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 VLR 06/20/1972
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114-0098

Form 10-300
 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: HAMPTON (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	3/1/73

1. NAME

COMMON:
CHESTERVILLE PLANTATION CHESTERVILLE SITE (preferred)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
CHESTERVILLE PLANTATION

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
 [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN:
Hampton (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)

STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51** COUNTY: **(in city)** CODE: **650**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" 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:
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Frank Farmer, President, IBC Historical and Archaeological Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
 [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: **Hampton** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **23365** CODE: **51**

5. LOCATION OF PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
 [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: **Hampton** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** 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: **51**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA
 HAMPTON (in city)
 ENTRY NUMBER
 DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One known photograph taken prior to Chesterville's destruction shows a two-story house set on a high basement, with a three-bay gable end front, and stuccoed brick walls. The first floor incorporates an open arcade with unornamented round-headed arches making the building quite similar in appearance to the Fairfax County Court House of 1800. Late-nineteenth century sawn-work railings are set in the two side arches. The building's somewhat shallow gable is composed of an open tympanum of wood clapboards with simple cornice and cornice returns, and appears to be a mid to late-nineteenth century alteration. The six-over-six sash in both the first and second floor windows appear to be early. There is a window in the center bay of the first floor, and although the photograph is dim, the entrance appears to be in the right first floor bay. There is little fabric evident in the photograph that might date from the colonial period, although the original portion is believed to have been built circa 1771. The house may have undergone more than one major remodelling, the earliest perhaps occurring in the first decade of the nineteenth century.

At present, the site includes the following known historical archaeological features: the brick ruins of the mansion, in some places 4' high, surrounded by a chain link fence, the ruins of a building with a ballast stone foundation 100' to the north, the foundation of a brick kiln 400' to the east, cemetery about 1000' to the west, and scattered evidence of seventeenth century occupation.

NASA has constructed a concrete test track between the mansion foundation and the ballast stone foundation [REDACTED], a moon lander test platform was constructed but will no longer be used (possibly it will be removed in the near future).

WMK

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3. 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)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>ARCHAEOLOGY</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" 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

A large portion of the land later incorporated in "Chesterville" Plantation was patented in 1619 by John Leyden, early Jamestown settler and planter. Two hundred and four acres of the property patented by Leyden were purchased in 1692 by Thomas Wythe, Burgess for Elizabeth City County and great-grandfather of George Wythe, signer of the Declaration of Independence, prominent legal educator, and "Father of American Law." During the early Wythe ownership, the boundaries of the plantation were extended until it encompassed over 750 acres. In 1755 George Wythe, inherited the property believed to have been his birthplace, at the death of his brother, and it was his primary place of residence until 1775. In 1771 he began building the mansion, the remains of which remain at the site, and in 1781 was calling the property "Chesterville." Wythe continued to operate the property as a plantation until 1792, and the plantation finally passed from the hands of the Wythe family in 1802. The mansion was destroyed by fire in 1911.

A thorough archaeological excavation at the Chesterville site will reveal the intact foundation and cellar of the Wythe mansion, circa 1771, which can be stabilized for public view. Unmarked graves in the cemetery can be located archaeologically and marked. The ballast stone foundation cellar can be excavated to determine type of architecture and period of construction, occupation and cause of destruction. Various sites of known seventeenth century occupation can be investigated archaeologically probably revealing the Leyden homesite, and perhaps the Thomas Wythe early settlement. Visible evidence of the brick kiln area shows that the feature is largely intact and its entire plan could be learned by excavation.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of LRC Historical and Archaeological Society, Hampton, Virginia.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	██████████	██████████		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	██████████	██████████				
SE	██████████	██████████				
SW	██████████	██████████				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **30 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:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **June, 1972**

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

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____
James W. Moody, Jr., Director
Title **Va. Historic Landmarks Commission**

Date 6/20/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/1/73

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