

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Virginia

COUNTY:

Williamsburg (ind. city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Williamsburg Historic District

VLR Listed: 9/9/1969

NRHP Listed: 10/15/1966

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Williamsburg Historic District

NHL Listed: 10/9/1960

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Williamsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

First (1st)

STATE

Virginia 23185

CODE

51

COUNTY:

Williamsburg (ind. city)

CODE

830

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Site ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☒ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☒ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

Godwin Building, Box C

CITY OR TOWN:

Williamsburg

STATE:

Virginia 23185

CODE

51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Williamsburg

STATE

Virginia 23185

CODE

51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress/Annex

STREET AND NUMBER:

Prints and Photographs Division

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D.C.

CODE

11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Williamsburg Historic District is one of the most ambitious restoration projects in the country. It was begun in 1927 under the auspices of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; to date, some 600 buildings have been razed or removed, approximately 100 restored, and about 350 reconstructed on their original sites. Noteworthy restorations include: the Public Magazine (1714), the Ludwell-Paradise House (1717), the Old Courthouse (1770), Bruton Parish Church (1710-15), and the George Wythe House (1755). Old College Yard, standing at the western end of the main thoroughfare, Gloucester Street, has also been restored--the so-called "Wren Building" (1695-1702), Brafferton Hall (1723), and the President's House (1770). Old College Yard is a separate landmark, yet is integral to Williamsburg, balancing as it does the Colonial Capitol Building (1701-05) at the other end of Gloucester Street. Some ambitious reconstructions other than the Capitol include Raleigh Tavern (c. 1742) and the Governor's Palace (1706-20). The design for most of these buildings is rigidly geometric in the early Georgian style. Mention should also be made of the Reception Center, located outside the restored area. It is the center of the interpretive program for Colonial Williamsburg.

The district is open all year round; admission is currently five dollars for each adult.

Recently, there has been criticism of the authenticity of the work done at Williamsburg. Generally, though, the district continues to be considered an outstanding example of scholarly, historic restoration. A less factual, but nonetheless important criticism might be that Williamsburg looks brand-new. It is simply impossible to believe anyone actually lived in these spanking-bright-red-brick geometrical monuments. With a few exceptions, no one ever has.

Boundaries

The boundaries are those of the 1966 Historic Area, as drawn on "Map of Williamsburg, Virginia," by Williamsburg Restoration, Inc., Architecture Department (copy enclosed). The original city lines of 1699 (Bland Survey) were not used because, although they include two original buildings which the 1966 Historic area does not, they also would include the shopping district, the Matthew-Whaley School, the Motor Lodge, and many other modern buildings within the historic district. In addition, there are five more historic buildings outside any recognized boundary, historic or contemporary. Thus, use of the 1699 boundary would bring a great deal of nonhistoric construction into the landmark site without solving the problem of historic buildings outside the district.

It should be noted that Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., is still in the process of acquiring more property, so that this problem may be alleviated in the future.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

1699-1779

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☒ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Williamsburg was the 18th century capital of colonial Virginia. In 1927 systematic restoration was begun under the auspices of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Some 100 original buildings were restored and about 350 more have been reconstructed. In the eighteenth century, Williamsburg was one of America's finest cultural centers, and a vital ideological training ground for some of the greatest leaders of the American Revolution. Today, it is a standard of conscientious historical research and restoration.

History

Williamsburg began as a palisaded barrier called Middle Plantation in 1633. In 1699 it became the capital of Virginia, and was renamed in honor of William III, then king of England. For eighty years it was a political and cultural center of American life. It proved an excellent ideological training ground for men who would later take leading roles in the establishment of an independent American nation: George Washington, Patrick Henry, George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and George Mason all either studied, taught, or served in office at Williamsburg.

The House of Burgesses, in the Capitol Building at Williamsburg, was the scene of Patrick Henry's famous "Caesar-Brutus" speech: "Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third... George the Third," he shouted, as cries of 'treason!' filled the room, "should profit by their example. If this be treason gentlemen, make the most of it." Henry's angry Stamp Act Resolutions were offered here as well.

George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights in Williamsburg, and on May 15, 1776, its Resolution for Independence. This document led directly to a similar declaration by the Continental Congress on July 4.

