

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: White Plains

Other names/site number: VDHR #048-0024; 44KG0227

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 15318 James Madison Parkway (US Hwy 301)

City or town: King George State: VA County: King George

Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☒

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

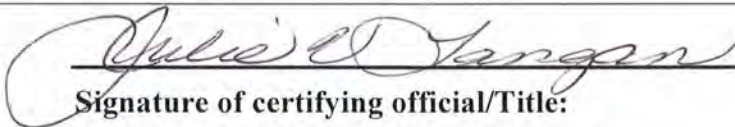
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

 Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	<u>9-17-19</u> Date
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

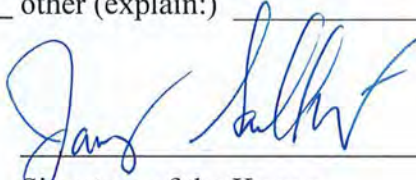
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4. National Park Service Certification

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 the Keeper

10.15.2019

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
District ☒
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/Georgian

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/Weatherboard; BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

White Plains is a significant survival of late Georgian architecture with later Colonial Revival features in King George County, Virginia. It retains the architectural integrity of its initial construction, as well as that of a careful Colonial Revival restoration campaign. These phases of construction, as well as maintenance in the intervening century, were funded by the successful farming ventures of its inhabitants. The 38.2-acre property is located north of James Madison Parkway (U.S. Highway 301), two miles north of the Rappahannock River. Its agricultural setting has remained remarkably intact for more than 200 years and today the landscape continues to bear features associated with historic farming practices. The house sits on a rise adjacent to a natural spring and small pond, which historically supplied water to the residents. Owners utilized the elevation change between the house and the stream to create a terraced formal landscape approach for the house. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling has a clipped gable roof, two exterior end chimneys, a small porch on the south side, and a raised English-bond basement. Dendrochronology dates the building's construction to 1786 under the hand of Aaron Thornley, though family histories reference earlier occupations of the property. James Quesenberry purchased the property in 1836, and undertook minor decorative changes to the house, but it remained essentially unchanged until 1940 when then-owner Alexander Walker decided to restore it according to the Colonial Revival style popular at the time. Though this did alter elements of the house, the restoration was respectful of the extant material and created a significant example of a Colonial Revival restoration; such restorations preserved numerous antebellum dwellings throughout Virginia during the early to mid-20th century. The property includes a contributing smokehouse, garage/studio, secondary residence, pool site and pool house foundations, graveyard, and archaeological site (44KG0227), as well as non-contributing

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resources consisting of a gazebo, pump house, garden shed, two chicken houses, a duck house, and gateposts.

Narrative Description

Setting

The property known as White Plains is located in King George County, approximately two miles north of the Rappahannock River and Port Royal, Caroline County. The 38.2-acre parcel includes mature trees and cleared fields. Both echo the surrounding rural character of the area, and the latter reflects the agricultural history of the property. The driveway, accessible from James Madison Parkway (U.S. Highway 301) is tree-lined and approaches the house from the south, before looping around behind it to create a circular drive north of the house. The drive crosses the one high point of land between Gingoteague Creek and a natural spring to the west and a pond to the east. Given the historic use of these water sources, it seems likely that this was an access point for the property throughout its history. The elevation rises sharply between the house site and the road, and three terraces to the south of the house create a falling garden effect, while the gentler elevation changes to the north, east, and west of the house lead to agricultural fields. The size of the parcel helps it retain some of its historic setting, due partly to the preservation of viewsheds across these fields.

The landscape within the property's domestic complex underwent little change during the 250-year occupation of the property. Landscape elements, such as three, broad 18th-/19th-century terraces reflective of a more formalized landscape, survive and were creatively reused during the property's 20th-century renovations. Due to the undisturbed character of the domestic complex, a variety of historic artifacts have been surface collected over the years. Surface inspection of the area by professional archaeologists lead to identification of a historic archaeological site, 44KG0227, that encompasses the domestic complex. Similarly, the open land surrounding the house has not been developed, but instead has remained in agricultural use for decades. Although farming practices have changed, the landscape itself has been minimally altered, creating a setting that has remained remarkably intact since the 19th century.

Inventory

The following resources are keyed to the attached sketch map/ photo key by letter.

- A. Main house, 1786; 1940, contributing building
- B. Gateposts, circa 2009, non-contributing object
- C. Graveyard, circa 1909, contributing site
- D. Pool House Foundation, circa 1940, contributing site
- E. Swimming Pool Site, circa 1940, contributing site
- F. Gazebo, circa 1960, non-contributing structure
- G. Smokehouse, circa 1786, contributing structure
- H. Garage/Studio, circa 1940, contributing building
- I. Garden Shed, 2016, non-contributing building

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- J. Duck House, 2016, non-contributing structure
- K. Chicken House, 2016, non-contributing structures – 2
- L. Secondary Dwelling, circa 1860, contributing building
- M. Pump House, circa 1940, non-contributing building**
- N. Archaeological Site 44KG0227, circa 1785-20th century, contributing site

Colonial Revival Restoration

In 1940, Alexander Walker acquired White Plains and soon after began restoring the house and grounds. The restoration is notable for its sensitivity to the original fabric of the buildings. Certain changes, such as the main house's clipped gables where there were none previously, as illustrated in pre-restoration photos, echo architectural elements found in other nearby historic-age houses. The inspiration for White Plains' new clipped gables may have been drawn from similar gables at Marmion. Other changes modernized the dwelling's interior with sensitivity to the original finishes and décor of the building. Radiators were cut into the walls in such a way that they blend into the wainscoting. Bathrooms were built into extant spaces unobtrusively. Photos from Walker's restoration show the exterior stripped of its weatherboard siding, likely to replace rotten boards and assess any damage to the frame itself. Weatherboards, whether original, replacements, or a combination, were reinstalled, but otherwise relatively little work was done on the exterior. It seems likely that a dormer window was either added or moved from the south elevation to the north elevation, but Walker did not embellish White Plains with porches, finials, or other Colonial Revival elements that reflected 20th-century historical fantasies rather than the building's historic appearance.

A. Main House, 1786 with restoration in 1940 (contributing building)

Exterior:

The primary dwelling is a sturdy, traditional brace-framed house, two-and-a-half stories high over a high raised basement, measuring approximately 44 feet by 26 feet. The foundation walls are handmade brick laid in English bond. The matching north and south elevations are composed of three symmetrical bays with a central doorway flanked by single windows on the first floor, with three matching windows on the second floor, and a single dormer on the north elevation centered above the doorway. The first-floor windows are nine-over-nine double-hung sash with six-over-nine sash on the second floor. The dormer window, which was added during the ca. 1940 restoration, has a six-over-six double hung sash and may have had an earlier, 18th-century precedent (although that cannot be confirmed with the surviving pre-1940 fabric). Two small cellar windows with six-over-six double-hung sash are vertically aligned with the first-floor windows above. Central basement windows are covered by a wooden porch on the south elevation and a brick staircase on the north that was added during the 1940 restoration. The east and west elevations have exterior brick chimneys flanked by windows at all four levels, except for the basement level on the west side, which has a doorway into the basement kitchen. The attic windows are narrow, four-over-four, double-hung sash, while the east cellar is lit by six-over-six double-hung sash with similar proportions to the second-floor windows. The windows on the first and second floors match those on the primary elevation. The brick chimneys are laid

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in Flemish bond with two sets of paved shoulders. Formal fireplaces heated the first and second stories. The current basement fireplace may have originally been fairly utilitarian, serving simply to heat the space before it was renovated along with the rest of the cellar to create additional living space in the mid-19th century. The chimneys are nearly identical, suggesting a single building campaign. There is no visible evidence of any substantial additions.

The gable roof has common rafters stabilized by collars. The clipped gables, present on several 18th-century houses in the Northern Neck, including Kirnan (DHR #096-0013; ca. 1781), the Hague (DHR #096-0011), and nearby Marmion (DHR #048-0012), are modifications dating to the ca. 1940 restoration and appear to indicate an attempt to make the house look more “colonial.” Other elements of the Colonial Revival restoration are revealed in two period photographs. A 1929 image of the west gable shows an earlier configuration of the exterior cellar entrance (and the corner of the smokehouse) and a narrower set of second story windows (four-over-four double-hung sash). The April 25, 1940, photograph, taken during the restoration, shows the north elevation without weatherboard, and indicates the windows had four-over-four double-hung sash on the first and second floors, which were likely 19th-century replacements.

The foundation’s original brickwork, which extends about 14 courses above the ground surface, manifests many distinct episodes of patching but is consistently laid in English bond, and the original portions retain 19th-century whitewash. The patching appears to correlate directly to closing or opening entrances into the cellar and repairing areas of water damage. The former likely coincides with the late antebellum period (ca. 1840), when the basement was turned into finished living space, including a fireplace built into the extant chimney. Additionally, the basement windows likely were enlarged to provide more light to the new living space.

Interior:

Original and other early exposed nails found throughout the house are consistently wrought or hand-headed, cut varieties. They suggest 18th- and early 19th-century construction as well as a very sensitive ca. 1940 restoration that retained many of the early details and elements. This attention to detail has been suggested as evidence of Colonial Revival scholar and architect Thomas Tileston Waterman’s involvement in the 1940 work. An additional detail about the restoration is the signature of C.R. Goodwin, dated January 9th, 1942, found beneath a section of wallpaper. Contemporary census records reveal that Goodwin’s primary occupation was as a “painter paper hanger,” so this date may indicate the conclusion of the restoration work. The current property owners have also recovered dozens of substantial sections of wood trim in an outbuilding, which may have been removed from the house during the restoration work.

Basement:

The basement currently includes a kitchen, dining room, utility room, pantry, and bathroom. This level of the dwelling underwent extensive renovation work, completed in 2016, which rendered these spaces more useful to the current occupants and removed much of the circa 1970 infrastructure that previously comprised these rooms. The eastern room, currently used as a dining room, retains its Federal-style mantel. The composition of the mantel is similar to the one in the first-floor living room. The mantel most likely dates to the 1940 restoration, though

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whether it was repurposed from another fireplace in the house or built to resemble extant ones remains unknown.

First floor:

At the core of the first story is a wide central passage extending from the front to the rear elevation. On both the north and the south elevations, the entries have are paired raised six-panel doors on the exterior, backed on the interior by beaded diagonal boards. The doors are mounted with HL hinges top and bottom, with H hinges providing additional support in the center. The hinges and the locks on these doors could be original or date to the careful 20th-century restoration. Simple rectangular transoms above the doors were replaced with decorative ones during the 1940 restoration, and capture the decorative aesthetics associated with the Colonial Revival movement. The center passage retains its crown molding, picture rail, three-board wainscoting with a molded cap, and baseboards, though in some places the wainscoting has been cut away for radiators embedded in the walls. It is likely that these decorative finishes blend original elements with ones added during the 1940s. The first-floor staircase has irregular turned balusters, two per tread, and ascends to the south. Access to the basement from the interior is via a narrow stairway beneath. Both stairways are likely artifacts of the ca. 1840 renovation campaign that created living space in the basement.

From the center passage, visitors enter a very large room on the east, or two smaller rooms to the west. This is essentially a large-scale version of the three-room-plus-passage formula common to wealthy Virginians' houses since about 1720, containing a dining room, parlor, and chamber/main bedroom.

The eastern room, now used as a living room, extends the full depth of the house. It includes a fireplace with a Federal-style mantel, including a frieze with corner blocks and a central lozenge-shaped embellishment, situated slightly off-center on the east wall. Other details include three-board horizontal wainscoting with baseboard and molded cap, simple architrave moldings around all openings, and a simple molded cornice encircling the entire room.

The northwest and southwest rooms share the same chimney stack, with a corner fireplace and Federal-style mantel in the latter room. The southwest room retains its three-board wainscoting with cap and baseboard, though it lacks the other decorative elements such as crown molding, which indicates this may have been a room intended for semi-public use. In the northwest room the corner fireplace is blocked off, and the mantel removed, along with any evidence of wainscoting. Only a baseboard remains. A six-panel door, installed sometime after 1929 based on historic photos, provides access to the exterior. From the central passage, the northwest room is now accessed via a small hall, with a closet to the north and a half-bath to the south. Simple architraves surround the six-panel doors that give access to these various spaces, creating visual harmony with the older elements of the house that surround them.

Second Floor:

The room arrangement on the second floor is similar to that on the first. The stair rises to a central hall of a narrower width than that below, due to the addition of closets during an earlier

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renovation. The three-board horizontal wainscoting with molded cap and baseboard circles the room, interrupted by raised four-panel doors and windows surrounded by simple architraves. Much as below, radiators have been set into the wainscoting. Two steps of a winder stair in the southwest corner protrude into the space, with the rest of the stair concealed behind a batten door. This is likely in its original location, but is of a 19th-century design with triangular cut-outs in the diagonal supports to receive the risers and treads of each step. A bathroom has been carved out of the hall on its north side, and this space was remodeled in 2016.

The two western rooms again have corner fireplaces with simple, likely Federal-style mantels, potentially original to the house. Other potential original elements that may have avoided replacement include floor boards in the western two-thirds of this story and potentially the wainscoting, again consisting of the three-board horizontal type. The windows in both rooms are surrounded by simple architraves. Much like the center passage, radiators have been cut into the wainscoting to provide heat to both rooms. The southwest room includes parts of a mural, hand-painted by the owner in the 1940s, which attest to continuing occupation of the building, as well as modifications to fit the owners' aesthetics. Both rooms are now accessed through short halls, created by closets built into the rooms during the 1940s. The rooms have raised-four panel doors, which, based on the exposed tenons of the top rails, were cut down in height. On the back of the door leading to the northwest room is scratched "1777." While this might indicate that the door was repurposed from an older building on the site (reflected through artifacts recovered on the grounds and Aaron Thornley's birth at White Plains prior to the 1780s), it is equally likely to be an embellishment of more recent vintage.

The eastern room, now used as the master bedroom, includes a mantel with overmantel. The mantel itself is a scaled-down version of the example in the first-floor east room in the Federal style with a frieze with corner blocks, but without the central lozenge. The simple crosseted overmantel was likely added during the circa 1940 restoration of house, as this element is not repeated elsewhere in the house, and the east room otherwise matches the other rooms in the simplicity of its details. A private bath and closet space have been carved out of this room as well.

Attic:

The attic was previously divided into a tripartite plan echoing that of the floors below, with a room on either side of a central space. The eastern room was once partially finished for unheated habitation, based on the ghosts of lath and plaster and nail marks on the rafters. The roof apparently caught fire at some point prior to the circa 1940 restoration which added the clipped gables to the house, as newer rafters were sistered to the burned ones, and were then cut by the changed roofline. It seems that the north dormer window was either added or relocated at this time. Empty joints on the south side of the central space indicate that something was removed prior to new sheathing added in the 1940s. The origin of the south dormer, whether it was part of a pair, relocated as part of the restoration, or added, remains unclear.

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SECONDARY RESOURCES:

B. Gateposts – circa 2009 (non-contributing object)

These gates consist of three square wooden posts with pyramidal caps, with three rails running between the posts. The center post is shorter than the two end posts. The gates flank the gravel drive between James Madison Highway and the dwelling. The gateposts postdate the property's period of significance and therefore are classified as a non-contributing object.

C. Graveyard, circa 1909 (contributing site)

Located between a creek and the southernmost lawn terrace, this graveyard is partially surrounded by welded wire fencing. Only one engraved headstone stands in the graveyard, that of Alexander Baylor Gouldman (1840-1909) and Virginia Frances Gouldman (1850-1910). Several other natural stones of various sizes are present within the bounds of the graveyard, indicating the likelihood of several other burials. In addition, periwinkle plantings are present. The ubiquity of family cemeteries on historic farms is well documented. Such places provide context to the property's occupants over time and understanding of historic funerary practices.

D. Pool House foundation, circa 1940 (contributing site)

All that remains of this building are the soil-filled foundations. Once associated with the swimming pool to the east, this building represented both wealth and the increasing attainability of at-home leisure and recreation in post-World War II America.

E. Swimming pool site, circa 1940 (contributing site)

Now filled-in with soil and grass, this in-ground concrete swimming pool highlighted the Walkers' (then-owners of White Plains) wealth and available leisure time. Colonial Revival designers of the early to mid-twentieth century often took care to blend such amenities into the landscape through judicious use of plantings and landscaping.

F. Gazebo – circa 1960 (non-contributing structure)

This is a wood frame structure that sits on a concrete slab foundation with a pyramidal asphalt-shingle roof. All four elevations are screened. The gazebo is classified as non-contributing because it postdates the property's period of significance and has no relation to the areas of significance.

G. Smokehouse, circa 1786 (contributing structure)

This is a frame structure, sheathed in beaded weatherboard with a batten door. It has an asphalt-shingle pyramidal roof, topped by a wooden finial and currently rests on a concrete foundation. Historic photos indicate this building was extant prior to the 1940s restoration, when a pyramidal roof replaced the gabled one, and may be part of the earliest plantation landscape. Although altered with a concrete foundation and pyramidal roof, the structure contributes to understanding of the property's domestic complex and is classified as contributing.

H. Garage/studio, circa 1940 (contributing building)

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The garage/studio is a wood-frame building, covered with beaded weatherboard. There are nine-over-nine and six-over-six wood sash windows on the first floor and paired four-over-four wood sash on the second. A large garage door allows access to the space from the east elevation. A flight of wooden stairs on the north elevation gives access to an artist's studio above, which still retains some of the murals painted on its walls. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and has clipped gables designed to echo those added to the house. With the advent of automobile transportation during the early twentieth century, provision of garage space became a typical feature of well-to-do households. Additionally, due to its Colonial Revival architectural design, the building contributes to the property's significance.

I. Garden Shed, 2016 (non-contributing building)

This wood frame garden shed is sheathed in vertical boards, with a side gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The very recent construction of this building renders it non-contributing.

J. Duck House 2016 (non-contributing structure)

This is a wood frame structure, covered with weatherboard siding, on a post-in-ground foundation. The side gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. This resource postdates the property's period of significance and is therefore non-contributing.

K. Chicken Houses 2016 (non-contributing structures – 2)

Each wood frame building has a post-in-ground foundation and plywood covering the sides. The end gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The chicken houses are non-contributing due to their recent date of construction.

L. Secondary Dwelling, circa 1860 (contributing building)

This is a two-story, frame building with weatherboard siding. The side gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. An interior, stretcher-bond brick flue rises from the east end of the roof. The windows once had two-over-two wood sash, as evidenced by an extant upper sash in the west gable peak. The building's location in relation to the main domestic complex makes it unlikely to have been a slave quarter or overseer's dwelling, although neither possibility can be entirely foreclosed based on currently available information. The building is currently in poor condition.

M. Pump House, circa 1940 (non-contributing building)

This is a frame building on a poured concrete foundation with a corrugated metal front gable roof. The building has newer pressure-treated lumber framing members and a newer corrugated metal roof. Due to these alterations, the pump house can no longer convey its historic associations and is classified as non-contributing.

N. Archaeological Site 44KG0227, circa 1785-20th century (contributing site)

Surface collected artifacts, including pearlware, white ware, wrought and cut nails, and colored bottle glass illuminate the material lives of the various people who occupied White Plains throughout its existence, including its owners and enslaved people who lived on the property. The owners uncovered remnants of a brick foundation (or potentially substantial brick rubble) while excavating utility lines in 2014. Recent systematic archaeological survey, including

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subsurface testing (approx. 35 shovel test pits), surface observation, and historical data confirm the existence of former buildings and structures, such as a pool, pool house, and landscape terracing, related to the property's 1940 Colonial Revival restoration, as well as artifactual evidence of an occupation earlier than the standing house characterized by North Midland Slipware, English stoneware, and Westerwald stoneware and dating to the early-to-mid-18th century. The locations of other resources, such as barns, slave quarters, and agricultural storage buildings, have not been ascertained to date, but the undisturbed character of White Plains' acreage suggest that future field investigations could eventually identify these places.

Agricultural Landscape

The loss of historic resources, particularly slave quarters, barns, and storage buildings, diminishes the property's historic setting. However, even though farming methods today are certainly different than of a century or more ago, the area's continued rural character contributes to the property's historic sense of time and place. Additionally, this lack of development, paired with surviving landscape architecture and surface collection of artifacts, indicates that there are likely intact cultural strata that could yield archaeological information relevant to the lifeways of enslaved individuals on a prosperous plantation during the Early Republic and Antebellum eras of Virginia's past. This supposition is bolstered by the continuity of farming practices and stability of physical conditions as documented in historic maps, aerial photographs, and remote sensing imagery.

The earliest maps found to date that depict White Plains are military engineers' maps prepared during the Civil War. The first is a map prepared by the Confederate Army's Chief Engineer's Office in 1863 (Figure 1). At this time, White Plains was owned by James S. Quesenberry. Alongside his name, three buildings are shown, presumably indicating locations of the primary dwelling and other major buildings on the property at the time, such as barns and secondary dwellings. The map also depicts the rural road that eventually became part of today's U.S. Route 301 (James Madison Highway). Another important landscape feature depicted are the drainages that have served as boundaries and influenced placement of architectural resources, such as the extant springhouse and pumphouse, throughout the property's history.

An 1864 map prepared by U.S. Army engineers J. F. Gedney and J. Schedler shows similar conditions in the vicinity of White Plains (Figure 2). Although less detailed, this map notes similar features, notably the location of the primary dwelling, the drainage that crossed the property and the adjacent road.

The next known historic map, and at a considerably larger scale, is a topographic map for the Fredericksburg area prepared by the U.S. Coast and Geological Survey in 1887-1888. The principal value of this map in interpreting the landscape of White Plains is that it depicts the topographic relief in the area. The property occupies an elevated area alongside an unnamed drainage into the stream named Guicatic Run. The topography depicted on this map provides opportunity for better understanding of the layout of White Plains, with its domestic complex located relatively close to the adjacent rural road, while the well-drained, broad, flat plain

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immediately north and west of the primary dwelling was the primary locus for agricultural activity. Variations of this map, from 1889, 1892, 1894, and 1910, all based on the same survey data and published by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, depict the same local conditions.

By the 1930s, aerial photography had come to serve a variety of purposes, including evaluating conditions of agricultural lands, recording sites proposed for redevelopment, and identifying areas at risk of erosion and flooding. Important to the documentation of landscape features at White Plains are two aerial photographs taken just a few years apart, and before and after the property's early 1940s Colonial Revival restoration project.

