

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

LISTED ON:  
VLR 12/17/2009  
NRHP 12/22/2009

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Curles Neck Farm  
other names/site number DHR File No. 043-0035; Curl's Neck Plantation

2. Location

street & number 4705 Curles Neck Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Henrico vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Henrico code 087 zip code 23231-8627

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   nationally   statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 11/23/09  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

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**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

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0

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

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ mansion-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ laborers' dwelling-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ laborers' dwelling-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ laborers' dwelling-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ laborers' dwelling-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ farm mgr's dwelling-NC
LANDSCAPE _____	Sub: object _____ fountain-C
LANDSCAPE _____	Sub: garden _____ -C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ pump house-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ pump house-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ stable-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ blacksmith shop-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ stallion barn-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: storage _____ silo-NC
COMMERCE/TRADE _____	Sub: store/farm office _____ -C

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ mansion-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ laborers' dwelling-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ laborers' dwelling-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ laborers' dwelling-C
VACANT/NOT IN USE _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ laborers' dwelling-C
DOMESTIC _____	Sub: single dwelling _____ farm mgr's dwelling-NC
LANDSCAPE _____	Sub: object _____ fountain-C
LANDSCAPE _____	Sub: garden _____ -C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ pump house-C
VACANT/NOT IN USE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ pump house-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ stable-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ blacksmith shop-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: agricultural outbuilding _____ stallion barn-C
AGRICULTURE _____	Sub: storage _____ silo-C
VACANT/NOT IN USE _____	Sub: store/farm office _____ -C

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: COLONIAL REVIVAL

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: CRAFTSMAN

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

roof METAL: Tin, Copper

walls BRICK

other CHIMNEYS: brick

### Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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### 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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

**Period of Significance** 1892-1943

**Significant Dates** 1892 (Senff acquires property); 1896 (mansion erected); 1913 (horse breeding and racing farm commenced by Billings); 1917 (Curles Neck Dairy started by Ruddock); 1943 (Ruddock sells Curles Neck Dairy)

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Charles H. Senff.

### Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources; Library of Virginia; Virginia Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 156 acres (approximate)

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1	2	3	4

See continuation sheet.

**See Continuation page 27 for 11 points, A through K**

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Nancy. W. Kraus

organization First & Main, LLC date August 26, 2009

street & number 6224 New Harvard Lane telephone (804) 304-6053

city or town Glen Allen state VA zip code 23059

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. Jearald D. Cable

street & number 111 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

**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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the 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



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**Curles Neck Farm  
County of Henrico, VA**

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Curles Neck Farm, represented by this nomination report, is comprised of 156 acres.<sup>1</sup> The boundaries of the nominated property were carved from the 3250-acre farm that was historically called Curles Neck Farm. Although the 156-acre parcel represents only a small portion of the larger historic farm, the nominated acreage preserves representative cultivated fields, pastures, and sites associated with four centuries of farm operations. The farm encompasses fifteen contributing resources and three non-contributing resources.<sup>2</sup> The focal point of the complex is a high-style, ca. 1896 Colonial Revival mansion, a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay brick building with a shallow hipped roof. Four soaring interior-end chimneys, a large central belvedere, and three pedimented copper dormers crown the roof. A stone entablature with a modillioned cornice and dentiled frieze surrounds the building. The riverside is dominated by a monumental portico with Ionic Order columns, brick pediment, and classical entablature. The landside displays remnants of an earlier one-story porch, including a concrete porch deck and steps, brick knee-walls, column bases, and engaged pilaster shafts. There is an L-shaped, one-and-one-half-story wing, constructed of like materials, appended to the north elevation. The wing displays bold parapeted gables on the east and north elevations and symmetrical copper-clad dormers on the west elevation. The other contributing resources, mostly constructed between ca. 1896 and ca. 1917, are a stable, a blacksmith and carpenter shop, a stallion barn, a general store & farm office, four farm laborer's houses, two pump houses, a landscape design including the area surrounding the mansion and brick steps between the mansion and the river terrace, and an ornamental concrete fountain. Two pole sheds, both used for equipment storage, a cluster of corrugated metal silos, a farm manager's house, and a farm shop are non-contributing resources on the property. Although farm-related, the non-contributing resources are so designated because they were erected outside the period of significance and also because they lack the quality of materials and architectural design that characterize the contributing buildings and structures.

### SETTING

The mansion is situated on an elevated ridge that affords sweeping water views of the James River. All of the farm buildings and structures are concentrated in an area approximately one mile northeast of the mansion. They are inter-connected and encircled by a narrow, two-mile-long road. A small run-off pond is situated approximately one-quarter mile southeast of the mansion.

Curles Neck Farm is located in Henrico County, Virginia, fifteen miles southeast of downtown Richmond. The nominated property is legally separated from but geographically cohesive with the surrounding 5500-acre Curles Neck Peninsula, surrounded on the east, west, and south by the James River. New Market Road, one of Virginia's most historic byways, and Four-Mile Creek form the northern boundary of the peninsula. The southernmost land mass, encompassing approximately one-fifth of the peninsula, is interlaced with a network of creeks, guts, and marshes.<sup>3</sup> The marsh, sometimes called Curles Neck Swamp, is rich with natural wildlife. Bald eagles, a 500-nest colony of herons, snow geese, and other bird species, nest at or migrate through the marsh.<sup>4</sup> Most of Curles Neck Peninsula has been continuously operated as a working plantation since the 1630s. The fields today are mostly cultivated with soybeans and

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corn. The nominated property, as well as the surrounding land, is mostly under cultivation. Curles Neck Peninsula is interlaced with multiple interconnecting roads, many dating to ca. 1892 when more than 18 miles of roadways were installed.<sup>5</sup> The lane to the mansion is approached from the East Entrance of Curles Neck Farm Road, one of two primary access roads on the peninsula. It is necessary to transverse more than one-and-one-half miles across the broad, cultivated fields to reach the private road to the mansion. The narrow lane follows a natural, elevated ridge that runs parallel to the river. The lane is dotted with towering, mature pecan trees which were planted around the time that the mansion was erected.

**INVENTORY**

1.	Mansion	ca. 1896	C- Contributing building.
2.	Designed landscape	ca. 1896	C- Contributing site.
3.	Frame barn	ca. 1896	C- Contributing building.
4.	Blacksmith and Carpentry Shop	ca. 1913	C- Contributing building.
5.	Equipment pole shed 1	ca. 2000	<b>NC-</b> Noncontributing structure.
6.	Farm shop	ca. 2000	<b>NC-</b> Noncontributing building.
7.	Equipment pole shed 2	ca. 2000	<b>NC-</b> Noncontributing structure.
8.	Farm laborers' house 1	ca. 1896	C- Contributing building.
9.	Silos	ca. 1960	<b>NC-</b> Noncontributing structure.
10.	Stallion barn	ca. 1913	C- Contributing building.
11.	Fountain	ca. 1896	C- Contributing structure.
12.	Pump house no. 1	ca. 1905	C- Contributing building.
13.	Farm laborers' house 2*	ca. 1896	C- Contributing building.
14.	Store & Farm Office.	ca. 1896/1913	C- Contributing building.
15.	Farm laborers' house 3**	ca. 1896	C- Contributing building.
16.	Farm laborers' house 4	ca. 1896	C- Contributing building.
17.	Pump house 2 (for swan pond)	ca. 1930	C- Contributing building.
18.	Farm manager's house	ca. 1955	<b>NC-</b> Noncontributing building.

\* identified as the Farm foreman's house on the ca. 1913 plat

\*\* identified as the Stable foreman's house on the ca. 1913 plat

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

**Mansion**

The mansion at Curles Neck Farm, ca. 1896, is a formal Colonial Revival building. The mansion is approached from a two-mile-long private, paved road that intersects New Market Road near the northeast corner of the Curles Neck peninsula. The East Entrance at New Market Road, variously called as River Road, the Old Indian Trail, and State Route 5,<sup>6</sup> is marked by a pair of square, stucco columns and two bronze signs commemorating the significance of the Bremo and Curles Neck properties.

Crossing one-and-one-half miles of broad cultivated fields, the private road divides into three branches near

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an historic corn mill. Five enormous magnolia trees are growing where the lane to the mansion begins. The lane is nearly a half-mile long, following a natural ridge that parallels the river bank. The lane is reminiscent of an 18<sup>th</sup> century carriage drive that ran “along the river bank north, through the vast plantation lands, to the Curles Church.”<sup>7</sup> The dwelling, encircled by large boxwood shrubs and mature pecan and magnolia trees, sits on a plateau 25 feet above tidal water.

The two-and-one-half-story mansion exhibits remarkably fine masonry with rich red and blue-glazed brick, laid in Flemish bond. The brickwork is complemented by cream-colored sills, splayed lintels, and an enriched entablature. The five-bay central block, 40 by 71 feet, is covered by a shallow, metal-clad hipped roof with four towering, interior-end, brick chimneys. A large belvedere is centered on the roof. The classical balustrade, shown in historic photographs, is currently stored in one of the barns on the property. Openings in the belvedere for skylights are covered, but the wood-frame-and-glass skylights are also stored on the property. The entablature, which circumnavigates all four elevations, is set down approximately two feet from the edge of the roof. The entablature is composed of a molded projecting cornice, modillions with carved acanthus leaves, a dentiled frieze, and a decorative egg-and-dart architrave.

A one-and-one-half story, three-bay wing, 23 by 37 feet, is attached to the north end of the mansion. The L-shaped wing is also constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond and embellished with decorative cream-colored trim that is simpler and smaller in scale than that of the main block. The face of the wing, in its original configuration, is set back from the mansion's facade on both the east (landside) and west (riverside) elevations. The distinctive character of the wing is conveyed by prominent parapeted gables on both the east and north elevations. Each gable-peak terminates in a nearly twelve-foot-high chimney. The standing-seam metal roof on the riverside facade is interrupted by symmetrical, pedimented, copper-clad dormers. Each dormer has an elongated casement window with flanking Doric pilasters, a raking cornice, plain tympanum, and diamond-pane glazing.

