

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Northampton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-4-45-0154	DATE 4/17/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Custis Tombs

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Custis cemetery at Arlington

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South bank of Old Plantation Creek, .1 mi. W of northern end of Rt. 644, 1.3 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 644 and Rt. 645.

CITY OR TOWN:
Chesapeake vic.

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Northampton CODE: 131

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
George F. Parsons

STREET AND NUMBER:
Arlington

CITY OR TOWN:
Cape Charles

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Northampton County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Eastville

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #65-1

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

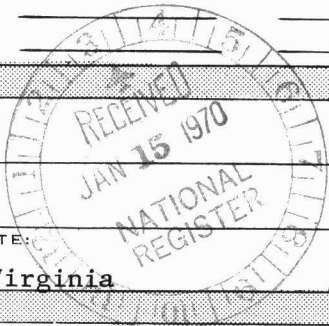
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

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

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Northampton
ENTRY NUMBER: 70-4-45-0154
DATE: 4/17/70
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Although there probably are more graves in the immediate area, visual evidence of the Custis family burial ground consists of two tombs surrounded by a poured concrete platform raised a few inches above ground level. The tombs are enclosed by a high iron fence, all of which is set in a grove of trees. The limestone slab resting on a low brick base marks the grave of John Custis (1630-1696), Major General and member of the Council for Virginia and progenitor of the Custis family in America. However, his grave is overshadowed by the box-like marble tomb of John Custis IV with its pyramidal top and drapery carvings on the long sides surrounding the inscriptions. On the east end of the tomb is carved the Custis family crest, while an elaborate design on the west end uses a human skull motif set within a shield.

The original Arlington house of the Custis family stood near the graveyard, probably to the south.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input 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

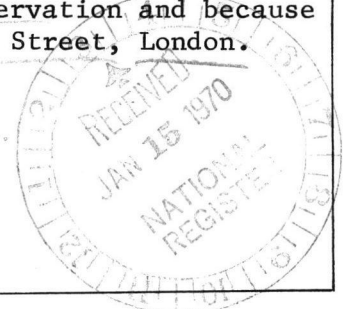
The land's historic associations make it one of the most significant unexcavated colonial sites in Virginia. The Custis family was one of the more notable Virginia families, and its descendants include the wife of General Robert E. Lee and the adopted grandchildren of George Washington.

The progenitor of the Custis family was Major General John Custis (1630-1696), whose tomb is one of the two remaining ones in the graveyard. Custis came to Virginia circa 1650 and established his seat at Arlington on the Eastern Shore. He became a man of importance, and by the time of his death had served on the Council of Virginia and as major-general of Virginia. One of his descendants, George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Martha Washington, was to name his plantation Arlington, in honor of his ancestral home, and this in turn was later to be turned into Arlington National Cemetery.

At his death in 1696, General Custis left Arlington to his grandson, John Custis IV (circa 1679-circa 1750), whose elaborate tomb is the other extant one in the graveyard. John Custis IV was the son of another John Custis (1653-1713), who served as a member of the Council and as major-general of Virginia. John Custis IV was a man of prominence, carrying on the family tradition of serving as a member of the Council. He is also remembered for his tempestuous marriage with Frances Parke, the daughter of Daniel Parke who died while governor of the Leeward Islands. Custis was also an outstanding gardener and conducted many botanical experiments on the grounds of his house in Williamsburg. His son, Daniel Parke Custis, was to be the first husband of Martha Washington, and his great-great-granddaughter, Mary Anne Randolph Custis, was to marry Robert E. Lee.

The use of skull motifs on the marble grave marker of John Custis IV can be found on some other funerary sculpture in Virginia, but it is certainly much more rare here than in New England. This finely carved monument is important also because of its remarkable state of preservation and because it is signed by its maker, William Colley of Fenchurch Street, London.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Whitelaw, Ralph T., Virginia's Eastern Shore. 2 vols. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968.
 Robertson, John William, On Land and Sea. Onancock, Va.: The Eastern Shore News, Inc., 1962.

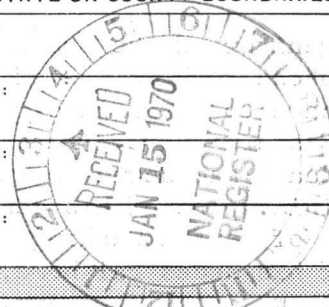
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 TEN ACRES													
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE											
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds									
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	37	°	13	'	44	"	76	°	00	'	14	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"												
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"												
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"												

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO
UTM
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 DATE: May 1, 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: Edw. P. Alexander by John
 Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date: June 2, 1969

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

Connet Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: APR 17 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Smutegh
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 26 1970

70000 8/5

Norhampton Va.

RECEIPT

Custer Tomb

SIGN OFF

5/6/70

Date of Receipt 7/15/70

	Yes	No	Number
Data Page	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Photo(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Photo Description(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Map(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Map Description(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Logged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acknowledged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

70.4.45.0154

REVIEW

Good piece of 18th century funerary sculpture - Tomb

Historian Comments: OK I wonder what do you think

Architect Comments: OK

Philip
Blair
Chambers
2/11/70

if checked set. to Clerk

Chief Architect Chief Archeologist Chief Historian

Keeper Comments: OK

Smith
2/26/70



ENTRY

Chief, OAHF Comments: ok

OK
4-17-70

Date of Entry

Registry Clerk	Yes	No	Date
Assign NPS No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acknowledgement Sent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

EDITORIAL PROCESSING

Editor Federal Register Entry Date: 6/2/70

Annual Edition Entry

ok

~~FILE~~

FILE

FILE

WORKING

6-9-79

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name

Custis Tombs

County, State

Northampton
County, Virginia

Reference Number

70000815

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Northampton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-4-45-0154	DATE 4/17/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Custis Tombs

AND/OR HISTORIC: Custis Cemetery at Arlington

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South bank of Old Plantation Creek, .1 mi. W of northern
end of Rt. 644, 1.3 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 644 and Rt. 645.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

45

COUNTY:

Northampton

CODE

131

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. map 7.5' quadrangle Elliot's Creek

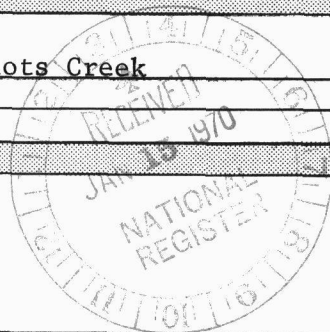
SCALE: 1:24000

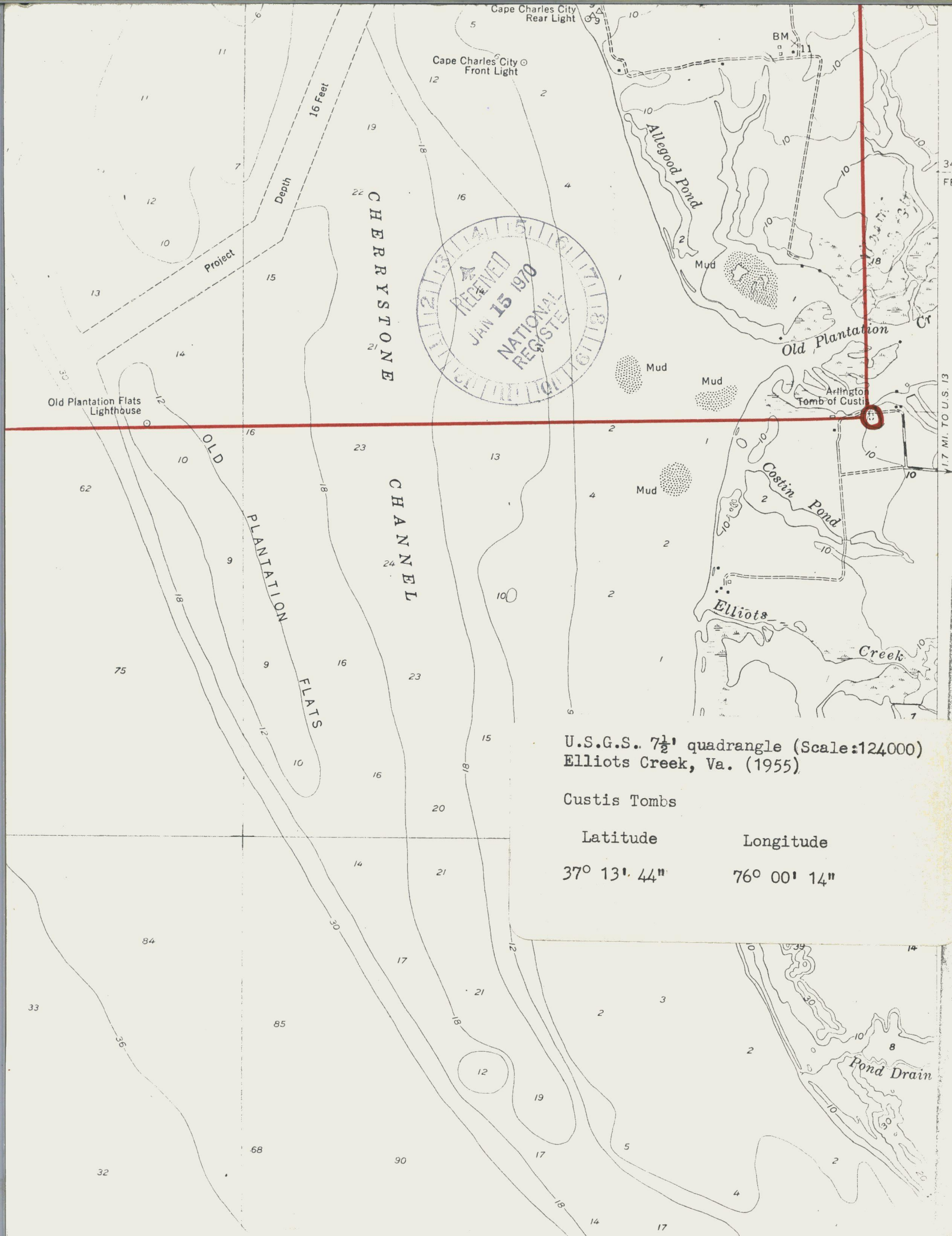
DATE: 1955

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





RECEIVED
 JAN 15 1970
 NATIONAL
 REGISTER

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale:124000)
 Elliotts Creek, Va. (1955)

Custis Tombs

Latitude	Longitude
37° 13' 44"	76° 00' 14"

1.7 MI. TO U.S. 13

H34-HR

APR 27 1970

am
Northampton Co. Va
R. Samble 4/3/70
Cannally 4-17
Eaton 4/23/70
Fl 4/23

Hon. Thomas H. Downing
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Downing:

We are pleased to inform you that Custis Tombs in Northampton
County, Virginia, have been nominated by the officer appointed
by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic
Preservation Program in Virginia and have been entered into the
National Register of Historic Places. Senators Harry Flood Byrd, Jr., and
William B. Spong, Jr., have also been provided with this information.
A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

APR 17 1970

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register

cc:

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission,
Room 1106, State Ninth Street Office Building, Richmond, Va. 23219

Director, Southeast Region

11-Mr. Malvin

HR

R. Samble :mm

3/30/70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

HP. Custis Tomb - Va

4
APR 27 1970

134-11

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Hon. Harry Flood Byrd, Jr.,
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Byrd:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Virginia and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator William Belser Spong, Jr., and appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

APR 17 1970

Entered in the National Register

Enclosures

cc:

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission,
Room 1106, State Ninth Street Office Building, Richmond, Va. 23219

Duplicate letter sent to:
Hon. William Belser Spong, Jr.,
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

3/30/70

RGamble:mm

cc: Director, Southeast Region
LL-Mr. Melvin

T-
HR

834-III

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

VIRGINIA

- Curtis Tomb - Northampton County, Virginia
- Customs House - Norfolk, Virginia
- Broad Run Bridge and Toll House - Loudoun County, Virginia
- Branch Building - Richmond, Virginia
- Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House - Richmond, Virginia