A 1937 aerial photograph, although rather grainy, provides visual evidence of the same landscape features that were shown in historic maps. The domestic complex is located at the south end of the property, close to the newly designated and paved U.S. Route 301 (now James Madison Highway). The road's alignment appears virtually unchanged since it first appeared on the 1860s maps prepared by military engineers. Along the property's western boundary is the unnamed stream that feeds into Guicatic Run, while a smaller stream branches in a southeasterly direction to pass beneath the property's entrance drive. Another stream enters the property at about the midpoint of its eastern boundary and continues in a southwesterly direction to the entrance drive, and both of these small streams appear to exit the property by way of a culvert beneath the driveway and U.S. Route 301. The entrance drive follows a slightly curvilinear alignment to access the domestic complex, where it ends in a semicircular loop a short distance north of the primary dwelling. A cluster of at least three outbuildings is north of the terminal loop, with a farm road leading from these in a westerly direction to extend beyond the property's current boundary. At least two more outbuildings stand west of the dwelling. The southernmost of these is in the same location as the extant historic smokehouse. Another outbuilding may be west of the entrance drive and just north of the western drainage. The remainder of the domestic complex appears to consist of mown grass interspersed with a small number of trees.

The 1937 aerial photograph also depicts the extant secondary dwelling close to the property's eastern boundary. No other architectural resources appear to be in its vicinity and it does not have an obvious means of access, suggesting it may have been unoccupied at this point. North of the domestic complex, a series of thick dark lines across the agricultural fields are suggestive of drainage and/or irrigation ditches. The location of the presumed ditch that extends in a generally north/south direction through White Plains' fields coincides roughly with the relief pattern shown on the earlier topographic maps in the property's immediate vicinity. Such ditches have been documented to have been in use at least by the early 19th century on Virginia plantations. Originally hand-dug and maintained by enslaved workers, the ditches remained usable for decades even as farming practices evolved. During the early 20th century, mechanized excavation equipment replaced manual labor in digging and maintaining such ditches. Today, the lingering presence of these ditches at White Plains is evidenced by the treeline that extends from north to south across the property, terminating alongside the northern bank of the property's eastern unnamed stream.

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A 1940s aerial photograph of White Plains demonstrates the results of a new property owner's investment in the historic farmstead (Figure 5). Readily visible key differences within the domestic complex include new fences enclosing the dwelling and its curtilage, removal of at least two of the outbuildings along the driveway just north of the curtilage, and clearer imagery of the two outbuildings located west of the primary dwelling. The northern of these two buildings is likely the newly built garage/studio, while the southern is the historic smokehouse. The swimming pool and pool house have been constructed a short distance southwest of the dwelling. Additionally, the pump house and springhouse alongside the property's western unnamed stream

East of the entrance driveway is a new pond that presumably was created by damming the unnamed stream that enters White Plains at its eastern boundary. The pond has remained largely unchanged to the present day. The secondary dwelling near the eastern boundary appears to have been improved with a coat of white paint. Two outbuildings now stand a short distance east of the dwelling, and what may be an unpaved driveway leads from U.S. Route 301 to the pair of buildings.

Finally, a major alteration to the landscape is evident in the agricultural fields north of the domestic complex. The principal drainage/irrigation ditch that extended in a north/south direction from the northern boundary is far less visible, and the fields are marked by linear patterns suggestive of clay drainage tile, a subsurface material popular at this time for improving drainage of agricultural fields.

Topographic maps from 1942 and 1968 (photo revised to 1981) show now major changes to the rural agricultural landscape that has characterized the vicinity of White Plains since its 18th century establishment. A 1994 aerial photograph that is among the collections of Google Earth shows that the property continued in active agricultural use. The fields north of the domestic complex continue to bear evidence of the drainage tile installed during the 1940s. The curtilage around the primary dwelling and the part of the property between it and U.S. Route 301 has considerably more trees, thus obscuring changes in these areas. Along the eastern boundary, the secondary dwelling still is accessed by a drive from U.S. Route 301, but it is difficult to ascertain if any other changes have occurred.

By 2002, Google Earth imagery shows that the trace of the irrigation ditch that historically bisected White Plains' agricultural fields had become visible again (Figure 7). The ditch had become more evident by 2008, with a line of trees along its length. Between 2008 and 2017 illustrates the gradual reforestation of the western agricultural field at White Plains (Figures 7-8). Few other overt changes to the landscape appear to have occurred.

The third means for evaluating changes to the landscape of White Plains is based on remote sensing, which is the science of obtaining information about objects or areas from a distance, typically from aircraft or satellites. As explained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the

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Earth. These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system— generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. A LIDAR instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver. Airplanes and helicopters are the most commonly used platforms for acquiring LIDAR data over broad areas. Topographic LIDAR typically uses a near-infrared laser to map the land, and can identify features, both natural and manmade, that may not be apparent or visible at ground level.¹

Imagery of White Plains generated with LIDAR reveals that the landscape continues to be shaped by the unnamed streams along its eastern, western, and southern boundaries (Figure 10). These appear as the darkest areas on the image, which is indicative of the change in relief. The northern agricultural fields continue to bear the imprints of drainage/irrigation ditches, clay drainage tile, and relict farm roads. Although difficult to interpret, the image displays many of the same changes to the landscape noted on historic aerials and maps. The abundance of mapping and imagery provide documentation of the continuity in agricultural activity at White Plains since the late 18th century. They also provide clues for any future archaeological field investigations that may occur on the property.

Integrity Statement

White Plains stands out for its largely undisturbed character, as exemplified by its high integrity of location and setting. Both the property itself and the larger landscape retain a strong rural character that demonstrate few changes having occurred since the property's period of significance ended in 1945. Many historic plantations across Virginia were revitalized during the early to mid-twentieth century with Colonial Revival restorations. White Plains ranks among the more modest and restrained examples of these. Successfully integrating much of the main dwelling's historic fabric with the 1940 renovation, the house was provided with modern conveniences, such as radiator heating and multiple bathrooms, without compromising the house's original floor plan and finishes. Additionally, the dwelling's historic materials demonstrate that various owners have made changes to the house to accommodate changing needs. The most notable is perhaps the ca. 1840 renovation that created additional living space in the basement and was, in turn, renovated again in 1940, ca. 1970, and in 2016 (which largely reversed the ca. 1970 updates). As a result, the house has high integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The larger landscape and secondary resources at White Plains are more mixed in terms of integrity. Certainly the property's rural, undisturbed character are evocative of its historic setting, but the lack of historic agriculture-related buildings and structures make it difficult to discern this aspect of the property's history. On the other hand, retention of the 18th century terracing and the presence of archaeological deposits within the domestic complex provide opportunities for learning more about the property's early use. The landscape design associated with the 1940 Colonial Revival restoration is somewhat compromised by loss of the swimming pool and pool house, both recreational amenities that speak to the wealth and leisure

¹ National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, "What is LIDAR?" (Published online at <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/lidar.html>).

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time available to its owners at that time. Overall, however, these physical attributes mean that the property's integrity of feeling, as expressed by its ability to convey its period of significance through its ensemble of architectural resources, landscape features, and rural setting, remains intact. Finally, White Plains has high integrity of association with King George County's antebellum history and reliance on an enslaved labor force to fuel its successful agricultural economy. Substantial documentation in the historic record contributes to its integrity of association. As many as 54 enslaved African Americans are known to have worked and lived here at one time, placing the plantation among the largest in Virginia's Tidewater region during the early to mid-nineteenth century. Analysis of the changes to the property's landscape since the Civil War, through use of historic maps, aerial photographs, and LIDAR, demonstrate the property's rich integrity of association with its agricultural past. White Plains also has high integrity of association with the Colonial Revival movement, particularly the offshoot of the movement that targeted historic plantation houses for "restoration." While that practice often blended retention of original features with elements that designers and property owners imagined should have been present in the historic period, White Plains stands out for the care that has been taken since 1940 to preserve its historic materials and design while also meeting needs for modern living.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE; African American

Period of Significance

1786-1945

Significant Dates

1786

1840

1940

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thornley, Aaron

Quesenberry, James

Walker, Alexander

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

White Plains is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. Under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: African American, White Plains is locally significant due to the well-documented work of enslaved persons of African descent from the 1780s until the early 1860s. The documentary record, including tax records, slave schedules, and local business accounts, concerning this population, coupled with the high integrity of the primary dwelling, historic outbuildings, and agricultural landscape on which they worked and lived, reveal important information about the lifeways of enslaved individuals on a plantation of this size. The availability of multiple record types *and* intact places associated with enslaved persons is a rare circumstance when it comes to Virginia's small-to-middling plantations such as White Plains. Under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, White Plains preserves two architectural styles important to Virginia's architectural history: the late Georgian/early Federal and the Colonial Revival. White Plains was built in 1786 by King George County surveyor Aaron Thornley as an enlarged version of the three-room-plus-passage plan then common to the Virginia landscape. Built as the fledgling United States was still attempting to find its own identity, the building includes both Georgian and Federal elements. The house was restored in the 1940s, and Colonial Revival elements were added, possibly under the guidance of Thomas Tileston Waterman. Remarkably, this was done with a strong sense of preservation that seemed to "colonialize" relatively little of the house and instead ensured its continued preservation and use. The period of significance stretches from the beginning of construction in 1786 to the conclusion of the restoration circa 1945.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage – African American

Virginia's economy was built on the institution of slavery. Beginning in 1619 with the landing of "20. and odd Negroes,"² enslaved Africans and African Americans performed crucial labor that enabled Virginia to survive as a colony in the 17th century, to thrive in the 18th, and to establish itself as an independent state in the 19th century. Across more than two centuries, enslaved men and women planted and harvested crops, manufactured goods, practiced skilled trades, cooked meals, looked after their owner's children, and countless other labors. These efforts often went unrewarded for the individual, while enabling Virginia's economy to grow and providing wealth to their owners. Enslaved individuals supplied the labor to cultivate tobacco as Virginia's first significant cash crop, and later wheat, corn, and other marketable crops as planters and farmers

² John Rolfe to Sir Edwin Sandys, 1619/1620. The Thomas Jefferson Papers Series 8. Virginia Records Manuscripts. 1606– 1737. Susan Myra Kingsbury, ed., *Records of the Virginia Company, 1606–1626*, 3:241–242, 243–245, 247–248.
https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/_20_and_odd_Negroes_an_excerpt_from_a_letter_from_John_Rolfe_to_Sir_Edwin_Sandys_1619_1620

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sought to diversify their agriculture to stabilize their personal economies and restore the quality of their lands. Enslaved individuals also piloted the boats used to transport goods up and down Virginia's rivers, operated Virginia's iron furnaces, and processed and packed Virginia's goods for shipment around the world. No aspect of life in Virginia between 1619 and 1865 was untouched by the institution of slavery.

The documentary evidence of White Plains' enslaved population reveals broad patterns at the plantation level, as well as insights into individual lives, revealing the patterns of enslaved individuals' lived experiences on a plantation landscape in Virginia's Northern Neck. Given the interwoven nature of slavery and agricultural production in Virginia, as well as the document-based research potential, White Plains is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage (African American).

Demographic Patterns

When Aaron Thornley had White Plains built in 1786, he owned at least fifteen enslaved individuals over the age of 16.³ Four years before, in 1782, he owned twelve enslaved tithables.⁴ By 1787, he would own eight.⁵ The enslaved individuals enumerated as part of Aaron Thornley's annual King George County personal property tax supplied the labor that allowed Thornley to amass the land and afford to build the house that stands as White Plains today. Though the extent of enslaved laborers' involvement in the construction of the main house is unknown, they were responsible for much of the activity on the property. The combination of documentary evidence of this population and the high integrity of the historical landscape on which they lived has the potential to reveal a great deal of information about the lifeways of enslaved individuals on a plantation of this size. Plantations like White Plains were fairly common across the Virginia landscape prior to the Civil War, though they remain understudied in favor of plantations that were larger, owned by famous proprietors, or both. White Plains falls generally outside these parameters, and so offers a history often overlooked, despite the more representative lived experiences of the people there.

The majority of the information about the enslaved people at White Plains comes from the Personal Property Tax Lists for King George County, which recorded information about the community in different ways over time in order to most effectively levy taxes on the men who owned White Plains and other properties. These numbers reveal that White Plains was home to a population of enslaved laborers that numbered from the low teens to the low twenties (Figure 1). These numbers are problematic, however. The lists often only record tithables, those white men over 16 and enslaved persons of both sexes over 16, who contributed their economic labor to the state and could consequently be taxed for its benefit. That categorization overlooked African Americans under the age of 16, and occasionally elderly individuals, and ignored the sex of these people, which makes demographic reconstruction difficult. Enumeration of "black tithables" therefore undercounts the population. That category also had a habit of shifting; various

³ Personal Property Tax Records for King George County, 1786, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

⁴ Personal Property Tax Records for King George County, 1782.

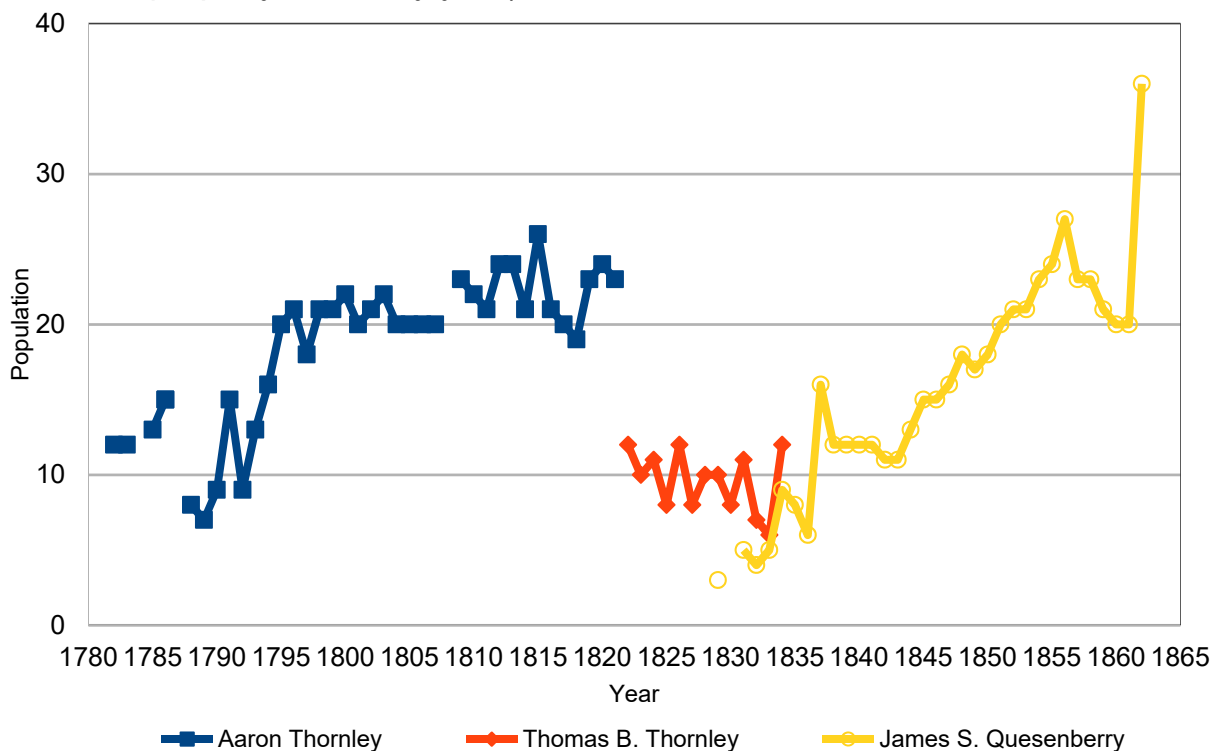
⁵ Personal Property Tax Records for King George County, 1788.

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categories included “slaves between 9 and 12,” “slaves over 12,” “young negroes,” and “blacks over 12 and under 16.”⁶ This creates an ever-shifting category which makes it difficult to firmly establish the total number of enslaved individuals at White Plains. Slave schedules confirm the underrepresentation of the entire slave population at White Plains in the late antebellum period. In 1850, James Quesenberry was taxed on twelve slaves and in 1860 on 20. The U.S. Census Slave Schedules for those years record 23 and 54 enslaved people on the property.⁷

Figure 1: Calculated Enslaved Population
(Total of all enumerated slaves in personal
property tax list by year)



During the tenures of Aaron Thornley, his son Thomas B. Thornley, and James Slaughter Quesenberry, the enslaved population of White Plains fluctuated between a small plantation (less than 20 slaves) and a small-to-middling plantation (20-40 slaves). The drastic shifts in population when Aaron Thornley had White Plains built in 1786 and when Thomas B. Thornley came into possession of the property in 1821 both mark points when these enslaved laborers were

⁶ Personal Property Tax Records for King George County.

⁷ Year: 1840; Census Place: King George, Virginia; Roll: 564; Page: 51; Family History Library Film: 0029688; Ancestry.com, 1840 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; Ancestry.com. 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004; Ancestry.com. 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010.

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commodified to the utmost; they became capital which needed to be made liquid in order to pay expenses or debts. Similarly, Quesenberry's increase in enslaved labor shortly after his purchase of White Plains in 1836 is a moment that highlights his investment in his new economic venture. The peaks and valleys evident in this demographic analysis likely signal moments of sale and separation for enslaved individuals, as well as births and deaths, all of which served to keep the enslaved population at White Plains to a number appropriate to the labor needs of its owner.

Enslaved Individuals and Agency

Among the various enslaved people owned by Aaron Thornley, only two can currently be identified in greater detail in the documentary record. Between 1803 and 1813, local merchant George White maintained a business journal. In it, he recorded sales to several African Americans, including "Negro George Bird," "Grace – Mulatto Woman," "Carpenter Cox" and "Joiner Harry." While this journal captures an array of economic activity among African Americans in King George County, it includes accounts for "Ben (belonging to A. Thornley)" and "Solomon Jackson. A. Thornley's Bksmith."⁸ Ben made only a single purchase. On 25 December 1812, he bought sugar and whiskey for three shillings and paid in full.⁹ The transactions reveal that Ben carried ready money into the transaction and the timing of it suggests that Ben bought the goods for a holiday celebration.

Solomon Jackson, a blacksmith, carried an account with White between December 1810 and December 1813, and his transactions capture a remarkable amount of detail regarding his life, and that of his family. During those three years, Jackson purchased several quarts of whiskey and the occasional quart of rum. He also purchased two yards of plain cloth, 2 ¼ yards of blue cloth, one yard of Indian cotton, 2 ¾ yard linen, one dozen buttons, three pairs of breeches, and a silk handkerchief.¹⁰ Purchases of luxury items, such as silk, ribbons, and mirrors, by enslaved individuals is well documented in scholarly literature, and it seems that Jackson had the economic ability and the social capital to procure such goods on credit.¹¹ When Jackson paid off his accounts, he did so with both cash and goods. He sold White five persimmon pones, unleavened bread that was the first step in brewing persimmon beer. This implies that Jackson not only had access to persimmons, but also had a member of his household who was familiar with the brewing process. That person was likely Jackson's wife, who purchased two mugs on his account, as well as carrying a balance of her own.¹² Jackson settled the rest of the account with a screw lock and cash.¹³ Locks are among the most complicated items to produce in the blacksmith trade, and Jackson's ability to do so indicates a high level of skill. As a skilled craftsman, Jackson not only contributed to the internal economy of White Plains through the

⁸ George White, Jr., *Journal, 1803-1813*, Business Records Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

⁹ White, *Journal*, 103.

¹⁰ White, *Journal*, 10.

¹¹ Ann Smart Martin, *Buying into the World of Goods: Early Consumers in Backcountry Virginia* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008), 173-193; Patricia Samford, "The Archaeology of African-American Slavery and Material Culture," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 53, no. 1 (January 1996), 109.

¹² White, *Journal*, 69.

¹³ White, *Journal*, 10, 69.

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production of documented items such as locks, as well as goods commonly produced by blacksmiths, such as hoes, nails, and hinges, but he also participated in the greater economy within King George County, likely using profits earned from hiring out his labor to provide a more comfortable existence for his wife and family.

The other significant documentary evidence gives a much more detailed picture of the enslaved community at White Plains in 1862. In that year, James Quesenberry paid taxes on 36 slaves, nearly twice the population (20) taxed for 1861. The key change between the two years was a shift in the enumeration process. Rather than recording only slaves over the age of 16, in 1862 the county tax collector recorded the “number and value of slaves of all ages and both sexes.”¹⁴ This number captures the most accurate portrait of the community as a whole. Between the time the tax was recorded and 1 February 1863, thirty-four of those thirty-six people “left...to the enemy.”¹⁵ The eldest of the enslaved individuals who sought their freedom was Fanny, “aged about 56,” while the youngest was infant Emma; fourteen of the thirty-four were men, half of whom were over 18 years old and the oldest was 45. Quesenberry’s enslaved laborers of both sexes were generally within the prime of their lives, and the simple lure of living their remainder of their days as free persons likely motivated them to abscond with themselves to Union lines.

Landscapes of Enslavement

The most significant physical spaces in which White Plains’ enslaved population worked is the house itself. Enslaved women likely moved through the house with greatest regularity, cooking and serving meals, changing linens, and attending to both the family and to guests as required. The most intact space with which enslaved individuals interacted is likely the attic. Attics and basements, as secondary spaces, often became living quarters for the enslaved individuals who worked nearest them. A cook might sleep in or above her kitchen, and a laundress near her cauldrons. The attic of White Plains has additional framing, now stripped of its surfaces, which divides the expanse into two chambers with a passage between. This mimics the plan of the floors below and creates large, somewhat private rooms, that were likely assigned to enslaved individuals who primarily worked in the house. The basement likely served in a similar capacity, providing space to the necessary, but unattractive, functions that maintained the gentility of the floors above.

The surviving smokehouse to the west of the primary dwelling was also a significant aspect of the enslaved landscape at White Plains. The annual act of butchering and preserving meats would have fallen to enslaved men and women on a plantation the size of White Plains. The structure’s proximity to the house, however, functioned as a means of control over it. The smokehouse was far enough away that it did not impinge on the views either to or from the house but was also close enough that any activity there could be easily monitored from the house. Consequently, the smokehouse became a place representative of the efforts and successes of enslaved labor, but still under the control of white ownership.

¹⁴ Personal Property Tax Records for King George County, 1862.

¹⁵ Claims for slaves who escaped during the late war, 1861-1865, King George County Circuit Court, Local Government Records Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

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The physical landscape on which these enslaved individuals lived and worked remains archaeologically intact, and Site 44KG0224 is a contributing element to White Plains. The current owners have recovered artifacts including pearlware, whiteware, wrought and cut nails, and clear and colored bottle glass dating to the 19th and 20th centuries through surface collections. The presence of these artifacts, combined with a brick foundation uncovered during a utility line excavation and the undeveloped nature of the surrounding landscape, indicate that there are likely intact subsurface cultural deposits associated with the enslaved Africans and African Americans who lived, worked, and died on the property.

The archaeological potential of this site relates directly to the multiple generations of European-American and African-American inhabitants who contributed to it. The archaeological potential especially speaks to the African-American history of White Plains, most specifically regarding the potential quarter known to have existed in the neighboring farm field, as well as additional outbuildings surrounding the house where they would have lived and worked.¹⁶ The cemetery on the property includes two extant tombstones for the Gouldman family, but several additional depressions and small stones are potential markers of other burials. Oral histories connect these burials with prior landowners as well as with enslaved Africans who lived on the property.