The mansion is double-faced, but the designer intended the river front to be primary, perhaps to emulate the orientation of other James River plantation houses dating from the Colonial and Federal periods. The scale and fundamental design of the main block of the Curles Neck mansion, though not the decorative details, are reminiscent of Upper Brandon.<sup>8</sup> The riverside is dominated by a monumental portico in the Ionic Order with angled volutes, architectural features popularized in the 18th century through the pattern books of James Gibbs.<sup>9</sup> The entrance system on the riverside is composed of a double-door and flanking diamond-pane, double-hung windows separated by four Ionic-style pilasters topped with a boxed and molded cornice.

In 2009, the landside entrance porch is mostly missing. Several elements from an earlier porch survive including the concrete porch deck and steps, stone-capped brick knee-walls, precast column bases and pilaster-shafts. The landside porch evolved through at least three configurations. The earliest known historic photograph, ca. 1913, shows a rectangular open porch closely matching the scale and configuration of the present porch deck and steps. Also visible are the engaged pilasters that flank the door system even today. The ca. 1913 porch was flat-roofed, supported over four Ionic columns, and topped at the second story with a classical balustrade. The first change to the porch changed it to a screened space. A ca. 1917 photograph shows the third version with the second-story fully enclosed with casement windows

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and topped at the flat-roofed third story with a classical balustrade. This alteration of the porch was probably accomplished between ca. 1913 and ca. 1917 when the property was owned by C.K.G. Billings.<sup>10</sup> Period documents record that the landside porch was used as a sleeping porch.

Except for the loss of the landside porch, the mansion survives with minimal alteration since its construction, except for three notable changes, accomplished sometime between 1913 and 1917. First, a small one-story, two-bay hyphen was inserted on the landside facade within the recess formed by the L of the north wing. Constructed of Flemish bond and stepped down significantly from the height of the wing, the hyphen, 8 by 15 feet, created space for a secondary front entrance and a half-bathroom on the first floor. Second, a small, projecting brick addition was appended to the southeast front corner of the landside facade to cover the steps to the basement. The ten-foot-long rectangular addition replaced an earlier bulkhead-style access hatch. Today the addition is concealed behind a massive magnolia tree. The third change was the replacement of the original one-over-one, double-hung window sashes. The change in appearance is most dramatic on the landside where the replacement windows have either multi-light or diamond-pane muntins. The two outermost bays on the first and second levels are filled with fifteen-over-fifteen, double-hung wood sashes. At the first story, the double-doors and flanking windows have diamond-pane glazing. The masonry openings at the second story are filled with tripartite windows with paired twelve-light casement windows topped with diamond-pane transoms. Each of the third-story dormers displays diamond-pane casement windows. All of the masonry openings in the north wing and hyphen are filled with diamond-pane windows. On the riverside, all of the replacement windows in the main block are fifteen-over-fifteen double-hung sashes except for the door system which has diamond-shaped panes that match the landside door system. The windows in the wing on the riverside are nine-over-nine; the dormers have diamond-panes. Archeological excavations in the 1980s of the Randolph mansion at Curles Neck uncovered fragments of leaded casement windows. Whether the ruins of the earlier mansion or community-memory thereof inspired the replacement of the windows cannot be demonstrated, but the coincidence is certainly curious.<sup>11</sup>

One other notable exterior feature of the mansion, now removed, is a cultivated covering of English ivy. Photographs dating from 1916; 1917, and 1941 show the mansion ensconced in ivy. In the earliest photographs, the ivy is neatly trained and trimmed. In later photographs, during a period when the mansion appears neglected, the ivy has grown out of control, engulfing the porches and portions of the windows and doors.<sup>12</sup> The ivy was completely removed in the second half of the twentieth century.

The mansion has a full basement, first floor, second floor, and an attic on the third floor over the main block. The plan is characterized by a spacious central passage, 20 feet by 40 feet, with two rooms on each side on both the first and second floors. Each floor contains approximately 3700 square feet. The building contains 12 finished rooms plus four full and one-half bathrooms. The great hall, drawing room, music room (former morning room), dining room, library (former card room), half-bathroom, and kitchen are located on the first floor. The dining room and the drawing room are spacious and nearly square, situated on the riverside, in the northwest and southwest corners, respectively. On the landside, two smaller formal rooms, the library and the music room occupy the northeast and southeast corners, respectively. The existing kitchen was once divided into a kitchen and butler's pantry, but it is now one large space. Four large bedrooms, two servant's rooms, and four full bathrooms are located on the second floor. When the landside porch was raised to two stories and enclosed, one of the second story windows was converted to

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a door accessible from the stair landing and second-story was used as a sleeping porch.<sup>13</sup>

The passage hall has a grand stair that begins its ascent in the west end and rises over the landside entrance to a gallery where it turns and continues to the second-floor hall. The woodwork in the passage hall consists of two-foot-high paneled wainscoting, wide shouldered door and window surrounds with decorative beading, five-and-ten-panel pocket doors, and deep compound cove molding. The other formal rooms on the first floor exhibit the same rich moldings, except that the wainscoting in the dining room is about five feet high. Each formal room has a large fireplace that is centered on the outside wall. Each fireplace has a classically-inspired, floor-to-ceiling mantel with fluted Doric columns, a paneled frieze, architrave moldings, a crossetted overmantel, and a Carrera marble surround. The windows flanking the fireplaces are outset, flush with the exterior wall, and the recessed interior space is boxed, paneled, and trimmed with applied moldings.

The second floor plan generally mirrors that of the first floor. There are four large bedrooms in the main portion of the mansion, with bathrooms and closets tastefully incorporated to maintain gracious proportions. All of the bathrooms retain most of their original fixtures and handsome white, ceramic-tiled walls. Heavy chrome faucets and shower appointments are of exceptional quality. The master bathroom has a rather unusual period steam-and-massage shower with a clear-glass-and-chrome enclosure.

The woodwork on the second floor is similar to that of the first floor, but simpler. A straight run of enclosed stairs ascend from the second floor hall to the attic which contains four large unfinished rooms. A narrow, winding stair in the attic provides access to the roof-top belvedere. The basement contains seven separate utilitarian rooms, including the former laundry and several storerooms.

Throughout the house, the original floors are high quality Georgia pine with tight, fine grain. When built, the walls and woodwork were painted with tinted Ripolin, a high quality synthetic enamel lacquer paint developed early in the twentieth century. In a few spaces, the Ripolin, the first synthetic paint to be marketed, is still visible.<sup>14</sup>

The mansion incorporated other late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century technological innovations including poured concrete floors with drains and two large Mott furnaces in the basement, "modern and sanitary" plumbing, acetylene-powered lights, and local and long distance telephone service "connecting the dwelling, office and important buildings."<sup>15</sup>

## **SECONDARY RESOURCES**

### **Designed landscape**

**ca. 1896**

### **Contributing site.**

On the riverside of the mansion, a level grassy terrace, dotted with boxwood shrubs and pecan trees, is situated on a plateau on plane with the dwelling. At the edge of this terrace, brick steps, constructed of old brick pavers supported between curvilinear concrete knee-walls, lead down to a second terrace. Each step is more of a platform, about five feet deep, rather than a typical step. From the top, there are three, 12-foot-wide steps or platforms, which narrow to eight-foot-wide steps to the second terrace below. A third terrace is situated below the second, closer to the waterline. Several large boxwoods are scattered on the second terrace, a likely remnant from an earlier formal landscape design.

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It cannot be proved, but the surviving brick steps and other aspects of the vestigial landscape design may have been designed to echo the river terrace and gardens that existed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century at Curles Neck. Archeological excavations revealed "To the south of the house a series of three broad staircase terrace gardens extended more than 100 yards to an entrance gate from the road leading to the plantation landing, wharves, and warehouses on the James River." Historic photographs provide evidence that the existing mansion was also once surrounded by formal spaces.<sup>16</sup>

**Frame barn** **ca. 1896** **Contributing building.**

The barn is a one-and-one-half-story wood frame-and-weatherboard building with a broad gable roof. There are central large bays on both the east and west elevations that were once filled with sliding barn doors. The iron door rail is partially intact above the opening on the east elevation. There are smaller, unequally-sized openings flanking the central bay on the east elevation that may be later alterations. A regular rhythm of stall openings is located along the north elevation. The barn is currently used for storing farm tools and equipment. It is likely that this barn survives from the Senff building campaign. It appears on the survey of the property published in the sales brochure from 1913. The stable is described as a "one-story stable, 60 by 83 feet, with accommodations for 70 head of mules".<sup>17</sup>

**Blacksmith and Carpenter Shop** **ca. 1913** **Contributing building.**

This Craftsman-style, two-story brick building was constructed ca. 1913. The first story of the existing structure is constructed of red brick laid in 1:6 bond. The second story is clad with split-wood shingles and is topped with a low-pitched hip roof supported over both scroll-sawn exposed rafter tails and decorative elbow brackets. There is an asymmetrically-placed hip-roofed tower on the west side of the roof and a shed-roofed dormer on the east side of the roof. Both are clad in split-wood shingles, and both have exposed rafter tails. The building is five bays long and six bays wide. Centered on both the north and south elevations are swing-type barn doors with cross-buck panels at the bottom and fifteen-light windows at the top. The window openings at the first story have relieving arches, granite sills, and six-over-six double-hung wood windows. The first and second stories are separated by a projecting, corbeled cornice that is covered by a flared eave. Fenestration at the second-story windows is composed of a regular rhythm of six-over-six, double-hung wood windows.

During the years that the property was a horse breeding and racing farm, the building was used for equipment storage and general farm-related maintenance and repairs. It was fitted with water tanks with 50,000 gallon-capacity to sprinkle the roads and the race tracks. The location on the property and architectural features suggest that this building may have incorporated the ca. 1896 stable into its current configuration. It appears that the earlier barn may have been doubled in size and refurbished. The water tower appears quite similar in photographs of the two buildings.<sup>18</sup>

**Equipment (pole) shed 1** **ca. 2000** **Noncontributing structure.**

The metal pole building has a metal-truss roof covered with standing seam metal. There are five open bays.

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**Farm Shop** **ca. 2000** **Noncontributing building.**

The one story, three bay, farm shop has a front gable roof with deep eaves. The gable ends of the building are brick, and the side walls are concrete block. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a central overhead door on the north elevation and flanking twenty-light windows.

**Equipment (pole) shed 2** **ca. 2000** **Noncontributing structure.**

The metal pole building has a metal-truss roof covered with standing seam metal. There are seven open bays.

