

R-9-20-77  
NRHP-12-22-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Kittiewan

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Approximately 2.5 miles SE of New Hope; .3 mile N of Kittiewan Creek; .5 mile WNW of confluence of Mapsico and Kittiewan creeks; 2.2 miles S of intersection of state routes 5 and 619.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New Hope

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE

51

COUNTY

Charles City

CODE

039

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Cropper

STREET & NUMBER

Kittiewan

CITY, TOWN

Charles City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

23030

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles City County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charles City

STATE

Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)**

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kittiewan is a flat, open tract of farmland occupying part of a peninsula on the north side of the James River. The mid-18th-century dwelling house at Kittiewan is a story-and-a-half, five-bay frame structure with an original gable-roofed ell at the east and a later lean-to ell stretching across the remainder of the rear (north) side of the house. The main block and original ell are set upon an English-bond foundation and are clad with beaded weatherboards into which are driven early shutter dogs. The windows have 9/9 Federal-era sash, except for one original 9-light sash in the ell. Two small windows light gable-end closets in each end of the main house; those on the west are covered by louvred blinds which may be original. Five pedimented dormers with flush-boarded tympana, 6/6 Federal sash, and beaded weatherboards on their cheeks break the front slope of the main block, and one similar dormer occupies each plane of the ell roof. The main block is crowned by interior end chimneys, of which the east stack has been rebuilt. The ell is served by an exterior English-bond brick chimney with two sets of tiled weatherings.

The lean-to ell, which in its present form dates from a post-1846 renovation, is covered with beaded weatherboards and has large 6/6 window sash. When this section was remodeled, porches were added to the front and rear of the house. These have low pedimented roofs supported on four tall truncated pyramidal piers. On the front porch, only those piers against the house are the originals.

The house is presently a modified double-pile, central-passage-plan structure. There is one room to either side of the passage in the front and a large dining room to the west of the rear passage. To the east, a kitchen intervenes between the passage and the original ell. The house was originally a single-pile, central-passage building with a single-room ell. Another ell--the northwest dining room--was apparently built early in the 19th century with the first ell being enlarged at the same time, creating a U-shaped house with an open "alley" between the two ells. The narrow alley between the two was converted to a passage in the post-1846 renovation, and the roof of all but the earliest portion of the ell was changed to its present shed form.

The original house contains a considerable amount of interior decoration; that in the parlor (southeast room) is the most elaborate. All four walls are fully sheathed with raised paneling capped by a dentil cornice and broken by a double-tiered chair rail. The chimney wall, which contains round-headed closets at either side of the fireplace, is punctuated by a series of four fluted Roman Doric pilasters flanking the closets. A striking late 18th-century mantel, consisting of fluted Roman Doric pilasters supporting a boldly and sharply molded entablature with a squat pulvinated frieze and a narrow central keystone, replaces the original architrave surround. Fluted Roman Doric pilasters flank the door to the passage as well.

The passage is treated with raised-panel wainscoting having an extra, low tier of panels above the symmetrical chair rail. The same sort of chair rail is carried up the open-string, triple-run stair. The latter substitutes a set of winders for the first landing and has a raised-panel soffit as well as a square newel, molded rail, and two symmetrical turned balusters to a tread.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kittiewan is a Tidewater Virginia plantation located above Kittewan Creek at its confluence with the James River. The property was owned during the Colonial period by the Minge family who built the present house in the mid-18th century. Although the name Kittiewan, or "Konwan", was used for the general vicinity early in the 17th century, the present house dates from the mid-18th century. Its finely crafted paneling would be noteworthy even in a much larger house, and the mantels added to the original woodwork in the late 18th century have a provincial vigor which adds to the interest of the decoration.

Minges apparently came to the Weyanoke peninsula in the third quarter of the 17th century, occupying what is known as Upper Weyanoke plantation. James Minge II first appears in the Charles City County records in 1672. He held various local offices including Clerk of the Court and County Surveyor.

A descendant, James Minge, lived on Weyanoke Peninsula and died there in 1746. His heir, David Minge, held the land which included the present Kittiewan until his own death in 1779. Architectural evidence suggests that the present house was built during David Minge's tenure; it is at the time of his death, as well, that the name Kittiewan first appeared in the record books in connection with the specific tract under consideration. Minge's successors inherited several important Charles City properties from him, including Weyanoke and The Rowe, as well as Kittiewan.