Likewise, the integrity of the agricultural landscape at White Plains presents opportunities for further study. As documented through historic maps, aerial photographs and LIDAR, the property's field patterns showed little change across the 20th century and into the 21st. Continuity with agricultural practices of the late 18th and 19th centuries is reasonable to assume. Of particular interest are the presumed use of hand-dug irrigation and/or drainage ditches that may have begun during the antebellum era and continued into the late 1930s.

The historical and archaeological research potential at White Plains is high for understanding lifeways on a plantation, the organization of labor, and the ability for enslaved individuals to shape their worlds through personal choice and consumer goods. An oft cited example of a similar plantation is Portici in Manassas, Virginia.¹⁷ Key differences between these two sites, however, make them foils: Portici was inherited first through the Carter and then through the Ball families, both powerful in the area, while White Plains did not boast the same pedigree; Portici was one of several holdings owned and worked simultaneously, while evidence exists that White Plains was a singular holding; and the grand primary residence at Portici replaced the ubiquitous planters' cabin in the 1820s, some 40 years after Aaron Thornley had White Plains built.

¹⁶ Letter: Alice G. Gray to Mrs. Bailey, 22 February 1977, Private Collection.

¹⁷ Kathleen A. Parke and Jacqueline L. Hernigle, *Portici: Portrait of a Middling Plantation in Piedmont Virginia* (Washington, DC: Regional Archaeology Program, National Capital Region, National Park Service, 1990).

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Aaron Thornley (1750-1821)

The Thornley family is documented in King George County shortly after the county's formation in 1720. Aaron Thornley (d. 1728) received several court summonses in 1721 and 1722, and began accumulating land in 1726.¹⁸ John Thornley (1709-1778) continued to acquire land in the county, obtaining an additional 370 acres before his death.¹⁹ A letter written by Jane Thornley, Aaron Thornley's great-granddaughter, references Aaron Thornley's (1750-1821) birth at White Plains.²⁰ Whether this was an erroneous reference or whether an earlier dwelling stood on the property remains unclear. Aaron Thornley married Caty Dobyns in 1772.²¹

On 3 August 1775, Aaron Thornley took on his first public role. Witnessed by his brother, John Thornley, and Baldwin Berry, Thornley bound himself to "truly and faithfully to the best of his knowledge and power discharge and execute his trust, office, and employment as Surveyor of the County of King George."²² Thornley apparently fulfilled his commission so well that no one challenged his position; no one else registered a bond as a surveyor for King George through 1789.²³ Two years later, Thornley registered his bond to serve as Inspector at Gibson's Warehouse, later Port Conway.²⁴ This position originated more than forty years previously, when the House of Burgesses passed a law requiring tobacco to be inspected at public warehouses prior to shipment in order "to prevent the exportation of bad and trash tobacco, and the many frauds in deceiving his majesty of his customs."²⁵ The 1730 act went on to identify warehouse locations in each county, including "at John Roy's and Mr. Francis Conway's in Caroline, and at Gibson's in King George County, under one inspection."²⁶ By 1734, a ferry was operating between Roy's Warehouse (later Port Royal) on the south side of the Rappahannock and

¹⁸ 2 June 1721 Summons, King George County Court Order Book (1721-1734), p. 2; 3 July 1721 Summons, King George County Court Order Book (1721-1734), p. 7; 2 August 1722 Summons, King George County Court Order Book (1721-1734), p. 59; Deed of Lease, 2 December 1726, King George County Court Order Book (1721-1734), p. 343; Deed, 2 December 1726, King George County Deed Book No. 1 (1721-1729), p. 401; Deed, 2 December 1726, King George County Deed Book No. 1 (1721-1729), p. 404.

¹⁹ Deed, 4 May 1750, King George County Deed Book No. 3 (1743-1752), p. 336; Will, 2 Jun 1757, King George County Will Book No. 1 (1752-1780), p. 673; Deed, 2 Jun 1768, King George County Deed Book No. 5 (1765-1783), p. 748; Deed, Jun 1768, King George County Deed Book No. 5 (1765-1783), p. 747; Deed, 7 Jul 1768, King George County Deed Book No. 5 (1765-1783), p. 759; Deed, 3 Nov 1774, King George County Deed Book No. 5 (1765-1783), p. 1146.

²⁰ Letter: Jane R. T. Grayson A.W. Walker, 18 June 1941. Private Collection.

²¹ "King George County Marriages," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* v. 22 (July 1914), p. 311.

²² Bond, 3 August 1775, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 225.

²³ King George County Bonds (1765-1789).

²⁴ Bond, 2 October 1777, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 260.

²⁵ William Waller Hening, ed., *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619* (Richmond: Franklin Press, 1820), 4:247-271.

²⁶ William Waller Hening, ed., *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619* (Richmond: Franklin Press, 1820), 4:247-271.

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Gibson's Warehouse on the north.²⁷ While Thornley renewed his bond in 1779, 1783, and 1791, Gibson's continued to serve as a tobacco inspection warehouse well into the 19th century.²⁸

Thornley positioned himself well. As both surveyor and inspector at Gibson's warehouse, he was familiar with the geography of that particular landing point of the river and had the skills necessary to divide the land into serviceable parcels for sale. At the request of Francis Conway, Thornley surveyed and laid out thirteen acres of land into twenty half-acre lots for the purpose of establishing a town on Conway's land in 1783. Thornley followed the usual gridiron plan that dominated colonial Virginia's town planning. Limited by the bounds of Conway's property and the topography of the area, Thornley ultimately gave the town of Port Conway an elongated shape, consisting of a single sixty-foot wide street and two thirty-three-foot cross streets.²⁹

When Aaron and Caty Thornley decided to build their house at White Plains in 1786, they were already well-established within King George County's society. The new house likely reflected both a degree of security earned after more than a decade of Aaron's service to the county and the couple's aspirations for the future opportunities that Port Conway would bring. Unfortunately, while the Thornleys continued to expand their holdings, Port Conway never developed beyond a hamlet, as it was overshadowed by Port Royal (DHR # 284-0047) across the river.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Thornley family likely came into possession of the land at White Plains shortly after the formation of King George County. A family history recounted by Jane Riding Thornley Grayson includes the mention that Aaron Thornley was born at White Plains in 1750.³⁰ Dendrochronology indicates a major construction or renovation phase for the building beginning in late 1785 or early 1786, with the timbers cut between November 1785 and February 1786.³¹

As built, the house is an enlarged version of the three-room-plus-passage plan found throughout the Virginia landscape. The proportions, use of English bond in the raised brick foundation, and

²⁷ William Waller Hening, ed., *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619* (Richmond: Franklin Press, 1820), 4:438.

²⁸ Bond, 5 February 1779, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 359; Bond, 2 September 1779, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 360; Bond, 6 February 1783, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 463; William P. Palmer and Sherwin McRae, editors, *Calendar of Virginia State Papers* (Richmond: Public Printing Office, 1883), 5:269; *The Revised Code of the Laws of Virginia* (Richmond: Thomas Ritchie, 1819), 2:135.

²⁹ John W. Reps, *Tidewater Towns: City Planning in Colonial Virginia and Maryland* (Williamsburg: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1972), 213-214.

³⁰ Letter: Jane R. T. Grayson to A.W. Walker, 18 June 1941. Private Collection; Year: 1940; Census Place: Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg City, Virginia; Roll: T627_4307; Page: 2B; Enumeration District: 107-1; Ancestry.com. 1940 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

³¹ Edward R. Cook and William J. Callahan, Jr., *A Dendrochronological Analysis of White Plains House, King George, King George County, Virginia* (2015), 3.

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timber-frame with down braces similarly indicate 18th-century construction. The house was heated by two exterior gable-end chimneys, both laid up of sand-molded bricks in Flemish-bond pattern with two sets of paved shoulders, indicating the presence and approximate location of the first-and second-story fireplaces. The chimneys are identical in scale and proportion, underscoring the fact that the entire house was built in one campaign. The use of Flemish bond on the substantial end chimneys, in contrast to the English bond foundation, was an intentional detail designed to impress. All of the alterations to the house occurred within its original footprint. The side-gable roof was built of common rafters stabilized by collars, indicative of a local builder's understanding that the roof structure could not otherwise span the depth of the building.

Patching is evident on portions of the brick foundation that seem to consistently relate to changes in the sizes of door and window openings over time. Both original brickwork and patches were laid in English bond, but only the undisturbed bricks retain their dark rust-red color. Based on remnants of paint found in crevices of the original bricks, the foundation was once painted white.

The first significant alterations to the building were likely made after Aaron Thornley's death in 1821. His son, Thomas Berry Thornley, inherited White Plains and lived there until it was sold to James Slaughter Quesenberry as part of a 1,100-acre estate in 1836.³² Quesenberry had a sizeable household by 1840, including eight family members and 23 enslaved people, so he likely initiated alterations to the house.³³ King George County land tax records support this, as the building value at White Plains rose from \$1010 in 1838 to \$1510 in 1840.³⁴

The basement underwent the most dramatic changes. Originally an unfinished space with brick or clay tile flooring, in the second quarter of the 19th century it became additional living space. The current bulkhead entrance may have been added at that time to replace an entrance elsewhere or it may have been rebuilt as a replacement for an earlier entrance at the same place. There is currently such an entrance on the west elevation of the building, though there is also evidence of one or two periods of earlier change. Glazed openings replaced open grates. The relieving arches on the east chimney were opened to create a new fireplace in the cellar, possibly following the trend of installing dining rooms on the lower levels of houses during this period. Framing the fireplace is a Federal mantel that echoes those in the rooms above, indicating a broader renovation campaign, though the timing of such a campaign is unclear.

Other changes are indicative of repairs to the building during the 19th century. The winder stair leading to the attic, for example, has a 19th-century carriage. Diagonal supports with triangular cut-outs receive the risers and treads of each step, rather than the older design that relied on

³² Deed, 24 December 1836, King George County Deed Book No. 15 (1837-1841), p. 6.

³³ Year: 1840; Census Place: King George, Virginia; Roll: 564; Page: 51; Family History Library Film: 0029688; Ancestry.com, 1840 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; Ancestry.com.

³⁴ King George County, Land Tax Records, 1838; King George County Land Tax Records, 1840. Such a jump in values could also be indicative of other improvements to the building stock at White Plains, as well.

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horses built out from supporting boards nailed to structural members to support the steps.

Alexander B. Gouldman started acquiring parcels of White Plains in 1883, ten years after Quesenberry's death.³⁵ The Gouldmans owned the property through the early 20th century. White Plains passed through several other families' hands before its purchase by Alexander Walker in 1940.

Shortly after Alexander Walker purchased White Plains in 1940, he embarked on an ambitious restoration campaign. To what degree Colonial Revival scholar and architect Thomas Tileston Waterman was involved in the project remains uncertain, though he did have knowledge of White Plains. In a letter dated 20 February 1975, Alexander Walker wrote "It has always been our belief, based on several facts, that the house was built about 1725. Mr. Thomas Waterman, a prominent architect who spent several years working for Williamsburg, told me he thought that was a likely date."³⁶ As Waterman lived across the Rappahannock River at Port Royal, White Plains was only a short distance away. Blueprints and elevations contained within Waterman's papers at the Library of Congress include drawings of the smokehouse facades from the Servient House, the Nightingale House, Tazewell Hall, and the Lee House. An untitled elevation shows a two-story, three-bay frame house with porch that generally resembles the house at White Plains, though it has internal end chimneys and a gambrel-roofed side porch.³⁷ Given Waterman's extensive experience in restoring colonial-era architecture and shaping the Colonial Revival style through his work at Williamsburg and his scholarship, he may have offered casual assistance to a neighbor, rather than overseeing a full restoration campaign. Walker's letter documents that Waterman at least knew of and examined the house, though any additional involvement has not been documented. This period represents both the second significant period of alterations to the house and a significant engagement with the Colonial Revival movement.

The alterations made to White Plains during this restoration were done quite sensitively. The most notable is the addition of clipped gables on the roof, despite a lack of evidence indicating such a feature existed originally. Photographs of the building restoration on April 25, 1941, reveal the standing-seam metal gable roof of that time.³⁸ Clipped gables are present on several 18th-century houses in the Northern Neck, including Kirnan (DHR#: 096-0013; ca. 1781), the Hague (DHR#: 096-0011), and nearby Marmion (NRHP 1970; DHR#: 048-0012). Those installed at White Plains appear to indicate an attempt to make the house look 'colonial' on a grander scale.

Other restoration changes are more difficult to ascertain with certainty, given the care with which

³⁵ Deed, 10 April 1883, King George County Deed Book 23 (1880-1883), p. 552; Deed 1 July 1885, King George County Deed Book 28 (1896-1900), p. 120.

³⁶ Letter, Alexander Walker to Mrs. Bailey, 20 February 1975 Private Collection.

³⁷ Thomas Tileston Waterman, Waterman Architectural Drawing Archive, 1919-1950, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

³⁸ George Bernard Lorraine Records, ca. 1925-1976. Accession 31042, Business records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

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they were done. Visible nails include wrought and double-struck nails and are likely a combination of ones original to the building and those used to disguise restoration alterations. The heavy beaded diagonal board entry doors in the main floor central passage were likely added during this period as well, to give that space a more “rustic colonial” style. Original trim survives on the second floor, but elsewhere has been replaced. Foliated hinges on the small door under the attic winder stair are older than the house and were brought in to give the stair treatment a colonial look. This was particularly important, given that the wall on the eastern side of the passage was likely created during the restoration to make space for closets and baths for the two smaller bedrooms. The uniformity of the Federal-style mantels in the largest rooms on each floor may reflect fabrication of new architectural elements based on an extant piece in the house. Another possibility is the reuse of material salvaged from another historic house during the 1940 work.

The restoration campaign is remarkable for both its sensitivity to the original material and the preservation ethic it championed, both advertently and inadvertently. The restoration work matched many of the materials so closely that it is difficult to ascertain which pieces came from which century. Given that Colonial Revival architecture created in the 20th century, rather than restorations of historic buildings guided by Revival architects, often allowed for a mélange of elements to be incorporated into a single structure, this accuracy is significant for the care it demonstrates for the historic structure. Today, this degree of seamlessness is discouraged as there is no clear distinction between original and restoration features. For the period, however, this was the epitome of professional and accurate work.

From its inception in the 1870s, the Colonial Revival movement was driven by a sense of preservation. Its roots lay in the centennial celebrations of the American Revolution and in the work of organizations like the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, which sought to save buildings associated with significant people or events from the United States’ colonial past. As it evolved over the coming decades, the Colonial Revival bifurcated. One branch was dedicated to the creation of new architecture that drew on colonial forms and elements, to provide architecture without the trappings of European luxury to American consumers and homeowners. The other branch remained dedicated to the preservation of extant historic structures. The restoration campaign at Colonial Williamsburg in the 1920s and 1930s, and at many of Virginia’s grand plantation homes, stand as emblematic of this preservation ethos. While few people undertook such large-scale projects, this sense of preserving the past by preserving historic structures grew among private individuals as well. In the case of Virginia, many individual preservation projects stemmed from Northern industrialists who purchased stately Virginia homes to partake of the early 20th-century version of the country/gentry lifestyle of the past.

White Plains is remarkable because it does not follow this Colonial Revival mold of wealthy industrialists restoring stately buildings. Alexander Walker was a Virginia native, born in Albemarle County, and recorded in census and draft records as “self-employed,” likely

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indicating that he was a farmer.³⁹ While White Plains is somewhat archetypal as a Virginia house type, and was a large house by colonial standards, it is by no means a grand plantation. That a private individual undertook such a careful restoration of a locally-significant late-18th century dwelling highlights the depth of personal interest that individuals took in the preservation aspects of the Colonial Revival. Walker's apparent commitment to preservation was so sincere that trim removed from the house during the restoration was not discarded. The current owners discovered several hundred feet of it in an outbuilding on the property and have continued to carefully store it. It appears to be mostly baseboards, which still retain their cut nails and layers of paint through which plane chatter marks are visible. Arguably, without the preservation ethos espoused by private individuals and professional architects in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many buildings that survive today and that have formed the core of study materials through which we try to understand the lived experiences of the past would be lost.

Colonial Revival architecture is also significant for its sustained role in the ongoing attempts to define American national identity through architecture. The simple lines of private homes built to follow the proportions of colonial dwellings was intended to foster a populace of strong and pure character, following the example of the Founding Fathers. As Colonial Revival continued to evolve, boosters of the style adopted progressive rhetoric. Not only could simple architecture build character, but it could also incorporate modern and hygienic conveniences with ease. This, too, would create healthy and stalwart Americans. While this rhetoric is somewhat hyperbolic in singing the praises of what architecture modeled on the colonial period could do for the future of the country, it spoke to a contemporary concern of what it meant to live an "American" life, particularly in the face of all the cultural and structural changes occurring across the U.S. during the early to mid-20th century. The White Plains restoration came at a key moment in defining that performative identity. After a decade of economic hardship during the Great Depression, which upturned long-standing American narratives of plenty-through-hard-work, and on the brink of entry into World War II, which required Americans to redefine their place on the international stage, the restoration of an archetypal plantation house, keyed into this sense of American identity through architecture. Walker's restoration campaign not only provided employment to local tradesmen – including painter and paper hanger C.R. Goodwin who signed a wall and dated it January 9th, 1942 – but also created a sense that when the world threatened to fall apart, the American character, as seen in its enduring architecture, endured.⁴⁰

³⁹ The National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; *Draft Registration Cards for Virginia 10/16/1940 – 03/31/1987*; Record Group: *Records of the Selective Service System*, 147; Box: 763; Ancestry.com. *U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

⁴⁰ Charles E. Brownell, Calder Loth, William M. S. Rasmussen, Richard Guy Wilson, *The Making of Virginia Architecture* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1992), 82-131; Carl R. Lounsbury, "Beaux-Arts Ideals and Colonial Reality: The Reconstruction of Williamsburg's Capitol, 1928-1934" *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, v. 49, no. 4 (Dec. 1990), 373-389; David Gebhard, "The American Colonial Revival in the 1930s" *Winterthur Portfolio*, v. 22, no. 2/3 (Summer-Autumn 1987), 109-148; Bridget A. May "Progressivism and the Colonial Revival: The Modern Colonial House, 1900-1920" *Winterthur Portfolio*, v. 26, no. 2/3 (Summer-Autumn 1991), 107-122; William B. Rhoads, "The Colonial Revival and American Nationalism" *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, v. 35, no. 4 (Dec. 1976), 239-254;

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The combination of surviving original elements and notable Colonial Revival modifications, of both the house and surrounding landscape, as well as the dearth of contemporary 18th-century buildings in King George County, particularly those without substantial additions, makes White Plains locally significant for the architectural merit of its two major periods of construction and restoration.

Abigail Carroll, "Of Kettles and Cranes: Colonial Revival Kitchens and the Performance of National Identity" *Winterthur Portfolio*, v. 43, no. 4 (Winter 2009), 335-364.

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #048-0024

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 38.2

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.207194 | Longitude: -77.166108 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.206776 | Longitude: -77.162502 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.203730 | Longitude: -77.162212 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.202034 | Longitude: -77.165426 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

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☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary for White Plains is coterminous with the parcel of land recorded by King George County as #39-1A. The true and correct historic boundary is depicted as the dotted line on the accompanying Tax Parcel Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected because they include several key elements of the White Plains landscape, such as surviving architectural and archaeological resources, as well as open acreage that conveys the property's historic setting, giving a sense of the plantation as it would have looked during the 18th and 19th centuries. All known historic resources are encompassed by the historic boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. David A. Brown, Mr. Thane Harpole, and Dr. Elizabeth Cook
organization: DATA Investigations, LLC
street & number: 1759 Tyndall Point Lane
city or town: Gloucester Point state: VA zip code: 23062
e-mail: fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org
telephone: 804-815-4467
date: March 16, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: White Plains

City or Vicinity: King George County

County: King George County

State: Virginia

Photographers: Elizabeth Cook, Zach Hatcher

Photo 1 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0001
View: Primary dwelling, south façade, camera facing north
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 2 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0002
View: Primary dwelling, west elevation, camera facing east
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 3 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0003
View: Primary dwelling, north elevation, camera facing south
Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 4 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0004
View: Primary dwelling, east elevation, camera facing west
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 5 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0005
View: Gate posts at entry, camera facing southeast
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 6 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0006
View: Gouldman Graveyard, camera facing southwest
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 7 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0007
View: Pool house foundation, camera facing west
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

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Photo 8 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0008
View: Gazebo, east elevation, Smokehouse, south and east elevations, camera facing southwest
Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 9 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0009
View: Pump house, south elevation, camera facing northwest
Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 10 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0010
View: Garage/Studio, east façade, south elevation, camera facing northwest
Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 11 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0011
View: Garden shed, north and east elevations, Duck house, east elevation, camera facing west
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 12 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0012
View: Chicken house duplex, north elevation, camera facing south
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 13 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0013
View: Secondary Dwelling, camera facing east/northeast
Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 14 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0014
View: First floor, Central hall, camera facing northeast
Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 15 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0015
View: First floor, East room, camera facing south east
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 16 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0016
View: First floor, Southwest room, camera facing west
Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 17 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0017
View: Second floor, Hall, camera facing south
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 18 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0018
View: Second floor, Northwest room, camera facing west
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

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Photo 19 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0019
View: Second floor, East room, camera facing east
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 20 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0020
View: Basement, Dining room, camera looking north east
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 1

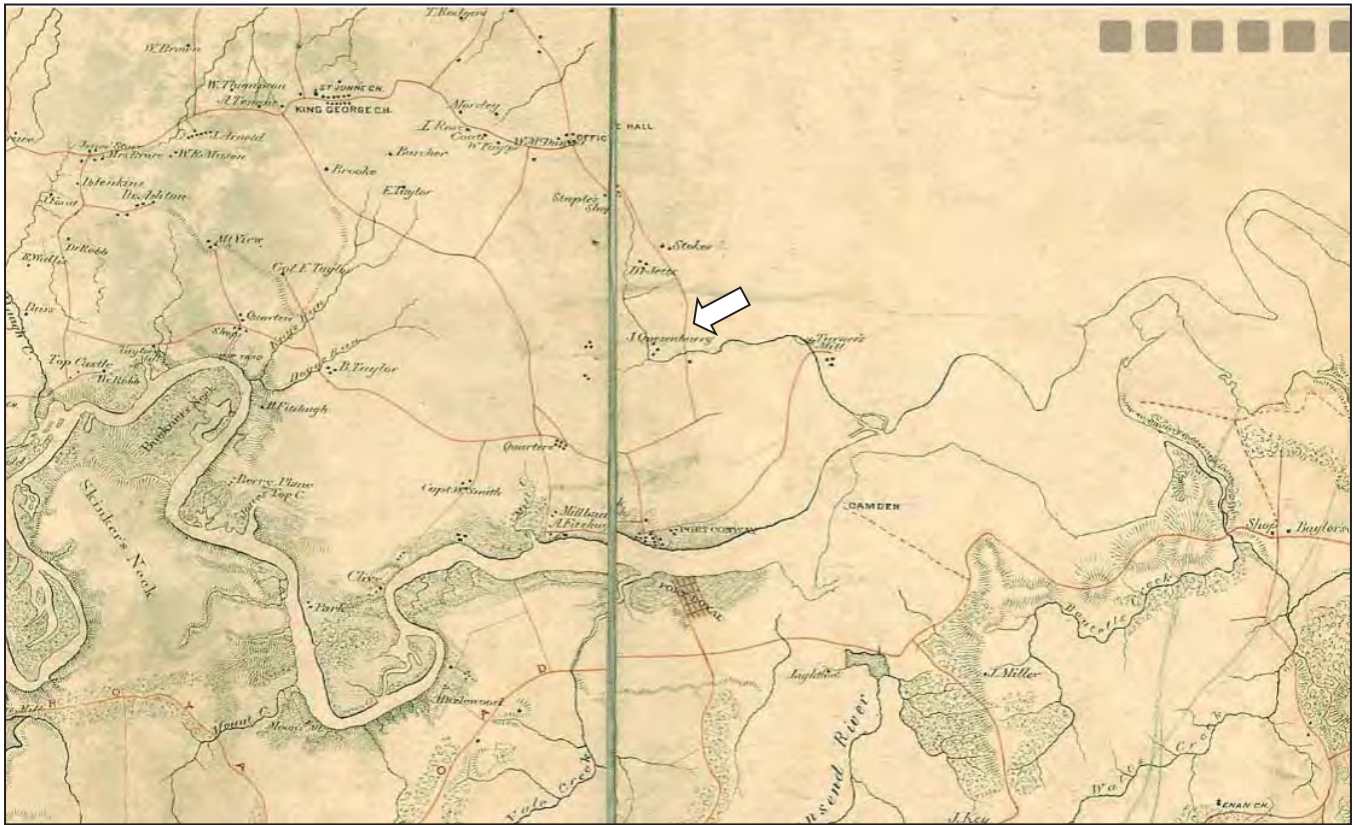


Figure 1. [Map of the counties of Caroline, Essex, Orange and Spotsylvania, and parts of the counties of Hanover, King and Queen, King George, King William, and Stafford, Va.] Confederate States of America. Army. Dept. of Northern Virginia. Chief Engineer's Office. [S.l. : Chief Engineer's Office, D.N.V., 1863].