**Farm laborers' house 1** **ca. 1896** **Contributing building.**

The former "Farm foreman's house" is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay Craftsman-bungalow-style brick building. The dwelling features an asphalt-shingled, hipped roof, 1:6 bond, projecting eaves with exposed rafter tails, and two interior corbeled brick chimneys. There are three pyramidal-roofed dormers, one on the west (front) elevation and two on the south (side) elevation. Each dormer displays a tripartite window with a four-six-four light configuration. A roof extension on the facade shelters a full-width porch with six square columns and a Richmond-style railing. Crisp paint delineation and a secondary entrance door and steps on the west elevation suggest that this house was once either enlarged or altered for use as a duplex.

This farm laborers' house (historic name that appears on the ca. 1913 plat) and three other similarly-styled houses were among the 25 residences constructed for employees at Curles Neck Farm between 1894 and 1917. The farm employed nearly 100 permanent workers, and most were apparently provided with housing. A contemporary article states that the farm laborers' dwellings "vary in style from large frame structures to smaller brick or frame cottages of five or six rooms. Every residence has running water in the kitchen and yard, as well as a bathroom. Approximately half are on the farm telephone system, while those near the power lines have electric lights. Each family also has a garage, poultry house and woodshed."<sup>19</sup>

**Silos** **ca. 1960** **Noncontributing structure.**

A cluster of five circular, corrugated metal silos with conical caps and related mechanical filling apparatus are situated diagonally across the road from the barn. The silos probably replaced Corn crib no. 1 depicted on the ca. 1913 survey in the same general location.

**Stallion barn** **ca. 1913** **Contributing building.**

The one-story, six-bay Craftsman-style barn is constructed of red brick laid in 1:6 bond. The building is one story high and is topped a hipped roof with projecting eaves supported on decorative wood elbow-brackets. There are three evenly spaced square cupolas along the ridge line. Each cupola has a pyramidal roof, a pendant-shaped copper finial, and overhanging, boxed eaves. The base of each cupola is clad with split-wood shingles. The side walls are filled with eight-light windows. The opening to each stall is filled with a cross-board-and-batten Dutch door and topped with a six-light transom. On the interior, each stall was built 20 by 20 feet to reduce the potential injury to a horse.

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**Fountain (drinking fountain?) ca. 1917 Contributing structure.**

An ornamental fountain is located between the Stallion Barn and Pump house 1. The rectangular-shaped fountain is fabricated of smooth concrete. Features include a flared base, a paneled shaft, and a broad tapered top that is separated from the shaft by molded architrave trim.

The original purpose of the fountain has not been discovered, but the fountain was probably installed sometime after A.B. Ruddock purchased the farm. The existing fountain may be a surviving example of drinking fountains that were installed in some of the dairy barns. A contemporary newspaper article recorded that "Each animal has an individual drinking fountain..."<sup>20</sup>

**Pump house no. 1 (historic name) ca. 1905 Contributing building.**

Pump house no. 1 is a one-story, two-bay brick building with a hipped roof, deep over-hanging eaves, and heavy ornamental wood brackets. There are two evenly spaced square cupolas perched on top the ridge line. Each cupola has a pyramidal roof, a pendant-shaped copper finial, and projecting boxed eaves. The base of each cupola is clad with split-wood shingles, and the side walls are filled with eight-light windows. The walls are laid in an unusual variant of 1:7 bond with seven courses of stretcher bond alternating with one course of soldiered brick. The building features one corbeled exterior chimney, segmental arches, and wood sills. The walls at the southwest corner are inset, creating a covered porch that shelters two oversized entrance doors. The porch is supported at the southwest corner by a square brick column. The pump house was built on or near a 725-foot-deep artesian well, drilled ca. 1900. The deepest 300 feet were drilled through solid granite to supply exceptionally pure water. A ten-inch diameter Sayer-Rider hot air engine pump, capable of pumping 100 gallons per minute, and two 10,000-gallon tanks supplied by Kewanee System were originally located in the pump house.<sup>21</sup>

**Farm laborers' house 2 ca. 1896 Contributing building.**

This one-and-one-half-story, five-bay brick building is nearly identical to Farm laborers' house 1. The Craftsman-bungalow-style dwelling has a hipped roof, projecting eaves with exposed rafter tails, and two interior corbeled brick chimneys. There are three pyramidal-roofed dormers, one on the front elevation and two on the side elevation. Each dormer displays a tripartite window. There is a full-width front porch with six square columns and a Richmond-style railing. The front view of the house is eclipsed by massive magnolia tree that is not only wider than the house but also approximately thirty feet taller.

**Store and Farm Office. ca. 1896/1913 Contributing building.**

The store and farm office, an interesting example of evolved Victorian Italianate architecture, is a two-story brick building with a one-story brick wing on the east elevation. The building is composed of three separate blocks. The central block has four bays with entrance doors in the outermost bays at ground level. The facade is characterized by a full-width, one-story, hip-roofed porch and one asymmetrically-placed, semi-interior front chimney. The porch is supported on five square wood posts that rest upon a low poured concrete deck. On the west elevation is a two-story, two-bay wing. Coloration of the brickwork suggests that this wing was originally one-story and was later raised to two stories and enlarged. The west elevation displays a nearly full-width, one-story, shed-roofed porch and an entrance door. The third block is a one-

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story, two-bay wing on the east elevation. A secondary entrance door is located on the east wall. Both the two-story and one-story segments of the building are topped with low-pitched, metal-clad, hipped roofs. Architectural features include deep overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, 1:6 American bond, segmental arches, rusticated stone sills, and three corbeled, interior-end brick chimneys. Window openings are filled with a combination of eight-over-eight and six-over-six double-hung wood windows. The exterior doors have granite thresholds, arched tops, a pair of wood panels at the bottom, and two elongated lights at the top.

After its construction ca. 1896, the farm store maintained around \$5000 worth of general merchandise for the benefit of the farm laborers. Average receipts between 1896 and 1912 were approximately \$10,000 such that the store was self-sustaining.<sup>22</sup> The configuration of the existing store and office was probably accomplished by C.G.K. Billings who owned Curles Neck between 1913 and 1917. The present building may embody all or part of the ca. 1896 Farm Office and Store. A 1913 "Description of Buildings on the [Curles Neck] Farm" describes the farm office and store as a one-story brick structure, 30 by 60 feet, with the farm manager's office in the south end of the building and a general store in the balance of the building.

**Farm laborers' house 3 ca. 1896 Contributing building.**

This Craftsman-bungalow-style dwelling is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay brick building with a front-gable roof. The facade is dominated by a one-story, two-bay, front-gable-roofed porch with tapered square half-columns supported on square brick piers. The dwelling features 1:6 bond, brick sills, and projecting, bracketed eaves.

**Farm laborers' house 4 ca. 1903 Contributing building.**

The former Stable foreman's house is a one-story, frame building with split-wood shingle-siding and a metal-clad gable roof. The former dwelling is used for storage in 2009. It has an attached one-story, shed-roofed addition on the north elevation. There is an attached garage with one open bay on the west elevation.

**Pump house (swan pond) ca. 1930 Contributing building.**

This small, square building once contained a pumping system that provided water for the nearby swan pond. The pump house is a one-story, two-bay brick building with a side-gable roof. The window openings feature gauged arches, brick sills, and six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows. There is a diamond-pane window in the south gable end. The roof system is greatly deteriorated and is nearing collapse. The brickwork displays several structural cracks. The building appears to be salvageable if remedial work is undertaken in the near future. This building does not appear on either the ca. 1913 or 1917 plats. It was probably built between 1917 and 1943 when A.B. Ruddock owned the property.

**Farm manager's house ca. 1955 Noncontributing building.**

The brick and frame tenant house is situated on the river, a few hundred feet from the mansion. The one-story dwelling has a central block with symmetrical wings that are covered by a broad side-gable roofing

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system. An L-shaped, one-story, front gable-roofed addition is attached on the south elevation. There is a one large, central, interior corbeled brick chimney and one exterior-end corbeled brick chimney on the north elevation. The roof of the central block extends on the facade, creating a full-width porch. The primary front entrance has a paneled door with flanking sidelights. Fenestration is composed of one large multi-light picture window on the facade and divided-light double-hung windows. The roof system is covered with thick, split-cedar shakes. The dwelling is shrouded in large trees and heavy vegetation. This house was built for the manager of the dairy farm.

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**8. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Curles Neck Farm, comprised of 156 acres, a ca. 1896 high-style Colonial-Revival mansion built in the long-standing tradition of great Virginia Plantation homes, and seventeen farm-related resources, is located at the heart of Curles Neck Peninsula. The boundaries of the nominated property were carved from the 3250-acre farm that was historically called Curles Neck Farm. Although the 156-acre parcel represents only a small portion of the larger historic farm, the nominated acreage preserves representative cultivated fields, pastures, and sites associated with four centuries of farm operations. The surrounding 5500-acre peninsula, mostly encircled by the James River, is accessed from two private roads that intersect New Market Road, one of Virginia's most historic byways. Few locations in Virginia are richer in history than Curles Neck Peninsula. Archeological sites and artifacts, spanning more than four centuries of American history, establish the land mass as one of the commonwealth's earliest settled and most historically significant areas. Historians identify Curles Neck Farm as "the social, political, religious, and economic heart of Colonial Henrico County".<sup>23</sup> In addition to the mansion, the property includes barns and various agricultural outbuildings in a variety of architectural styles including an evolved Victorian Italianate store and farm office, as well as dwellings for farm laborers in the Craftsman style. Curles Neck Farm retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, association, workmanship, and feeling.

**Criteria Statement**

The 156-acre-parcel of Curles Neck Farm is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for agriculture. The property is significant for its long history as one of the oldest, largest and most productive agricultural operations on the banks of the James River in Virginia. The farmland has been under continuous cultivation since ca. 1630.<sup>24</sup> The farming operation continues on the nominated property to the present day.

The property is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture. The mansion, one decorative landscape structure, one landscape site, and thirteen farm-related buildings and structures form an architecturally significant complex situated upon one of Virginia's most significant James River plantations. The ca. 1896 mansion on Curles Neck Farm, built by Charles H. Senff, is a high-style example of Colonial Revival architecture popularized around the turn of the twentieth century and preserves distinctive alterations accomplished by C.K.G. Billings.

