

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 19 1978
DATE ENTERED FEB 1 1979

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

Clover Lea

AND/OR COMMON

Clover Lea

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E of Mechanicsville off VA 629
~~.6 mile E of Farmers Shop Corner; N side of State Route 629; .6 mile ENE~~
of intersection of state routes 629 and 606. 1 mile S of Pamunkey River.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsville, Va.
~~Farmers Shop Corner~~

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
Hanover

CODE
085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Allan B. Cady, M.D.

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 313, 1011 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia 23219

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

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

May 1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE
Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Clover Lea, a Greek Revival-style residence, is conspicuously situated on a spacious estate south of the Pamunkey River on Route 629 in Hanover County. Erected in 1845-1846, the brick dwelling is a two-story, side-hall-plan house containing fine Greek Revival-style detailing on both its interior and exterior.

Set on a high basement, the front (south) elevation is laid in stretcher bond. The three-bay facade is dominated by a two-story, Tuscan-inspired portico which consists of six massive square wooden columns supported by brick piers. The two columns towards either end are paired for visual strengthening of the portico. A wood lattice decorates the portico on the first story. A finely worked entablature with a denticulated cornice runs the entire length of the south elevation. The portico shelters a transom and sidelight doorway which retains its original paneled door. Fenestration consists of the original 6/6 hung-sash windows framed by simple wooden architraves. Louvered wooden shutters flank the windows on all elevations. A shallow hipped roof covers the structure.

The rear (north) elevation of three bays is laid in common bond, as are the side elevations. This elevation is dominated by a one-story porch with a gallery on the second story. The gallery replaces an earlier smaller porch. Fenestration on the garden elevation duplicates that found on the front and consists of 6/6 hung-sash with louvered shutters. A centrally positioned rear entrance retains its original paneled door.

The east and west elevations are similar in appearance, both containing two bays. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows on the first and second stories and 3/3 hung-sash at the basement level.

The interior of Clover Lea contains exceptional Greek Revival detailing. Especially noteworthy is that in the hall and southeast parlor. Dominating the hall is an open-well stair which ascends to the second floor. The stair has paneled spandrels, stylized carved-scroll brackets, rectangular balusters, and a finely turned newel post. A much less elaborate stair leads to the basement. The doorways in the hall and parlor are impressive and consist of Doric pilasters which support a Greek fret frieze, egg-and-dart ovolo, and a ramped cornice. The parlor contains a simple Greek-style black marble mantel. In comparison to the front rooms, the rear chambers contain simple wooden architraves. The doors and windows on the second floor are less elaborate than those on the first, and the principal second-floor chambers contain fluted symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks.

The grounds around Clover Lea retain much of their 19th-century plantings, and a formal garden is found at the rear of the house. A small carriage barn is the only surviving outbuilding.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property consists of 18 acres. It is a small fraction of the original estate of Bassett's 19th-century home. The boundaries are drawn to include the front yard of the house and the rear gardens, along with suitable yard acreage on the east and west. The nominated acreage preserves the trees and shrubs planted in the 19th century. The property is bounded on the south by Route 629. It is bounded on the north by a line drawn to include the rear gardens. It is bounded on the east and west by parallel lines that define the present house site and give some semblance of its 19th-century character.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1845-46

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dramatically situated on spacious grounds of broad lawns and old trees, Clover Lea presents an idealized picture of a Southern antebellum country residence. With its tall portico, high-ceiling rooms, and handsome woodwork, the house is a fine specimen of the Greek Revival style, and although not large compared to houses of the deep South, it has the stately air inherent in the Grecian mode. Erected in 1845-46 by George Washington Bassett, the place is also the terminus of the migratory settlement pattern of this prominent Tidewater family after five generations in Virginia.

William Bassett, the progenitor of the family, came to Virginia from England in the third quarter of the 17th century. He patented considerable amounts of land in New Kent County on the south side of the Pamunkey and York Rivers in 1664, 1669, and 1682. His son William Bassett is first found in land records when he became the owner of 2048 acres in New Kent on, "s.s. Pamunkey; adjacent Col. Bacon; 23 April 1688...granted to Capt. Wm. Bassett, his father, 29 April 1687..." Bassett is recorded as acquiring another patent in 1695 consisting of 1086 acres in New Kent "on Pamunkey River, from the new dwelling house of said Bassett, to the mouth of sd. river, and to his house called the brick house where the county court was formerly held..." This property including the new dwelling house, Eltham, descended to his son Burwell Bassett, a brother-in-law of George Washington. Patent records reveal that Burwell Bassett acquired additional land in New Kent, and the first Hanover land tax book in 1782 charges him with 900 acres. The following year his Hanover holdings increased to 1264 acres. Upon the death of Burwell, the property was inherited by his son John. John Bassett died in 1826, and his son George Washington Bassett, the builder of Clover Lea, inherited all the land charged to his father in the land tax book of 1825.

George Washington Bassett married Betty Burnett Lewis and lived on Lewis land until 1830, at which time the family moved to Eltham, the old Bassett homestead in New Kent. The family then moved to Hanover County, where the Bassett family holdings had increased to 1428 3/4 acres. Bassett continued to add to the family land by purchasing two adjoining tracts of land in 1844-45. Here he built Clover Lea to accommodate the needs of a growing family.