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National Park Service

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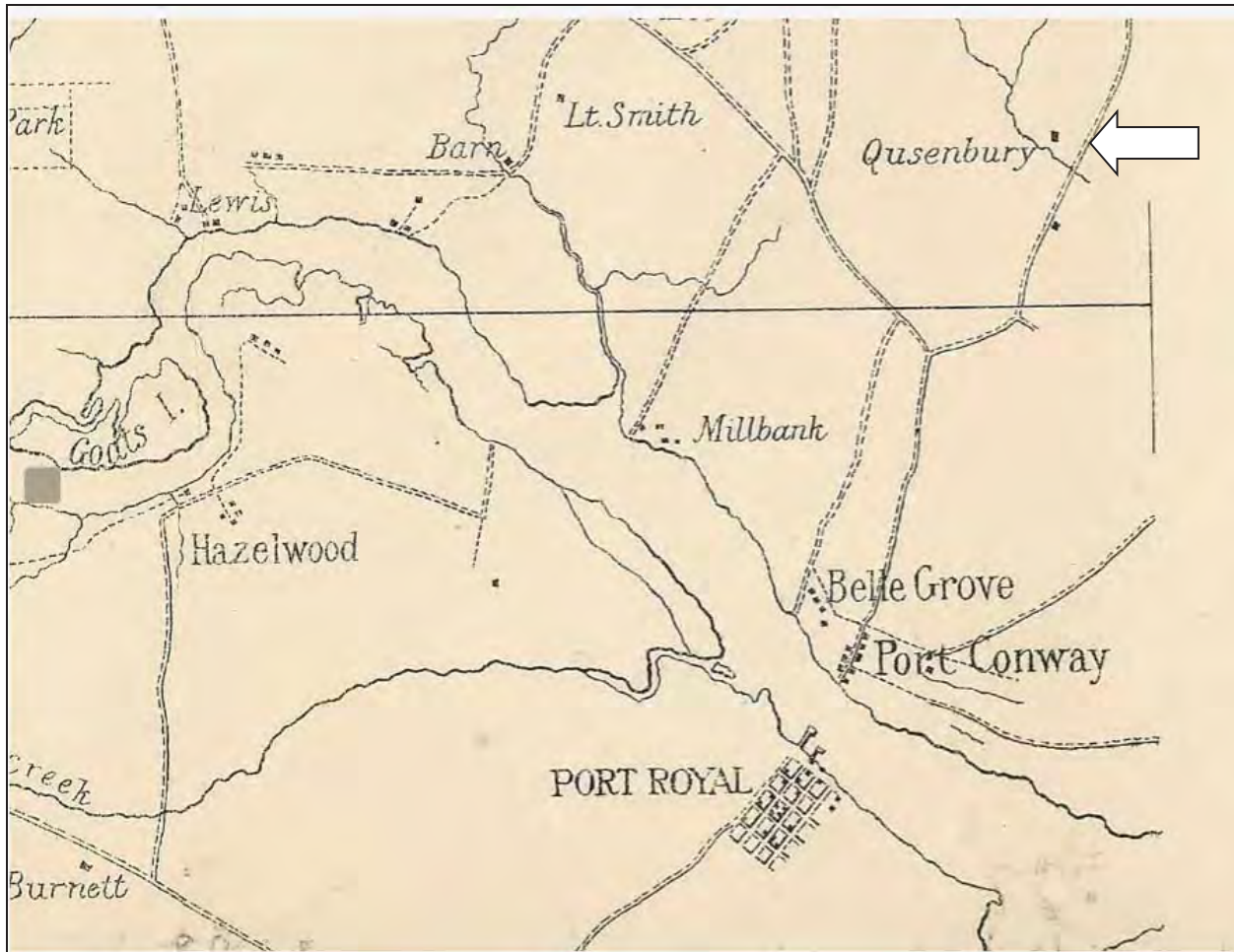


Figure 2. [Central Virginia]. United States. Army. Corps of Topographical Engineers. Gedney, J. F. Schedler, J. United States. Army of the Potomac. Engineer Dept. Washington, DC : Lith. by J.F. Gedney, [1864-?].

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 3

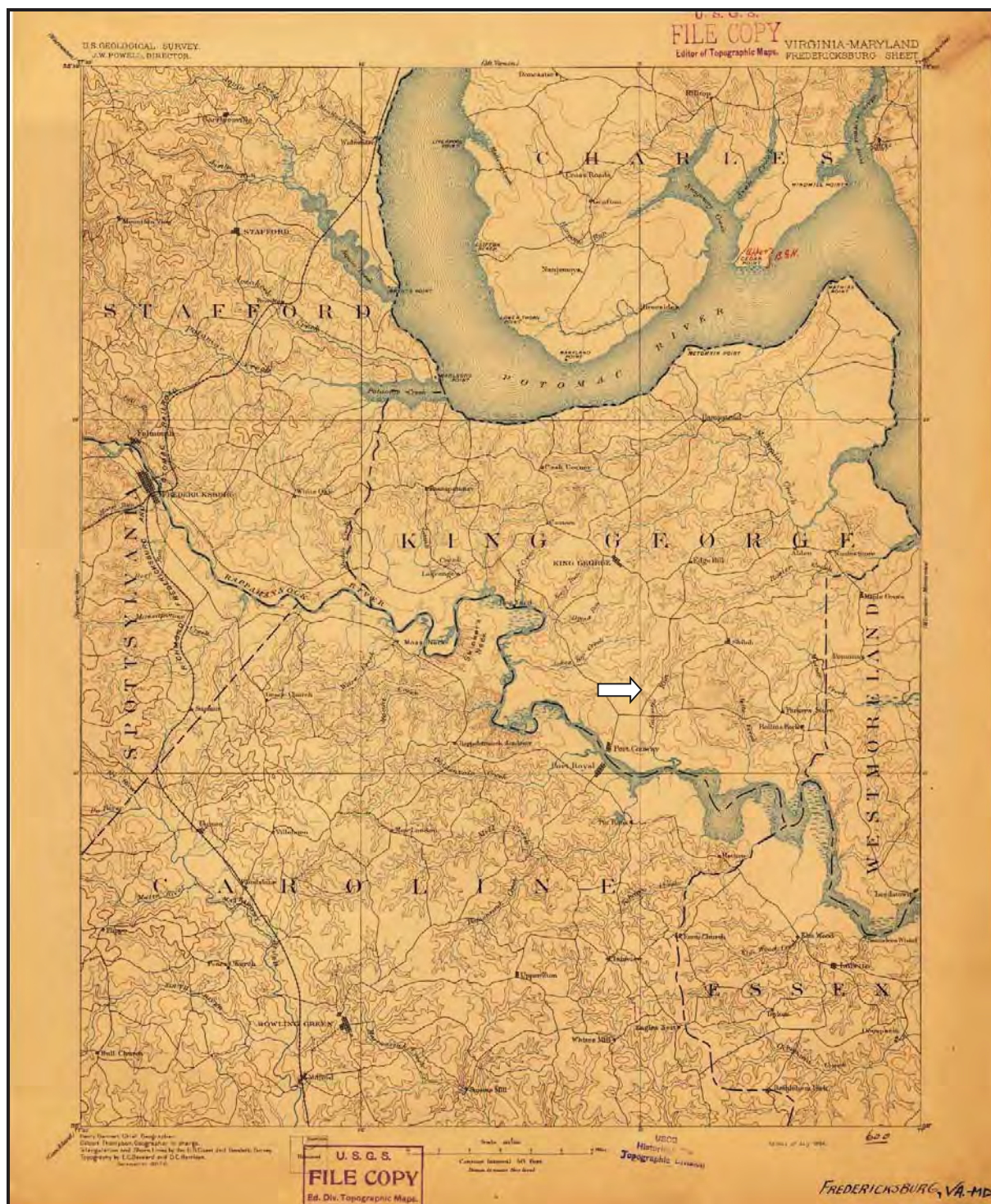


Figure 3. Henry Gannett, Chief Geographer, Fredericksburg, VA-MD, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Surveyed in 1887-1888.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 4

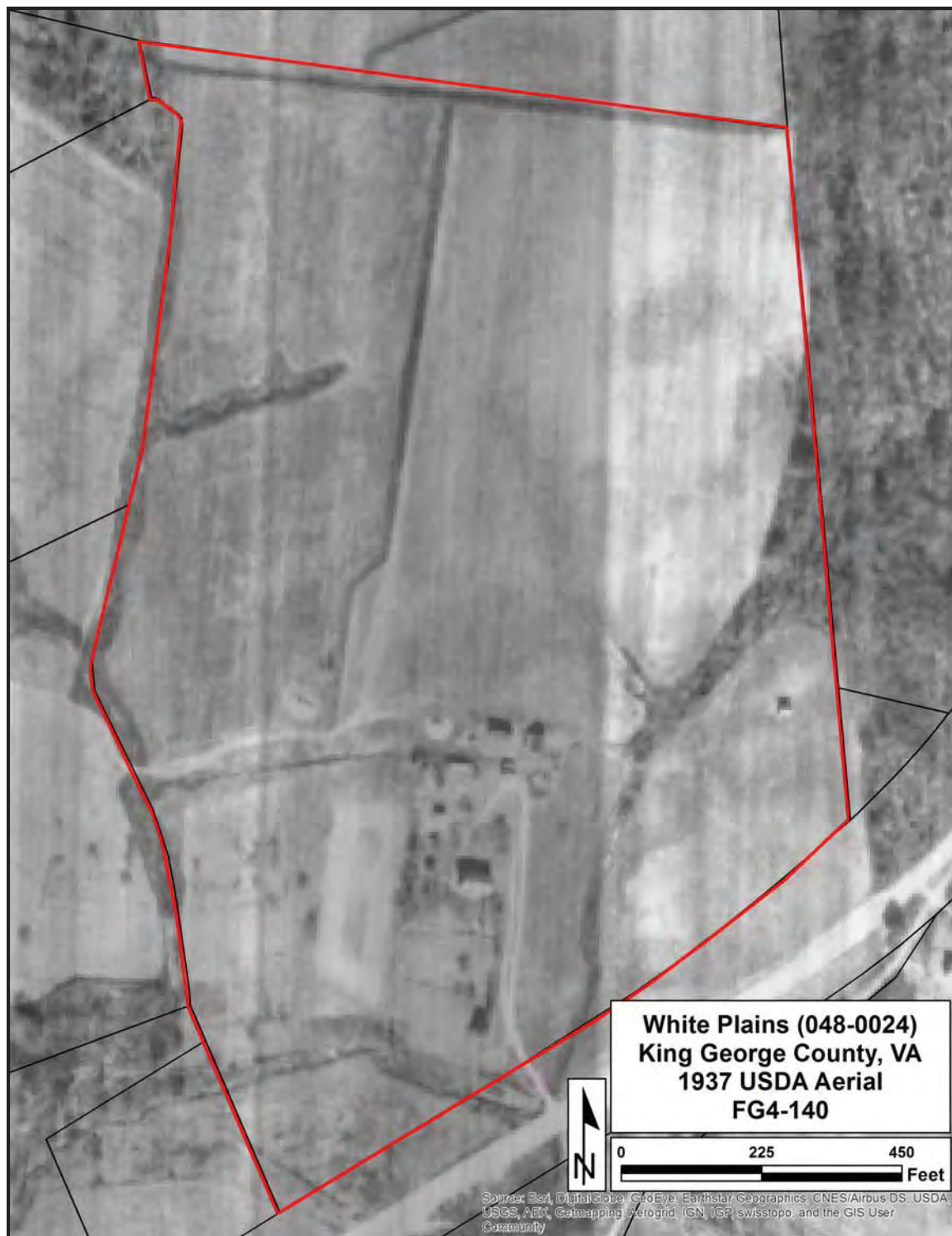


Figure 4. Aerial Photograph of White Plains, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1937.

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National Park Service

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Figure 5. Aerial Photograph of White Plains, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1940s.

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National Park Service

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Page 6

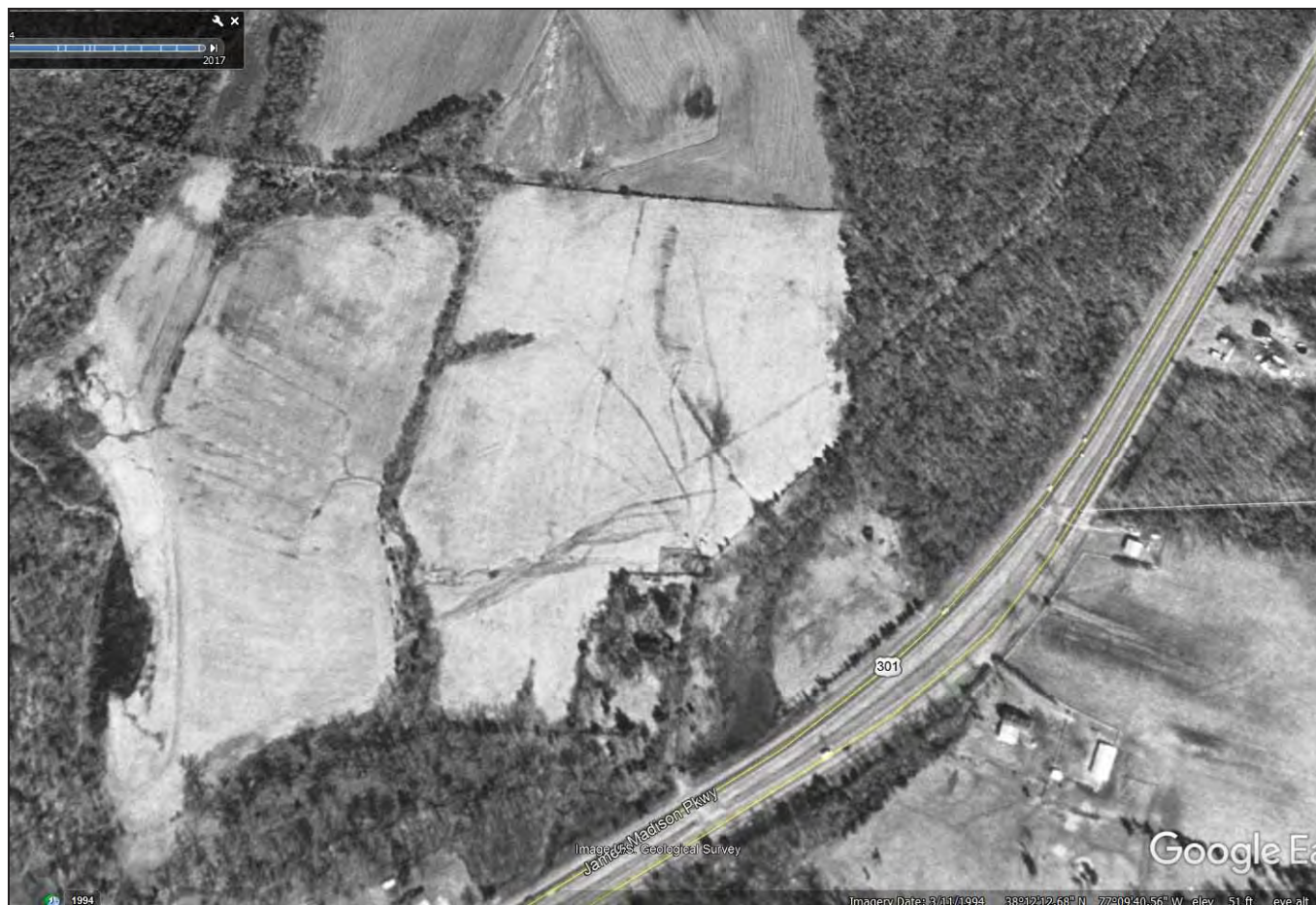


Figure 6. 1994 Aerial showing White Plains, Google Earth.

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Figure 7. 2002 Aerial showing White Plains, Google Earth.

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Figure 8. 2008 Aerial showing White Plains, Google Earth.

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Figure 9. 2017 Aerial showing White Plains, Google Earth.

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National Park Service

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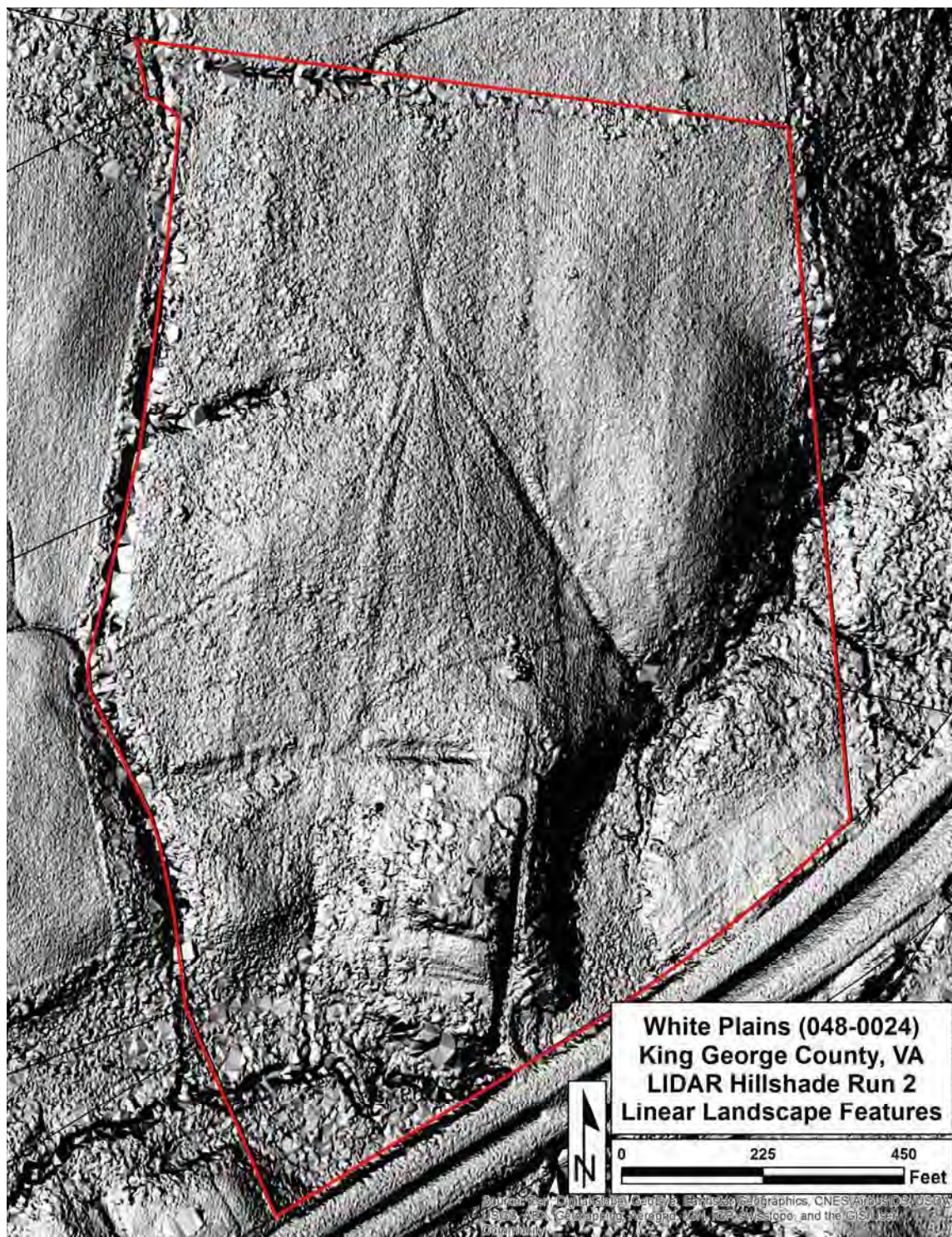


Figure 10. LIDAR imagery of White Plains.