**Agricultural Significance**

Between ca. 1630 and 1892, Curles Neck Peninsula was occupied by several independently operated plantations. Bremo and Curles Neck were the largest and most important farms, both dating from the seventeenth century. In 1892, Charles H. Senff purchased all three farms which occupied the peninsula at the time: Curles Neck, Bremo, and Strawberry Plains. The 5500-acre peninsula was thus unified under single ownership between 1892 and 2009. Curles Neck Farm encompassed 3250 acres of the peninsula. The 156-acre parcel represents the heart, both geographically and functionally, of Senff's 3250-acre agricultural operation. The nominated property preserves cultivated fields, open pastureland, two stables for the shelter and care of livestock, the principal spring house that supplied water to the 3250-acre farm, and the farm office that served as its business and operational hub. Twelve of the contributing resources constitute the nucleus of the 73 buildings that were located on the farm during Senff's ownership.

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Three distinctive periods establish the farm's agricultural significance. First, from 1892 until 1913, Charles H. Senff applied principles of scientific agriculture to the farm. Senff also commenced breeding Red Polled cattle, buying the best available breeding stock in the world from English breeders to establish the "the best herd of Red Polled Cattle to be found in the United States."<sup>25</sup> Second, from 1913 until 1917, C.K.G. Billings transformed Curles Neck Farm into one of the most important horse-breeding and training farms in America. Curles Neck Farm achieved national recognition as a "great stable of champion trotters and pacers...a collection which was not only world famous, but impossible to equal." The training facilities on the farm reportedly gained the admiration of the entire horse world.<sup>26</sup> Third, between 1917 and 1943, Albert Billings Ruddock founded Curles Neck Dairy which grew into one of the largest and most profitable dairies on the East Coast. The farm was also successful during this time for its livestock-production.<sup>27</sup> The contributing resources on the 156-acre nominated property are identified as the "main farm buildings" on an early-twentieth-century map of Curles Neck Dairy Farm.<sup>28</sup> After Frederick E. Watkins purchased Curles Neck Farm in 1943, the dairy operation continued until 1980.

The mansion and the farm-related resources on the nominated property are associated with the three agricultural periods outlined above. The 156-acre property preserves cultivated fields, portions of the sheep pasture, dwellings for agricultural and dairy workers, buildings used for animal shelter and care, the principal spring house that supplied water to the 3250-acre farm, and the farm office that served as the business and operational hub. The period of significance for the nominated property begins in 1892 when Charles H. Senff acquired the farm and ends in 1943 when Albert Billings Ruddock sold Curles Neck Dairy.

### **Architectural Significance**

Expansive in scale and well-executed in design, craftsmanship, and materials, the mansion at Curles Neck Farm was built in the long-standing tradition of great Virginia Plantation homes. Fine Flemish brick bond, the monumental riverside portico in the Ionic Order, and the attention given to siting and landscape suggest a studied attempt by the architect to recall earlier Georgian counterparts. The wing and its bold parapeted gables show Jacobean or post-medieval English influence that characterize some of the landmark dwellings from Virginia's storied Colonial past. In an attempt to create an aged appearance, the first owner introduced carefully manicured English ivy to the brickwork. Perhaps to convey even greater antiquity, the second owner removed and replaced the original one-over-one sash with diamond-pane and multi-pane windows, features borrowed from Jacobean and Georgian architecture, respectively. On the interior, paneled wainscot, finely crafted woodwork, and Georgian mantels with crossetted over-mantels recall the finishes of various great James River plantations. The dwelling is the only example in eastern Henrico County of a late-nineteenth-century Colonial Revival mansion fronting on the James River.

The stallion barn, blacksmith & carpentry shop, and spring house no. 1 are unusual expressions of Craftsman architectural style applied to utilitarian farm buildings. Exposed scroll-sawn rafter ends, decorative triangular knee braces, and hip-roofed cupolas are the most distinctive features of these functional buildings. Three farm laborers' bungalows are examples of the Craftsman style expressed in minimal housing units. The architectural simplicity of the vernacular Victorian store & farm office, the front-gabled frame and weatherboard barn, and the unadorned brick spring house no. 2 complement the more architecturally distinctive buildings.

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The mansion and the farm-related buildings constitute the visual identity of Curles Neck Farm. The mansion is a locally significant example of a relatively rare, high-style example of a Colonial Revival mansion situated on the James River. The farm-related resources enhance the property's local importance as a late-nineteenth-to-early-twentieth-century farm complex in Henrico County, Virginia.

**Archaeological Potential**

Between 1980 and 1995, Virginia Commonwealth University Archeology Research Center, under the direction of L. Daniel Mouer, conducted eleven archaeological surveys on the peninsula. The largest areas of excavation uncovered portions of buildings dating from ca. 1630-1853. The building sites were not located within the 156 acres being nominated. The excavation project uncovered more than 100,000 artifacts representing more than 10,000 years of human history. Mouer concluded that Curles Neck embodied "the entire gamut of American history."<sup>29</sup>

The 3250-acre Curles Neck Farm is an important landmark for its association with prominent families of Virginia, including Thomas Harris, one of the first settlers of the colony; with Nathaniel Bacon, who led the Rebellion of 1676 against the Royal Governor more than a century before the American Revolution; with five generations of the politically prominent Randolph family; and with William Allen who once owned, in addition to Curles Neck Plantation, Claremont Plantation in Surry County, Jamestown Island, and Kingsmill Plantation in James City County. The succession of property owners and their biographies are well documented.

The archeological surveys completed by Virginia Commonwealth University did not include building sites on the nominated property. Given the richness of the sites investigated, it is reasonable to expect that archaeological work within the 156 acres might produce additional information about the history of the property or other building sites.

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## **8. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Introduction**

Local tradition holds that the name Curles Neck was derived from the meandering loop of the James River that encircles the level, 5500-acre peninsula. Through four centuries of cultivation, various farms on the peninsula were called Longfield, Raleigh, Bailey's, Tilman's, The Slashes, Brems, Strawberry Plains, as well as Curle's (also spelled Curl's and Curls) and Curles Neck Plantation.<sup>30</sup> The place name Curls first appears in records around 1630. Some historians support the idea that the name derives from an early investor in the Virginia Company.<sup>31</sup> In 1636, a Benjamin Currill (or Benjamine Carrall) owned land in the vicinity of Four Mile Creek. An entry in the Henrico Parish Vestry Book from the mid-1700s suggests that the name Curles Church, then situated on the plantation, was derived from a Virginia family of that name.<sup>32</sup> The imprecision of early patent records and the variant spellings of Curles make it difficult to deduce the origin of the name. Before English settlement, the peninsula was known by the Native American name "Arrow hattockes" or "Arrohattox".<sup>33</sup>

Between 1980 and 1995, L. Daniel Mouer, director of the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Archeology Research Center, supervised eleven archaeological surveys at Curles Neck. Mouer concluded that Curles Neck covered "the entire gamut of American history."<sup>34</sup> The archaeological excavation project uncovered more than 100,000 artifacts representing more than 10,000 years of human history. Prehistoric stone tools, ca. 8000 B.C., and "Kirk corner-notched points", circa 7500-7000 B.C., were among the earliest artifacts recovered from the Curles Neck property.<sup>35</sup>

### **Owners Before the Period of Significance**

Archeologists found clay pipe stems and ceramic fragments from the early 1600s.<sup>36</sup> A wine bottle seal marked "Richard Randolph 1735", an Elizabethan six-pence dated 1573, part of an armor breastplate, pottery shards, buttons and nails were among the important artifacts uncovered on Curles Neck.<sup>37</sup> Indian trade beads, probably dating to Nathaniel Bacon's tenure, were also discovered.<sup>38</sup>

Along the southwestern stretch of the river outside the 156 acres, Mouer excavated two building sites from the 1600s and five building sites from the 1700s confirming documentary records that record Thomas Harris, Nathaniel Bacon, and five generations of Randolphs as the earliest owners of Curles Neck Plantation.<sup>39</sup> Mouer's discoveries included the remains of the rare ca. 1630 brick-and-tile house built by Thomas Harris, the ca. 1677 "small new brick house" and an armory and tunnels built by Nathaniel Bacon, and vestiges of several other 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings, including the ca. 1715 manor house built by William Randolph, later enlarged by his heirs.<sup>40</sup> An award-winning documentary "Discovering Archeology, The Curles Neck Project" preserves a record of the day-to-day activities of the 13-year archeological investigation and excavation.<sup>41</sup> VCU completed the eleventh and final field school in August, 1995. In keeping with accepted practices of scientific archeology, the building sites were re-buried. The majority of artifacts are stored in a warehouse maintained by VCU. The field notes, drawings, photographs, and some boxes of artifacts are preserved in the collection storage area at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.<sup>42</sup>

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William Heth lived at Curles Neck Plantation between ca. 1799 and 1809. A Mutual Assurance Society policy from 1806 reveals a complex of six buildings on the property valued at \$10,950. When Heth defaulted on the property, it reverted to Randolph ownership until 1828.<sup>43</sup>

The next owner of Curles Neck Plantation was William Allen who purchased Curles Neck Farm in 1828. Upon his death in 1850, the elder Allen willed extensive land holdings in Virginia to his adopted son Major William Allen.<sup>44</sup> Allen was one of the wealthiest men in Virginia, but he lost much of his wealth during the Civil War. He lived at Curles Neck between 1862 and 1874.<sup>45</sup> The *1853 Smith's Map of Henrico County* confirm that "Old Curles", "Maiden Hall", and "Strawberry Planes" were all owned by W. Allen and that "Brema", also on the Curles Neck Peninsula, was owned by R.M. Taylor. A wharf is depicted near the centerline of the peninsula on the north bank of the James River.

During the Civil War, earthworks were constructed on the property and Union and Confederate troops fought both on the peninsula and from gun boats along the James River.<sup>46</sup> The Battle of Strawberry Plains was part of the First Deep Bottom Campaign. Between July 26 and 29, 1864, Ulysses S. Grant deployed troops to the north bank of the James River in a strategic attempt to contain the forces of Robert E. Lee in Petersburg. Five large divisions were encamped within one-half mile of the existing Curles Neck Mansion and wharf.<sup>47</sup>

### **Charles H. Senff**

In 1892, the heirs of William Allen sold Curles Neck Farm to Charles H. Senff, the first in a series of non-native Virginians to own the property. Charles Senff was a major shareholder in and a Director of the American Sugar Refining Company (later the Domino Sugar Refinery) which controlled much of the international sugar market in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.<sup>48</sup> Between 1881 and 1884, the refining company erected a complex of buildings in Brooklyn designed by Senff's uncle, architect Theodore A. Havemeyer.<sup>49</sup> No architect has been identified for the Senff mansion at Curles Neck Farm, but future research may reveal if Theodore Havemeyer designed the mansion and/or the farm buildings at Curles Neck Farm.

