

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Listed On: VLR 08/15/1989 NRHP 07/12/1990

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Shelly Archaeological District Other names/site number 44GL318, 319, 324-353

2. Location

Street & number N/A City, town Hayes State Virginia code VA county Gloucester code 073 zip code 23072

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-headers for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official VA Department of Historic Resources Date 9/29/89

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: village site

DOMESTIC: camp

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

LANDSCAPE: forest

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION

The Shelly Archaeological District is located [redacted] in Gloucester County, Virginia. This agricultural tract is situated on the most prominent landform within the peninsula [redacted]. The district contains 29 contributing archaeological sites distributed over 176 acres. These sites include Native American components dating from approximately 3000 B.C. through A.D. 1629. Native American property types include transient campsites, seasonal basecamps, and a sedentary village. The archaeological sites at Shelly also contain historic components dating from the mid-seventeenth through late nineteenth centuries. Historic property types are consistently domestic in character and include tenant/slave habitation sites, the remains of utilitarian buildings, and a principal residential complex dating from the late eighteenth through nineteenth centuries.

BACKGROUND

An archaeological survey of the Shelly Archaeological District was undertaken by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources from July 1987 through June 1989. Site identification was accomplished by systematic surface collection of all cultivated areas at transect intervals no greater than 10 meters. The surface collection was scheduled so that maximum benefit could be made of optimal field conditions following episodes of seasonal cultivation. Most areas were examined at least twice to insure the identification of ephemeral resources. Representative assemblages were retained from each identified site, though some sites were comprehensively collected in situations of low artifact density. No formal shovel testing of forested areas was conducted during the survey due to the dominance of cultivated areas at Shelly (Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4) and the generally low archaeological potential of much of the wooded terrain. The boundaries selected for the district are based upon the general absence of significant archaeological resources outside of the nominated area despite comprehensive examination during this study.

Following the completion of the survey, two sites were selected for intensive testing. The selected sites were 44GL318 and 44GL319 within which Middle Woodland, Late Woodland, and mid-seventeenth-century

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
ARCHAEOLOGY: Prehistoric  
ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic - Aboriginal  
ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic - Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance  
3000 B.C. - A.D. 1900

Significant Dates  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation  
Late Archaic Period, Woodland Period,  
Historic Period

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Shelly Archaeological District, located in Gloucester County, Virginia, contains a wide variety of sites that illustrate the changing adaptation to the estuarine environment by Native American peoples from the Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods. The identification of the terminal Native American occupation as that of the historic "Cantaunkack" settlement also can provide information concerning the interaction of aboriginal peoples with European colonists prior to 1629. The mid-seventeenth-century colonial archaeological sites within the district contain data critical to the understanding of frontier settlement expansion following the removal of the Native American population during the late 1620s and 1630s. Later seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century archaeological resources reflect the changing patterns of tenancy and land use during the period when Shelly first served as a dependency to the Timberneck and Rosewell estates, and subsequently as an economically independent owner-occupied entity.

**BACKGROUND**

The occupation of Virginia's lower tidewater area by Native American groups can best be characterized by changing patterns of adaptation to a developing estuarine environment through time. Coastal submergence has been the dominant, continuing environmental event that has affected the cultural and natural landscape since the end of the last glacial period. Limited archaeological research throughout the coastal plain has demonstrated that "coastal" or "estuarine" adaptation did not constitute a monolithic entity but instead has varied across both time and space. In many portions of the coastal plain, however, submergence has removed from archaeological consideration much of the landscape that would have been exposed during Paleoindian through Middle Archaic times prior to 3000 B.C. While it is difficult to assess the degree of estuarine

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

VA Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor St., Richmond, VA 2321

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 176 acres

UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting	Northing
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

C 

Zone	Easting	Northing
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

D 

Zone	Easting	Northing
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries for the nominated acreage are restricted to those areas containing significant archaeological resources as determined through surface and subsurface testing both within and adjacent to the Shelly Archaeological District.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Antony E. Opperman, Archaeologist; E. Randolph Turner, Archaeologist  
organization VA Department of Historic Resources date July 1989  
street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143  
city or town Richmond state Virginia zip code 23219

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

---

district are based upon the general absence of significant archaeological resources outside of the nominated area despite comprehensive examination during this study.

Following the completion of the survey, two sites were selected for intensive testing. The selected sites were 44GL318 and 44GL319 within which Middle Woodland, Late Woodland, and mid-seventeenth-century historic components were closely examined for integrity and research potential. In general, the nature of the intensive testing at each of these sites was judgmentally determined based upon surface observation and the desire to provide reasonably broad spatial coverage. Though the intensive testing was designed to specifically demonstrate the presence of intact archaeological deposits, limited excavation of such deposits was conducted as a means to more explicitly address research potential. All excavated soil was screened through .25 inch wire mesh. Limited water-screening of selected deposits through fine hardware cloth was also undertaken. Representative soil profiles were recorded for each area subjected to intensive testing, and the locations of all test units were recorded on large-scale plans prepared for both sites.

The following discussion is organized in a chronological manner to progressively illustrate the occupation of the Shelly tract over the last four millennia. Particular emphasis is placed on two sites, 44GL318 and 44GL319, where intensive archaeological testing has demonstrated high resource integrity that can generally be applied to all contributing properties throughout the tract.

### CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

#### 44GL318

This large multicomponent prehistoric and historic site constitutes the focal resource of the Shelly Archaeological District. It extends over an area of approximately 12 hectares (30 acres) situated along the Carter Creek waterfront and surrounds a prominent ravine where a spring was once located.

This site is visually definable by the dense presence of oyster shell from which the property, "Shelly," derives its name. The shell is particularly dense in those portions of the site nearest to Carter Creek, though the scatter entirely surrounds the ravine and extends over 100 meters northeast of that feature into the presently cultivated area. Due to the overlapping nature of the various components at 44GL318, the following discussion is temporally structured.

Archaeological survey efforts at 44GL318 were undertaken during several surface collection episodes. The results of the surface collection were

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

used to design the characteristics of the intensive subsurface testing conducted in two portions of the site. During this latter phase, a total of 18 test units, representing 18 square meters of exposure, were excavated.

4GL318: Late Archaic

Evidence for the occupation of 44GL318 during the Late Archaic period is sparse, though it is concentrated in an area of higher elevation in the northwestern portion of the site. The recovery of both a Savannah River Stemmed and a Savannah River Variant projectile point are indicative of an occupation, probably seasonal, dating between approximately 3000 B.C. and 1000 B.C. The high setting of this component at 44GL318 is comparable to a contemporaneous component at nearby 44GL324. This may reflect less of an estuarine focused occupation of the Shelly tract at that time in contrast to later Woodland period utilization.

44GL318: Middle Woodland

Archaeological survey at 44GL318 resulted in the recovery of Middle Woodland ceramics throughout the site, though particularly in the most northwestern portion. While shell-tempered Mockley Ware is the most common type of Middle Woodland pottery recovered from 44GL318 (circa A.D. 300 to A.D. 900), earlier lithic- and sand-tempered wares are also present in lesser quantities. The more common occurrence of Mockley Ware suggests an intensification of seasonal estuarine habitation at Shelly, a pattern generally applicable to the coastal plain as a whole. Intensive testing in the northwestern portion of 44GL318 revealed the presence of undisturbed cultural deposits dating to the Middle Woodland period. In two test units, an undisturbed deposit of densely packed oyster shell occurred below the modern plowzone (Figures 5 and 6). This midden deposit was isolated from historic cultivation by a lens of sandy colluvium. Cultural deposits extended below the midden for at least an additional 10 centimeters. Though few artifacts were recovered in direct association with the midden deposit, the presence of Mockley Ware indicates a late Middle Woodland context. The sparse occurrence of grit-tempered aboriginal pottery below the midden also suggests the presence of stratified cultural deposits in this portion of 44GL318.

44GL318: Late Woodland

The Late Woodland remains at 44GL318 constitute the most widespread component at the site. Late Woodland Townsend Ware (circa A.D. 900 to A.D. 1600) was recovered throughout the area, in contrast to the greater concentration of Middle Woodland wares in the northwestern portion. Also recovered, though in lesser quantities, were sherds of simple-stamped Roanoke Ware and refined, plain wares typically dating to the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The distribution and quantity of Late

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Woodland ceramics at 44GL318 certainly reflects an intensification of use after A.D. 900, probably related to the establishment of a sedentary community and the intensification of horticultural activity.

Intensive archaeological testing in the southeastern portion of 44GL318 resulted in the identification of undisturbed deposits dating to the Late Woodland period (Figures 7 and 8). These deposits, probably representing sheet midden and/or refuse pits as well as a posthole, were revealed below the plowzone. The presence of Townsend Ware on the surface of these deposits clearly indicates a Late Woodland origin. The observed presence of well preserved faunal remains and charcoal reflect a high level of subsurface integrity as well as research potential.

The Late Woodland occupation at 44GL318 represents the best known candidate for the settlement of "Cantaunkack," an historic period settlement depicted on early seventeenth century maps and known to have been destroyed by the English in 1629 during the campaign against the native American groups occupying the lower York River. If this interpretation is correct, then the Late Woodland component of 44GL318 would constitute one of the most important potential sources for information concerning English-Native American interaction during the early seventeenth century.

**44GL318: Seventeenth Century**

Evidence of seventeenth century occupation at 44GL318 was revealed within a small area (2000 square meters, .125 acres) situated at the head of the prominent ravine. A discrete scatter of historic artifacts was observed including brick crumbs, hand-wrought nails, large-bore kaolin and locally-made pipe stems, English flint, Surry Ware, and tin-enamelled earthenware. The presence of large-bore kaolin pipe stems and Surry Ware suggests a mid-seventeenth-century date of occupation contemporaneous with 44GL319.

**44GL318: Late Eighteenth through Late Nineteenth Centuries**

The southeastern portion of 44GL318 contains the remains of the Shelly residential complex established by Mann Page III in 1788 (completed in 1794). Though the principal residential structure burned in 1883, archaeological remains of it are reported by the present owner to have survived. Observations made during this investigation of planting holes excavated throughout the yard have confirmed the presence of undisturbed deposits dating to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In addition to the visible remains of an icehouse located west of the modern residence, evidence of an historically-depicted springhouse was also observed along the waterfront to the south. The integrity of these remains underscores their potential for providing information concerning the nature of the first owner-occupied residential complex on the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

property and its relationship to the tenant/slave occupied areas dependent upon it.

