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Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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 Bryan Manor Plantation
AND/OR COMMON Bryan Site (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER [REDACTED] NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Williamsburg CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st Paul S. Trible, Jr.
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY York CODE 199

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME See continuation sheet 1
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN _____ VICINITY OF _____ STATE _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. York County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Yorktown, STATE Virginia 23490

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Research Center for Archaeology's archaeological site survey file

DATE January 2, 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Research Center for Archaeology

CITY, TOWN Wren Kitchen, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, STATE Virginia 23186

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

[REDACTED] Williamsburg on a wooded ridge [REDACTED] the remains of a mid-eighteenth century plantation complex known as the Bryan site. Identified on the Desandrouin map of 1781 are five buildings on this particular ridge with the name Bryan adjacent to them.

Recent disturbances (an irregular 4' x 20' x 4' deep hole) at the site have revealed a foundation of "bog iron" mortared together, extending to a depth of 4' below modern grade. The exposed foundation is 24" in width and extends at least 24' northward from its southwest corner. The exposed section through the basement is filled with brick rubble. A section of stone steps four feet in width, with molded nosing, was found adjacent to the disturbed area. (Photo #1).

Two graveyards exist to the east on this same ridge. A solitary tabletop tombstone on brick piers, with molded stone end-pieces, was located 30 yards east of a nineteenth century burial area. This gravestone is the only above-ground surviving link to the Bryan complex listed on the Desandrouin map. It bears the following inscription:

Here lyes the body of
John Bryan son of
Fredrick Bryan and
Barbra his wife-who
Departed this life the 28th
June 1760 Aged one year
Two months and Eight Dayes (Photo #2)

The second burial area dates from the nineteenth century, bearing the names of various members of the Lee family. Only one of these tombstones survives intact, the rest having been smashed to pieces by vandals.

Some disturbance has occurred on the site to date. National Register placement may aid in the conservation of this site which is presently for sale and may soon experience the encroachment of urban sprawl evidenced in this and other areas surrounding Williamsburg.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bryan site, an eighteenth-century domestic complex located just beyond the city of Williamsburg, was the home of the York County Sheriff Frederick Bryan and his wife, Barbara. It is archaeologically significant because the site was the plantation home of one of Williamsburg's leading citizens. Because the site lies in York County, where court records are nearly complete, this site provides the opportunity of comparing a highly detailed household inventory with artifactual findings. The Bryan site is also significant architecturally because of its unique foundation which is constructed of bog iron bonded together with shell mortar.

Although he had acquired some landholdings from his father, Bryan made his home on land purchased in 1757 from John Ferguson of York County and Lewis Hansford, a Norfolk merchant. This tract totalled approximately 500 acres and was situated on the north side of the main road from Williamsburg to Yorktown.

Sometime prior to 1758, according to Bruton Parish Church records, Frederick and Barbara Bryan had their first child, John. The inscription on a tombstone at the Bryan site states that the child lived only fourteen months. A second son, Frederick, Jr., was born in 1759, to be followed by the 1765 birth of a daughter, Frances. The Bryans later had a third son, whom they also named John.

After January 1759 the Bryan household included Martha Bryan, the widow of Frederick's uncle, John, to whom Frederick offered "a good convenient Room for her own private use" in his own home as well as "good wholesome and sufficient meat, Drink, washing and lodging suitable for her and... to keep and use any one of the female slaves she shall choose"¹ in exchange for deeding to him the 162 acres of land of which she would retain ownership during her lifetime. Apparently Frederick predeceased his aunt, for her landholdings were not listed as part of his estate at the time of his death.

Frederick Bryan was an active member of Bruton Parish Church. Parish records show that he served as a Vestryman from 1761. He was on the Vestry with John Blair, Benjamin Waller, George Wythe, and Lewis Burwell in 1769 when they ordered a new steeple to be built on the Church. As a conscientious Episcopalian, Frederick Bryan had many of his slaves baptized at Bruton Parish, a practice which continued after his death when additional slaves belonging to his estate were baptized.

