

VLR-1/16/73 NRHP-5/11/73

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: New Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON  
Crisp Cross

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
.3 mi. S of Rt. 617, .4 mi. SW of intersection with Rt. 604.

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Kent vicinity (Eighth District Congressman William Lloyd Scott)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: New Kent	CODE 127
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:  
Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Harrison

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Crisp Cross

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Kent

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
New Kent County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Kent

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936, 1937  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D.C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: New Kent

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

DESCRIPTION

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

Criss Cross stands on a gentle knoll surrounded by cultivated fields and woodland and is reached by unpaved state and private roads. The house enjoys an immediate environment whose character has changed little since it was built late in the seventeenth century. Although much altered, the house retains its original overall appearance and important late-seventeenth century detailing.

The brick house is T-shaped in plan, and like nearby Foster's Castle, and the Mathew Jones House in Newport News, it was a one or a one-and-a-half-story building with a two-story single-bay projection in the center of the facade. The original walls are Flemish bond with glazed headers, constructed of unusually thick bricks, averaging 8 3/4" x 4 1/4" x 3 1/4". The watertable consists of mixed Flemish and English bonds on the main body of the house, with predominantly Flemish on the porch projection. Much of the brickwork of the front wall of the projection has been replaced, but it retains a belt course that wraps around the sides between the first and second floors and breaks upward on the front projection to emphasize the doorway.

The three brick gables were replaced with wood in the nineteenth century, the east end wall being completely rebuilt in wood. At that time the porch projection was raised several feet and given a less steeply pitched gable roof. The brick exterior end chimneys also date from the nineteenth century. However, the original ones apparently were in the same position since the interior summer beam runs the length of the rooms rather than being shortened by chimneys projecting inward. In the same period, the eastern half of the main body was raised to two stories. The window openings are in their original locations, but the trim and sash date from the nineteenth century. Exterior restoration in 1953 removed the addition above the porch chamber and returned its roof to the approximate original pitch. Also during this restoration the frame second floor was removed from the main body. The pitch of the western end of the main roof is believed to have remained unchanged, and Harden DeV. Pratt, the restoration architect, found one rafter in situ that he believed to be original. The later brickwork of the front wall of the projection was replaced with new Flemish bond, as was the frame east end. Wood was retained as the material of the new gables, rather than rebuilding them in brick.

Tradition has it that the frame back wing was added in 1790, and this addition appears to have been raised from one-and-a-half to two stories in the second half of the nineteenth century. As part of the restoration of 1953, the back wing was encased in one story of brick and given a gambrel roof. Pratt believed that he found evidence of an original north wing in the brickwork of the north wall. Such a wing, perhaps containing the original stair, could have mirrored the form of the existing porch chamber and formed a genuine cross plan, but no definite evidence was recorded and it can not be safely assumed that an original wing existed in this location.

The original interior plan consisted of a hall-and-parlor on the first floor, the larger room being entered from the enclosed porch chamber. With the 1790 addition, the entrance front was changed from the south to the north, through the new wing. At some point, the eastern part of the large hall room was partitioned off to form a center hall plan. The partition was removed in the recent restoration and the main block of the house was

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)

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <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

The exterior of Criss Cross has suffered a number of alterations, but significant exterior fabric survived and the building has now been returned to its general original appearance. As such, it is one of Virginia's four existing Tudor-Stuart style structures with porch projections, the others being nearby Foster's Castle, the Mathew Jones House in Newport News, and Bacon's Castle in Surry County. The two story porch projection appears to represent a major seventeenth and very early eighteenth century Virginia building form. The interior contains especially rare period framing and details, the hall-porch door and post carving being the only such survivals in the state.

Little is known about Criss Cross' early history, but according to tradition, it was built by George Poindexter about 1690. Poindexter had moved to New Kent County from Gloucester by 1681, when he is recorded as being in St. Peter's Parish. He was elected a vestryman of the parish in 1690, but he refused to serve. The back wing was added around 1790. The house is believed to have left the Poindexter family circa 1830, and J.F. Gilmer's 1863 map of the county shows that Criss Cross was occupied by S.P. Marsters, with Poindexters still living in the area. The house is said to have been used as a commissary during the War Between the States, and as a refuge for Mrs. Fitzhugh Lee after the destruction of nearby White House by Federal Forces in 1862. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Harrison, bought the house in 1953 and undertook extensive restoration. They did not attempt to return the house to its exact original form, however, and therefore interesting post-seventeenth century interior details were retained.

E.A.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Forman, Henry Chandlee, The Architecture of the Old South, The Medieval Style, New York, 1948.

Moorehead, Singleton P., "Christ's Cross," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, vol. XLIII, no. 1 (January, 1935).

Vestry Book of St. Peter's Parish, New Kent, Va., Richmond, 1905.

**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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37°	30'	28"	77°	02'	09"
NE	37°	30'	28"	77°	01'	37"
SE	37°	29'	52"	77°	01'	37"
SW	37°	29'	52"	77°	02'	09"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 100 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December, 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 J.R. Fishburne, Director  
Virginia Historic  
 Title Landmarks Commission

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
New Kent	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

*(Number all entries)*

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C. Code: 11

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

7. returned to a hall-and-parlor plan.

