

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

SABINE HALL

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Sabine Hall

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 1.2. miles west of Warsaw via U.S. 360; 0.9 miles south on County 624

Not for publication:

City/Town: Warsaw

Vicinity: X

State: Virginia County: Richmond Code: 159

Zip Code: 22572

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X

Public-Local: ___

Public-State: ___

Public-Federal: ___

Category of Property

Building(s): X

District: ___

Site: ___

Structure: ___

Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

___ buildings

___ sites

___ structures

___ objects

___ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register:

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ Entered in the National Register
- ___ Determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ Determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ Removed from the National Register
- ___ Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Colonial: Georgian

MATERIALS:

Foundation:

Walls: brick

Roof:

Other:

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Built about 1730 in the early Georgian style, Sabine Hall's exterior design was extensively remodeled into the Classic Revival style in 1830-40. The original interior plan and the superb early Georgian woodwork, however, have been preserved largely intact and unaltered.

Sabine Hall was erected about 1729-30 for Landon Carter, one of Robert "King" Carter's three sons. The architect is unknown. Constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, Sabine Hall – as originally built – was two stories high over a low basement and had a high-pitched hipped roof and two pair of end chimneys. The plantation house was about 60 feet long and 42 feet deep. The northeast (front) and southwest (garden or river) elevations were identical and each was seven bays long. Centered in each façade was a narrow pavilion, one-bay wide, trimmed with rusticated joints of Portland stone. The entrance doors, situated in these pavilions, were topped by flat segmental stone arches with scrolled keystones. Above these keystones were stone cornices (now replaced in wood) which supported pedestals running beneath the second floor windows. The existing entrance doors and transoms dated from the early nineteenth century. The second floor line is marked by a string course of gauged brick laid in Flemish bond and the roof line by a stone cornice fully molded and enriched with a dentil band.

The windows have stone sills and flat stone lintels with raised keystones. The window jambs have rich rubbed-brick dressing, but these are concealed by the existing nineteenth-century shutters, which also change the intent of the original design. The first floor windows have nine over nine lights and those on the second floor are reduced in size to six over nine lights. This diminution gives the design vigor and increases the apparent height of the building.

In the period 1830-40 the exterior underwent many alterations that were intended to change the design to Classical Revival: the high hipped roof was flattened in pitch; the windows were resashed; the entrance doors and transoms replaced; and the existing large two-story portico supported by four Tuscan columns, was added to the northeast (front) elevation. The brick walls were also covered with a light cement wash, traces of which are still to be seen, and the existing broad one-story porch was constructed across the entire southwest (rear) elevation, over an eighteenth-century paved terrace.¹ The effect of the exterior, now changed by the porticos and painted walls, must have originally had an interesting contrast with the strong verticality of the pavilions and the horizontals of the stone lintels and sills in the brick walls.

The mansion originally had two detached one-story brick dependencies, flanking the house and spaced 162 feet apart. In 1805 the southeast dependency was described as a "covered way" and measured 40 by 24 feet in size; the northwest building was the kitchen, 44 by 22 feet. The original kitchen is said to have been demolished in the period 1830-40. The existing northwest wing was built and connected to the house in 1929 and the old southeast wing was also then remodeled and lengthened.

The superb interior Early Georgian woodwork is largely intact and the plan of the main house has also been only slightly altered. In plan, Sabine Hall has a large central hall nearly 18 feet wide and 38 feet long extending through the house. At each end of the hall there is a center door with a window on either side, giving the hall ample light and thorough cross ventilation. On the southeast side, the house is divided into two square rooms, one in either corner, and these are separated by an eight-foot wide cross-hall, which contains the stair. To the northwest of the hall there are two unequal-sized rooms; the large library in the front corner and the smaller

¹ The chimneys, except for the southwest stack, have all been rebuilt as well.

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drawing room in the rear corner.² This plan is repeated on the second floor, where there are four bedrooms, except that the two chambers on the northwest side of the hall are of equal size. The only changes from the original first floor arrangements lie in the space between the northwest chimneys and the partition between the drawing room and library. These two rooms now have a wide connecting double door dating from the early nineteenth century, which replaced the original single door. The space between the northwest chimneys may have once contained secondary stairs and a pantry, perhaps reached by an exterior side door.

Most of the first floor rooms, and also the second floor hall, have full paneling detailed with the rich panel mold. The panels of the dado correspond to those in the tall field above and both the base and chair rail are molded. The paneling in the entrance hall is particularly effective; the long northwest wall displays a superb range of panels unbroken for its whole length, except at the ends where the doors to the room occur. On the southeast side the paneled walls are broken in the center by a broad elliptical arch to the stair hall. This arch is framed by Doric pilasters on pedestals which carry a full entablature. The wood molding has been adapted from Plate XIV of William Salmon's *Palladio Londinensis* (1734). The four interior doors, of the six-panel type, are topped by an entablature that was probably added in the early nineteenth century. The fine walnut balusters of the stair are spiraled above vase turnings and they support a molded handrail, which terminates in a shallow half-turn above a fluted newel. The step ends are simple scrolled consoles. The lofty stairwell is paneled its complete height, and on the southeast wall, appears a very tall landing window. In the second floor mail hall the original panels were removed in the nineteenth-century, but the styles and rails were left and the fields plastered so that the effect is much the same.

The windows throughout the house have paneled reveals and window seats. In the fully paneled large library the mantel on the fireplace wall is flanked by full-height fluted Doric pilasters. Over the mantel a cushion frieze and architrave are added to the cornice to form an entablature. All mantels in the house, except that in the drawing room, are early nineteenth-century replacements. The drawing room mantel is of imported red brown sandstone and has plain broad piers and a paneled lintel cut on the soffit to a scrolled arch form. The keystone is a carved grotesque mask. The fine paneling of the drawing room is original except along the fireplace wall where it dates from the early nineteenth century.

The house, used as a private residence, is maintained in excellent condition. The mansion and grounds are not open to visitors.

² The central block of Mount Airy, erected between 1758-62 and located only three miles away, has the same floor plan as Sabine Hall.

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Erected about 1729-30 by Colonel Landon Carter, one of three sons of Robert “King” Carter, Sabine Hall is nationally significant for its architectural importance. Although the main house exterior was altered in 1764 and again in the early nineteenth century, the plan of the main house has been little changed. The ground floor rooms, the stair hall, and the second floor hall have superb early Georgian woodwork and paneling which give the house its outstanding architectural distinction. Also contributing to the architectural significance of the house is the elliptical arch separating the central hall and the stair hall, and the stair itself.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register.
- Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: approx. 177.15 acres

UTM References: **Zone Easting Northing**

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries form a rectangle delineated as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner at latitude 37°56'44"N – longitude 76°47'25"W, proceeding about 2,500 feet to the east and northeast corner at latitude 37°56'44" – longitude 76°46'54"W, then continuing south about 3,100 feet to the southeast corner at latitude 37°56'13"N – longitude 76°46'54"W, then going west about 2,500 feet to the southwest corner at latitude 37°56'13"N – longitude 76°47'25"W, then returning north about 3,100 feet to the beginning, the northwest corner.

Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of a U.S. Geological Survey Map: Tappahannock Quadrangle, Virginia 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1944, on file in the National Historic Landmark Program files, National Park Service, Washington, DC.

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Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the portion of the original Sabine Hall plantation acreage that has historically included the Sabine Hall plantation main house.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Charles W. Snell

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Telephone:

Date: original documentation – 1970

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DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
April 15, 1970