44GL324

This prehistoric site is located immediately northwest of 44GL318. It is spatially discrete from 44GL318, and the separation is further enhanced by its situation on a landform lower in elevation.

Two collection episodes resulted in the recovery of lithic and ceramic artifacts within an area of approximately .81 hectares (2.0 acres). The relatively light artifact assemblage occurred in association with a light to moderately dense scatter of oyster shell. The base of a large, contracting-stem Savannah River Variant blade reflects the earliest demonstrated useage of the Shelly tract during the Late Archaic period. A small assemblage of lithic debris was clustered in association with that object along the northeastern margin of the site in an area of slightly higher elevation, similarly situated to that portion of 44GL318 where sparse evidence of Late Archaic activity was also revealed.

A small assemblage of Native American ceramic artifacts was recovered from the lower portions of the site. This assemblage is largely Late Woodland in character, with both Townsend Ware (fabric-impressed) and Roanoke Ware (simple-stamped) being present.

Like 44GL318, the Late Archaic presence at 44GL324 is sparse and appears to be restricted to areas of slightly higher terrain, possibly reflective of a less estuarine-focused, and less intensive use of the Shelly tract at that time. The late prehistoric remains at this site probably reflect the presence of a discrete habitation locality separated from the principal Late Woodland occupation area at 44GL318. The differences between these two components of 44GL324 demonstrate the change in Native American adaptive use of the Shelly tract over the course of several millenia.

44GL325 and 44GL326

These small sites are located immediately north of 44GL324. Though discussed here in a combined manner, both sites are spatially discrete from each other and from 44GL324.

A single episode of surface collection resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of Native American artifacts from each site. Both assemblages were found in association with a small scatter of oyster

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

---

property and its relationship to the tenant/slave occupied areas dependent upon it.

44GL324

This prehistoric site is located immediately northwest of 44GL318 [REDACTED] It is spatially discrete from 44GL318, and the separation is further enhanced by its situation on a landform lower in elevation.

Two collection episodes resulted in the recovery of lithic and ceramic artifacts within an area of approximately .81 hectares (2.0 acres). The relatively light artifact assemblage occurred in association with a light to moderately dense scatter of oyster shell. The base of a large, contracting-stem Savannah River Variant blade reflects the earliest demonstrated useage of the Shelly tract during the Late Archaic period. A small assemblage of lithic debris was clustered in association with that object along the northeastern margin of the site in an area of slightly higher elevation, similarly situated to that portion of 44GL318 where sparse evidence of Late Archaic activity was also revealed.

A small assemblage of Native American ceramic artifacts was recovered from the lower portions of the site. This assemblage is largely Late Woodland in character, with both Townsend Ware (fabric-impressed) and Roanoke Ware (simple-stamped) being present.

Like 44GL318, the Late Archaic presence at 44GL324 is sparse and appears to be restricted to areas of slightly higher terrain, possibly reflective of a less estuarine-focused, and less intensive use of the Shelly tract at that time. The late prehistoric remains at this site probably reflect the presence of a discrete habitation locality separated from the principal Late Woodland occupation area at 44GL318. The differences between these two components of 44GL324 demonstrate the change in Native American adaptive use of the Shelly tract over the course of several millenia.

44GL325 and 44GL326

These small sites are located immediately north of 44GL324 and approximately 650 meters northwest of the modern residential complex. Though discussed here in a combined manner, both sites are spatially discrete from each other and from 44GL324.

A single episode of surface collection resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of Native American artifacts from each site. Both assemblages were found in association with a small scatter of oyster

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6

shell. In the case of 44GL325, the shell scatter was approximately 25 meters in diameter in contrast to the 10 meter diameter scatter at 44GL326. The assemblage recovered from 44GL325 consisted entirely of Native American pottery, primarily shell-tempered. Surface treatment was not discernable on most specimens, though both Middle Woodland Mockley Ware and more refined Late Woodland ceramics appear to be represented. A single sherd of coarse sand-tempered pottery also reflects an early Middle Woodland presence. At 44GL326, a single sherd of Mockley Ware (cord-marked) was supplemented by a fragmentary triangular projectile point suggesting both late Middle Woodland and Late Woodland activity.

Like many of the sites along the periphery of 44GL318, both 44GL325 and 44GL326 probably reflect the presence of discrete habitation areas during the Late Woodland period. Earlier components, however, are present and suggest that small groups may have utilized such areas repeatedly over the course of a millenium.

## 44GL327 and 44GL328

These small sites are situated southeast of the main entrance road and northeast of 44GL318. Both consist of discrete scatters of oyster shell and artifacts approximately 25 meters in diameter that are visually distinct from the surrounding area.

Though a small assemblage of historic artifacts (including wine bottle glass and Buckley earthenware) was recovered from 44GL327 during the a single survey episode, the absence of architectural debris suggests that this material represents the random dispersal of domestic refuse. The presence of Townsend Ware, limited debitage, and a triangular projectile point instead suggests an in-situ Late Woodland occupation, possibly related to the principal area of late prehistoric Native American occupation at 44GL318. At 44GL328, the exclusive presence of Native American lithic and ceramic artifacts (also recovered during a single survey episode) strongly indicates a prehistoric origin for the shell scatter, probably Late Woodland.