By 1820 Thomas E. Poythress, possibly a Minge relation by marriage, held life ownership of the plantation. In 1834 it was acquired by Robert C. Harrison, who was probably a relative of the Collier Harrison who had married David Minge's widow and heir.

Thus, Kittiewan remained in the Minge-Harrison family for over 175 years, until 1846, when Dr. William A. Selden bought the 971-acre tract. An increase of \$600 worth of buildings in the 1858 tax valuation of Kittiewan may indicate the date of Selden's improvements to the house.

There was considerable military activity near Kittiewan during the Civil War, as Union General Philip A. Sheridan occupied the area between Charles City Court House and the James River. As a result, Selden, a surgeon in the Confederate army, may have abandoned Kittiewan during that time, for he died in Powhatan County in 1865.

Kittiewan has been in the present owners' family since the early 20th century. It is probable that the archaeological remains of the outbuildings survive, and additional information on colonial Virginia plantation life may result from archaeological examinations of the property.

DU/MTP

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Kittiewan, Charles City County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7: DESCRIPTION

The same type of wainscoting as in the passage is used in the smaller west chamber in conjunction with a paneled room end. The end closets were opened up as niches by cutting large round-headed arches in the paneling in the mid-19th century. There is a mantel like that in the parlor, and a molded cornice is carried around the room.

In the ell, the fireplace is treated with a plain architrave surround, a raised-panel frieze, and a heavy unsupported shelf. This is the only decoration except for a chair board.

There is no decoration of note in the mid-19th-century ell, except for two built-in corner cupboards in the passage.

No early outbuildings survive. However, archaeological remains of the outbuildings most likely exist in the immediate vicinity, and the boundaries have been drawn to include them as well as the terraced bank to the creek, an original landscaping feature. Archaeological examination of the property could yield additional information on colonial Virginia plantation life.

DU

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries have been drawn to include part of the open land immediately around the house. This area probably contains the archaeological remains of the original outbuildings. The boundaries extend immediately to the south of the house to include the terraced banks and the marshes in order to provide the house with a view to the creek.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles City County Land Tax Books, 1782-1848.

Genealogical Information from Files of the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.

Official Atlas of the Civil War. Introduction by Henry Steele Commager. New York, N.Y., 1958, Plates XCII, LXXIV.

Selden, Edna M. Selden and Kindred of Virginia. Richmond, Virginia, 1941.

"Shields Family," William and Mary Quarterly 5:117 (1st series).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

E 18 318270 4129790

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 85 acres F 18 318210 4130670

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,1,8	6,2,0	4,1	3,0	7,8,0	B	1,8	3,1,8	7,4,0	4,1	3,0	4,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	1,8	3,1,8	7,5,0	4,1	3,0	1,1,0	D	1,8	3,1,8	8,9,0	4,1	2,9	5,6,0

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** The Kittewan property is bounded by a line beginning at a point where feeder creek meets W edge of wooded area, located approximately 1.9 miles SSE of intersection of state routes 5 and 619 and 250' E of private drive; thence extending approximately 1800' S along W edge of tree line; thence extending about 500' SSE, cutting through wooded area to N bank of Kittewan Creek; thence following N bank of said creek W for about 8400'; thence extending 2900' N, cutting through marsh, wooded area, then open area and following E tree line for about 550' to point where wooded area meets feeder creek; thence extending NE along S side of feeder creek to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

September 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street.