The interior of Criss Cross retains its original structural system and several rare period details. The ceiling of the porch chamber exhibits an east-west transverse girder into which floor joists are set. This exposed framing is chamfered, the beam with ovolos and the joists with cyma curves. A large summer beam running the length of the building and chamfered with cavetto, soffit, and ovolo mouldings, and a wall plate are supported at the wall between the two rooms by a decorated vertical post. The east and west sides of the post, exposed in the dividing wall, exhibit unusual low-relief carvings. The post is slightly thickened just below the summer beam, forming a rectangular block with a heavy horizontal bead. Below is a "scrolled" heart topped by an inverted triangle. The ceiling joists of the hall and parlor are covered with plaster, the visible minor framing being a 1953 cosmetic addition. An original set of double doors survives at the entrance from the porch chamber into the hall. They consist of flush vertical boards whose porch faces are developed with stiles, a central muntin, and four rails. The elevation of each door consist of two vertical rectangles and squares above a lock rail and long vertical rectangles below, the flat panels being framed by a series of shallow ogee-curve mouldings. The door architrave also has a profile built up with moulding curves not typical of eighteenth century Virginia work. The hall-parlor doorway also retains its early frame, but the door is later. Other doors and several mantels in the original house and rear addition date from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, including the front door, which is constructed of vertical beaded boards. A Victorian stair with a heavy turned newel was moved but retained in the hall during restoration. Chair rail trim taken from old buildings in the area was added then, as was an interesting provincial Adam-type mantel in the parlor.

A cellar exists under the hall and back wing. Between, the cellar's two rooms is a large square door of vertical and horizontal boards hung with strap hinges on pintles. A filled-in arched opening of undetermined purpose is visible in the east wall of the cellar below the hall-parlor dividing wall.

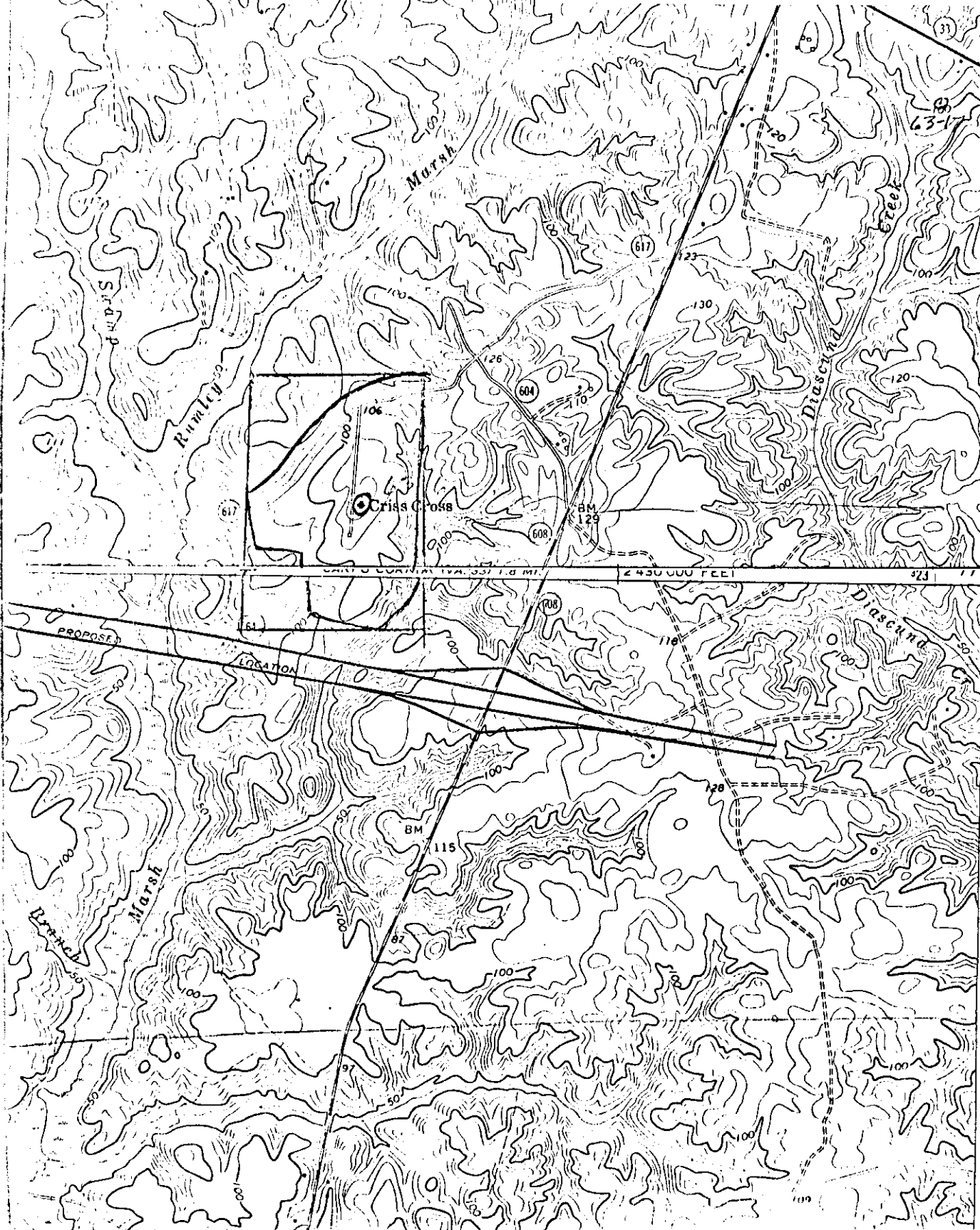
E.A.C.

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangles (scale:1:24  
Tunstall, Va. ; Providence Forge, Va  
1966

CRISS CROSS

latitude  
NW37°30'28"  
NE37°30'28"  
SE37°29'52"  
SW37°29'52"

longitude  
77°02'09"  
77°01'37"  
77°01'37"  
77°02'09"



NEW KEY WEST FL  
63-17  
4154  
4153000m. N.  
Criss Cross  
37°30' 77° 00'  
ENTERED  
in map bo  
4151  
Olivet Church  
4150  
420 000  
FEET