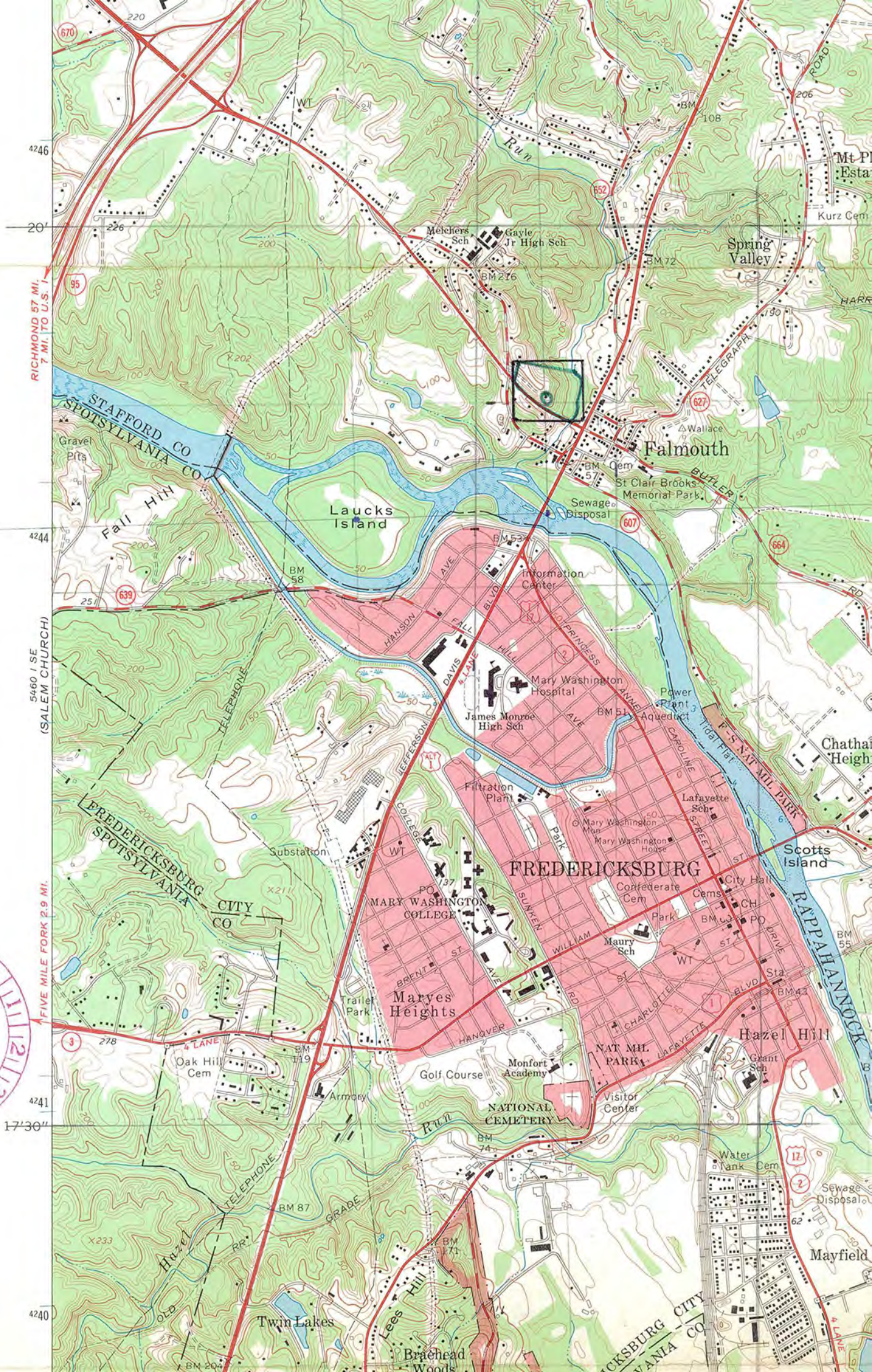
Date: 9/20/73



Carlton

Lat  
38° 19' 38"  
38° 19' 38"  
38° 19' 27"  
38° 19' 27"

Long  
77° 28' 22"  
77° 28' 07"  
77° 28' 07"  
77° 28' 22"



RICHMOND 57 MI. 7 MI. TO U.S. 1  
5460 (SE SALEM CHURCH)  
FIVE MILE FORK 2.9 MI.