Architecturally, Clover Lea illustrates how Greek Revival-style architecture was adapted for the country residences of the landholding gentry. Such regional characteristics as a low hip roof and high basement represent features that are especially suited to the climatic and domestic needs of the South. The side-hall plan and masterful treatment of the interior woodwork suggest the skill of a competent architect-builder.

The house has many parallels with Richmond townhouses of the period and may indeed have been designed by a Richmond architect. Its most striking parallels with the capital's houses are the refined detailing, compact proportions, and a flat-roofed portico sheltering the entire facade.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hanover County Land Tax Books 1782-1863.
 Nugent, Nell M. Cavaliers and Pioneers, vol. I: 1623-1666. 2d ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1963.
 _____ . Cavaliers and Pioneers, vol. II: 1666-1695. Indexed by Claudia B. Grundman. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1977.
 "Reminiscences of Washington." Scribner's 14(May 1877-October 1877):75.
 (See Continuation Sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A | <u>1,8</u> | <u>30,7</u> <u>3,5,0</u> | <u>4,1</u> <u>6,8</u> <u>4,0,0</u> | B | <u>1,8</u> | <u>30,7</u> <u>3,5,0</u> | <u>4,1</u> <u>6,8</u> <u>1,8,0</u> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | <u>1,8</u> | <u>30,7</u> <u>0,6,0</u> | <u>4,1</u> <u>6,8</u> <u>1,6,0</u> | D | <u>1,8</u> | <u>30,7</u> <u>0,4,0</u> | <u>4,1</u> <u>6,8</u> <u>4,1,0</u> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 700' N of Route 629 and approximately 950' NW of intersection of Routes 629 and 732 and approximately 50' W of private drive; thence extending 700' S to N side of Route 629; thence extending 1000' W along N side of said route; thence extending 800' N through wooded area; thence extending 1000' E to point of origin.

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

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street (804) 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond Virginia 23219

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

Tucker Hill

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OCT 17 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Charles Atkins
Marella Shep

DATE 2-1-79
 KEPT IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE 1-31-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | DEC 19 1978 |
| DATE ENTERED | FEB 1 1979 |

Clover Lea, Hanover County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Clover Lea passed out of the Bassett family by the end of the 19th century and is presently owned by Dr. Allan B. Cady, who is restoring the house. The grounds around Clover Lea retain a significant portion of 19th-century tree and shrub plantings, including a crape myrtle arbor in the rear.

VDS/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Two unpublished letters from Washington to his Brother-in-Law." Magazine of American History, II (1884): 258.
VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, 51 (1943): 351-354.
William and Mary Quarterly, ser. 1, 5 (July 1896 - April 1897).

Property

Clover Lea

79003645

State

Va.

Working Number

12.19.78.4779

TECHNICAL

Photos /

Maps /

CONTROL

OK pl 12.21.78

HISTORIAN

Mid 19th C house which illustrates how the Greek Revival style of architecture was adapted to country residences. Carriage house not evaluated. Refer to architectural historian

Oulley 1-30-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Significance seems to be well defined -- resource is good example of mid 19th century Greek Revival that retains plantings and settings which make it still a good representation of romanticized antebellum property.

Shay 1-31-79 accept

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

3-6-79

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

FEB 1 1979

Federal Register Entry



Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

J

CLOVER LEA

DEC 19 1978

Hanover County, Virginia

Credit: VA Historic Landmarks Commission
1978

Negative Filed: VA State Library

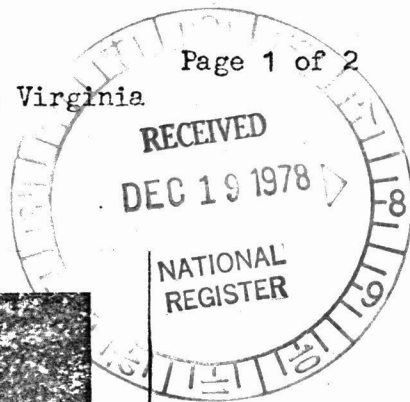
Exterior view of South (front) elevation
4204 1 of 1