LOCATION MAP

White Plains

King George County, VA

DHR No. 048-0024

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 38.207194

Longitude: -77.166108

2. Latitude: 38.206776

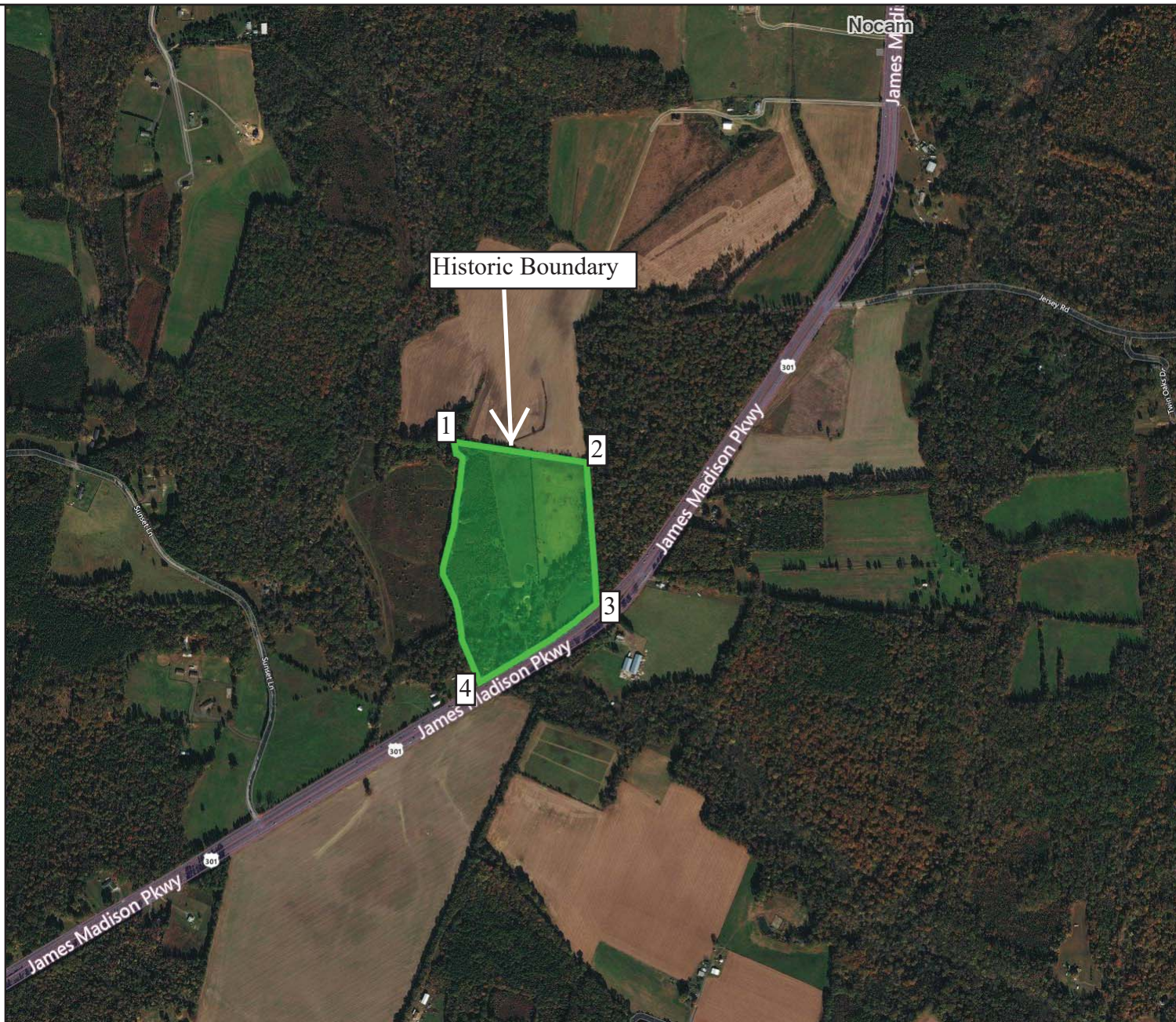
Longitude: -77.162502

3. Latitude: 38.203730

Longitude: -77.162212

Latitude: 38.202034

Longitude: -77.165426



Feet

0 500 1000 1500 2000

1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title:

Date: 12/20/2018

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Historic Boundary

SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY

White Plains

King George County, VA

DHR No. 048-0024

October 2017

DATA Investigations, LLC

- driveway
--- landscape terrace
▲ # photo and direction *

*** NOTE ON PHOTOS:**
Photo #s 15-25 are interior architectural photos and are not shown on this map.

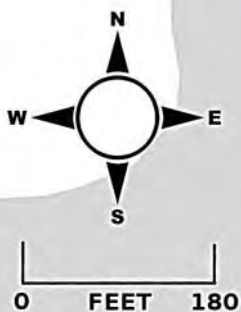
Individual Resources:
C=contributing
NC=non-contributing

- A. Main house, 1786; 1940, contributing building
- B. Gateposts, circa 2009, non-contributing object
- C. Graveyard, circa 1909, contributing site
- D. Pool House Foundation, circa 1940, contributing site
- E. Swimming Pool Site, circa 1940, contributing site
- F. Gazebo, circa 1960, non-contributing structure
- G. Smokehouse, circa 1786, contributing structure
- H. Garage/Studio, circa 1940, contributing building
- I. Garden Shed, 2016, non-contributing building
- J. Duck House, 2016, non-contributing structure
- K. Chicken House, 2016, non-contributing structures - 2
- L. Secondary Dwelling, circa 1860, contributing building
- M. Pump House, circa 1940, non-contributing building
- N. Archaeological Site 44KG0227, circa 1785-20th century, contributing site

property boundary

woods

N
archaeological site
44KG0227



woods

tributary of Gingoteague Creek

James Madison Parkway / US Hwy 301

woods

pond

TAX PARCEL MAP
White Plains
King George County, VA
DHR No. 048-0024

— Streams

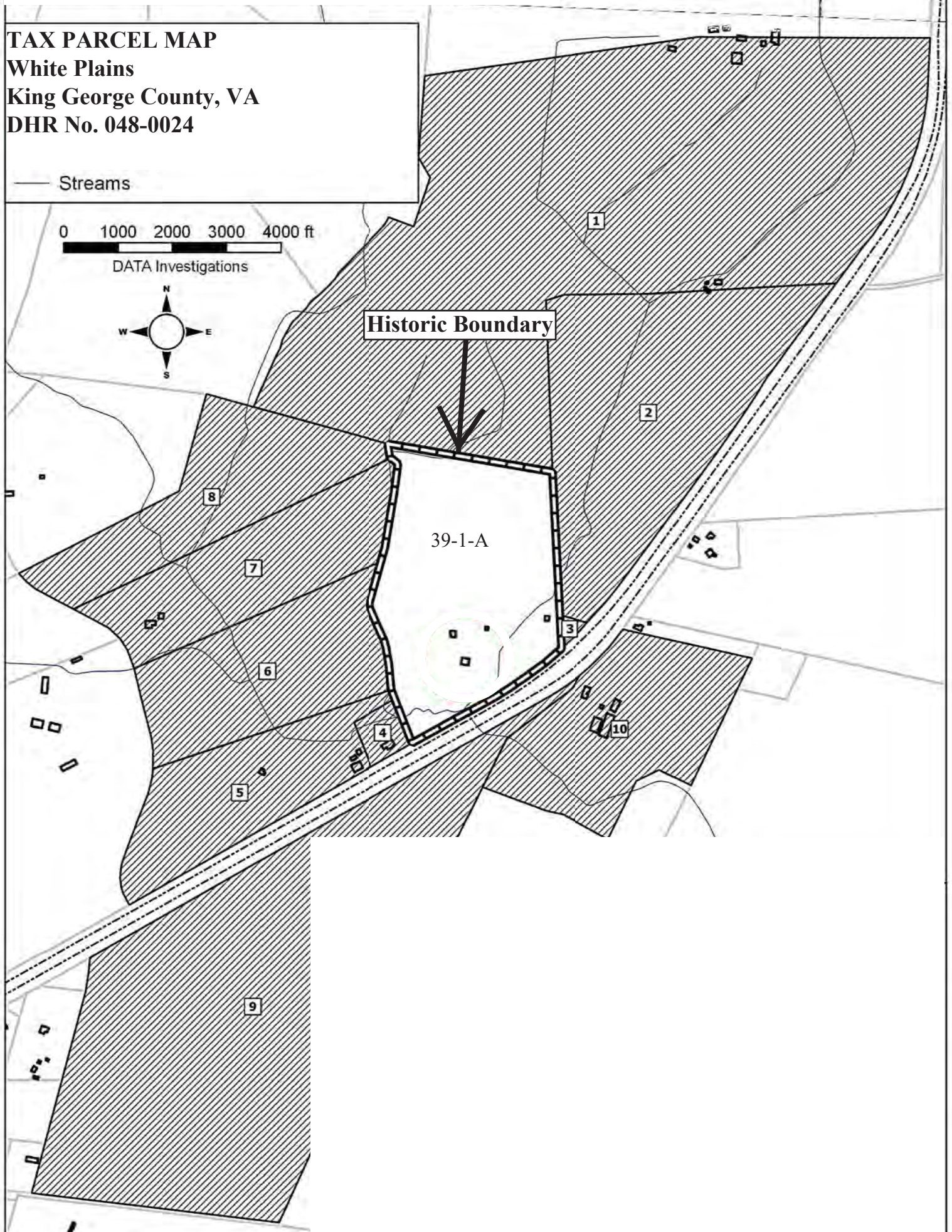
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 ft
DATA Investigations



Historic Boundary



39-1-A



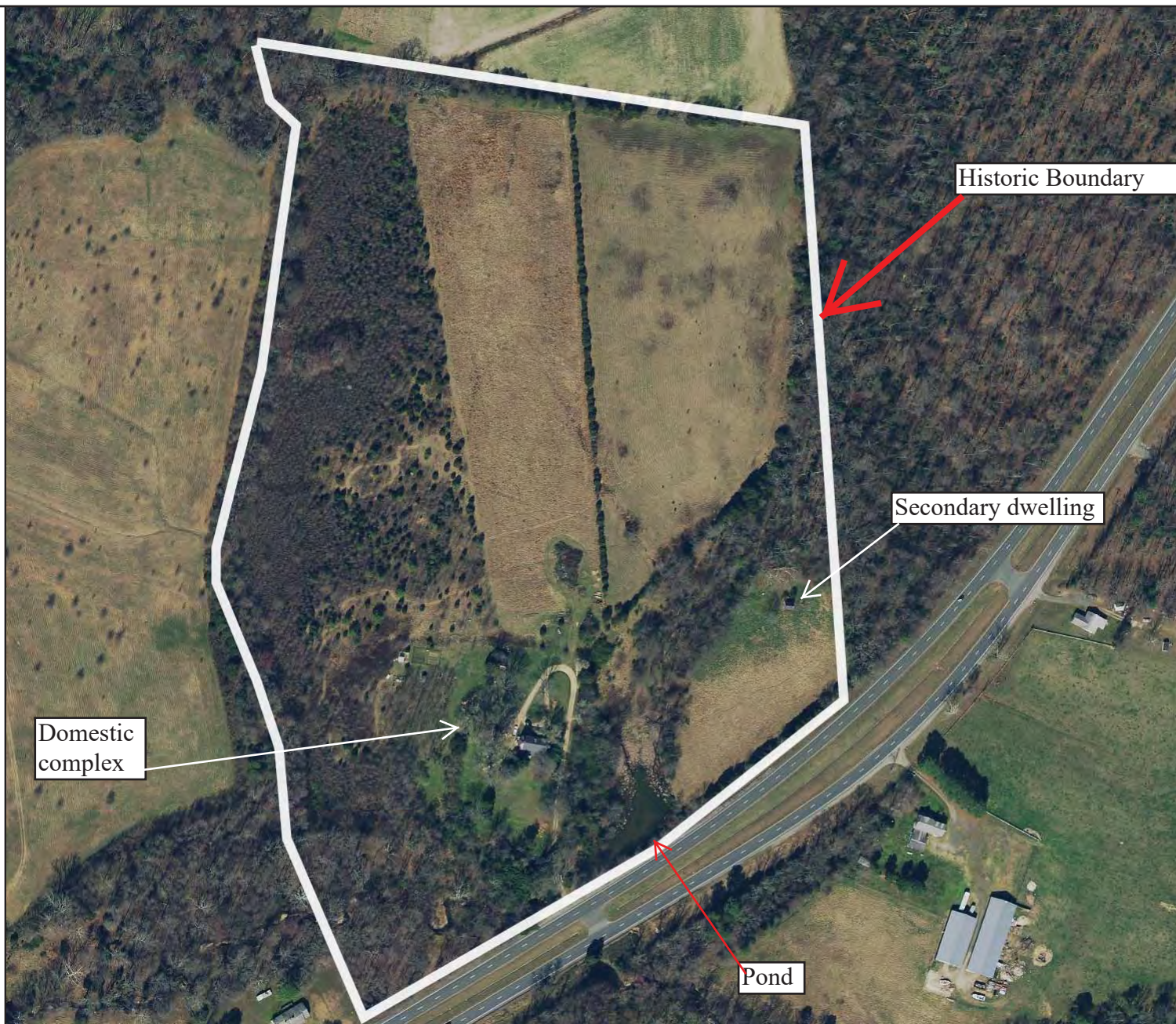


CURRENT AERIAL VIEW

White Plains

King George County, VA

DHR No. 048-0024



Feet

0 100 200 300 400
1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet

Title:

Date: 8/26/2019

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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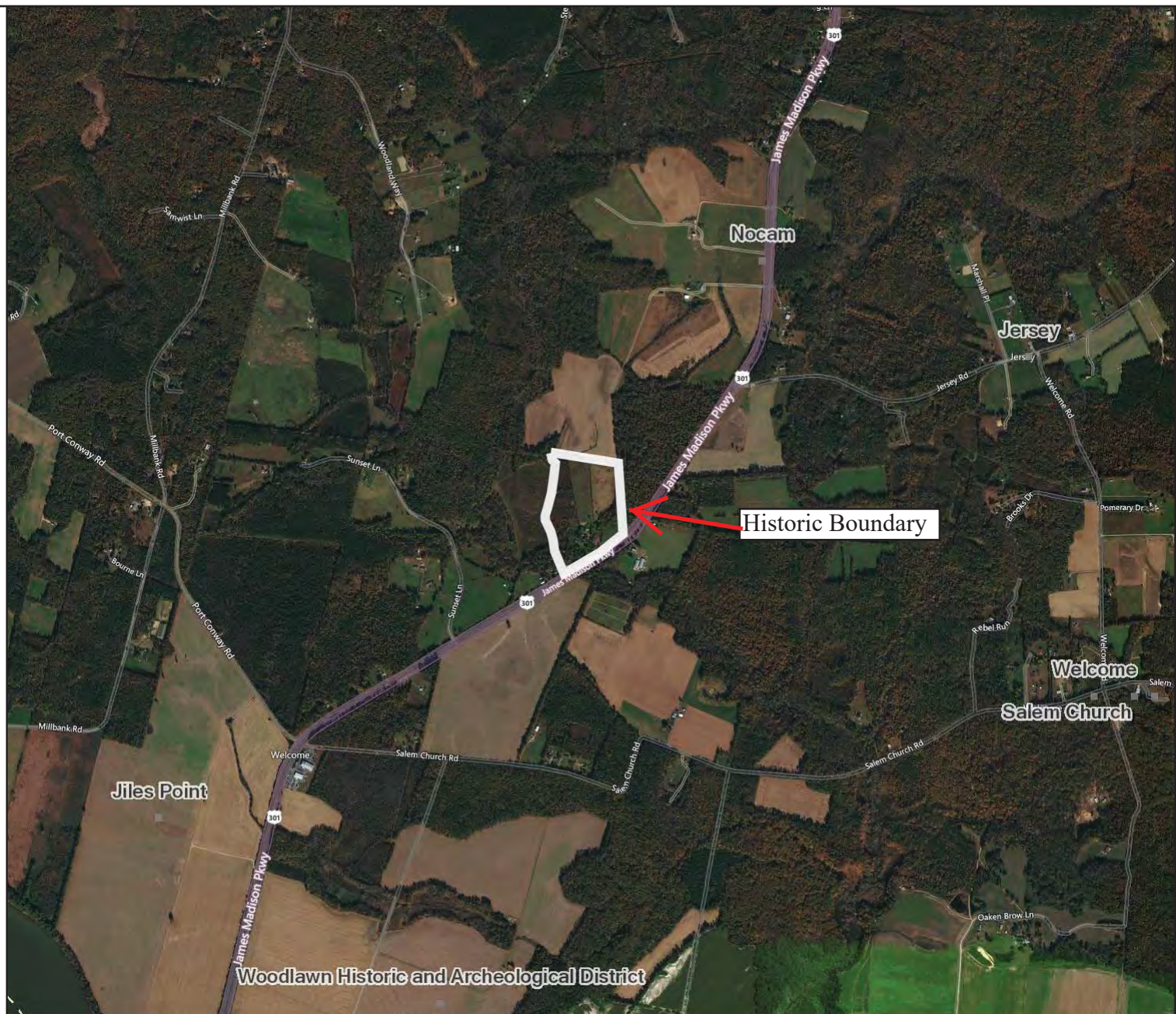


AERIAL VIEW OF VICINITY

White Plains

King George County, VA

DHR No. 048-0024



Title:

Date: 8/26/2019

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet













IN MEMORY OF OUR
BELOVED FATHER & MOTHER
ALEXANDER BAYLOR GOLDMAN
BORN MAY 28, 1840
DIED OCT. 16, 1908.

VIRGINIA FRANCIS GOLDMAN
BORN AUG 5, 1850
DIED MARCH 30, 1910.





























National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Resubmission

Property Name: White Plains

Multiple Name:

State & County: VIRGINIA, King George

Date Received: 9/19/2019 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 11/4/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: RS100003542

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 10/15/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Resubmitted document addresses most of the return comments. Property is significant under Criterion C and somewhat meets A. The assessment of some features which are inherently archeological is suspect, including the pool and pool house remains. If examined closely, neither truly contributes under either criterion, but the state is insistent on counting them. Closer examination under Criterion D is warranted.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

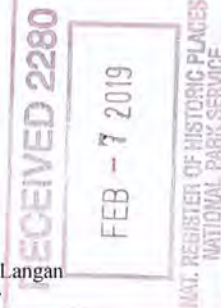
Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Matt Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Julie V. Langan
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
www.dhr.virginia.gov



February 5, 2019

Joy Beasley
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: White Plains, King George County, Virginia

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for **White Plains** to the National Register of Historic Places. Submitted for your review, the nomination has been considered, and approved, by the State Review Board and the Virginia SHPO has recommended it for listing.

This property has one owner and the Department of Historic Resources received no letters of objection concerning the nomination. Any letters of comment or objection have been copied at the end of the nomination material, along with any FPO notification letters.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,

Lena Sweeten McDonald
National/State Register Historian

Enclosures

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

3542

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: White Plains

Other names/site number: VDHR #048-0024; 44KG0227

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 15318 James Madison Parkway (US Hwy 301)

City or town: King George State: VA County: King George

Not For Publication: ☐ N/A

Vicinity: ☒ X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

White Plains
Name of Property

King George County, VA
County and State

4. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Returned

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

White Plains
Name of Property

King George County, VA
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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure/smokehouse

DOMESTIC/secondary structure/garage

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

DOMESTIC/secondary structure/pump house

DOMESTIC/secondary structure/storage

Returned

White Plains
Name of Property

King George County, VA
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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/Georgian

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/Weatherboard; BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

White Plains is a significant survival of late Georgian architecture with later Colonial Revival features in King George County, Virginia. It retains the architectural integrity of its initial construction, as well as that of a careful Colonial Revival restoration campaign. These phases of construction, as well as maintenance in the intervening century, were funded by the successful farming ventures of its inhabitants. The property is located north of James Madison Parkway (U.S. Highway 301), two miles north of the Rappahannock River. The house sits on a rise adjacent to a natural spring and small pond, which historically supplied water to the residents. Owners utilized the elevation change between the house and the stream to create a terraced formal landscape approach for the house. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling has a clipped gable roof, two exterior end chimneys, a small porch on the south side, and a raised English-bond basement. Dendrochronology dates the building's construction to 1786 under the hand of Aaron Thornley, though family histories reference earlier occupations of the property. James Quesenberry purchased the property in 1836, and undertook minor decorative changes to the house, but it remained essentially unchanged until 1940 when then-owner Alexander Walker decided to restore it according to the Colonial Revival style popular at the time. Though this did alter elements of the house, the restoration was respectful of the extant material and created a significant example of the Colonial Revival style, which had gained popularity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The property includes a contributing smokehouse, garage/studio, secondary residence, pool site and pool house foundations, graveyard, and archaeological site (44KG0227), as well as non-contributing resources consisting of a gazebo, pump house, garden shed, two chicken houses, a duck house, and gateposts.

White Plains
Name of Property

King George County, VA
County and State

Narrative Description

Setting

The property known as White Plains is located in King George County, approximately two miles north of the Rappahannock River and Port Royal, Caroline County. The 38.2-acre parcel includes mature trees and cleared fields. Both echo the surrounding rural character of the area, and the latter reflects the agricultural history of the property. The driveway, accessible from James Madison Parkway (U.S. Highway 301) is tree-lined and approaches the house from the south, before looping around behind it to create a circular drive north of the house. The drive crosses the one high point of land between Gingoteague Creek and a natural spring to the west and a pond to the east. Given the historic use of these water sources, it seems likely that this was an access point for the property throughout its history. The elevation rises sharply between the house site and the road, and three terraces to the south of the house create a falling garden effect, while the gentler elevation changes to the north, east, and west of the house lead to agricultural fields. The size of the parcel helps it retain some of its historic setting, due partly to the preservation of viewsheds across these fields.

The landscape within the property's domestic complex underwent little change during the 250-year occupation of the property. Landscape elements, such as three terraces, survive and were creatively reused during the property's 20th-century renovations. The open land surrounding the house has not been developed. The loss of historic resources, particularly slave quarters, barns, and storage buildings, diminishes the property's historic setting. However, even though farming methods today are certainly different than of a century or more ago, the area's continued rural character contributes to the property's historic sense of time and place. Additionally, this lack of development, paired with surviving landscape architecture and surface collection of artifacts, indicates that there are likely intact cultural strata that could yield archaeological information relevant to the lifeways of enslaved individuals on a prosperous plantation during the Early Republic and Antebellum eras of Virginia's past. In the future, professional archaeological investigations may confirm this supposition.

Inventory

Main house, 1786; 1940, contributing building
Smokehouse, circa 1786, contributing structure
Secondary Dwelling, circa 1860, contributing building
Graveyard, circa 1909, contributing site
Pump House, circa 1940, non-contributing building
Pool House Foundation, circa 1940, contributing site
Swimming Pool Site, circa 1940, contributing site
Garage/Studio, circa 1940, contributing building
Archaeological Site 44KG0227, circa 1785-20th century, contributing site
Gateposts, circa 2009, non-contributing object
Gazebo, circa 1960, non-contributing structure

White Plains
Name of Property

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Garden Shed, 2016, non-contributing building
Duck House, 2016, non-contributing structure
Chicken House, 2016, non-contributing structures – 2

Colonial Revival Restoration

In 1940, Alexander Walker acquired White Plains and soon after began restoring the house and grounds. The restoration is notable for its sensitivity to the original fabric of the building. Certain changes, such as adding clipped gables where there were none previously, as illustrated in pre-restoration photos, echo architectural elements found in other nearby historic-age houses. The inspiration for White Plains' new clipped gables may have been drawn from similar gables at Marmion. Other changes modernized the interior with sensitivity to the original finishes and décor of the building. Radiators were cut into the walls in such a way that they blend into the wainscoting. Bathrooms were built into extant spaces unobtrusively. Photos from Walker's restoration show the exterior stripped of its weatherboard siding, likely to replace rotten boards and assess any damage to the frame itself. Weatherboards, whether original, replacements, or a combination, were reinstalled, but otherwise relatively little work was done on the exterior. It seems likely that a dormer window was either added or moved from the south elevation to the north elevation, but Walker did not embellish White Plains with porches, finials, or other Colonial Revival elements that reflected 20th-century historical fantasies rather than the building's historic appearance.