If the archaeological remains at 44GL327 and 44GL328 are of prehistoric Native American origin, they may reflect the presence of single dwellings separate from the principal habitation area. Such an "internally dispersed" pattern has been suggested for Late Woodland settlements in the Chesapeake region as a mechanism to more efficiently utilize a large amount of cleared agricultural land while minimizing population relocation. Given the earliest description of the area as consisting of "Indian fields," this small site provides additional insight into the characteristics of Native American settlement at Shelly.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

---

44GL329 and 44GL330

These small prehistoric sites are located approximately 600 meters northwest of the modern residential complex. This location is isolated from the principal area of prehistoric occupation similar to that of 44GL327 and 44GL328.

Three episodes of surface collection at 44GL329 resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of Native American artifacts distributed over an area at least 25 meters in diameter. Artifacts recovered include at least one sherd of Mockley Ware (cord-marked), and several sherds of a more refined shell-tempered ware, certainly reflective of both Middle and Late Woodland useage. These ceramic artifacts, as well as limited lithic debris, were recovered in association with a light scatter of oyster shell which provides visual distinction from the surrounding area. The presence of three sherds of nineteenth-century pottery are considered to be intrusive and reflective of historic refuse disposal practices rather than in-situ useage.

Two episodes of surface collection at 44GL330 resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of Native American artifacts. These include several sherds of late prehistoric shell-tempered pottery (probably Townsend Ware) and a stemmed, quartzite projectile point (probably Late Archaic). Additional lithic debris, particularly fire-cracked rock, was observed in the field but not collected. These artifacts were recovered in association with a light scatter of oyster shell distributed over an area approximately 25 meters by 50 meters.

Like 44GL325, 44GL326, 44GL327, and 44GL328, the Late Woodland components of 44GL329 and 44GL330 may represent discrete households isolated from the principal habitation area. This is likely to be a reflection of an internally-dispersed "village" pattern with small habitation sites distributed over a large area. As such, 44GL329 and 44GL330 may contain information critical to the comprehensive understanding of late prehistoric Native American settlement practices at Shelly and in southeastern Virginia in general. In addition, 44GL330 constitutes one of the few areas containing evidence of the earliest Native American utilization of the Shelly tract during the Late Archaic period (also see 44GL318 and 44GL324).

44GL331

This site is situated on the most interior setting [REDACTED]  
within the Shelly tract [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

[REDACTED], this site is approximately 900 meters north-northwest of the modern residential complex.

Two collection episodes resulted in the recovery of an assemblage primarily consisting of Native American ceramics. These artifacts were recovered during conditions of poor surface visibility within an area of approximately .81 hectares (2.0 acres). All recovered sherds were shell-tempered, and the few that could be further identified consisted of both cord- and net-impressed Mockley Ware indicative of a late Middle Woodland occupation. In addition to the Native American ceramics, two sherds of coarse earthenware and a locally-made pipe stem suggest the possible presence of an as yet poorly defined historic occupation dating to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries.

The general absence of prehistoric occupation in this portion of the Shelly tract offers a contrast to those portions of the property in proximity to the mouth of Carter Creek. The presence of a late Middle Woodland occupation at 44GL331, however, provides a good example of the broader seasonal use of the Carter Creek watershed prior to A.D. 1000 with a more intensive use of the agriculturally suitable areas after that date.

44GL332

This prehistoric site is located [REDACTED] nearby site 44GL331. A single collection episode resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of Native American artifacts lightly distributed over an area of approximately .60 hectares (1.5 acres). These artifacts include quartzite debitage, a quartzite blank, and a fragmentary quartzite projectile point (undiagnostic). A fragmentary quartz triangular projectile point was also recovered, though this may be intrusive given the character of the other portions of the lithic assemblage. In addition, two small fragments of Native American pottery were also recovered, at least one of which could be late Middle Woodland Mockley Ware.

It is likely that this sparse site reflects the occasional, transient use of interior areas over the course of several millenia, probably for hunting purposes. As such, it offers an important contrast to the more intensively utilized sites in other portions of the district, particularly those areas situated at the mouth of Carter Creek.

44GL319

[REDACTED]. Its situation at the crest of a ravine was probably a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9

deliberate selection to provide access to the creek as well as a possible supply of surface water that has since disappeared. Site 44GL319 represents the westernmost of three discrete areas of seventeenth-century occupation revealed along the southwestern, riverine margin of the Shelly tract.

A moderate to dense concentration of oyster shell was observed covering an area of approximately .20 hectares (.50 acres). Several episodes of surface collection resulted in the recovery of an assemblage of historic artifacts dominated by the presence of large-bore kaolin and locally-made pipe stems and fragments of English flint. Also recovered through surface collection were fragments of Colono Ware, Surry Ware, tin-enamelled earthenware, Rhenish stoneware, and case bottle glass. Such an assemblage is generally characteristic of a mid-seventeenth century date of occupation.

Given the consistent nature of the recovered assemblage, intensive archaeological testing was conducted to more fully assess the character of the occupation and evaluate site integrity. Following careful surface observation, a total of 25 test units (each one meter square) were excavated at 44GL319 with all soil screened through .25 inch wire mesh.