FEB 1 1979

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION

CLOVER LEA, Hanover County, Virginia

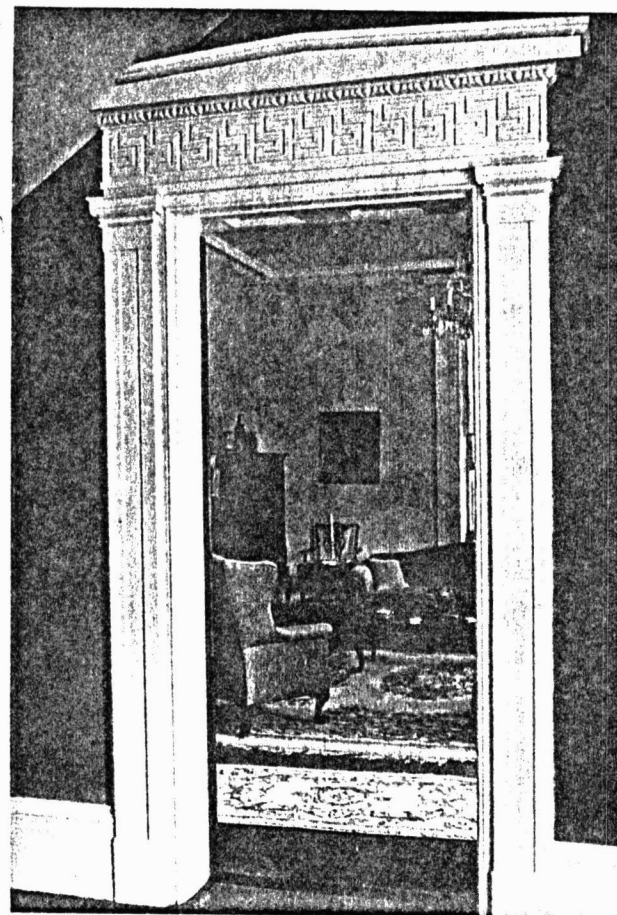
Page 1 of 2



View of North (garden) Elevation



Interior view of first floor hall and stair



Interior view of front parlor from hall

FEB 1 1979

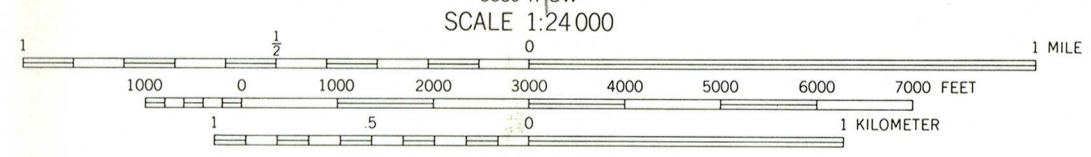


U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Manquin, Va. 1968

GLOVER LEA, Hanover County, Virginia

UTM References:
A-18/307350/4168400 B-18/307350/4168180
C-18/307060/4168160 D-18/307040/4168410

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Supersedes U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Old Church map dated 1947
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 496 (1969)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 3 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface — Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface — Unimproved road
Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route



MANQUIN, VA.
NW/4 KING WILLIAM 15' QUADRANGLE
N3737.5—W7707.5/7.5
1968
AMS 5559 II NW—SERIES V834

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGINIA

Date Entered **FEB 1 1979**

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---|---|
| Somerset Christian Church | Old Somerset Orange County |
| Clover Lea | Mechanicsville vicinity Hanover County |
| Miller-Kite House | Elkton Rockingham County |
| Wilton | Wilton vicinity Middlesex County |
| Reveille | Richmond (ind. city) |
| Glennmary | South Boston vicinity Halifax County |
| Beechwood | Courtland vicinity Southampton County |
| Sharon Lutheran Church and Cemetery | Ceres vicinity Bland County |
| Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery | Speedwell vicinity Wythe County |

Also Notified

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Honorable John Warner | |
| Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr. | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| Honorable J. Kenneth Robinson | Mr. Tucker H. Hill |
| Honorable Paul S. Tribble, Jr. | Executive Director |
| Honorable David E. Satterfield, III | Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission |
| Honorable Dan Daniel | 221 Governor Street |
| Honorable Robert W. Daniel, Jr. | Richmond, Virginia 23219 |
| Honorable William C. Wampler | |

NR Byers/bjr 2/9/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Clover Lea
 ② OTHER NAMES:
 ③ date of entry: FEB 1 1979
 ④ county code: 85

⑤ LOCATION street & number: E of Mechanicsville off VA 629
 city / town: Mechanicsville
 vicinity of: Mechanicsville
 state: VA
 county: Hanover
 ⑥ NPS REGION: NE

⑦ OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name)
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS MABS HAER NHL
 ⑩ FUNDED? YES NO
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 7
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME NO
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME NO
 ⑮ ACRES: LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION
 excellent good fair
 deteriorated ruins unexposed unexcavated
 altered unaltered reconstructed excavated
 original site moved unknown

⑰ features:
 INTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1
 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4
 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2
 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-5
 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-6
 NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE YES NO
 ⑳ SAVED? YES
 ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1
 AGRICULTURE-3
 ARCHITECTURE-4
 ART-5
 ENGINEERING-11
 ENTERTAINMENT-26
 EXPLORATION-12
 HEALTH-27
 INDUSTRY-13
 EDUCATION-10
 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15
 LAW-16
 LITERATURE-17
 MILITARY-18
 MUSIC-19
 PHILOSOPHY-20
 POLITICS / GOVT.-21
 RELIGION-22
 SCIENCE-23
 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24
 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30
 TRANSPORTATION-25
 RECREATION-28
 SETTLEMENT-29
 URBAN PLANNING-31
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

㉓ CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

㉔ functions
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:
 CURRENTLY:
 ㉕ dates of initial construction:
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s):
 ㉘ architect:
 ㉙ master builder:
 ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer:
 ㉜ interior decorator:
 ㉝ artist:
 ㉞ artisan:
 ㉟ builder/contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP