

New Castle.



Pamunkey R.

Cherry Branch

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

042-0101

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

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Newcastle Town Archaeological Site

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

☒ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Old Church

☒ VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Hanover

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☐ PUBLIC	☐ OCCUPIED	☒ AGRICULTURE
☐ BUILDING(S)	☒ PRIVATE	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ MUSEUM
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ COMMERCIAL
☒ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☐ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ ENTERTAINMENT
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ GOVERNMENT
		☒ NO	☐ INDUSTRIAL
			☐ MILITARY
			☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Meade Broadus

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23111

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hanover County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hanover

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None previously recorded

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☒ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the eighteenth-century town of Newcastle is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on the edge of large cultivated fields [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

The town was laid out in a grid plan with three north-south streets, called (from west to east) Main, Second, and Water Streets. Water Street may either have been below the bluff beside the river, as was a street of the same name at Yorktown, or on elevated ground as at Port Royal, Virginia. The north-south streets were crossed at right angles by two streets called "Road to river" and one, at the northern end, "Road to bridge". These latter three streets probably descended to riverside warehouses via gullies now existing at the verge of the field. A 1751 map shows fifty-two numbered half-acre lots and six lots used for warehouses.

Eighteenth-century records indicate the existence of stores and wealthy persons' houses in Newcastle. A 1745 act was intended to affect some of the town's less wealthy residents, for it forbade the building of wooden chimneys and ordered that all existing wooden chimneys be taken down by the following year. The act further made it unlawful for owners to allow their swine to run at large in the town and permitted the holding of two annual fairs there.

No early buildings remain standing at Newcastle, but surface artifact indications and random testing indicate extensive archaeological remains. There are no roads through the site, and as it has been utilized only for agriculture and woodland since the town's demise, below-ground remains are largely undisturbed.

EC

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION	
___1400-1499	X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE	
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE	
___1600-1699	___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	X MILITARY	X SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN	
X 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER	
___1800-1899	X COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION	
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		___INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Newcastle was the scene of one of Virginia's expressions of rebellion preceding the American Revolution, and its site now holds potential for learning about such colonial river-port towns.

Town lots were laid off in March 1739 on a forty-acre site owned by William Meriwether. The survey was done by John Henry, father of Patrick Henry. In May, 1740, the Assembly empowered county justices to have a bridge built [redacted] from Newcastle. Development as a small commercial center occurred because of the town's location [redacted]

In August, 1746, Nicholas Water's Newcastle house was the scene of an elaborate celebration of the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces at the Battle of Culloden. The Virginia Gazette reported that "a long Arbor was set up, in which fifty Gentlemen and ladies dined, and several other Tables were full, in the House . . . A large Quantity of Punch was given to the Populace and at each health there was a Volley of small Arms Discharged, and three cheerful Huzzas at each Volley. A large bonfire was made in the evening, and the windows of the Loyalists in Town were illuminated."

The town's major political event occurred on May 2, 1775, when Patrick Henry called the Hanover volunteers to meet at Newcastle in order to protest Governor Dunmore's removal of the colony's gunpowder. The armed group marched toward Williamsburg, but they met the Governor's representatives at Doncastle's Ordinary and there peacefully accepted payment for the powder.

Considerable military activity took place around Newcastle in 1781. In an entry in his journal the following February, Baron Ludwig von Closen, aide-de-camp to Rochambeau, wrote of Newcastle's location "on a charming plain . . . [redacted]. We lunched at the home of a very wealthy person, Colonel Syme."

Both historical records and surface artifactual evidence indicate that intensive occupation did not last far into the nineteenth century. Silting [redacted] and change in agricultural marketing systems led to the town's demise. The early date of abandonment makes Newcastle especially valuable for archaeological study. Like Hanover Town upriver, Newcastle provides the opportunity to investigate a pre-Revolutionary American port town undisturbed by later development.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hening, W. W. The Statutes at Large...of Virginia. Vol. 5, Richmond, 1809.

Henry, John. Plan of Newcastle Town. for William Meriwether, March 7, 1738-39, Virginia State Library.

Macdonald, Alastair. Personal communication regarding archaeological remains, April 10, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 160

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

Mrs. Virginia Shaw English, Research Historian,
Bicentennial Committee for Hanover County, 109 Arlington St.,
Ashland, Virginia 23005 and

DATE

October 1975

TELEPHONE

804-770-3143

STATE

Virginia

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 89-665), 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 16 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Meade, Robert Douthat. Patrick Henry, Vol. II. Philadelphia.

Swem, Earl G. Virginia Historical Index. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1965.
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Virginia Gazette (Parks). October 7, 1737, December 9, 1737, August 21-28, 1746.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie). May 5 and 12, 1775.

Von Closen, Baron Ludwig. Revolutionary Journal.