The intensive subsurface testing at 44GL319 resulted in the identification of 22 undisturbed cultural features. Of the 25 units excavated, only five were devoid of features beneath the plowzone. Of the 22 features, seven consist of posthole/molds apparently representing an impermanent, earthfast structure (Figures 9 and 10). An additional posthole/mold, first thought to be associated with the other seven, is probably associated with a second structure since it does not share the same alignment. Other principal features revealed at 44GL319 include a ditch along the western margin adjacent to the ravine (Figure 11), a possible slot fence extending south from the easternmost posthole/mold, and an as-yet poorly understood feature intrusive into one of the structural postholes and oriented on the same axis as the "second structure" posthole mentioned above.

The archaeological remains revealed at 44GL319 are reflective of the first episode of European occupation at Shelly during the mid-seventeenth century. The occupation of this site was probably characterized by the presence of tenants and/or slaves, the latter possibly reflected by the substantial occurrence of Colono Ware in the material assemblage. As such, the well-preserved remains at 44GL319 could provide important information concerning the first expansion of colonial society as well as the characteristics of tenant lifeways.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

---

44GL333

Like the other seventeenth-century sites at Shelly (44GL319 and 44GL318), 44GL333 is located in the field [REDACTED]. Of those three sites, 44GL333 is centrally located equidistant from the others along an axis striking approximately northwest-southeast.

Two episodes of surface collection resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of historic artifacts within an area of approximately .05 hectares (.125 acres). Included in the assemblage are fragments of dark green case bottle glass, large-bore kaolin pipe stems, lead-glazed coarse earthenware, delftware, and Rhenish stoneware. Though precise dating of this assemblage is difficult, a mid-seventeenth-century date is probably appropriate. In the case of the coarse earthenware and the Rhenish stoneware, two discrete vessels appear to be represented. This suggests that recent plowing may have disturbed an otherwise intact deposit from which these artifacts were derived. In addition to the historic artifacts, a small assemblage of Middle and Late Woodland ceramics was also recovered, probably deriving from portions of 44GL318 nearby to the south and east.

The colonial occupation of the Shelly tract during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was characterized by the presence of tenants and slaves under conditions of absentee land ownership. Additional archaeological research at such seventeenth century sites as 44GL333 could provide important information concerning the material character of a social class whose members constituted the sole occupants of Shelly during the entire colonial period.

44GL334 and 44GL335

These historic sites are situated [REDACTED] the Shelly tract [REDACTED]. This location may have been selected due to its proximity to the spring [REDACTED].

All artifacts recovered from 44GL334 were obtained through surface collection from an area of approximately .81 hectares (2.0 acres) during two survey episodes. The relatively large assemblage obtained from the site represents only a small portion of the substantial assemblage observed in the field. The high density of architectural debris and domestic refuse provides a crisp definition to this site which is visible from a considerable distance. The observed distribution of architectural debris (brick and nail fragments) also suggests the precise location of a principal structure. The presence of undisturbed deposits is further

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

suggested by the size of many of the ceramic and glass artifacts which were probably derived from subsurface features due to recent plowing.

Artifacts recovered from 44GL334 are reflective of a domestic occupation dating to the second and third quarters of the eighteenth century. Temporal placement is provided by the presence of Rogers earthenware and English iron-glazed ceramics which typically appear in early eighteenth-century assemblages. The limited presence of creamware suggests that the site was probably abandoned by the time of the American revolution. Of particular interest is the presence of Colono Ware in the assemblage suggesting a relationship with several other sites alleged to be slave quarters.

A similar, though considerably smaller assemblage was recovered from 44GL335 during a single collection episode. This assemblage was associated with a light scatter of oyster shell and brick crumbs covering an area of approximately 1,250 square meters (.30 acres). The small assemblage recovered includes dark green bottle glass, Colono Ware, Rogers and English iron-glazed earthenware, Chinese porcelain, and kaolin tobacco pipe fragments generally suggestive of an occupation dating to the second quarter of the eighteenth century.

Both sites certainly reflect the exclusive occupation of the Shelly tract by tenants and/or slaves during the time when it served as an outlying dependency of the Rosewell estate prior to 1788. Of final interest is the fact that Page family tradition concerning the location of the slave quarters does not include these sites. This may reflect the fact that 44GL334 and 44GL335 were the earliest of quarters to disappear and consequently were not part of the post-1788 landscape to be recalled by later family members.

### 44GL144

According to Page family tradition, the slave quarters that had once been present on the property were located [REDACTED] the Shelly tract [REDACTED]. In addition to 44GL334 and 44GL335 discussed above, a number of sites north of that drainage appear to relate to the use of this area by servants of the Page family during both the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. 44GL144 constitutes the most northwesterly site of this complex [REDACTED].

Two episodes of surface collection at 44GL144 resulted in the recovery of a substantial historic assemblage (comparable in size to 44GL334) from an area of approximately .81 hectares (2.0 acres). The core portion of the site is indicated by a dense concentration of oyster shell occurring

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

---

within an area approximately 25 meters in diameter. Brick fragments were observed throughout the area defined as 44GL144 suggesting that several structures may have been present. Within the assemblage recovered from 44GL144, temporally diagnostic artifacts include sherds of Rogers and European earthenwares generally dating to the second quarter of the eighteenth century, refined earthenwares dating to the late eighteenth through mid-nineteenth centuries (creamware, pearlware, white earthenware), and English, Rhenish, and American stonewares also dating from the late colonial and early post-colonial periods. In addition to these commercially-produced wares, several sherds of Colono Ware and a single fragment of a locally-made tobacco pipe were also recovered. Given the relatively large size of many of the artifacts and the presence of well-preserved faunal remains, there is little doubt that substantial portions of this site are preserved beneath the plowzone.

When observed in the field, a comparison of 44GL144 to 44GL334 is unavoidable. The former site, however, continued to be occupied through the mid-nineteenth century while the latter had been abandoned by the end of the colonial period. Considered as an individual resource, 44GL144 could provide important information concerning the development of African-American lifeways during the colonial and post-colonial periods. Considered as part of a class of related resources, 44GL144 represents an important source of information concerning a distinct community of that inhabited a discrete portion of the Shelly for over a century.

### 44GL145

According to Page family tradition noted above, the slave quarters that had once been present on the property were located [REDACTED] the Shelly tract [REDACTED]. In addition to 44GL144, this historic site is also located in that area, possibly situated to provide immediate access to the source of surface water at the head of the ravine.

Artifacts recovered from 44GL145 were obtained by surface collection within an area of approximately .50 hectares (1.25 acres) during two survey episodes. Limited architectural debris was observed indicative of in-situ habitation rather than random disposal of domestic refuse. The presence of Rogers earthenware suggests at least partial contemporaneity with 44GL144 and 44GL334, though the noticeable occurrence of creamware and pearlware suggests that the site may have continued to be occupied through the end of the eighteenth century and into the early nineteenth century.

Though no Colono Ware was recovered from 44GL145 which might have directly reflected upon the ethnicity of its occupants, the proximity of this site to other resources in an area traditionally known to have

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13

contained slave quarters suggests its occupation by Page family servants. Important information regarding the characteristics of African-American lifeways could be derived from this small site, particularly when considered in a thematic manner in conjunction with the other related tenant slave sites located on the Shelly tract.

44GL336, 44GL337, 44GL338, 44GL339, and 44GL340

A number of sites in immediate proximity to 44GL144 and 44GL145 may represent related occupations. A single episode of surface collection at 44GL337 resulted in the recovery of domestic debris dating from the mid-eighteenth through early nineteenth centuries within an area of approximately .30 hectares (.75 acres). Included in the recovered assemblage are sherds of Colono Ware, creamware, pearlware, white salt-glazed and English brown stoneware, Chinese export porcelain, kaolin tobacco pipe stems, and dark green bottle glass. In addition, a fragment of a brass candlestick was also recovered which dates to the mid-late eighteenth century. The limited presence of window glass and brick fragments confirms in-situ habitation at this location.

Though only a limited assemblage was recovered from 44GL338 during a single collection episode, brick fragments observed within an area of approximately .05 hectares (.125 acres) indicated an in-situ habitation discrete from 44GL337. The recovery of a single sherd of Rogers earthenware suggests that the occupation of the site may have first occurred prior to 1750. The presence of creamware and pearlware places the terminal date of occupation towards the turn of the nineteenth century. Similarly sparse, though discrete, eighteenth century assemblages were recovered during single collection episodes from nearby sites 44GL336, 44GL339, and 44GL340, all in association with light scatters of architectural debris and oyster shell typically covering approximately .05 hectares (.125 acres).

Like 44GL144 and 44GL145, these sites probably constitute discrete slave quarters dating to both the late colonial and post-colonial periods. The presence of Colono Ware (at 44GL144 and 44GL337) within the area where Page family tradition locates the quarters almost certainly is reflective of the ethnicity of the inhabitants. This entire complex of sites may therefore contribute important information to the development of slave/tenant lifeways during pre-revolutionary and antebellum times.

44GL341, 44GL342, 44GL343, 44GL344, 44GL345, 44GL346, 44GL347, and 44GL348

A number of sites on the Shelly tract contain components exclusively dating to the nineteenth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

[REDACTED]. These sites are typically manifested by the light presence of architectural debris, oyster shell, and domestic refuse observed during a single collection episode. Pearlwares and white earthenwares are common at most of these locations and are generally indicative of occupations dating to the first half of the nineteenth century. The absence of pearlwares from 44GL347 and 44GL348 suggests that these represent late nineteenth-century occupations. Though the majority of these sites are small (approximately 25 meters in diameter), one site (44GL344) is considerably larger and covers an area of approximately .90 hectares (2.25 acres), possibly reflecting the clustered presence of several structures.

It is likely that the majority of these sites represent dependencies that were specifically constructed for the Shelly estate following its establishment at the end of the eighteenth century. Some may represent the location of slave quarters supplementing existing facilities to the north, though the presence of utilitarian structures is also likely. As such, these sites could provide valuable information concerning the character of tenant lifeways and farm layout through the Civil War. In the case of 44GL347 and 44GL348, these sites probably reflect tenant dwellings constructed after the division of the estate in the late 1850s and manifest the final pattern of land useage following the Civil War.

NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

Two sites located within the district are considered non-contributing properties. 44GL349, [REDACTED] represents an area where debris from the originally Shelly house was dumped by the present owner. Along the [REDACTED] margin of 44GL318, 44GL350 consists of a scatter of twentieth century artifacts probably resulting from the burning and disposal of modern refuse.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

adaptation by Native American groups during that time, the relative stabilization of the estuarine environment by the Late Archaic period provides a temporal base for understanding later adaptive developments.

Archaeological research since the early 1970s has suggested that intensive utilization of the estuarine environment may have occurred by the Late Archaic period in portions of the outer coastal plain in immediate proximity to the Chesapeake Bay where an increasing human population could have resulted in the over-exploitation of terrestrial resources. Intensive utilization of estuarine resources becomes endemic throughout much of southeastern Virginia by A.D. 300, suggesting that population stress may have begun affecting areas located considerable distances inland. Such widespread demographic and economic stress may have contributed to the adoption of intensive horticultural practices by A.D. 1000.

The prehistoric archaeological resources contained within the Shelly District illustrate such patterns of variable estuarine adaptation through time. Significant archaeological information on these patterns could be obtained through additional research at those sites contained within the nominated boundaries, particularly given the documented high level of integrity demonstrated through subsurface testing.

The complete absence of archaeological remains dating earlier than the Late Archaic period, though constituting "negative evidence," provides a clear illustration of the effect of continued coastal submergence since the end of the last glacial period. The ephemeral and interior-focused character of the identified and/or likely Late Archaic components (at sites 44GL318, 44GL324, 44GL330, and 44GL332) further suggests that intensive, estuarine-focused adaptations had not been fully developed by that time (3000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.).

In contrast, the later Middle and Late Woodland components demonstrate the focused, intensive use of the estuarine environment, particularly after approximately A.D. 300. Intensive archaeological testing at 44GL318, one of the best-preserved large prehistoric shell middens surviving in coastal Virginia, demonstrated the presence of well-preserved remains containing important information concerning the use of the estuarine environment by both hunting and gathering and later horticultural peoples. Other associated resources (including sites 44GL324, 44GL325, 44GL326, 44GL327, 44GL328, 44GL329, 44GL330, and 44GL331) further clarify Woodland period settlement practices, particularly by demonstrating the presence of discrete habitation areas reflective of "internally-dispersed" settlement practices during Late Woodland times.

Of particular importance is the fact that this continuum of Native American occupation extends into the early seventeenth century, a period

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

of cultural contact, interaction, and adaptation between aboriginal peoples and English colonists. Historical documentation suggests that one of the sites at Shelly, 44GL318, constitutes the best known candidate for the settlement of Cantaunkack. Significant archaeological data concerning such interactions is likely to be obtained through additional research here. The earliest depiction of Shelly and its environs is provided by the "Zuniga" map. This manuscript map, thought to be a copy of the map sent by John Smith to England sometime before June 1608 (Barbour 1969:238), depicts the location of several Native American settlements in what is now Gloucester County including one identified as "Cantaunkack"

[REDACTED] (Figure 12). Though John Smith's published map reverses the positions of Cantaunkack and "Capahowasick" (Figure 13), it is assumed that the Zuniga map is correct given the modern location of "Capahosick"

[REDACTED]. Though it has been suggested that Shelly and/or its environs is the location of Werowocomoco (Howe 1845:282; Lanciano 1978:203-215), the cultural and natural geography depicted by the Zuniga and Smith maps is considered to be too precise

[REDACTED] (Brown 1890; McCary 1981; Tyler 1901). Given the depicted location of Cantaunkack on the Zuniga map as just upstream and opposite a landform probably representing Penniman Spit,

[REDACTED] (1901:4) and Lewis and Loomie (1953:242).

Like the majority of Native American settlements present in Virginia during the early seventeenth century, little specific information was recorded. The only description of Cantaunkack is provided by Strachey who notes 100 warriors under the command of "Ohonnamo" prior to 1612 (1953:69). Though the figure of 100 warriors (and, by extension, a total population of 425 persons) at Cantaunkack is considered excessive (Turner 1982:53), it is clear that it constituted one of the larger settlements [REDACTED]. It has been suggested by Tooker (1905:63) that "Cantaunkack" means "top of a hill" or "the highest place," a description that generally corresponds to the physical setting of 44GL318 at Shelly [REDACTED].

The occupation of Shelly by Native Americans during the early seventeenth century is further confirmed in the patent for the property granted to George Menefie, prominent merchant and member of the Governor's Council, on March 6, 1639. Menefie's grant of 3,000 acres was the first recorded for the north bank of the York (then Charles) River and included property "bound and beginn. at the Creeke upon the west side of the Indian feildes [REDACTED]"



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5

that Mann acquired from Menefie's descendants was known as "Rosewell," a name later applied specifically to the western portion (Lanciano 1978:39). It is important to recognize, however, that the Shelly tract served as a dependency to the principal habitation area at Timberneck through the end of the seventeenth century. Archaeological information obtained from the seventeenth-century components present at sites 44GL318, 44GL319, and 44GL333 could therefore clarify the nature of tenant lifeways during that period, but also provide a broad-scale context for understanding the main residential area at Timberneck should that site eventually be identified.

Following John Mann's death in 1694, most of the York River tract was inherited by his daughter, Mary, and her husband Matthew Page, member of the Governor's Council and the first Board of Visitors for the College of William and Mary. Lanciano (1978:39) speculates that the Timberneck portion remained under the control of John Mann's widow, Mary, and that Matthew and Mary (Mann) Page relocated to the area [REDACTED] during the 1690s. Control over the entire tract eventually was passed to the Pages by the first decade of the eighteenth century. The status of Shelly as a dependency of the Rosewell estate thus reflected the movement of property control from the environs of Timberneck Creek to west of Carter Creek.

While Rosewell (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) has been the object of considerable interest among historians, architectural historians, and archaeologists, little attention has been focused on its relationship to the Shelly tract during the early eighteenth century through the end of the American Revolution. This lack of attention is partially based on the fact that both the Shelly and Timberneck tracts constituted dependent farms occupied by servants, primarily slaves, whose lives rarely appear in the historical record. The dependent tracts, however, constituted the economic basis on which the lavish display of social status at Rosewell was built. The isolation of the Shelly tract

[REDACTED]

accentuates the sense of separateness noted by Isaac (1982) as characteristic of the social and physical distinction between communities of planters and servants during the eighteenth century. Additional archaeological research at those sites representing the occupation of Shelly by servants of the Rosewell estate during the eighteenth century (including 44GL334, 44GL335, 44GL336, 44GL337, 44GL338, 44GL339, and 44GL340) could provide important information regarding the relationship between such socially and physically separated, yet interdependent, populations.

The first occupation of the Shelly tract (at 44GL318) by a resident owner occurred in 1788 when Mann Page III, eldest son of Governor John Page and great-great grandson of Matthew Page, relocated to the property from

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6

Rosewell following his marriage to Elizabeth Nelson. Mann Page III proceeded to construct a modest frame dwelling at Shelly, probably completed in 1794, where he and Elizabeth raised 14 children. Though the house survived until 1883 when it was destroyed by fire, no photographs have been found. Its general appearance was recorded on a plat in 1836 where it is depicted as two full stories above a basement, probably a single-pile central passage plan, covered with a gable roof through which concealed chimneys rise (Figure 15). Several outbuildings are depicted on both the 1836 plat and a subsequent Coastal Survey from 1857, the latter providing a detailed plan of the residential complex and its immediate environs (Figure 16). Significant archaeological data could be obtained through additional research at 44GL318, as well as at other associated sites representing dependencies of that first on-site principal plantation residence and later tenant buildings following the division of the estate (including 44GL341, 44GL342, 44GL343, 44GL344, 44GL345, 44GL346, 44GL347, and 44GL348).

In relocating to Shelly, Mann Page III forfeited his claim to the core portion of the Rosewell tract west of Carter Creek, that area later passing out of the Page family by the mid-1830s. The general economic decline at the end of the eighteenth century also influenced the sale of the Timberneck tract to the Catlett family in 1792, in whose possession that area remains. Though the Shelly tract contained more than 940 acres as late as 1836 (Figure 15), substantial portions were sold through the mid-nineteenth century. By 1854, the only portion of the original York River tract owned by the Page family since the turn of the eighteenth century was the 150-acre remnant of the Shelly estate mostly including the 1794 residence and its immediate environs (Figure 17). That remnant was inherited jointly by Cornelia Mann Page Griffith and Sarah Burwell Page from their mother Elizabeth Nelson Page upon her death in 1854. Though both Cornelia and Sarah were childless, the Shelly tract remained in the Page family by bequest to their nephew, Richard Mann Page, who inherited a life interest in 1885. Each of his four children inherited a share of the estate, which has been consolidated by two of their descendants, Cecil Wray Page, Jr. and Elizabeth Page Aldrich, over the last quarter century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   2  

---

### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Barbour, Philip L.  
1969 The Jamestown Voyages Under the First Charter. Works Issued by the Hakluyt Society 136 (Second Series).
- Brown, Alexander  
1890 The Genesis of the United States. Reprinted 1964. Russell and Russell, New York.
- Fleet, Beverly  
1946 York County, 1633-1646. Virginia Colonial Abstracts 24.
- Hening, William Waller  
1823 The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature, in the Year 1619. Reprinted 1969. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville.
- Howe, Henry  
1845 Historical Collections of Virginia. Babcock, Charleston.
- Isaac, Rhys  
1982 The Transformation of Virginia, 1740 - 1790. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.
- Lanciano, Claude O.  
1978 Rosewell, Garland of Virginia. Gloucester County Historical Committee, Gloucester, Virginia.
- Lewis, Clifford M., and Albert J. Loomie  
1953 The Spanish Jesuit Mission in Virginia, 1570-1572. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.
- McCary, Ben C.  
1981 The Location of Werowocomoco. Archeological Society of Virginia Quarterly Bulletin 36:77-93.
- McIlwaine, H. R.  
1979 Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia. Originally published 1924. Virginia State Library, Richmond.
- Nugent, Nell Marion  
1974 Cavaliers and Pioneers. Volume 1. Genealogical Publishing, Baltimore.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

---

Trachey, William

1953 The Historie of Travell into Virginia Britania. Works Issued for the Hakluyt Society 103 (Second Series). Originally published 1612. Reprinted 1967. Kraus Reprint, Nendeln, Liechtenstein.

Tooker, William Wallace

1905 Meaning of Some Indian Names in Virginia. William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine (First Series) 14:62-64.

Turner, E. Randolph, III

1982 A Re-Examination of Powhatan Territorial Boundaries and Population, Ca. A.D. 1607. Archaeological Society of Virginia Quarterly Bulletin 37:45-64.

Tyler, Lyon Gardiner

1901 Werowocomoco. William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine (First Series) 10:1-4.

Withington, Lothrop

1907 Virginia Gleanings in England. Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 14:419-426.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

---

UTM REFERENCES, cont.

E [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED]

Verbal Boundary Description

[REDACTED]