Main House, 1786 with restoration in 1940 (contributing building)

Exterior:

The primary dwelling is a sturdy, traditional brace-framed house, two-and-a-half stories high over a high raised basement, measuring approximately 44 feet by 26 feet. The foundation walls are handmade brick laid in English bond. The matching north and south elevations are composed of three symmetrical bays with a central doorway flanked by single windows on the first floor, with three matching windows on the second floor, and a single dormer on the north elevation centered above the doorway. The first-floor windows are nine-over-nine double-hung sash with six-over-nine sash on the second floor. The dormer window, which was added during the ca. 1940 restoration, has a six-over-six double hung sash and may have had an earlier, 18th-century precedent (although that cannot be confirmed with the surviving pre-1940 fabric). Two small cellar windows with six-over-six double-hung sash are vertically aligned with the first-floor windows above. Central basement windows are covered by a wooden porch on the south elevation and a brick staircase on the north that was added during the 1940 restoration. The east and west elevations have exterior brick chimneys flanked by windows at all four levels, except for the basement level on the west side, which has a doorway into the basement kitchen. The attic windows are narrow, four-over-four, double-hung sash, while the east cellar is lit by six-over-six double-hung sash with similar proportions to the second-floor windows. The windows on the first and second floors match those on the primary elevation. The brick chimneys are laid in Flemish bond with two sets of paved shoulders. Formal fireplaces heated the first and second

White Plains
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stories. The current basement fireplace may have originally been fairly utilitarian, serving simply to heat the space before it was renovated along with the rest of the cellar to create additional living space in the mid-19th century. The chimneys are nearly identical, suggesting a single building campaign. There is no visible evidence of any substantial additions.

The gable roof has common rafters stabilized by collars. The clipped gables, present on several 18th-century houses in the Northern Neck, including Kirnan (DHR #096-0013; ca. 1781), the Hague (DHR #096-0011), and nearby Marmion (DHR #048-0012), are modifications dating to the ca. 1940 restoration and appear to indicate an attempt to make the house look more “colonial.” Other elements of the Colonial Revival restoration are revealed in two period photographs. A 1929 image of the west gable shows an earlier configuration of the exterior cellar entrance (and the corner of the smokehouse) and a narrower set of second story windows (four-over-four double-hung sash). The April 25, 1940, photograph, taken during the restoration, shows the north elevation without weatherboard, and indicates the windows had four-over-four double-hung sash on the first and second floors, which were likely 19th-century replacements.

The foundation’s original brickwork, which extends about 14 courses above the ground surface, manifests many distinct episodes of patching but is consistently laid in English bond, and the original portions retain 19th-century whitewash. The patching appears to correlate directly to closing or opening entrances into the cellar and repairing areas of water damage. The former likely coincides with the late antebellum period (ca. 1840), when the basement was turned into finished living space, including a fireplace built into the extant chimney. Additionally, the basement windows likely were enlarged to provide more light to the new living space.

Interior:

Original and other early exposed nails found throughout the house are consistently wrought or hand-headed, cut varieties. They suggest 18th- and early 19th-century construction as well as a very sensitive ca. 1940 restoration that retained many of the early details and elements. This attention to detail has been suggested as evidence of Colonial Revival scholar and architect Thomas Tileston Waterman’s involvement in the 1940 work. An additional detail about the restoration is the signature of C.R. Goodwin, dated January 9th, 1942, found beneath a section of wallpaper. Contemporary census records reveal that Goodwin’s primary occupation was as a “painter paper hanger,” so this date may indicate the conclusion of the restoration work. The current property owners have also recovered dozens of substantial sections of wood trim in an outbuilding, which may have been removed from the house during the restoration work.

Basement:

The basement currently includes a kitchen, dining room, utility room, pantry, and bathroom. This level of the dwelling underwent extensive renovation work, completed in 2016, which rendered these spaces more useful to the current occupants and removed much of the circa 1970 infrastructure that previously comprised these rooms. The eastern room, currently used as a dining room, retains its Federal-style mantel. The composition of the mantel is similar to the one in the first-floor living room. The mantel most likely dates to the 1940 restoration, though

White Plains
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whether it was repurposed from another fireplace in the house or built to resemble extant ones remains unknown.

First floor:

At the core of the first story is a wide central passage extending from the front to the rear elevation. On both the north and the south elevations, the entries have are paired raised six-panel doors on the exterior, backed on the interior by beaded diagonal boards. The doors are mounted with HL hinges top and bottom, with H hinges providing additional support in the center. The hinges and the locks on these doors could be original or date to the careful 20th-century restoration. Simple rectangular transoms above the doors were replaced with decorative ones during the 1940 restoration, and capture the decorative aesthetics associated with the Colonial Revival movement. The center passage retains its crown molding, picture rail, three-board wainscoting with a molded cap, and baseboards, though in some places the wainscoting has been cut away for radiators embedded in the walls. It is likely that these decorative finishes blend original elements with ones added during the 1940s. The first-floor staircase has irregular turned balusters, two per tread, and ascends to the south. Access to the basement from the interior is via a narrow stairway beneath. Both stairways are likely artifacts of the ca. 1840 renovation campaign that created living space in the basement.

From the center passage, visitors enter a very large room on the east, or two smaller rooms to the west. This is essentially a large-scale version of the three-room-plus-passage formula common to wealthy Virginians' houses since about 1720, containing a dining room, parlor, and chamber/main bedroom.

The eastern room, now used as a living room, extends the full depth of the house. It includes a fireplace with a Federal-style mantel, including a frieze with corner blocks and a central lozenge-shaped embellishment, situated slightly off-center on the east wall. Other details include three-board horizontal wainscoting with baseboard and molded cap, simple architrave moldings around all openings, and a simple molded cornice encircling the entire room.

The northwest and southwest rooms share the same chimney stack, with a corner fireplace and Federal-style mantel in the latter room. The southwest room retains its three-board wainscoting with cap and baseboard, though it lacks the other decorative elements such as crown molding, which indicates this may have been a room intended for semi-public use. In the northwest room the corner fireplace is blocked off, and the mantel removed, along with any evidence of wainscoting. Only a baseboard remains. A six-panel door, installed sometime after 1929 based on historic photos, provides access to the exterior. From the central passage, the northwest room is now accessed via a small hall, with a closet to the north and a half-bath to the south. Simple architraves surround the six-panel doors that give access to these various spaces, creating visual harmony with the older elements of the house that surround them.

Second Floor:

The room arrangement on the second floor is similar to that on the first. The stair rises to a central hall of a narrower width than that below, due to the addition of closets during an earlier

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renovation. The three-board horizontal wainscoting with molded cap and baseboard circles the room, interrupted by raised four-panel doors and windows surrounded by simple architraves. Much as below, radiators have been set into the wainscoting. Two steps of a winder stair in the southwest corner protrude into the space, with the rest of the stair concealed behind a batten door. This is likely in its original location, but is of a 19th-century design with triangular cut-outs in the diagonal supports to receive the risers and treads of each step. A bathroom has been carved out of the hall on its north side, and this space was remodeled in 2016.

The two western rooms again have corner fireplaces with simple, likely Federal-style mantels, potentially original to the house. Other potential original elements that may have avoided replacement include floor boards in the western two-thirds of this story and potentially the wainscoting, again consisting of the three-board horizontal type. The windows in both rooms are surrounded by simple architraves. Much like the center passage, radiators have been cut into the wainscoting to provide heat to both rooms. The southwest room includes parts of a mural, hand-painted by the owner in the 1940s, which attest to continuing occupation of the building, as well as modifications to fit the owners' aesthetics. Both rooms are now accessed through short halls, created by closets built into the rooms during the 1940s. The rooms have raised-four panel doors, which, based on the exposed tenons of the top rails, were cut down in height. On the back of the door leading to the northwest room is scratched "1777." While this might indicate that the door was repurposed from an older building on the site (reflected through artifacts recovered on the grounds and Aaron Thornley's birth at White Plains prior to the 1780s), it is equally likely to be an embellishment of more recent vintage.

The eastern room, now used as the master bedroom, includes a mantel with overmantel. The mantel itself is a scaled-down version of the example in the first-floor east room in the Federal style with a frieze with corner blocks, but without the central lozenge. The simple crosseted overmantel was likely added during the circa 1940 restoration of house, as this element is not repeated elsewhere in the house, and the east room otherwise matches the other rooms in the simplicity of its details. A private bath and closet space have been carved out of this room as well.

Attic:

The attic was previously divided into a tripartite plan echoing that of the floors below, with a room on either side of a central space. The eastern room was once partially finished for unheated habitation, based on the ghosts of lath and plaster and nail marks on the rafters. The roof apparently caught fire at some point prior to the circa 1940 restoration which added the clipped gables to the house, as newer rafters were sistered to the burned ones, and were then cut by the changed roofline. It seems that the north dormer window was either added or relocated at this time. Empty joints on the south side of the central space indicate that something was removed prior to new sheathing added in the 1940s. The origin of the south dormer, whether it was part of a pair, relocated as part of the restoration, or added, remains unclear.

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SECONDARY RESOURCES:

1. Smokehouse, circa 1786 (contributing structure)

This is a frame structure, sheathed in beaded weatherboard with a batten door. It has an asphalt-shingle pyramidal roof, topped by a wooden finial and currently rests on a concrete foundation. Historic photos indicate this building was extant prior to the 1940s restoration, when a pyramidal roof replaced the gabled one, and may be part of the earliest plantation landscape. Although altered with a concrete foundation and pyramidal roof, the structure contributes to understanding of the property's domestic complex and is classified as contributing.

2. Secondary Dwelling, circa 1860 (contributing building)

This is a two story, frame building with front gable roof, currently of corrugated metal. There is one interior, stretcher bond end chimney. The windows were once two-over-two wood sash. The building is currently in poor condition. The building's poor physical condition brings into question its long-term survival. However due to its association with the property's historic farming practices, it is considered to be contributing.

3. Graveyard, circa 1909 (contributing site)

Located between a creek and the southernmost lawn terrace, this graveyard is partially surrounded by welded wire fencing. Only one engraved headstone stands in the graveyard, that of Alexander Baylor Gouldman (1840-1909) and Virginia Frances Gouldman (1850-1910). Several other natural stones of various sizes are present within the bounds of the graveyard, indicating the likelihood of several other burials. In addition, periwinkle plantings are present. The ubiquity of family cemeteries on historic farms is well documented. Such places provide context to the property's occupants over time and understanding of historic funerary practices.

4. Pump House, circa 1940 (non-contributing building)

This is a frame building on a poured concrete foundation with a corrugated metal front gable roof. The building has newer pressure-treated lumber framing members and a newer corrugated metal roof. Due to these alterations, the pump house can no longer convey its historic associations and is classified as non-contributing.

5. Pool House foundation, circa 1940 (contributing site)

All that remains of this building are the soil-filled foundations. Once associated with the swimming pool to the east, this building represented both wealth and the increasing attainability of at-home leisure and recreation in post-World War II America.

6. Swimming pool site, circa 1940 (contributing site)

Now filled-in with soil and grass, this in-ground concrete swimming pool highlighted the Walkers' (then-owners of White Plains) wealth and available leisure time. Colonial Revival designers of the early to mid-twentieth century often took care to blend such amenities into the landscape through judicious use of plantings and landscaping.

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7. Garage/studio, circa 1940 (contributing building)

The garage/studio is a wood-frame building, covered with beaded weatherboard. There are nine-over-nine and six-over-six wood sash windows on the first floor and paired four-over-four wood sash on the second. A large garage door allows access to the space from the east elevation. A flight of wooden stairs on the north elevation gives access to an artist's studio above, which still retains some of the murals painted on its walls. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and has clipped gables designed to echo those added to the house. With the advent of automobile transportation during the early twentieth century, provision of garage space became a typical feature of well-to-do households. Additionally, due to its Colonial Revival architectural design, the building contributes to the property's significance.

8. Archaeological Site 44KG0227, circa 1785-20th century (contributing site)

Surface collected artifacts, including pearlware, white ware, wrought and cut nails, and colored bottle glass illuminate the material lives of the various people who occupied White Plains throughout its existence, including its owners and enslaved people who lived on the property. The owners uncovered remnants of a brick foundation (or potentially substantial brick rubble) while excavating utility lines in 2014. There was no additional subsurface testing, but surface observation and historical data confirm the existence of former buildings and structures, such as a pool, pool house, and landscape terracing related to the property's 1940 Colonial Revival restoration. The locations of earlier resources, such as barns, slave quarters, and agricultural storage buildings, have not been ascertained to date, but the undisturbed character of White Plains' acreage suggest that future field investigations could eventually identify these places.

9. Gateposts – circa 2009 (non-contributing object)

These gates consist of three square wooden posts with pyramidal caps, with three rails running between the posts. The center post is shorter than the two end posts. The gates flank the gravel drive between James Madison Highway and the dwelling. The gateposts postdate the property's period of significance and therefore are classified as a non-contributing object.

10. Gazebo – circa 1960 (non-contributing structure)

This is a wood frame structure that sits on a concrete slab foundation with a pyramidal asphalt-shingle roof. All four elevations are screened. The gazebo is classified as non-contributing because it postdates the property's period of significance and has no relation to the areas of significance.

11. Garden Shed, 2016 (non-contributing building)

This wood frame garden shed is sheathed in vertical boards, with a side gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The very recent construction of this building renders it non-contributing.

12. Duck House 2016 (non-contributing structure)

This is a wood frame structure, covered with weatherboard siding, on a post-in-ground foundation. The side gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. This resource postdates the property's period of significance and is therefore non-contributing.

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13. Chicken Houses 2016 (non-contributing structures – 2)

Each wood frame building has a post-in-ground foundation and plywood covering the sides. The end gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The chicken houses are non-contributing due to their recent date of construction.

Integrity Statement

White Plains stands out for its largely undisturbed character, as exemplified by its high integrity of location and setting. Both the property itself and the larger landscape retain a strong rural character that demonstrate few changes having occurred since the property's period of significance ended in 1945. Many historic plantations across Virginia were revitalized during the early to mid-twentieth century with Colonial Revival restorations. White Plains ranks among the more modest and restrained examples of these. Successfully integrating much of the main dwelling's historic fabric with the 1940 renovation, the house was provided with modern conveniences, such as radiator heating and multiple bathrooms, without compromising the house's original floor plan and finishes. Additionally, the dwelling's historic materials demonstrate that various owners have made changes to the house to accommodate changing needs. The most notable is perhaps the ca. 1840 renovation that created additional living space in the basement and was, in turn, renovated again in 1940, ca. 1970, and in 2016 (which largely reversed the ca. 1970 updates). As a result, the house has high integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The larger landscape and secondary resources at White Plains are more mixed in terms of integrity. Certainly the property's rural, undisturbed character are evocative of its historic setting, but the loss of agriculture-related resources make it difficult to discern this aspect of its history. On the other hand, retention of the 18th century terracing and the presence of archaeological deposits within the domestic complex provide opportunities for learning more about the property's early use. The landscape design associated with the 1940 Colonial Revival restoration is somewhat compromised by loss of the swimming pool and pool house, both recreational amenities that speak to the wealth and leisure time available to its owners at that time. Overall, however, these physical attributes mean that the property's integrity of feeling, as expressed by its ability to convey its period of significance through its ensemble of architectural resources, landscape features, and rural setting, remains intact. Finally, White Plains has high integrity of association with King George County's antebellum history and reliance on an enslaved labor force to fuel its successful agricultural economy. Substantial documentation in the historic record contributes to its integrity of association. As many as 54 enslaved African Americans are known to have worked and lived here at one time, placing the plantation among the largest in Virginia's Tidewater region during the early to mid-nineteenth century. White Plains also has high integrity of association with the Colonial Revival movement, particularly the offshoot of the movement that targeted historic plantation houses for "restoration." While that practice often blended retention of original features with elements that designers and property owners imagined should have been present in the historic period), White Plains stands out for the care that has been taken since 1940 to preserve its historic materials and design while also meeting needs for modern living.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Returned

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE; African American

Period of Significance

1786-1945

Significant Dates

1786

1840

1940

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thornley, Aaron

Quesenberry, James

Walker, Alexander

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

White Plains is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. Under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: African American, White Plains is locally significant due to the well-documented work of enslaved persons of African descent from the 1780s until the early 1860s. The combination of documentary evidence of this population and the high integrity of the historical landscape on which they lived has the potential to reveal a great deal of information about the lifeways of enslaved individuals on a plantation of this size. Under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, White Plains preserves two architectural styles important to Virginia's architectural history: the late Georgian/early Federal and the Colonial Revival. White Plains was built in 1786 by King George County surveyor Aaron Thornley as an enlarged version of the three-room-plus-passage plan then common to the Virginia landscape. Built as the fledgling United States was still attempting to find its own identity, the building includes both Georgian and Federal elements. The house was restored in the 1940s, and Colonial Revival elements were added, possibly under the guidance of Thomas Tileston Waterman. Remarkably, this was done with a strong sense of preservation that seemed to "colonialize" relatively little of the house and instead ensured its continued preservation and use. The period of significance stretches from the beginning of construction in 1786 to the conclusion of the restoration circa 1945.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage – African American

When Aaron Thornley had White Plains built in 1786, he owned at least fifteen enslaved individuals over the age of 16.¹ Four years before, in 1782, he owned twelve enslaved "tithables."² By 1787, he would own eight.³ The enslaved individuals enumerated as part of Aaron Thornley's annual King George County personal property tax supplied the labor that allowed Thornley to amass the land and afford to build the house that stands as White Plains today. Though the extent of enslaved laborers' involvement in the construction of the main house is unknown, they were responsible for much of the activity on the property. The combination of documentary evidence of this population and the high integrity of the historical landscape on which they lived has the potential to reveal a great deal of information about the lifeways of enslaved persons on a plantation of this size. Plantations like White Plains were fairly common across the Virginia landscape prior to the Civil War, though they remain understudied in favor of plantations that were larger, owned by famous proprietors, or both. White Plains falls generally outside these parameters, and so offers a history often overlooked, despite the more representative lived experiences of the people there.

¹ Personal Property Tax Records for King George County, 1786, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

² Personal Property Tax Records for King George County, 1782.

³ Personal Property Tax Records for King George County, 1788.

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The majority of the information about the enslaved African Americans at White Plains comes from the Personal Property Tax Lists for King George County, which recorded a shifting amount of information about the community as a way to levy taxes on the men who owned White Plains. These numbers reveal that White Plains was home to a population of enslaved laborers that numbered from the low teens to the low twenties (Figure 1). These numbers are problematic, however. The lists often only record “tithables,” those white men over age 16 and enslaved persons of both sexes over 16 who contributed their economic labor to the state and could consequently be taxed for its benefit. That categorization overlooked African Americans under the age of 16, and occasionally elderly individuals, and ignored the sex of these people, which makes demographic reconstruction difficult. Enumeration of “black tithables” therefore undercounts the population. That category also had a habit of shifting, with various categories having included “slaves between 9 and 12,” “slaves over 12,” “young negroes,” and “blacks over 12 and under 16.”⁴ This creates an ever-shifting category that makes it difficult to establish with certainty the total number of enslaved individuals at White Plains at any given time. Slave schedules confirm the underrepresentation of the entire slave population at White Plains in the late antebellum period. In 1850, James Quesenberry, then-owner of White Plains, was taxed on 12 slaves and in 1860 on 20, whereas the U.S. Census Slave Schedules for those years record 23 and 54 enslaved people on the property.⁵

Therefore, today we know that, during the tenures of Aaron Thornley, his son Thomas B. Thornley, and James Slaughter Quesenberry, the enslaved population of White Plains fluctuated between less than 20 up to at least 40 slaves, which would have placed White Plains among the largest in Virginia’s Tidewater region at that time. Drastic shifts in population when Aaron Thornley had White Plains built in 1786 and when Thomas B. Thornley came into possession of the property in 1821 both mark points when these enslaved persons were commodified to the utmost; they became capital which needed to be made liquid in order to pay expenses or debts. Similarly, Quesenberry’s increase in enslaved workers shortly after his purchase of White Plains in 1836 is a moment that highlights his investment in his new economic venture. The peaks and valleys evident in this demographic analysis likely signal moments of sale and separation for enslaved individuals, as well as births and deaths. Such events were of great significance to the people who experienced them, their families and friends. But for owners of slaves, their purpose was only to keep the enslaved population at White Plains to a number that satisfied their needs for labor and for liquid capital.

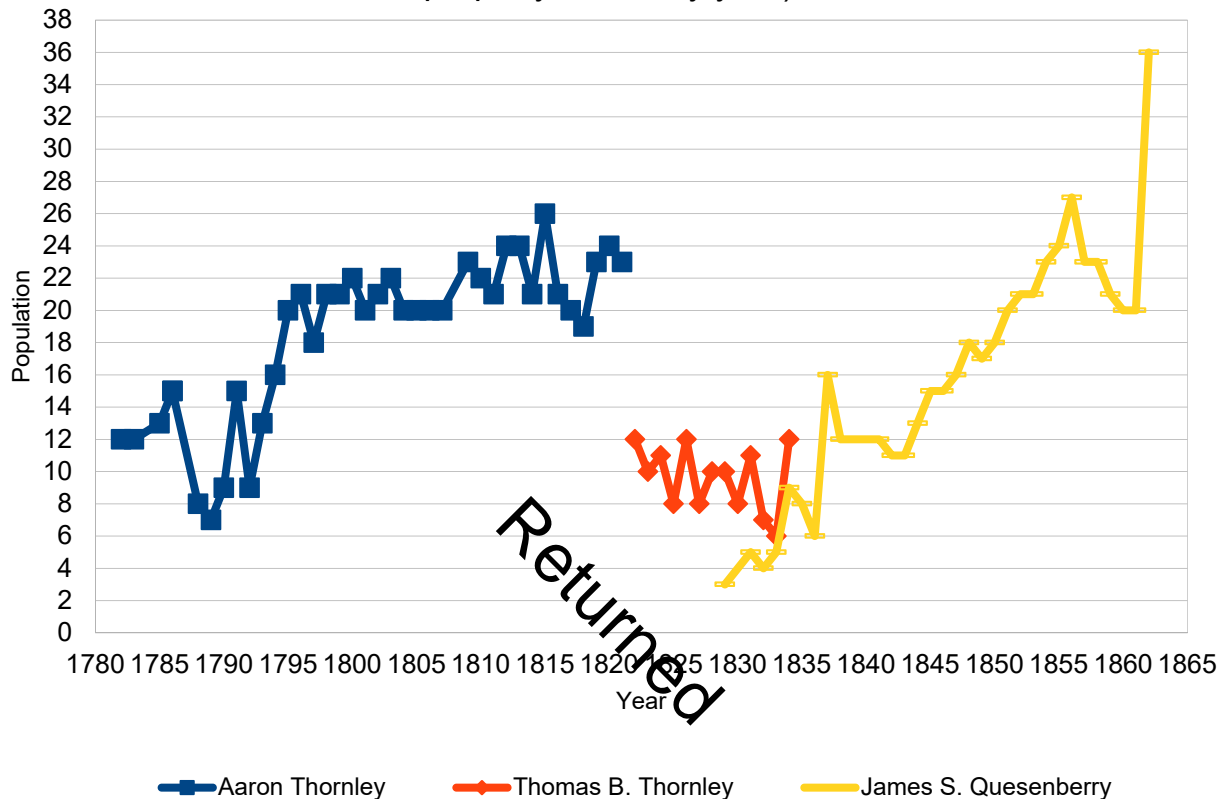
⁴ Personal Property Tax Records for King George County.