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE SEP 20 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Kittiewan, Charles City County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1                      ITEM NUMBER 6      PAGE 1

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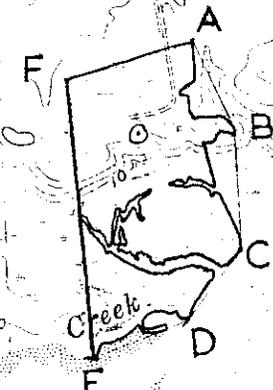
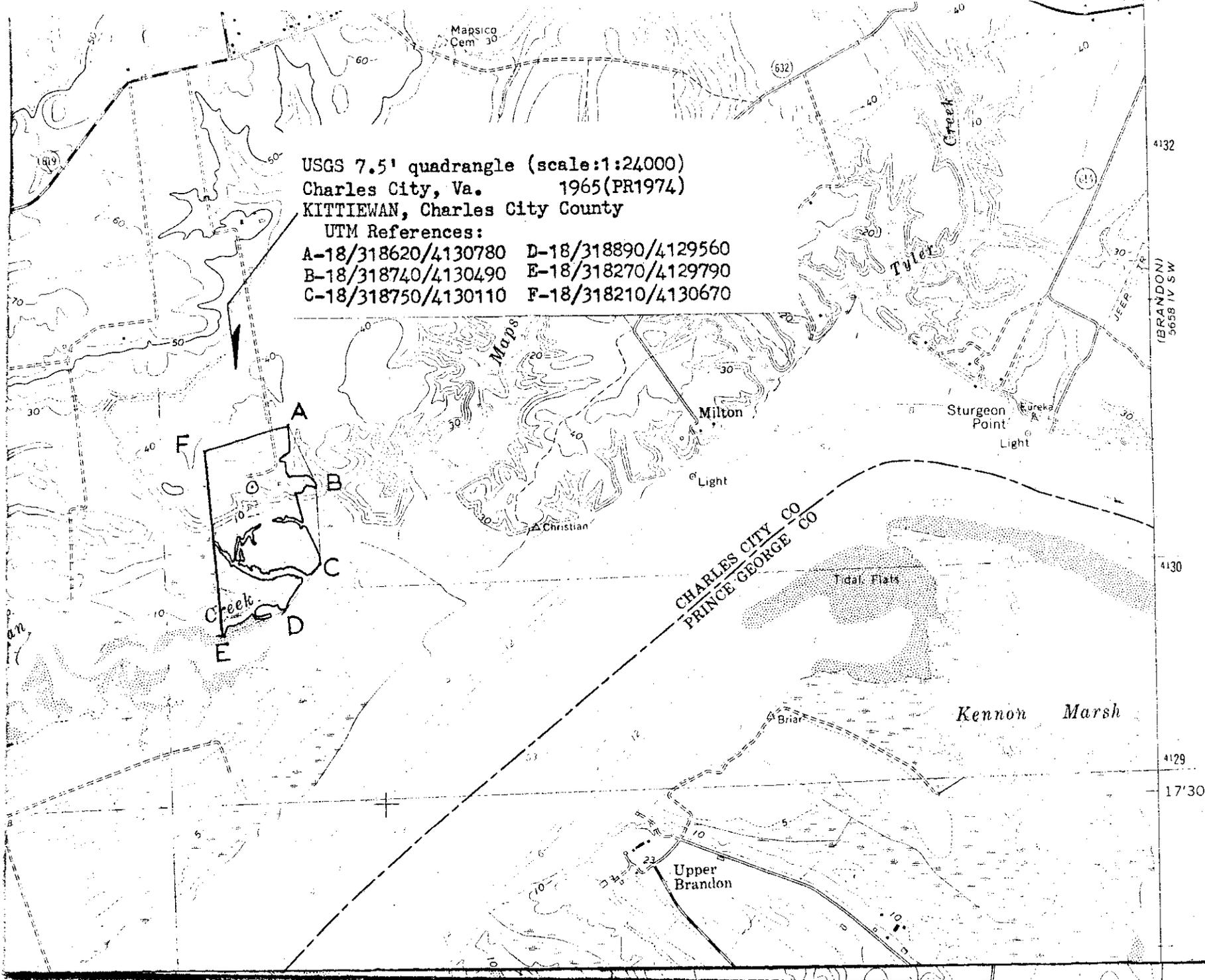
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1967, 1977                      State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Richmond, Virginia      23219

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Charles City, Va. 1965 (PR1974)  
KITTEWAN, Charles City County

UTM References:

A-18/318620/4130780 D-18/318890/4129560  
B-18/318740/4130490 E-18/318270/4129790  
C-18/318750/4130110 F-18/318210/4130670



4132

(BRANDON)  
5658 IV SW

4130

4129

17'30"