The Virginia Constitution of 1776 was drawn up in Williamsburg following Virginia's Declaration of Independence with the other colonies in July. This constitution served as a model for many other new states. Thomas Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom was introduced in Williamsburg;

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period (New York 1952)
 Whiffen, Marcus, The Public Buildings of Williamsburg, Colonial Capital of Virginia (Williamsburg 1958)
 Williamsburg Holding Corporation, The Williamsburg Restoration--A Brief Review of the Plan, Purpose, and Policy of the Williamsburg Restoration (Williamsburg 1931)
 "The Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia," Architectural Record Dec. 1935 (N.Y. 1935)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	UTM			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
				Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	18.348950.4126700	D							
NE	18.350220.4126260	F							
SE	18.350210.4125920	L							
SW	18.348540.4125520	C							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **173 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:
Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service** DATE: **2/15/75**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **11**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
 LANDMARKS)

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 _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
 LANDMARKS)

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **4/29/77**

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date **5-3-77**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Williamsburg Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

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BOUNDARIES: Following boundaries have been established for "Historic Colonial Area" per Section 26-45, Article XI, Williamsburg City Code, July 1, 1966:

Beginning at a point on the north side of Duke of Gloucester Street two hundred feet east of the east line of North Henry Street said point also being ten feet west of the John Blair House; thence northerly to the south side of Prince George Street; thence easterly to a point approximately sixty feet west of west line of Nassau Street; thence in a northerly direction across Prince George Street; thence continuing along the west side of the Goodwin property approximately one hundred and sixty feet; thence easterly to the east side of Nassau Street; thence in a northerly direction along the east side of Nassau Street to the north side of Scotland Street; thence easterly one hundred and twenty feet to the west property line of the Governor's Palace site; thence in a northerly direction to south side of Lafayette Street; thence easterly along south side of Lafayette Street to the west property line of the Colonial Williamsburg warehouse area; thence in a southeasterly direction to the south line of Franklin Street; thence east along south line of Franklin Street and the south line of Franklin Street extended to east side of Lafayette Street; thence along the east side of Lafayette Street to the south side of York Street; thence in a southerly direction four hundred feet to a point; thence in a westerly direction approximately six hundred feet to a point two hundred feet south of Francis Street; thence along a line two hundred feet south of and paralleling the south side of Francis Street to the west side of England Street; thence southerly along the west side of England Street seventy feet to a point; thence westerly to a point on the west property line of Colonial Historical Parkway, said point being one hundred and sixty feet south of Francis Street; thence southerly along the west property line of the Colonial Historical Parkway two hundred and seventy feet to a point; thence westerly along a line which is the extension of the south side of Ireland Street to the east side of South Henry Street; thence northerly along the east side of South Henry Street to a point one hundred and ninety feet from Duke of Gloucester Street; thence easterly two hundred feet to a point; thence northerly crossing Duke of Gloucester Street to the point of beginning."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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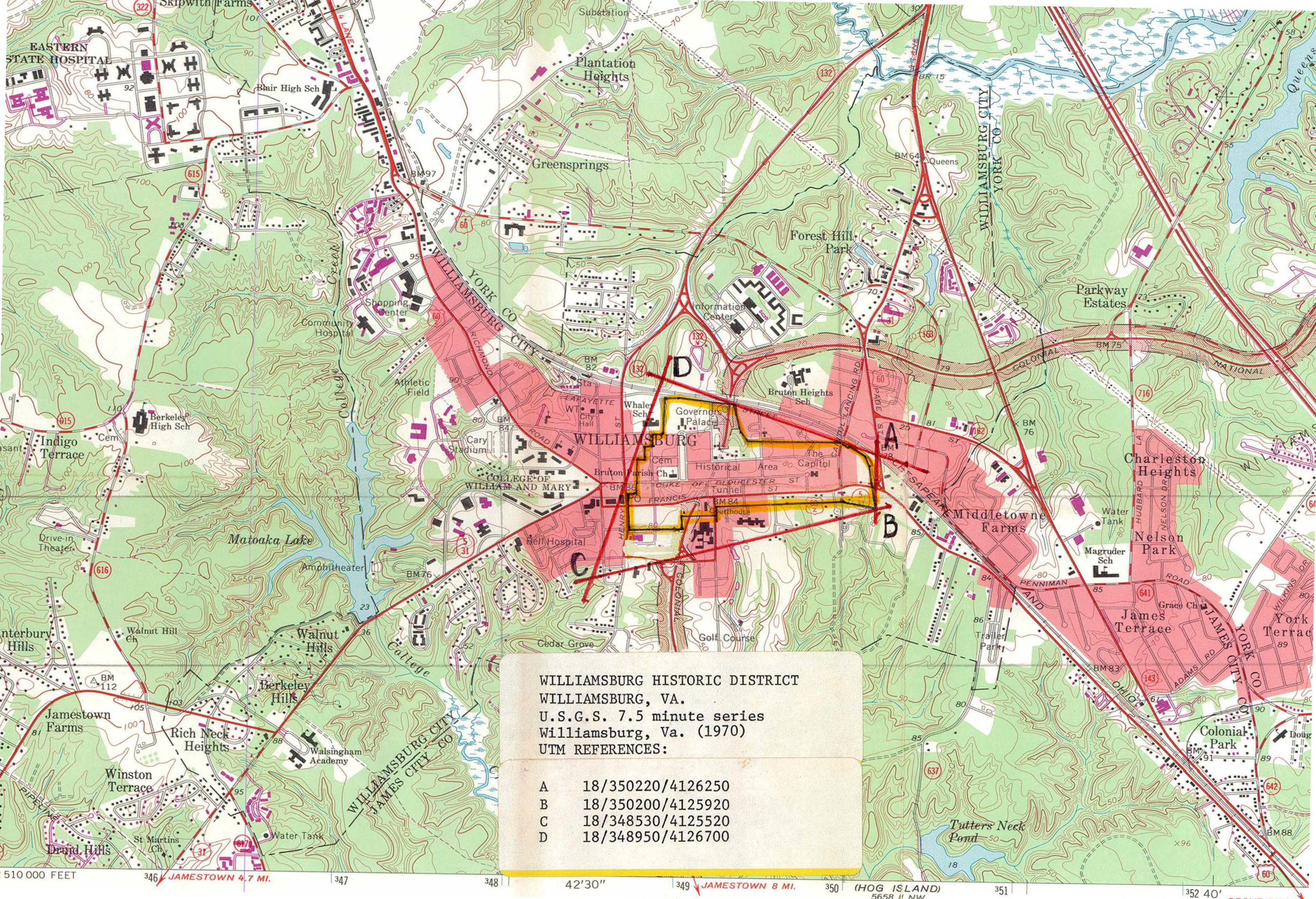
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Williamsburg Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