⁵ Year: 1840; Census Place: King George, Virginia; Roll: 564; Page: 51; Family History Library Film: 0029688; Ancestry.com, 1840 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; Ancestry.com. 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2004; Ancestry.com. 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2010.

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Figure 1: Calculated Enslaved Population
(Total of all enumerated slaves in personal
property tax list by year)



Among the various enslaved people owned by Aaron Thornley, only two can currently be identified in greater detail in the documentary record. Between 1803 and 1813, local merchant George White maintained a business journal. In it, he recorded sales to several African Americans, including “Negro George Bird,” “Grace – Mulatto Woman,” “Carpenter Cox” and “Joiner Harry.” While this journal captures an array of economic activity among African Americans in King George County, it includes accounts for “Ben (belonging to A. Thornley)” and “Solomon Jackson. A. Thornley’s Bksmith.”⁶ Ben made only a single purchase. On 25 December 1812, he bought sugar and whiskey for three shillings and paid in full.⁷ The transactions reveal that Ben carried ready money into the transaction and the timing of it suggests that Ben bought the goods for a holiday celebration.

Solomon Jackson, a blacksmith, carried an account with White between December 1810 and December 1813, and his transactions capture a remarkable amount of detail regarding his life and

⁶ George White, Jr., *Journal, 1803-1813*, Business Records Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

⁷ White, *Journal*, 103.

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that of his family. During those three years, Jackson purchased several quarts of whiskey and the occasional quart of rum. He also purchased two yards of plain cloth, 2¼ yards of blue cloth, one yard of Indian cotton, 2¾ yards of linen, one dozen buttons, three pairs of breeches, and a silk handkerchief.⁸ Purchases of luxury items, such as silk, ribbons, and mirrors, by enslaved individuals is well documented in scholarly literature, and it seems that Jackson, as a skilled artisan, had the economic ability and the social capital to procure such goods on credit.⁹ When Jackson paid off his accounts, he did so with both cash and goods. He sold White five persimmon pones, unleavened bread that was the first step in brewing persimmon beer. This implies that Jackson not only had access to persimmons, but also had a member of his household who was familiar with the brewing process. That person was likely Jackson's wife, who purchased two mugs on his account, as well as carrying a balance of her own.¹⁰ Jackson settled the rest of the account with a screw lock and cash.¹¹ Jackson's work as a blacksmith contributed both to the internal economy of White Plains and to the greater economy within King George County. Enslaved persons might be allowed to hire themselves out for paid work, so long as it did not interfere with their duties on a plantation. Jackson may well have done so, and used profits earned from hiring out his labor to provide a more comfortable existence for his wife and family.

The other significant documentary evidence gives a much more detailed picture of the enslaved community at White Plains in 1862. In that year, James Quesenberry paid taxes on 36 enslaved people, nearly twice the population (20) taxed for 1861. The key change between the two years was a shift in the enumeration process. Rather than recording only slaves over the age of 16, in 1862 the county tax collector recorded the "number and value of slaves of all ages and both sexes."¹² This considerable increase in taxation may be related to economic disruptions caused by the Civil War. Moreover, this number captures the most accurate portrait of the community at White Plains as a whole.

A seminal event in White Plains' history is that, between the time the tax was recorded and 1 February 1863, 34 of the 36 African Americans recorded here had "left...to the enemy."¹³ Thousands of enslaved African Americans across Virginia undertook this act of "self-emancipation," with areas close to or behind Union lines general seeing the greatest number of slaves fleeing their owners. At White Plains, the eldest of the enslaved individuals who sought their freedom was Fanny, "aged about 56," while the youngest was infant Emma; 14 of the 34 who fled were men, half of whom were over 18 years old and the oldest was 45. Quesenberry's

⁸ White, *Journal*, 10.

⁹ Ann Smart Martin, *Buying into the World of Goods: Early Consumers in Backcountry Virginia* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008), 173-193; Patricia Samford, "The Archaeology of African-American Slavery and Material Culture," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 53, no. 1 (January 1996), 109.

¹⁰ White, *Journal*, 69.

¹¹ White, *Journal*, 10, 69.

¹² Personal Property Tax Records for King George County, 1862.

¹³ Claims for slaves who escaped during the late war, 1861-1865, King George County Circuit Court, Local Government Records Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

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enslaved laborers of both sexes were generally within the prime of their lives and they seized the opportunities presented to them by the Civil War.

The physical landscape on which these enslaved individuals once lived and worked remains archaeologically intact, and Site 44KG0224 is a contributing element to White Plains. The current owners have recovered artifacts including pearlware, whiteware, wrought and cut nails, and clear and colored bottle glass dating to the 19th and 20th centuries through surface collections. The presence of these artifacts, combined with a brick foundation uncovered during a utility line excavation and the undeveloped nature of the surrounding landscape, indicate that there are likely intact subsurface cultural deposits associated with the various populations that occupied White Plains.

The archaeological potential of this site relates directly to the multiple generations of European-American and African-American inhabitants who contributed to it. Regarding the African-American history of White Plains, the archaeological potential most specifically regards a potential dwelling known to have existed in the neighboring farm field, as well as outbuildings surrounding the main house, such as a kitchen, wash house, dairy, icehouse, privies, and other resources where they would have lived and worked.¹⁴ The graveyard on the property includes two extant tombstones for the Gouldman family, but several additional depressions and small stones are potential markers of other burials. Oral histories connect these burials with prior landowners as well as with enslaved African Americans who lived on the property and, most likely, worked in the domestic core. Slave cemeteries also often were placed where field hands lived and worked, but none have been identified yet at White Plains.

The historical and archaeological research potential at White Plains is high for understanding lifeways on a plantation, the organization of labor, and the ability for enslaved individuals to shape their worlds through personal choice and consumer goods. Comparative analysis may shed even more light on White Plains. An oft cited example of a similar plantation is Portici in Manassas, Virginia.¹⁵ Key differences between these two sites, however, make them foils: Portici was inherited first through the Carter and then through the Ball families, both powerful in the area, while White Plains did not boast the same pedigree; Portici was one of several holdings owned and worked simultaneously, while evidence exists that White Plains was a singular holding; and the grand primary residence at Portici replaced the ubiquitous planters' cabin in the 1820s, some 40 years after Aaron Thornley had White Plains built. As a result of all these factors, White Plains is locally significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage: African American history.

Aaron Thornley (1750-1821)

The Thornley family is documented in King George County shortly after the county's formation in 1720. Aaron Thornley (d. 1728) received several court summonses in 1721 and 1722, and

¹⁴ Letter: Alice G. Gray to Mrs. Bailey, 22 February 1977, Private Collection.

¹⁵ Kathleen A. Parke and Jacqueline L. Hernigle, *Portici: Portrait of a Middling Plantation in Piedmont Virginia* (Washington, DC: Regional Archaeology Program, National Capital Region, National Park Service, 1990).

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began accumulating land in 1726.¹⁶ John Thornley (1709-1778) continued to acquire land in the county, obtaining an additional 370 acres before his death.¹⁷ A letter written by Jane Thornley, Aaron Thornley's great-granddaughter, references Aaron Thornley's (1750-1821) birth at White Plains.¹⁸ Whether this was an erroneous reference or whether an earlier dwelling stood on the property remains unclear. Aaron Thornley married Caty Dobyns in 1772.¹⁹

On 3 August 1775, Aaron Thornley took on his first public role. Witnessed by his brother, John Thornley, and Baldwin Berry, Thornley bound himself to "truly and faithfully to the best of his knowledge and power discharge and execute his trust, office, and employment as Surveyor of the County of King George."²⁰ Thornley apparently fulfilled his commission so well that no one challenged his position; no one else registered a bond as a surveyor for King George through 1789.²¹ Two years later, Thornley registered his bond to serve as Inspector at Gibson's Warehouse, later Port Conway.²² This position originated more than forty years previously, when the House of Burgesses passed a law requiring tobacco to be inspected at public warehouses prior to shipment in order "to prevent the exportation of bad and trash tobacco, and the many frauds in deceiving his majesty of his customs."²³ The 1730 act went on to identify warehouse locations in each county, including "at John Roy's and Mr. Francis Conway's in Caroline, and at Gibson's in King George County, under one inspection."²⁴ By 1734, a ferry was operating between Roy's Warehouse (later Port Royal) on the south side of the Rappahannock and Gibson's Warehouse on the north.²⁵ While Thornley renewed his bond in 1779, 1783, and 1791, Gibson's continued to serve as a tobacco inspection warehouse well into the 19th century.²⁶

¹⁶ 2 June 1721 Summons, King George County Court Order Book (1721-1734), p. 2; 3 July 1721 Summons, King George County Court Order Book (1721-1734), p. 7; 2 August 1722 Summons, King George County Court Order Book (1721-1734), p. 59; Deed of Lease, 2 December 1726, King George County Court Order Book (1721-1734), p. 343; Deed, 2 December 1726, King George County Deed Book No. 1 (1721-1729), p. 401; Deed, 2 December 1726, King George County Deed Book No. 1 (1721-1729), p. 404.

¹⁷ Deed, 4 May 1750, King George County Deed Book No. 3 (1743-1752), p. 336; Will, 2 Jun 1757, King George County Will Book No. 1 (1752-1780), p. 673; Deed, 2 Jun 1768, King George County Deed Book No. 5 (1765-1783), p. 748; Deed, Jun 1768, King George County Deed Book No. 5 (1765-1783), p. 747; Deed, 7 Jul 1768, King George County Deed Book No. 5 (1765-1783), p. 759; Deed, 3 Nov 1774, King George County Deed Book No. 5 (1765-1783), p. 1146.

¹⁸ Letter: Jane R. T. Grayson A.W. Walker, 18 June 1941. Private Collection.

¹⁹ "King George County Marriages," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* v. 22 (July 1914), p. 311.

²⁰ Bond, 3 August 1775, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 225.

²¹ King George County Bonds (1765-1789).

²² Bond, 2 October 1777, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 260.

²³ William Waller Hening, ed., *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619* (Richmond: Franklin Press, 1820), 4:247-271.

²⁴ William Waller Hening, ed., *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619* (Richmond: Franklin Press, 1820), 4:247-271.

²⁵ William Waller Hening, ed., *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619* (Richmond: Franklin Press, 1820), 4:438.

²⁶ Bond, 5 February 1779, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 359; Bond, 2 September 1779, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 360; Bond, 6 February 1783, King George County Bonds (1765-1789), p. 463;

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Thornley positioned himself well. As both surveyor and inspector at Gibson's warehouse, he was familiar with the geography of that particular landing point of the river and had the skills necessary to divide the land into serviceable parcels for sale. At the request of Francis Conway, Thornley surveyed and laid out thirteen acres of land into twenty half-acre lots for the purpose of establishing a town on Conway's land in 1783. Thornley followed the usual gridiron plan that dominated colonial Virginia's town planning. Limited by the bounds of Conway's property and the topography of the area, Thornley ultimately gave the town of Port Conway an elongated shape, consisting of a single sixty-foot wide street and two thirty-three-foot cross streets.²⁷

When Aaron and Caty Thornley decided to build their house at White Plains in 1786, they were already well-established within King George County's society. The new house likely reflected both a degree of security earned after more than a decade of Aaron's service to the county and the couple's aspirations for the future opportunities that Port Conway would bring. Unfortunately, while the Thornleys continued to expand their holdings, Port Conway never developed beyond a hamlet, as it was overshadowed by Port Royal (DHR # 284-0047) across the river.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Thornley family likely came into possession of the land at White Plains shortly after the formation of King George County. A family history recounted by Jane Riding Thornley Grayson includes the mention that Aaron Thornley was born at White Plains in 1750.²⁸ Dendrochronology indicates a major construction or renovation phase for the building beginning in late 1785 or early 1786, with the timbers cut between November 1785 and February 1786.²⁹

As built, the house is an enlarged version of the three-room-plus-passage plan found throughout the Virginia landscape. The proportions, use of English bond in the raised brick foundation, and timber-frame with down braces similarly indicate 18th-century construction. The house was heated by two exterior gable-end chimneys, both laid up of sand-molded bricks in Flemish-bond pattern with two sets of paved shoulders, indicating the presence and approximate location of the first-and second-story fireplaces. The chimneys are identical in scale and proportion, underscoring the fact that the entire house was built in one campaign. The use of Flemish bond on the substantial end chimneys, in contrast to the English bond foundation, was an intentional detail designed to impress. All of the alterations to the house occurred within its original

William P. Palmer and Sherwin McRae, editors, Calendar of Virginia State Papers (Richmond: Public Printing Office, 1883), 5:269; *The Revised Code of the Laws of Virginia* (Richmond: Thomas Ritchie, 1819), 2:135.

²⁷ John W. Reys, *Tidewater Towns: City Planning in Colonial Virginia and Maryland* (Williamsburg: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1972), 213-214.

²⁸ Letter: Jane R. T. Grayson to A.W. Walker, 18 June 1941. Private Collection; Year: 1940; Census Place: Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg City, Virginia; Roll: T627_4307; Page: 2B; Enumeration District: 107-1; Ancestry.com. 1940 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

²⁹ Edward R. Cook and William J. Callahan, Jr., *A Dendrochronological Analysis of White Plains House, King George, King George County, Virginia* (2015), 3.

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footprint. The side-gable roof was built of common rafters stabilized by collars, indicative of a local builder's understanding that the roof structure could not otherwise span the depth of the building.

Patching is evident on portions of the brick foundation that seem to consistently relate to changes in the sizes of door and window openings over time. Both original brickwork and patches were laid in English bond, but only the undisturbed bricks retain their dark rust-red color. Based on remnants of paint found in crevices of the original bricks, the foundation was once painted white.

The first significant alterations to the building were likely made after Aaron Thornley's death in 1821. His son, Thomas Berry Thornley, inherited White Plains and lived there until it was sold to James Slaughter Quesenberry as part of a 1,100-acre estate in 1836.³⁰ Quesenberry had a sizeable household by 1840, including eight family members and 23 enslaved people, so he likely initiated alterations to the house.³¹ King George County land tax records support this, as the building value at White Plains rose from \$1010 in 1838 to \$1510 in 1840.³²

The basement underwent the most dramatic changes. Originally an unfinished space with brick or clay tile flooring, in the second quarter of the 19th century it became additional living space. The current bulkhead entrance may have been added at that time to replace an entrance elsewhere or it may have been rebuilt as a replacement for an earlier entrance at the same place. There is currently such an entrance on the west elevation of the building, though there is also evidence of one or two periods of earlier change. Glazed openings replaced open grates. The relieving arches on the east chimney were opened to create a new fireplace in the cellar, possibly following the trend of installing dining rooms on the lower levels of houses during this period. Framing the fireplace is a Federal mantel that echoes those in the rooms above, indicating a broader renovation campaign, though the timing of such a campaign is unclear.

Other changes are indicative of repairs to the building during the 19th century. The winder stair leading to the attic, for example, has a 19th-century carriage. Diagonal supports with triangular cut-outs receive the risers and treads of each step, rather than the older design that relied on horses built out from supporting boards nailed to structural members to support the steps.

Alexander B. Gouldman started acquiring parcels of White Plains in 1883, ten years after Quesenberry's death.³³ The Gouldmans owned the property through the early 20th century. White Plains passed through several other families' hands before its purchase by Alexander

³⁰ Deed, 24 December 1836, King George County Deed Book No. 15 (1837-1841), p. 6.

³¹ Year: 1840; Census Place: King George, Virginia; Roll: 564; Page: 51; Family History Library Film: 0029688; Ancestry.com, 1840 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; Ancestry.com.

³² King George County, Land Tax Records, 1838; King George County Land Tax Records, 1840. Such a jump in values could also be indicative of other improvements to the building stock at White Plains, as well.

³³ Deed, 10 April 1883, King George County Deed Book 23 (1880-1883), p. 552; Deed 1 July 1885, King George County Deed Book 28 (1896-1900), p. 120.

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Walker in 1940.

Shortly after Alexander Walker purchased White Plains in 1940, he embarked on an ambitious restoration campaign. To what degree Colonial Revival scholar and architect Thomas Tileston Waterman was involved in the project remains uncertain, though he did have knowledge of White Plains. In a letter dated 20 February 1975, Alexander Walker wrote "It has always been our belief, based on several facts, that the house was built about 1725. Mr. Thomas Waterman, a prominent architect who spent several years working for Williamsburg, told me he thought that was a likely date."³⁴ As Waterman lived across the Rappahannock River at Port Royal, White Plains was only a short distance away. Blueprints and elevations contained within Waterman's papers at the Library of Congress include drawings of the smokehouse facades from the Servient House, the Nightingale House, Tazewell Hall, and the Lee House. An untitled elevation shows a two-story, three-bay frame house with porch that generally resembles the house at White Plains, though it has internal end chimneys and a gambrel-roofed side porch.³⁵ Given Waterman's extensive experience in restoring colonial-era architecture and shaping the Colonial Revival style through his work at Williamsburg and his scholarship, he may have offered casual assistance to a neighbor, rather than overseeing a full restoration campaign. Walker's letter documents that Waterman at least knew of and examined the house, though any additional involvement has not been documented. This period represents both the second significant period of alterations to the house and a significant engagement with the Colonial Revival movement.

The alterations made to White Plains during this restoration were done quite sensitively. The most notable is the addition of clipped gables on the roof, despite a lack of evidence indicating such a feature existed originally. Photographs of the building restoration on April 25, 1941, reveal the standing-seam metal gable roof of that time.³⁶ Clipped gables are present on several 18th-century houses in the Northern Neck, including Kirnan (DHR#: 096-0013; ca. 1781), the Hague (DHR#: 096-0011), and nearby Marmion (NRHP 1970; DHR#: 048-0012). Those installed at White Plains appear to indicate an attempt to make the house look 'colonial' on a grander scale.

Other restoration changes are more difficult to ascertain with certainty, given the care with which they were done. Visible nails include wrought and double-struck nails and are likely a combination of ones original to the building and those used to disguise restoration alterations. The heavy beaded diagonal board entry doors in the main floor central passage were likely added during this period as well, to give that space a more "rustic colonial" style. Original trim survives on the second floor, but elsewhere has been replaced. Foliated hinges on the small door under the attic winder stair are older than the house and were brought in to give the stair treatment a colonial look. This was particularly important, given that the wall on the eastern side of the

³⁴ Letter, Alexander Walker to Mrs. Bailey, 20 February 1975 Private Collection.

³⁵ Thomas Tileston Waterman, Waterman Architectural Drawing Archive, 1919-1950, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

³⁶ George Bernard Lorraine Records, ca. 1925-1976. Accession 31042, Business records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

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passage was likely created during the restoration to make space for closets and baths for the two smaller bedrooms. The uniformity of the Federal-style mantels in the largest rooms on each floor may reflect fabrication of new architectural elements based on an extant piece in the house. Another possibility is the reuse of material salvaged from another historic house during the 1940 work.

The restoration campaign is remarkable for both its sensitivity to the original material and the preservation ethic it championed, both advertently and inadvertently. The restoration work matched many of the materials so closely that it is difficult to ascertain which pieces came from which century. Given that Colonial Revival architecture created in the 20th century, rather than restorations of historic buildings guided by Revival architects, often allowed for a mélange of elements to be incorporated into a single structure, this accuracy is significant for the care it demonstrates for the historic structure. Today, this degree of seamlessness is discouraged as there is no clear distinction between original and restoration features. For the period, however, this was the epitome of professional and accurate work.

From its inception in the 1870s, the Colonial Revival movement was driven by a sense of preservation. Its roots lay in the centennial celebrations of the American Revolution and in the work of organizations like the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, which sought to save buildings associated with significant people or events from the United States' colonial past. As it evolved over the coming decades, the Colonial Revival bifurcated. One branch was dedicated to the creation of new architecture that drew on colonial forms and elements, to provide architecture without the trappings of European luxury to American consumers and homeowners. The other branch remained dedicated to the preservation of extant historic structures. The restoration campaign at Colonial Williamsburg in the 1920s and 1930s, and at many of Virginia's grand plantation homes, stand as emblematic of this preservation ethos. While few people undertook such large-scale projects, this sense of preserving the past by preserving historic structures grew among private individuals as well. In the case of Virginia, many individual preservation projects stemmed from Northern industrialists who purchased stately Virginia homes to partake of the early 20th-century version of the country/gentry lifestyle of the past.

White Plains is remarkable because it does not follow this Colonial Revival mold of wealthy industrialists restoring stately buildings. Alexander Walker was a Virginia native, born in Albemarle County, and recorded in census and draft records as "self-employed," likely indicating that he was a farmer.³⁷ While White Plains is somewhat archetypal as a Virginia house type, and was a large house by colonial standards, it is by no means a grand plantation. That a private individual undertook such a careful restoration of a locally-significant late-18th century dwelling highlights the depth of personal interest that individuals took in the preservation aspects

³⁷ The National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; *Draft Registration Cards for Virginia 10/16/1940 – 03/31/1987*; Record Group: *Records of the Selective Service System, 147*; Box: 763; Ancestry.com. *U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

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of the Colonial Revival. Walker's apparent commitment to preservation was so sincere that trim removed from the house during the restoration was not discarded. The current owners discovered several hundred feet of it in an outbuilding on the property and have continued to carefully store it. It appears to be mostly baseboards, which still retain their cut nails and layers of paint through which plane chatter marks are visible. Arguably, without the preservation ethos espoused by private individuals and professional architects in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many buildings that survive today and that have formed the core of study materials through which we try to understand the lived experiences of the past would be lost.