Charles Senff was married to Gustavia A. Tapscott of Richmond, Virginia, in 1880.<sup>50</sup> How the Senffs were introduced is not known. Following their marriage, the Senffs lived in "The Senff House", a grand townhouse at the northwest corner of Madison Avenue and 41st Street in New York City. Their summer home was The Beeches at Whitestone, noted in the *New York Times* as "one of the finest residences on Long Island Sound."<sup>51</sup>

The Senffs were high-profile citizens in New York City. Their social activities and comings-and-goings, including their visits to Curles Neck, were regularly reported in the *New York Times*. Mr. Senff owned, by some accounts, the most valuable collection of paintings in the United States. Among his more celebrated works were *Portrait of a Dutch Lady* by Frans Hals and Corot's *Nymph Bathing*.<sup>52</sup> In 1912, the collection was appraised at \$822,300.<sup>53</sup> A man of wide-ranging interests, Senff owned a tugboat for pleasure and profit and was an active member of the Tugboat Enthusiasts Society of the Americas. Senff was a patron of the New York Academy of Sciences, Yale University, and Columbia University.<sup>54</sup>

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Mrs. Charles H. Senff was one of the most watched socialites in New York City. She attended charity balls and fund raisers for multiple causes, among others, the Cancer Society, the YMCA, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. Senff bred champion stock Pomeranians, winning a first place in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show with her "Offley Sweet Marjory".<sup>55</sup>

Gustavia Senff was apparently loyal to her Virginia roots. In 1915, in conjunction with the dedication of the statue of Thomas Jefferson, she donated \$10,000 to the University of Virginia to improve the university grounds.<sup>56</sup> She was a member of the Richmond Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy. To honor the chapter, Mrs. Senff endowed a hospital in France in memory of Stonewall Jackson. The *New York Times* noted that "Mrs. Senff is a native of Virginia, and has given a great many gifts through various organizations of that State."<sup>57</sup>

In 1892, Charles H. Senff purchased the 3250-acre Curles Neck farm as well as the contiguous plantations Strawberry Plains and Bremo. Almost immediately, Senff retained an engineer to survey the property and to design a network of roads and under-drainage. The result was the installation of an 18-mile-long system: "Depressions were filled up, culverts built, and thousands of loads of gravel were put on the roads which were straightened and made uniform."<sup>58</sup> With an avowed interest in scientific farming, Senff spent about a quarter-of-a-million dollars to install about 300 miles of clay sewer tile to provide drainage for the fields.<sup>59</sup> Nearly all of the 156 acres, including the mansion site, received clay tile underdrainage.<sup>60</sup>

The Colonial Revival mansion at Curles Neck Farm, constructed between ca. 1894 and 1896, served as the Senffs winter home. The *New York Times* noted that "It was his custom to go South for the Winter."<sup>61</sup> A contemporary account records that "He imported brick to build the office and distant stable as well as 2 homes, added two wharves on the James with mechanical loading devices, and put in a farm telephone in 1900 and a private outside line in 1913."<sup>62</sup> Senff also installed an acetylene gas system that fueled over 45 road lights and 500 lights in all the buildings except the dairy.<sup>63</sup>

By all accounts, Curles Neck Farm was a thriving operation during Senff's ownership. Ninety mules and "100 negro hands" furnished labor for the fields.<sup>64</sup> In 1912, records show that 3000 acres were under cultivation. Crops included yellow and white dent corn, winter wheat, winter oats, alfalfa, mixed hay, and soy beans. Other acreage was devoted to "blue grass pasture" and "land open between crops."<sup>65</sup> Farm Produce Sales records for 1904-1911 show farm production ranging between \$12,729 and \$33,815 with average sales of \$23,474 over the eight-year period.<sup>66</sup> Wheat and corn production at Curles Neck surpassed national averages by nearly 40%. Sales of Red Polled cattle provided additional revenues. Senff commenced breeding Red Polled cattle, buying the best available breeding stock in the world from English breeders. Judges at the Virginia State Fair determined that the cattle from Curles Neck Farm constituted "the best herd of Red Polled Cattle to be found in the United States." Between 1909 and 1912, the cattle from the farm won 176 awards at the Virginia State Fair, including 8 championships and 42 first place awards.<sup>67</sup>

The 156-acre parcel represents the heart, both geographically and functionally, of Senff's 5500-acre agricultural operation. Twelve contributing resources, concentrated on the 156-acre property, preserve an important nucleus of the 73 buildings that were located on the 3250-acre farm during Senff's ownership. The 156-acre property encompasses cultivated fields, pastureland, representative farm laborers' dwellings,

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and barns used to shelter livestock. Four of the existing farm laborers' houses were among 25 residences constructed for employees at Curles Neck Farm between 1896 and 1917. The farm employed nearly 100 permanent workers, and most were apparently provided with housing. The surviving farm store and office constituted the center of operations for the entire peninsula.

Charles Senff died on August 23, 1911, at the age of 74. At the time of his death, his estate was valued between nine and eleven million dollars.<sup>68</sup> His collection of paintings was auctioned for \$580,375. Some of his works sold for record prices including *Portrait of a Dutch Lady* for \$55,000, and a group of pictures by Velazquez and Corot for \$346,150.<sup>69</sup>

Following the death of her husband, Gustavia Senff paid \$375,000 for a six-story mansion on East 79th Street, "a record price for a private house" in New York City.<sup>70</sup> The following year, Mrs. Senff sold the Curles Neck property. In 1922, Mrs. Senff purchased "Knollwood" on Long Island, a 278-acre estate with a grandiose neoclassical mansion and terraced formal gardens.<sup>71</sup> Mrs. Senff died at Knollwood on November 18, 1927.

### **C.K.G. Billings**

In 1913, C.K.G. Billings purchased the 5500-acre Curles Neck Farm from the estate of Charles H. Senff for \$300,000.<sup>72</sup> Cornelius Kingsley Garrison Billings was born in Chicago in 1861, the son and heir of Albert M. Billings, who amassed a fortune from his investment in the Peoples Gas, Light and Coke Company. Upon the death of his father in 1887, the 18-year-old Billings became president of the power company. Several years later, he became the Chairman of the Board of Directors. At the age of 40, Billings retired and moved to New York City where he founded the Union Carbide and Carbon Company, serving as the Chairman of the Board until his death. Identified as an industrialist who invested in a wide-reaching array of corporations, he was, in his lifetime, one of the five wealthiest men in the United States.<sup>73</sup>

Billings was a man for all seasons, pursuing a broad spectrum of hobbies with passion and intensity. Before moving to New York, he amassed one of the largest and finest collections of paintings in the country. A generous philanthropist, Billings' best known charity was the endowment of the Billings Memorial Hospital in Chicago. He was one of the charter members and founders of the Chicago Athletic Club. After the move to New York, he focused primarily on yachting, horse breeding and racing, and light-harness racing.<sup>74</sup>

Billings is best-known as a world-renowned horse breeder and racer. In 1899 and 1900, respectively, he personally broke the world's pacing record with his gelding Bumps and also set a world speed record with his horse Lucille. Many believed that his individual success as a racer came from the confidence that he communicated to his horses. A contemporary review described Billings this way:

*So much pleasure was given Mr. Billings by these initial adventures that he soon began the collection of the great stable of champion trotters and pacers, used by him strictly for amateur purposes, building it up rapidly into a collection which was not only world famous, but impossible to equal, for as fast as new world-champions appeared he secured them, paying prices that nobody else could or would and maintaining them in a manner that was the admiration of the entire horse world. Under no circumstances would he race any of his trotters or pacers for money or professionally.<sup>75</sup>*

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Before World War I, Billings made international news by sponsoring two exhibition tours of Europe. At the time, harness racing was the national sport of Czarist Russia. In Moscow, two of Billings' geldings shook the racing world by setting a world record in team trotting, a sport dominated by Russian horses.<sup>76</sup>

Billings, also interested in yachting, built the 236-foot Vanadis, the largest turbine steam-driven vessel in the world and the only yacht with an elevator at the time.<sup>77</sup> Converted into a luxury hotel in the 1980s and renamed Malardrottingen, the yacht is moored in Stockholm's Old Town.<sup>78</sup> Billings also built two other world-renowned yachts.

In New York, Billings' principal residence was located on Fifth Avenue and 53rd Street. In 1900, Billings purchased 25 acres on the Hudson River and erected the opulent Louis-XIV-style Tryon Hall. The mansion, designed by Guy Lowell, was situated 250 feet above the Hudson River on the site of Fort Tryon, used by both the Colonists and the British during the American Revolution. The mansion and a 25,000-square-foot stable were designed by architect Guy Lowell. The terraced landscaping and gardens were designed by Charles Downing Lay. On the riverside, the mansion at Curles Neck Farm has remnants of terraced landscaping and gardens. The landscape architect responsible for the landscape design has not been identified, but future research may reveal if Charles Downing Lay was responsible. In 1917 Billings sold the Tryon Hall estate to John D. Rockefeller who donated the property to the city for a public park.<sup>79</sup>

In November, 1913, Billings purchased Curles Neck Farm. *The Atlanta Journal* reported: "Building has already begun on large and handsomely fitted barns to house Mr. Billings' string of champion trotters, including Uhlan, 1:58; Lou Dillon, the first trotter to go a mile under two minutes, and Harvester, 2:01, world's champion trotter stallion." Billings' most renowned horses, Maude S. and Harvester, were both trained at Curles Neck.<sup>80</sup> The stallion barn and the blacksmith and carpentry shop, both located on the 156-acre property, were built by Billings to support his horse-breeding and training operation.