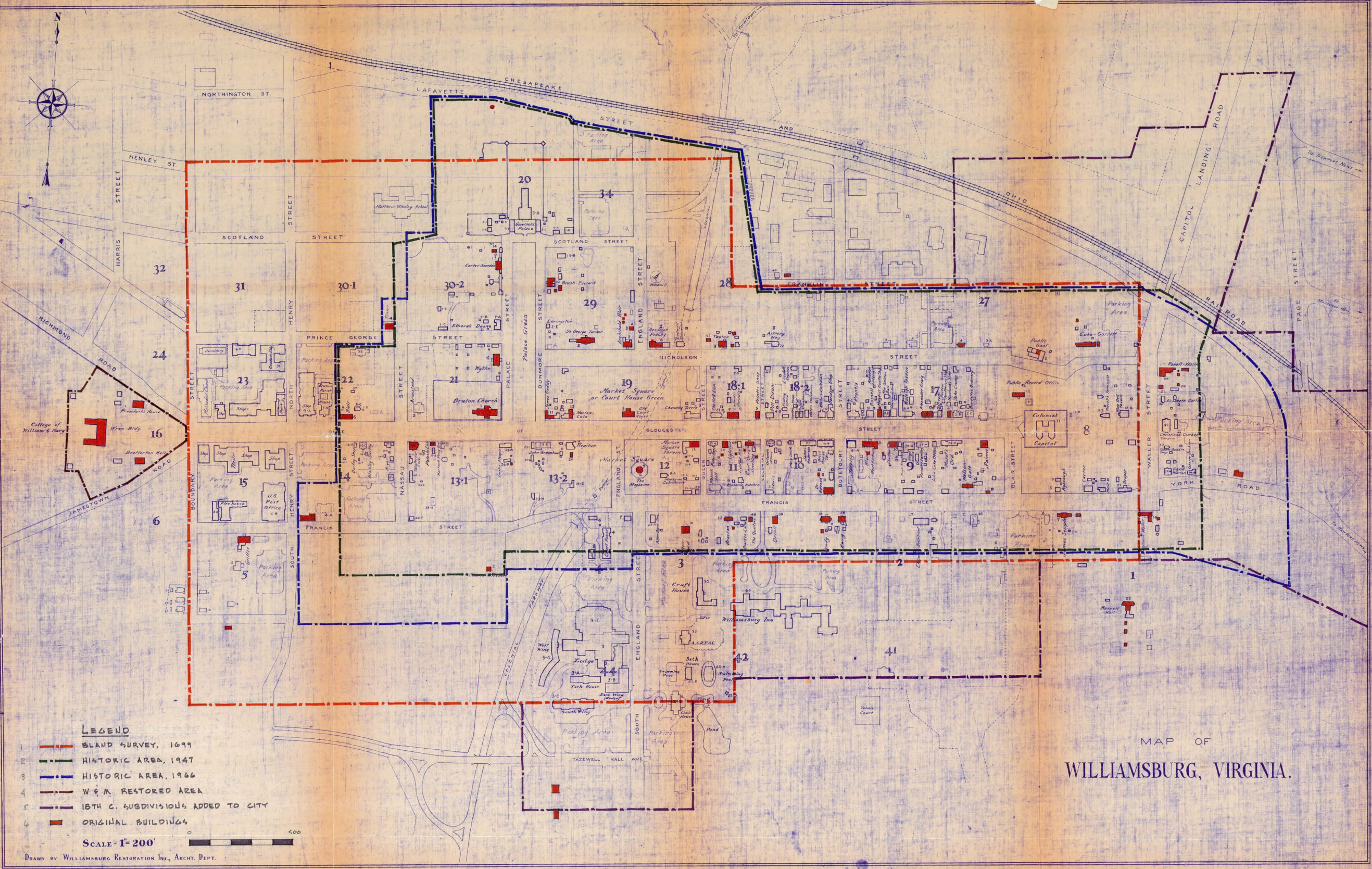
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as Governor of Virginia he made William and Mary the country's first true university in 1791. The College, founded in 1693, is the nation's second oldest. In 1779 the capital was moved to Richmond and Williamsburg declined steadily in influence and wealth from that time on.



WILLIAMSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
WILLIAMSBURG, VA.
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series
Williamsburg, Va. (1970)
UTM REFERENCES:

- A 18/350220/4126250
- B 18/350200/4125920
- C 18/348530/4125520
- D 18/348950/4126700



LEGEND

- 1. Bland Survey, 1699
- 2. Historic Area, 1947
- 3. Historic Area, 1966
- 4. W & M Restored Area
- 5. 18th C. Subdivisions Added to City
- 6. Original Buildings

Scale - 1" = 200'

Drawn by Williamsburg Restoration Inc., Archt. Dept.

MAP OF
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

SPREAD here, for the Delectation of the Beholder, lies a Vista of *Williamsburg in Virginia*, early Seat of Royal Governors, Birthplace of a noble College, Forge of *American Liberties*. Dismay'd by the Fires, Pestilence, & *Indian Raids* which for nearly a Century had assail'd the first Capital at *Jamestown*, his Excellency, *Francis Nicholson*, Esq., in 1699 exhorted the Assembly to build a new City and to move his Government thereto. A Man of large Imagination and much Foresight, *Nicholson* urged that no Lot be less than half an Acre, that the Streets be of a generous Width, that Houses upon the main Way be

enclosed by a Wall or Fence, and that the principal Buildings be elegantly set off by Greens, Squares, or handsome Avenues.

Restored now by Grace of its great Benefactor, *John D. Rockefeller, Jr.*, and still as comely as in its Hey-day, *Colonial Williamsburg* covers two hundred and twenty Acres. Along its tree-bowered Lanes stand some four hundred Houses & Publick Edifices, from the commodious Capitol to the humble Shop of the Mafter Bootmaker. No Expense has here been spared, no Pains foregone, so that—in the Words of the Founder—"the Future may learn from the Past."





- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Wren Building | 13 Courthouse of 1770 | 25 Raleigh Tavern |
| 2 The Brafferton | 14 Magazine & Guardhouse | 26 Raleigh Bake Shop |
| 3 President's House | 15 Chowning's Tavern | 27 Pafleur-Galt Apothecary Shop |
| 4 John Blair House | 16 Ludwell-Paradise House | 28 Publick Gaol |
| 5 Bruton Parish Church | 17 Printer's & Bookbinder's Shop | 29 Capitol |
| 6 Bootmaker's Shop | 18 Captain Orr's Dwelling | 30 Aylcough House (Cabinetmaker) |
| 7 Weaving Shop | 19 Orlando Jones House & Office | 31 Bracken-Carter House |
| 8 George Wythe House | 20 Brick House Tavern | 32 Williamsburg Inn |
| 9 Deane Forge | 21 Milliner's Shop | 33 Craft House |
| 10 Governor's Palace | 22 Silversmith's Shop | 34 County Courthouse |
| 11 Bruford-Everard House | 23 King's Arms Barber Shop | 35 Williamsburg Lodge |
| 12 St. George Tucker House | 24 King's Arms Tavern | 36 Reception Center |