On April 21, 1760, Frederick Bryan was appointed surveyor of the highway from "the Old Church to the City of Williamsburg."² On August 17, 1761, he took the oath of office as Deputy Sheriff of York County. Bryan was to serve in this capacity until his death ten years later.

(see continuation sheet #2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Historical Sketch of Bruton Church, W.A.R. Goodwin, Franklin Press (Petersburg 1903).
Name Index, Colonial Williamsburg Card File, Research Department.
- The Record of Bruton Parish Church, W.A.R. Goodwin, Dietz Press (Richmond 1941).
- The Virginia Gazette, SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 4

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

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

Ms. Martha McCartney and David Hazzard May 26, 1977

ORGANIZATION DATE

Virginia Research Center for Archaeology 253-4836

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

Wren Kitchen, College of William and Mary

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Williamsburg, Virginia 23186

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-666), 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER *[Signature]*

TITLE DATE JUN 21 1977

Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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4. Owner of Property

Mr. and Mrs. James I. Jackson
456 Queen's Creek Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Mr. Floyd Lee, Sr.
458 Queen's Creek Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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1

Although it appears that the 500-acre working plantation acquired from his father would have provided a measure of affluence, it was during his years of service as Deputy Sheriff that Frederick Bryan accumulated considerable wealth. He earned handsome commissions by serving as executor in the settling of estates and by officiating at public sales. That this was a frequent source of income is evidenced by numerous Virginia Gazette advertisements bearing his name and court records of his receipts. The revenue derived from performing his appointed duties as Sheriff also included interest on notes he held from such prominent Virginians as Mann Page and Lewis Burwell.

Historical records indicate that Frederick Bryan received considerable income from his plantations through the sale of tobacco, pork, veal, fodder, corn, and shells. He received income from rental of both skilled slaves and property.

The obituary of Frederick Bryan in the Virginia Gazette dated January 25, 1771 describes him aptly. "This morning died, at his House near this city, Mr. Frederick Bryan, for many years Deputy Sheriff of York County, an office which he discharged to universal satisfaction and by which, joined to his own good conduct, he acquired a handsome Fortune, with the fairest Character."³

According to a 1774 Virginia Gazette ad, at the time of his death Frederick Bryan owned well over 1000 acres of York County land. He also owned two lots on Waller Street in Williamsburg.

Frederick Bryan's will, probated March 18, 1771, left the manor plantation and the land he had inherited from his father to his oldest surviving son, Frederick, Jr. To his youngest son, John, he bequeathed acreage lying north of Queen's Creek. He stipulated that his "dearly beloved wife is to be provided with income from the entire estate" until his sons reached majority. Debts against the Bryan estate show that all three Bryan children were receiving an education at the time of their father's death. Frederick Bryan's will requested that his friends Benjamin Waller and Lewis Burwell advise his widow on the further education of Frederick, Jr., who was apprenticed to Dr. John M. Galt in 1779.

In fulfilling the terms of Frederick Bryan's will, some household furnishings and equestrian equipment belonging to his estate were offered for sale in the May 16, 1771 Virginia Gazette. Less than a month later the widow Bryan filed a claim with the York Court stating that she would not accept the provisions made for her under her husband's will but instead would elect to take her dower rights. Five months later, pursuant to a court order, the estate of Frederick Bryan was divided, with Barbara's share including a large portion of the manor plantation's land and slaves. Virginia Gazette advertisements in 1774 and 1775 indicate that the remainder of Bryan's landholdings were offered for rent to the benefit of the heirs.

(see continuation sheet #3)

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2

Subsequent to the 1771 property division and the later death of Barbara Bryan, the manor plantation in its entirety passed into the hands of Frederick Bryan Jr., who apparently owned it until the time of his death in 1783.

MWM

1. York County Deed Book 6 pg. 179.
2. York County Judgements and Orders, Vol. 3, pg. 121
3. Purdie and Dixon's Virginia Gazette, January 24, 1771, pg.3.
4. York County Judgements and Orders, Book 22, pg. 14

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<u>York County Deed Books</u>		
<u>York County Will Books</u>		