That Billings' development of Curles Neck Farm could move forward with such speed raises the possibility that he employed architect Guy Lowell to design the many of the farm buildings at Curles Neck. A press release from 1916 states:

*Curles' Neck, on the James, the Virginia home of C.K.G. Billings, is one of the show spots of the Old Dominion. Twelve miles east of Richmond, by boat it is eighteen miles. The estate has five thousand acres, one thousand of which is marsh, and is conceded [sic.] to be the best ducking marsh in the South. Two-thirds of the farm is under cultivation. One of the features of the place is a mile race track that cost \$100,000.00 to build; a complete electric light plant, water system, boat landing and dock are other features of the "farm". Some of the finest horses in the country are bred here. Curles' Neck Farm is a Mecca for tourists in this section.*<sup>81</sup>

Billings transformed Senff's agricultural farm into a breeding and training farm for price-winning trotters and racing horses. He paid record prices for the best-known stallions and brood mares and erected the one of the largest enclosed race tracks in the United States and two, one-mile-long outdoor race tracks. The tracks were *patterned after the famous Memphis and Lexington tracks, one built of sod...the other was a clay track of natural loam which dried quickly and was considered to be very modern.*<sup>82</sup> The race field was

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located near the center of the northern half of Curles Neck peninsula and was accessed by a dedicated race entrance drive off New Market Road, midway between the Main Entrance at the northwest corner of the property and the East Entrance near the northeast edge of the estate. The nominated property has a deeded right of access to the entrance roads that intersect New Market Road. The entrance roads transverse both farm fields and the area on the farm that was once occupied by the race field. Neither the primary entrance roads nor the race field are located on the 156-acre property.

To supplement the residential facilities built by Senff, Billings added nine cottages, each with four rooms and a bathroom, for farm laborers. Two of the farm laborers' dwellings on the nominated property survive from Billings' building campaign. He replaced some of Senff's field workers and most of the mules with two gasoline-powered tractors, one Twin City model and one Huber with forty horse-power and eight to ten plows each.<sup>83</sup>

Due to failing health, Billings sold Curles Neck Farm in 1917. The farm was advertised for \$700,000, a loss of \$300,000 over Billings' investment in the property. A contemporary article described the farm at the time of sale:

*"Famous Stock Farm for Sale."*

*Mr. Billings, the Noted Horseman, Offers His Renowned \$1,000,000 Estate at \$300,000 Below Its Original Cost.*

*Mr. C.G.K. Billings has no further use for Curles Neck Farm, his 5,000-acre stock farm on the James River, near Richmond, Va., which he bought four years ago for \$1,000,000. He is willing to part with the historic property for \$700,000 or even less...The James River Estate is in the hands of Joseph P. Day, real estate broker...He has spent money lavishly on the estate since he bought it through Mr. Day from the estate of Charles H. Senff. Since then he has built a stable 500 feet long and 65 feet wide for Lou Dillon, Harvester, Major Delmar and about 100 other famous horses which he owns. Near the stable he laid out two race courses over which the kings of the road and the turf were kept fit. Curles Neck Farm is one of the best known properties in Northern Virginia. It has been the home of the "first families" for many years...Since Mr. Billings took over the estate about 2000 acres have been turned into a game preserve. Nine cottages have been built for employees and a \$30,000 bridge erected, connecting the property with the other property. This bridge Mr. Billings donated to Henrico County not long ago.<sup>84</sup>*

Billings was a Life Member of the Virginia Historical Society.<sup>85</sup> Around 1917, Billings moved to Santa Barbara, California, where he built the mansion Asombrosa.<sup>86</sup> He died there in 1937.

### **Albert Billings Ruddock**

Between 1917 and 1943, the farm was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Billings Ruddock.<sup>87</sup> The Ruddocks apparently divided their time between California and Virginia, occupying the mansion at Curles Neck. Ruddock started the Curles Neck Dairy which grew into one of the largest and most profitable dairies on the East Coast. To meet the needs of the expanding dairy, Ruddock constructed a wholesale distributing depot in 1933 in Richmond.<sup>88</sup>

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A ca. 1917 plat depicts the farm with neatly delineated areas that reflect the transition of the property from a horse-racing enterprise to an agricultural operation. The defined areas include Duck Marsh, Swine, Dairy and Beef Pasture, Sheep Pasture, Milk Processing Plant and Prospect Dairy, and Strawberry Dairy. The location of one of the race fields and the separate entrance to the track are also shown. Other places of interest include the farm office, the mill, the Randolph graveyard, and Bremo.<sup>89</sup> The 156-acre property preserves cultivated fields, portions of the sheep pasture, dwellings for workers on the dairy farm, buildings used for animal shelter and care, silos used for storing feed for livestock, the principal spring house that supplied water to the 3250-acre farm, and the farm office that served as the business and operational hub.

A contemporary account provides this detailed synopsis of the farm in the 1930s:

*The farm includes 1000 acres of woodland and a swamp of the same extent, besides some 3000 acres of extremely fertile blue-grass pastures and cultivated fields, subsoil drained by many miles of tile pipes. It is a dairy and livestock-producing farm, and the huge crops of hay and grain are raised exclusively for the feeding of the big herds. Hogs, sheep and beef cattle are raised for market, while the farm supplies all the milk sold through its distributing depot in Richmond...There are two dairy herds, each having its own manager. The larger herd consists of 350 Holsteins. They are housed in ultra-modern barns, three of which, containing 225 milking stalls, accommodate the "fresh" cows. Each animal has an individual drinking fountain, and the cows, as well as the barns, are kept spotlessly clean. The second herd consists of 250 Guernseys, housed in five barns, with 150 milking stalls...The beef cattle department is a separate branch, with its own manager. A permanent herd of some 600 cattle is maintained. Of these, 250 are breeding cows, while 350 are fattened for market each year. The farm keeps more than 20 bulls—Herefords as well as Holsteins and Guernseys...The swine department is the oldest feature of the farm's livestock raising, and has achieved more fame throughout the country than any other branch. Besides taking more prizes than any other exhibitor at the Virginia State Fair, Curles Neck hogs have been successful at exhibitions in many other states. A sow from this farm once won the distinctive title of "Grand Champion of the United States." Another department maintains a flock of 400 sheep—both Hampshires and Southdowns—which produce a large annual crop of wool and lambs.<sup>90</sup>*

To support the livestock, more than 1250 acres were planted with corn, oats, barley, alfalfa, timothy, clovers, and orchard grass. In the 1930s, there were 18 silos on the property filled with about 3000 tons of silage and 30,000 bushels of grain. A fleet of tractors, 70 work horses and mules, and farm machinery were maintained to support the business. The dairy farm employed and provided residences for nearly 100 permanent farm laborers. Four farm laborers' dwellings are located on the 156-acre property. Itinerant labor was also hired during peak harvest times. It was "the policy of Curle's Neck management to provide homes and conditions of employment that would attract the best class of farm people."<sup>91</sup>

Another source of income to the farm was the sale of hunting privileges. The 1000-acre marsh at the southern end of the property hosted "thousands of wild geese", ducks, turkeys, and deer. The Ruddocks apparently fostered the association of Curles Neck Farm with the "world of sport". In the 1930s, they hosted the annual steeplechase sponsored by the Deep Run Hunt Club.<sup>92</sup>

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In 1943, Frederick E. Watkins, a successful automobile dealer from Mecklenburg County, Virginia, acquired Curles Neck. Watkins did not occupy the mansion, but he expanded the dairy operation. A dairy processing facility was constructed in Richmond. In 1946, the company opened the Curles Neck Dairy Bar at 1602 Roseneath Road in Richmond, in Scott's Addition, near the processing plant.<sup>93</sup>

In 1961, Frederick's son Richard E. Watkins began to raise pheasants commercially on Curles Neck Farm. After a few years, he assumed responsibility for the 400-cow dairy herd and the cultivation of feed for the animals. His involvement with the captive rearing and release of wood ducks, black ducks, and Canada geese led to his appointment as a national trustee of Ducks Unlimited. In 1971, Richard Watkins was appointed Third Congressional District Representative to the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.<sup>94</sup>

Curles Neck Dairy ceased operations in 1980.<sup>95</sup> The associated restaurant was sold and the name was changed to The Dairy Bar. The widely recognized and popular establishment continues to operate in 2009.<sup>96</sup> In the waning decades of the twentieth century, much of the farm property was leased for hunting, fishing, farming, and mining.<sup>97</sup>

In 2006, Richard E. Watkins and Betsy W. Short, heirs of the late Frederick E. Watkins, sold the 5, 513-acre Curles Neck property to Jearald D. Cable, manager of Curles Neck Properties, LLC; A. Douglas Dalton, Jr., manager of Curles Neck Investments, LLC; and Thomas E. Pruitt, manager of PCN, LLC. The marketing agent was Frank Hardy, Inc. Realtors in Charlottesville, Virginia.<sup>98</sup> In the first decade of the twenty-first century, Vulcan Materials Company leased portions of Curles Neck peninsula for sand and gravel mining operations.<sup>99</sup> In 2009, a 156-acre parcel was sub-divided from the larger property to preserve and protect most of the historic buildings. The Curles Neck mansion, which had fallen into ruin, is being comprehensively and sympathetically restored by Jearald Cable. Dr. Cable plans to rehabilitate most of the surviving secondary buildings. The nominated property is excluded from the mining operations.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the Curles Neck property are shown on the accompanying 1 inch = 200 feet survey map labeled "Plat of the National Register of Historic Places Designation Area on a Portion of Property Known as Curles Neck Farm in the Varina District, Henrico County." The map is signed by surveyor Charles S. Gittings of E.D. Lewis and Associates, P.C.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the Curles Neck Farm property were drawn to encompass the mansion, the designed landscape, the majority of the surviving farm-related buildings and structures, and acreage to provide a protective setting for the contributing resources. The 156-acre tract includes 13 contributing buildings, 1 contributing structures, 1 contributing site, 2 non-contributing building and 3 non-contributing structures. The contributing resources are associated with the history of Curles Neck Farm and reflect its agricultural, architectural, and historical significance.