Colonial Revival architecture is also significant for its sustained role in the ongoing attempts to define American national identity through architecture. The simple lines of private homes built to follow the proportions of colonial dwellings was intended to foster a populace of strong and pure character, following the example of the Founding Fathers. As Colonial Revival continued to evolve, boosters of the style adopted progressive rhetoric. Not only could simple architecture build character, but it could also incorporate modern and hygienic conveniences with ease. This, too, would create healthy and stalwart Americans. While this rhetoric is somewhat hyperbolic in singing the praises of what architecture modeled on the colonial period could do for the future of the country, it spoke to a contemporary concern of what it meant to live an "American" life, particularly in the face of all the cultural and structural changes occurring across the U.S. during the early to mid-20th century. The White Plains restoration came at a key moment in defining that performative identity. After a decade of economic hardship during the Great Depression, which upturned long-standing American narratives of plenty-through-hard-work, and on the brink of entry into World War II, which required Americans to redefine their place on the international stage, the restoration of an archetypal plantation house, keyed into this sense of American identity through architecture. Walker's restoration campaign not only provided employment to local tradesmen – including painter and paper hanger C.R. Goodwin who signed a wall and dated it January 9th, 1942 – but also created a sense that when the world threatened to fall apart, the American character, as seen in its enduring architecture, endured.³⁸

The combination of surviving original elements and notable Colonial Revival modifications, of both the house and surrounding landscape, as well as the dearth of contemporary 18th-century buildings in King George County, particularly those without substantial additions, makes White Plains locally significant for the architectural merit of its two major periods of construction and restoration.

³⁸ Charles E. Brownell, Calder Loth, William M. S. Rasmussen, Richard Guy Wilson, *The Making of Virginia Architecture* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1992), 82-131; Carl R. Lounsbury, "Beaux-Arts Ideals and Colonial Reality: The Reconstruction of Williamsburg's Capitol, 1928-1934" *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, v. 49, no. 4 (Dec. 1990), 373-389; David Gebhard, "The American Colonial Revival in the 1930s" *Winterthur Portfolio*, v. 22, no. 2/3 (Summer-Autumn 1987), 109-148; Bridget A. May "Progressivism and the Colonial Revival: The Modern Colonial House, 1900-1920" *Winterthur Portfolio*, v. 26, no. 2/3 (Summer-Autumn 1991), 107-122; William B. Rhoads, "The Colonial Revival and American Nationalism" *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, v. 35, no. 4 (Dec. 1976), 239-254; Abigail Carroll, "Of Kettles and Cranes: Colonial Revival Kitchens and the Performance of National Identity" *Winterthur Portfolio*, v. 43, no. 4 (Winter 2009), 335-364.

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #048-0024

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 38.2

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.207194 | Longitude: -77.166108 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.206776 | Longitude: -77.162502 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.203730 | Longitude: -77.162212 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.202034 | Longitude: -77.165426 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

White Plains
Name of Property

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☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary for White Plains is coterminous with the parcel of land recorded by King George County as #39-1A. The true and correct historic boundary is depicted as the dotted line on the accompanying Tax Parcel Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected because they include several key elements of the White Plains landscape, such as surviving architectural and archaeological resources, as well as open acreage that conveys the property's historic setting, giving a sense of the plantation as it would have looked during the 18th and 19th centuries. All known historic resources are encompassed by the historic boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. David A. Brown, Mr. Thane Harpole, and Dr. Elizabeth Cook
organization: DATA Investigations, LLC
street & number: 1759 Tyndall Point Lane
city or town: Gloucester Point state: VA zip code: 23062
e-mail: fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org
telephone: 804-815-4467
date: March 16, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: White Plains

City or Vicinity: King George County

County: King George County

State: Virginia

Photographers: Elizabeth Cook, Zach Hatcher

Photo 1 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0001
View: Primary dwelling, south façade, camera facing north
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 2 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0002
View: Primary dwelling, west elevation, camera facing east
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 3 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0003
View: Primary dwelling, north elevation, camera facing south
Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 4 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0004
View: Primary dwelling, east elevation, camera facing west
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 5 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0005
View: Gate posts at entry, camera facing southeast
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 6 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0006
View: Gouldman Graveyard, camera facing southwest
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 7 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0007
View: Pool house foundation, camera facing west

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Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 8 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0008

View: Gazebo, east elevation, Smokehouse, south and east elevations, camera facing southwest

Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 9 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0009

View: Pump house, south elevation, camera facing northwest

Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 10 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0010

View: Garage/Studio, east façade, south elevation, camera facing northwest

Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 11 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0011

View: Garden shed, north and east elevations, Duck house, east elevation, camera facing west

Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 12 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0012

View: Chicken house duplex, north elevation, camera facing south

Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 13 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0013

View: Secondary Dwelling, camera facing east/northeast

Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 14 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0014

View: First floor, Central hall, camera facing northeast

Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 15 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0015

View: First floor, East room, camera facing south east

Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 16 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0016

View: First floor, Southwest room, camera facing west

Date Photographed: 4 March 2018

Photo 17 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0017

View: Second floor, Hall, camera facing south

Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 18 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0018

View: Second floor, Northwest room, camera facing west

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Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 19 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0019
View: Second floor, East room, camera facing east
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Photo 20 of 20: VA_KingGeorgeCounty_WhitePlains_0020
View: Basement, Dining room, camera looking north east
Date Photographed: 26 September 2017

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



LOCATION MAP

White Plains

King George County, VA

DHR No. 048-0024

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 38.207194

Longitude: -77.166108

2. Latitude: 38.206776

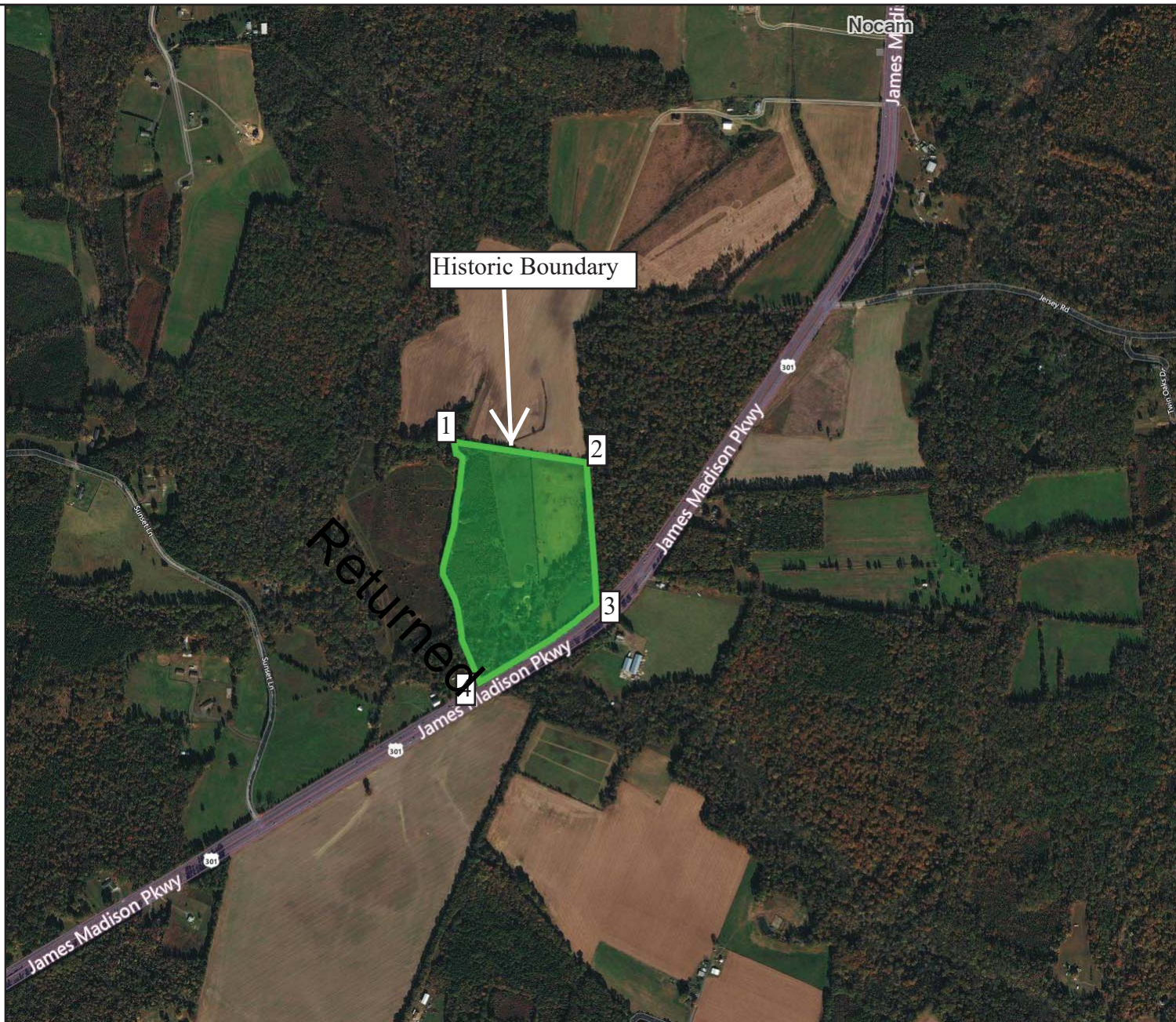
Longitude: -77.162502

3. Latitude: 38.203730

Longitude: -77.162212

Latitude: 38.202034

Longitude: -77.165426



Feet

0 500 1000 1500 2000

1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title:

Date: 12/20/2018

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Historic Boundary

SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY

White Plains

King George County, VA

DHR No. 048-0024

October 2017

DATA Investigations, LLC

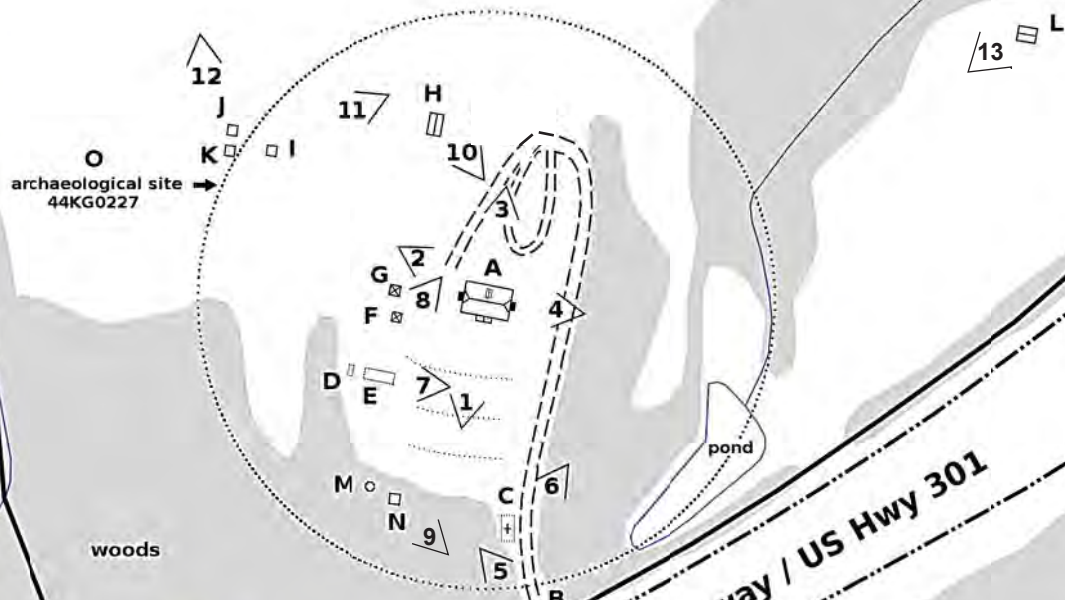
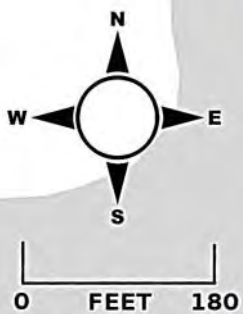
- driveway
--- landscape terrace
▲ # photo and direction *

* NOTE ON PHOTOS:
Photo #s 15-25 are interior
architectural photos and are
not shown on this map.

Individual Resources:
C=contributing
NC=non-contributing

- A - main house (C)
- B - gate posts (NC)
- C - graveyard (C)
- D - pool house foundation (C)
- E - pool site (C)
- F - gazebo (NC)
- G - smokehouse (C)
- H - garage/studio (C)
- I - garden shed (NC)
- J - duck house (NC)
- K - chicken houses (NC)
- L - secondary dwelling (C)
- M - spring
- N - pump house (NC)
- O - archaeological site 44KG0227 (C)

Returned



James Madison Parkway / US Hwy 301

TAX PARCEL MAP
White Plains
King George County, VA
DHR No. 048-0024

— Streams

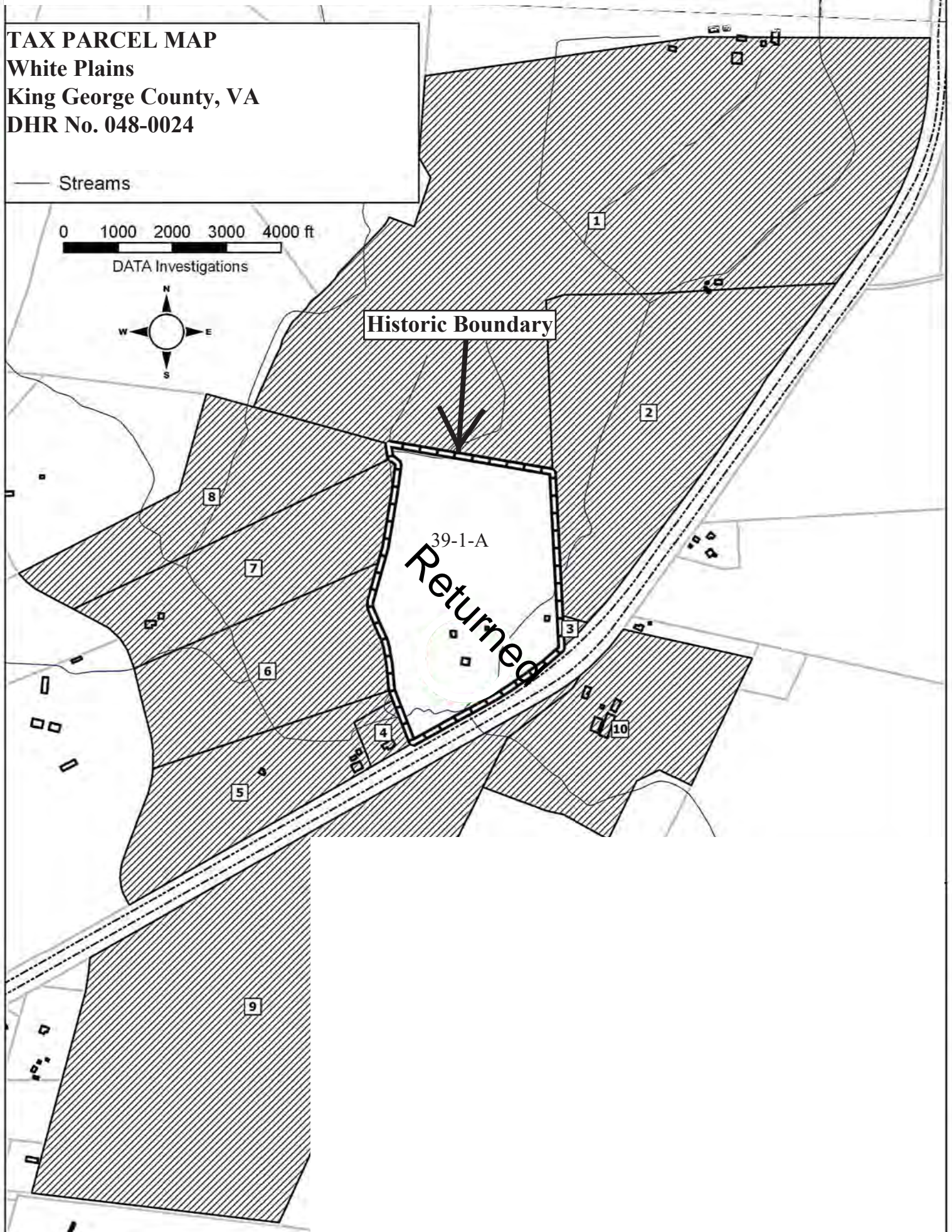
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 ft

DATA Investigations



Historic Boundary

39-1-A
Returned





AERIAL VIEW

White Plains

King George County, VA

DHR No. 048-0024



Feet

0 50 100 150 200

1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

Title:

Date: 12/20/2018

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: White Plains

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: VIRGINIA, King George

Date Received: 2/7/2019 Date of Pending List: 2/28/2019 Date of 16th Day: 3/15/2019 Date of 45th Day: 3/25/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003542

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

☐ Appeal

☐ SHPO Request

☐ Waiver

☐ Resubmission

☐ Other

☐ PDIL

☐ Landscape

☐ National

☐ Mobile Resource

☐ TCP

☐ CLG

☐ Text/Data Issue

☐ Photo

☐ Map/Boundary

☐ Period

☐ Less than 50 years

☐ Accept ☒ Return ☐ Reject 3/19/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

The nomination for White Plains is being returned for substantive revision.

The nomination cites Criteria A and C, with significance in Ethnic Heritage and Architecture. The information in the nomination does not support Criterion A. There are no extant resources, other than the land itself, that are associated with the enslaved population of White Plains. In order to support Criterion A, there needs to be sufficient integrity of the associated resources. While there is no doubt that the impact of enslaved peoples is present on the landscape, that in and of itself is not sufficient to support Criterion A. The identified archeological site, and the references to other, more outlying locations, might support a claim of significance under Criterion D. With specifically framed research questions, I think that there is high potential for acceptance under that criterion.

The resource count includes a number of things that are either questionable or perhaps unnecessary. The pool and the pool house are no longer extant; they are barely if at all visible and both lack integrity sufficient to support the significance of the house and even the landscape (which really isn't evaluated here). Some of the resources are of a scale or nature that don't necessarily warrant counting – the gate posts, for example, or the duck and chicken houses. It is up to you if it is important for management purposes, but these things, especially noncontributing, are not necessary to count.

Recommendation/
Criteria

Return

Reviewer Jim Gabbert

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275

Date

3-19-2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : **Yes** see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation Sheet

Property Name: White Plains, King George County, VA

Reference Number: 100003542

Comment

The nomination for White Plains is being returned for substantive revision.

The nomination cites Criteria A and C, with significance in Ethnic Heritage and Architecture. The information in the nomination does not support Criterion A. There are no extant resources, other than the land itself, that are associated with the enslaved population of White Plains. In order to support Criterion A, there needs to be sufficient integrity of the associated resources. While there is no doubt that the impact of enslaved peoples is present on the landscape, that in and of itself is not sufficient to support Criterion A. The identified archeological site, and the references to other, more outlying locations, might support a claim of significance under Criterion D. With specifically framed research questions, I think that there is high potential for acceptance under that criterion.

The resource count includes a number of things that are either questionable or perhaps unnecessary. The pool and the pool house are no longer extant; they are barely if at all visible and both lack integrity sufficient to support the significance of the house and even the landscape (which really isn't evaluated here). Some of the resources are of a scale or nature that don't necessarily warrant counting – the gate posts, for example, or the duck and chicken houses. It is up to you if it is important for management purposes, but these things, especially noncontributing, are not necessary to count.

Jim Gabbert, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
3-19-2019

Zachary Hatcher
15318 James Madison Parkway
King George, Virginia 22485

May 15, 2019

Joy Beasley
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, National Register Program
1849 C St., NW (Mail Stop 7228)
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley,

Thank you for your recent review of the White Plains application to the National Register of Historic Places. Our work over the past five years to restore the property's physical structures and to preserve its stories has been a partnership of skills and expertise from many individuals and organizations. This includes the valuable work by DATA Investigations to compile and narrate the history of this place with support from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR).

During the course of research, we came to realize that one of the key elements of the White Plains story is the diverse and varied groups of people who made the once 1,100-acre plantation a thriving part of Virginia's tidewater economy. Among these groups were the enslaved Africans who worked as tradesmen, planters, and builders at White Plains during a unique time in our nation's history. Hearing the names of those who lived here and seeing a glimpse into their daily lives was a stark reminder of the reliance such incredible places had on the forced labor of its workers. Without them, its creation and maintenance would have been a nearly impossible feat. The hardships they endured, their suffering and survival despite all of the odds stacked against them, are also crucial parts of the history that we want to preserve.

As current owners of this property, I am glad that we can uncover and share these important stories as part of our regional and national history. White Plains is one of few preserved eighteenth-century structures in King George County and one of few whose stories now contribute to our understanding of the history of this part of Virginia's Northern Neck.

It is important to us as preservationists and owners of White Plains that we are able to acknowledge the stories and contribution of African Americans on this plantation through recognition on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A: Ethnic Heritage.

Thank you for your consideration of our application. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance during the review process.

Sincerely,

Zachary Hatcher



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

Matt Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
www.dhr.virginia.gov

September 17, 2019

Joy Beasley
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, National Register Program
1849 C St., NW (Mail Stop 7228)
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: White Plains, King George County, Virginia, resubmission

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed nomination, referenced above, is being re-submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was returned in March 2019 for substantial and technical reasons. NPS reviewers commented that the nomination as originally presented did not support the property's significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: African American, but that the property's archaeological site might support a claim of significance under Criterion D with provision of specifically framed research questions. Although the property's archaeological potential is known and documented in the enclosed nomination, Department staff do not believe enough currently is known to develop a research design as is necessary to nominate a property under Criterion D; there are no plans for further archaeological investigation of this property. Department staff, however, have found that the property's two extant antebellum resources, the primary dwelling and a smokehouse, have sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations with the property's antebellum enslaved African American population. In Section 8 of the revised nomination, additional information is provided on p. 23-24 concerning the work of enslaved people in these buildings and on the plantation's landscape. Additionally, a detailed landscape analysis has been added to Section 7 on p. 12-15 and is accompanied by 10 figures consisting of historic maps, aerial photographs, and LIDAR imagery. This information demonstrates the integrity of the historic agricultural landscape where enslaved persons once toiled. When coupled with the unusually detailed information about enslaved African Americans at White Plains that was discovered in historic records, Department staff recommend that the extant buildings and landscape do convey the property's significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: African American.

Concerning technical items, NPS reviewers noted that an assortment of small-scale resources were included in the property's inventory of contributing and noncontributing resources. Department archaeologists determined that these resources should remain in the inventory as all

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Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

are within the boundaries of the archaeological site that is associated with the property's domestic complex and their recordation now will save having to re-identify these more recent changes to the landscape at a later date.

This property has 1 property owner. No letters of objection were received concerning this nomination. The property owner has submitted a letter to the Department for forwarding to your office concerning his research findings about the antebellum history of White Plains and how it informs his stewardship of the property today. This letter is enclosed herein.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,



Lena Sweeten McDonald
National/State Register Historian

Enclosures

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