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**UTM References**

**Dutch Gap, Virginia- USGS Map**

A.	18S	4140629N	297693E
B.	18S	4140067N	297535E
C.	18S	4140068N	297386E
D.	18S	4139896N	297362E
E.	18S	4139892N	297043E
F.	18S	4140073N	296815E
G.	18S	4140074N	296496E
H.	18S	4140670N	296736E
I.	18S	4140656N	296848E
J.	18S	4140599N	297025E
K.	18S	4140642N	297043E

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

**PROPERTY:** Curles Neck Farm  
**LOCATION:** County of Henrico, Virginia  
**VDHR FILE NUMBER:** 043-0035  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Nancy Kraus  
**DATE:** August, 2009  
**NEGATIVE NUMBERS:** 24640 & 24641. Negatives stored in the archives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Photo 1 of 22	View: Mansion, west elevation
Photo 2 of 22	View: Mansion, east elevation
Photo 3 of 22	View: Brick steps to the river terrace
Photo 4 of 22	View: Mansion interior, central passage
Photo 5 of 22	View: Mansion interior, drawing & music rooms
Photo 6 of 22	View: Mansion interior, bedroom
Photo 7 of 22	View: Mansion interior, shower
Photo 8 of 22	View: Frame barn
Photo 9 of 22	View: Blacksmith & carpenter shop
Photo 10 of 22	View: Equipment pole shed 1 & Farm shop
Photo 11 of 22	View: Equipment pole shed 2
Photo 12 of 22	View: Farm laborers' house 1
Photo 13 of 22	View: Silos
Photo 14 of 22	View: Stallion barn
Photo 15 of 22	View: Fountain
Photo 16 of 22	View: Pump house no. 1
Photo 17 of 22	View: Farm laborers' house 2
Photo 18 of 22	View: Store & Farm office
Photo 19 of 22	View: Farm laborers' house 3
Photo 20 of 22	View: Farm laborers' house 4
Photo 21 of 22	View: Pump house no. 2
Photo 22 of 22	View: Farm manager's house

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<sup>1</sup> The nominated property was carved from the larger 3250-acre Curles Neck Farm whose acreage was achieved in the mid-nineteenth century. Between ca. 1630 and ca. 1850, the size of Curles Neck Farm varied greatly.

<sup>2</sup> A corn mill, three habitable dwellings including the former Superintendent's House, the Breomo cemetery, and the ruins of more than a half dozen farm laborers' dwellings, all circa 1900, are located on the Curles Neck Peninsula, but outside the boundaries of the nominated property.

<sup>3</sup> The largest creeks are Curl's and Thomas. The smaller tributaries include Dixon's Creek, Crooked Creek, Elm Gut, Thoroughfare Creek, Little and Big Fork Creeks, Big Brier Creek, Shippen's Creek, Elbow Creek, Busby's Creek, Beaver Creek, Trap Guts 1, 2, and 3, and Little and Big Hog Pen Creek.

<sup>4</sup> "Old farm rife with wildlife a tough sell." *The Washington Times*, Dec. 17, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 4.

<sup>6</sup> Huntley, Elizabeth Valentine. *Peninsula Pilgrimage*. Princeton, NJ: The Pine Press, 1941, 98.

<sup>7</sup> Mouer, L. Daniel. *The Mansions of Curles Neck Plantation, ca. 1630-1860*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 21, 1997, 51.

<sup>8</sup> Hilldrup, Robert P. *Upper Brandon*. Richmond, VA: James River Corporation, 20.

<sup>9</sup> The author gratefully acknowledges this insight, communicated by email dated August 12, 2009, from Calder Loth, Senior Architectural Historian, Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

<sup>10</sup> O'Dell, Jeffrey Marshall. *Inventory of Early Architecture and Historic Sites: County of Henrico, Virginia*. County of Henrico, VA, 1976, 50-51.

*Dispersal of Curles Neck Farm in Virginia, property of C.K.G. Billings, at Madison Square Garden, New York, Wednesday, June 6, 1917*. Faisig-Tipton Company. New York, June 6, 1917.

<sup>11</sup> Mouer, L. Daniel. *In the Realm of "The Rebel": The Archeology of Nathaniel Bacon's Brick House at Curles Plantation*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 12, 1988, 10-11.

<sup>12</sup> See *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913; Huntley, Elizabeth Valentine. *Peninsula Pilgrimage*. Princeton, NJ: The Pine Press, 1941; and Tunis, Allyn B., ed. *Press Reference Book of Prominent Virginians*. Richmond, VA: Virginia Newspaper Writer's Association, 1916, 85.

<sup>13</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 19.

<sup>14</sup> In the early twentieth century, hard plastic materials were chemically manipulated to create paints and coatings. Early synthetic paints were made from either cellulose nitrate or by adding alkyds to traditional oil paints. Ripolin was one of the first brands of these synthetic paints. [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mome/hd\\_mome.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mome/hd_mome.htm)

<sup>15</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 10.

<sup>16</sup> Mouer, L. Daniel. *The Mansions of Curles Neck Plantation, ca. 1630-1860*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 21, 1997, 51.

<sup>17</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 12.

<sup>18</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 30.

<sup>19</sup> "Curles Neck-Modern Plantation". Richmond Times-Dispatch, Nov. 7, 1937.

<sup>20</sup> "Curles Neck-Modern Plantation". Richmond Times-Dispatch, Nov. 7, 1937.

<sup>21</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 31.

<sup>22</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 12.

<sup>23</sup> L. Daniel Mouer, quoting Louis Manarin and Clifford Dowdy. See Manarin, Louis H. And Dowdy, Clifford. *The History of Henrico County*. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1984.

<sup>24</sup> Miller, Kent. *Digging History-Curles Plantation Yields Treasure from 3 Centuries*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 11, no. 1, 1987, 25-33.

<sup>25</sup> For a detailed statistical and descriptive accounting of the farm operations between 1892 and 1913, see *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 6-15.

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<sup>26</sup> **Error! Main Document Only.** "Curles Neck—Modern Plantation". *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Nov. 7, 1937.

<sup>27</sup> "Curles Neck—Modern Plantation". *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Nov. 7, 1937.

<sup>28</sup> O'Dell, Jeffrey Marshall. *Inventory of Early Architecture and Historic Sites: County of Henrico, Virginia*. County of Henrico, VA, 1976, 26.

<sup>29</sup> Mouer, L. Daniel. In the Realm of "The Rebel": The Archeology of Nathaniel Bacon's Brick House at Curles Plantation. *Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine*. Vol. 12, 1988, 3-21, and Mouer, L. Daniel. *The Mansions of Curles Neck Plantation, ca. 1630-1860*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 21, 1997, 46-77.

<sup>30</sup> O'Dell, Jeffrey Marshall. *Inventory of Early Architecture and Historic Sites: County of Henrico, Virginia*. County of Henrico, VA, 1976, 48.

<sup>31</sup> Mouer, L. Daniel. *The Mansions of Curles Neck Plantation, ca. 1630-1860*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 21, 1997, 72. Richard Kerrill and John Carrill were listed in the Second Charter of the Virginia Company of London.

<sup>32</sup> Weaver, John W. *A History of Curles Neck and the Currill Family*. Chesterfield, VA: Timely Tatter Newsletter, vol. 3. July 2, 1993, 5.

<sup>33</sup> American Constellation. July 6, 1838, page 3, column 3. Film 234, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>34</sup> McGehee, Overton. *Curles Neck: Entire gamut of history*. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, May 13, 1985, Sec. B, 1-2.

<sup>35</sup> Mouer, L. Daniel. In the Realm of "The Rebel": The Archeology of Nathaniel Bacon's Brick House at Curles Plantation. *Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine*. Vol. 12, 1988, 3-21, and Mouer, L. Daniel. *The Mansions of Curles Neck Plantation, ca. 1630-1860*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 21, 1997, 46-77.

<sup>36</sup> Many of the artifacts were discovered in close proximity to the building sites, located near the river, south of the existing mansion. Other artifacts were discovered in various fields. An in-depth review of the field notes could determine if some of the artifacts were found on the 11-2acre parcel.

<sup>37</sup> McGehee, Overton. *Curles Neck: Entire gamut of history*. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, May 13, 1985, Sec. B, 1-2, and Courtney Morano from Virginia Press Services News Clipping Bureau, The Village Mill, August 14, 1995.

<sup>38</sup> Mouer, L. Daniel. In the Realm of "The Rebel": The Archeology of Nathaniel Bacon's Brick House at Curles Plantation. *Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine*. Vol. 12, 1988, 3-21.

<sup>39</sup> Curles Neck Farm was called Curles Neck Plantation before the Civil War.

<sup>40</sup> Mouer, L. Daniel. *The Mansions of Curles Neck Plantation, ca. 1630-1860*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 21, 1997, 46-77.

<sup>41</sup> *Discovering Archeology*, "The Curles Neck Project". <http://www.avalar.net/archaeology.html>

<sup>42</sup> Letter dated Jan 15, 2008, to Richard Randolph from Kristen Kirchen. In the archives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

<sup>43</sup> "Curles Neck, Archeology Site Report." prepared by Jeffrey O'Dell, 1976. On file in the archives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

<sup>44</sup> 1828-1875

<sup>45</sup> Allen, William. List of Property, 31 December 1850. Accession 19978. Personal papers collection. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>46</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 19.

<sup>47</sup> Suderow, Bryce. *Wednesday, July 27, 1864 The Battle of Strawberry Plains, VA Part II*. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 21, 1997, 1-21.

<sup>48</sup> **Error! Main Document Only.** Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Westchester County, including Morrisania, Kings Bridge and West Farms, which have been annexed to New York City.

Philadelphia, 1886. Reprinted 1993, 817-819. Charles H. Senff was the grandson of William F. Havemeyer, a former mayor of New York City and heir to the sugar refinery company Havemeyer & Elder. In the 19th century, Havemeyer & Elder controlled most of the international sugar market, evolving into the American Sugar Refining Company. Charles Senff was the son of Susannah Havemeyer, daughter of William F. Havemeyer, and Dr. Henry Senff.

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<sup>49</sup> The complex of buildings occupied by the sugar refinery survive today at 292-314 Kent Avenue in Brooklyn. Of various factories that once lined the East River, the former Havemeyers & Elder Refinery is the largest and most significant structure to survive. The former refinery was designated a landmark on June 26, 2007, by the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission. [www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/reports/domino.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/reports/domino.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> Gustavia Tapscott Senff was the daughter of Benjamin Tapscott and Charlotte Wallace Tappscott of Richmond. "Charles H. Senff of New York City to Miss Gustavia Tapscott of Richmond, Va., on Tuesday, March 23." *The Flushing Journal*, Queens County, NY, Apr. 3, 1880, 1:3

<sup>51</sup> *The New York Times*, Aug 24, 1911.

<sup>52</sup> *The New York Times*, Oct 22, 1912. Senff also owned works by Delacroix, Ziem, Chavannes, Millet, Velaquez, Van Der Meer, Rousseau, Farner, Holbein, and Rembrandt.

<sup>53</sup> *The New York Times*, Oct 22, 1912.

<sup>54</sup> *The New York Times*. <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free>. June 7, 1908; December 8, 1907; August 24, 1911; January 28, 1912; February 20, 1913; April 14, 1915; November 7, 1915; March 19, 1922; February 20, 1913; March 24, 1918; November 16, 1927.

<sup>55</sup> *The New York Times*, Feb 20, 1913.

<sup>56</sup> *The New York Times*, April 14, 1915

<sup>57</sup> *The New York Times*, March 24, 1918.

<sup>58</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 4.

<sup>59</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 5.

<sup>60</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 7.

<sup>61</sup> *The New York Times*, Aug 24, 1911.

<sup>62</sup> Curles Neck, untitled report, ca. 1950, in the archives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

<sup>63</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 31.

<sup>64</sup> Curles Neck, untitled report, ca. 1950, in the archives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

<sup>65</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 10.

<sup>66</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 26.

<sup>67</sup> *Curl's Neck Farm on the James River, Virginia*. New York: The Country Life Press, 1913, 27.

<sup>68</sup> *The New York Times*, Feb. 20, 1913.

<sup>69</sup> *The New York Times*, Oct 22, 1912.

<sup>70</sup> *The New York Times*, Jan 28, 1912.

<sup>71</sup> *The New York Times*, March 19, 1922.

<sup>72</sup> "Curls Neck." *Atlanta Semi-Weekly Journal*, Atlanta, Ga. November 21, 1913.

<http://files.usgwarchives.org/va/henrico/newspapers/curlsnec110gnw.txt>

<sup>73</sup> Hervey, John Lewis. "C.K.G. Billings: 1861-1937, In Memoriam." *Harness Horse*, May 12, 1937.

<http://www.mi-harness.net/publct/hh/billings.html>

<sup>74</sup> Hervey, John Lewis. "C.K.G. Billings: 1861-1937, In Memoriam." *Harness Horse*, May 12, 1937.

<http://www.mi-harness.net/publct/hh/billings.html>

<sup>75</sup> Hervey, John Lewis. "C.K.G. Billings: 1861-1937, In Memoriam." *Harness Horse*, May 12, 1937.

<http://www.mi-harness.net/publct/hh/billings.html>

<sup>76</sup> Hervey, John Lewis. "From Russia With Love." *Harness Horse*, Sept. 15, 1937. Reprinted. [www.barntowire.com/smf/index.php?topic=24440.0;wap2](http://www.barntowire.com/smf/index.php?topic=24440.0;wap2)

<sup>77</sup> *The New York Times*, June 7, 1908.

<sup>78</sup> "Travel Review of Malardrottningen Hotel." *Travel Expert: Frommer's*.

<http://vacation.away.com/hotels/travel-ld-cid5122-stockholm-hotelid6648-malardrottningen-hotel-hotel.html>

<sup>79</sup> The numbers 1:58 and 2:01 indicate the world record speeds held by Uhlan and Harvester, respectively. Gray, Christopher. "Monumental Remnant from a 1900's Estate". *New York Times*, Dec. 22, 1996.

<http://www.nytimes.com/1996/12/22/realestate/monumental-remnant-from-a-1900-s-estate.html?pagewanted=1>

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Tryon Hall was destroyed by fire in 1925. The Cloisters, a division of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is located in the park.

<sup>80</sup> O'Dell, Jeffrey Marshall. *Inventory of Early Architecture and Historic Sites: County of Henrico, Virginia*. County of Henrico, VA, 1976, 48.

<sup>81</sup> Tunis, Allyn B., ed. *Press Reference Book of Prominent Virginians*. Richmond, VA: Virginia Newspaper Writer's Association, 1916, 85.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/pressreferencebo00tuni#page/85/mode/lup>

<sup>82</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 16-32.

<sup>83</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 16-32.

<sup>84</sup> *Sporting Life*, vol. 68, no. 22, January 27, 1917, 15.

<sup>85</sup> *The Virginia magazine of history and biography*, Volume 26. Richmond, VA: Virginia Historical Society, Dec 31, 1918.

<sup>86</sup> Hervey, John Lewis. "From Russia With Love." *Harness Horse*, Sept. 15, 1937. Reprinted. [www.barntowire.com/smf/index.php?topic=24440.0](http://www.barntowire.com/smf/index.php?topic=24440.0)

<sup>87</sup> Albert Billings Ruddock is identified in one contemporary article as an "in-law" of C.K.G. Billings. "Curles Neck-Modern Plantation". *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Nov. 7, 1937

<sup>88</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 16-32.

<sup>89</sup> The Plat, reproduced in O'Dell, Jeffrey Marshall. *Inventory of Early Architecture and Historic Sites: County of Henrico, Virginia*. County of Henrico, VA, 1976, is likely from Dispersal of Curles Neck Farm in Virginia, property of C.K.G. Billings, at Madison Square Garden, New York, Wednesday, June 6, 1917. Library of Virginia, Call no. SF339.F24. This book is currently missing from the Library.

<sup>90</sup> "Curles Neck-Modern Plantation". *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Nov. 7, 1937.

<sup>91</sup> "Curles Neck-Modern Plantation". *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Nov. 7, 1937.

<sup>92</sup> Huntley, Elizabeth Valentine. *Peninsula Pilgrimage*. Princeton, NJ: The Pine Press, 1941.

<sup>93</sup> "Old farm rife with wildlife a tough sell." *The Washington Times*, Dec. 17, 2004, and "Know Your Commissioners: Richard E. Watkins", article by F.N. Satterlee, Dec, 1975.

<sup>94</sup> "Know Your Commissioners: Richard E. Watkins", article by F.N. Satterlee, Dec, 1975.

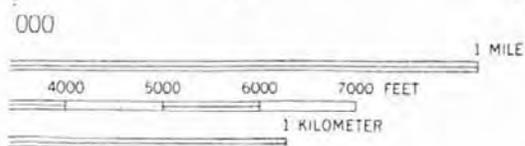
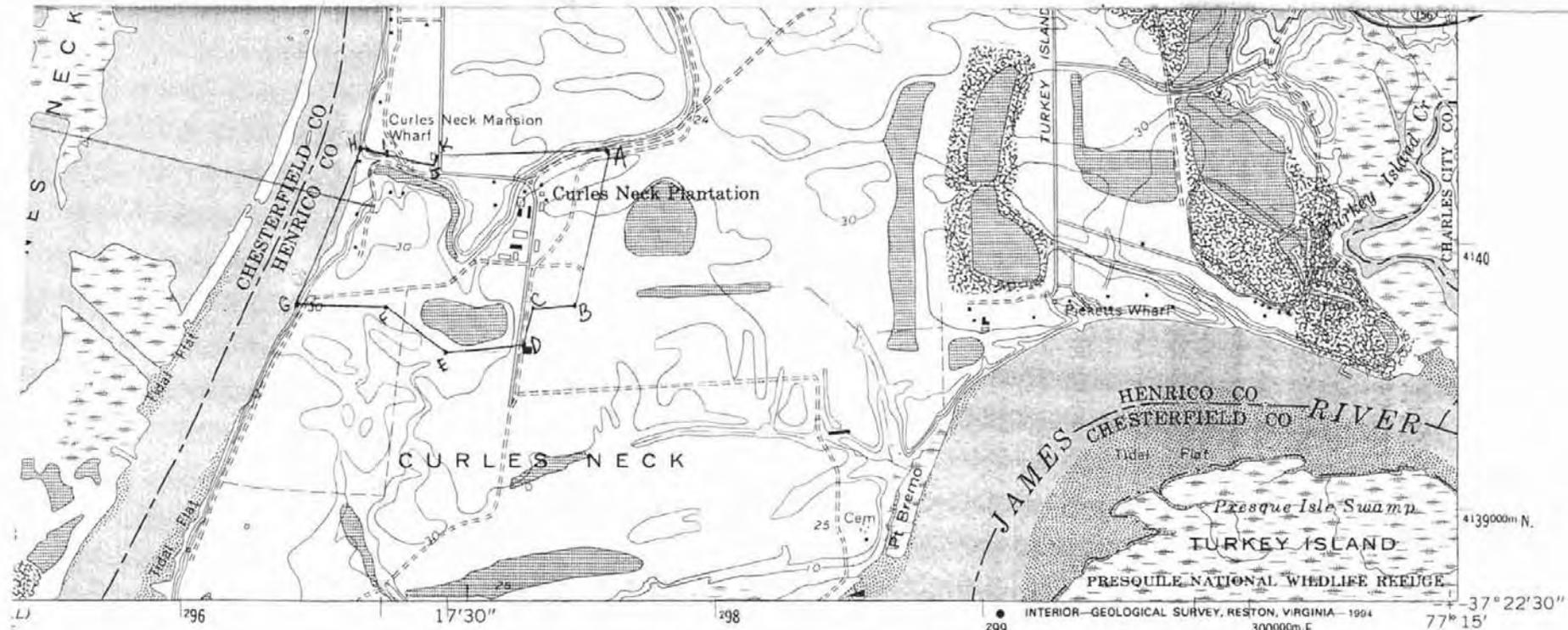
<sup>95</sup> "Curles Neck Plantation: A Proud Heritage since 1617". Compiled by Henry Lee Nelson. Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Magazine. Vol. 8, Fall, 1984, 28.

<sup>96</sup> <http://www.dairybarrestaurant.com/History.htm>

<sup>97</sup> "History for Sale: Curles Neck Farm.". Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Newsletter. Vol. 30, no.1, February, 2005, 4-6.

<sup>98</sup> "History for Sale: Curles Neck Farm.". Richmond, VA: Henrico County Historical Society Newsletter. Vol. 30, no.1, February, 2005, 4-6.

<sup>99</sup> "Farm purchasers identified." Rex Springsteen. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, March 22, 2006.



AL 10 FEET  
CAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
○ Interstate Route	○ U. S. Route
	○ State Route

(WESTOVER)  
5558 / SW

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1989 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1994

Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours

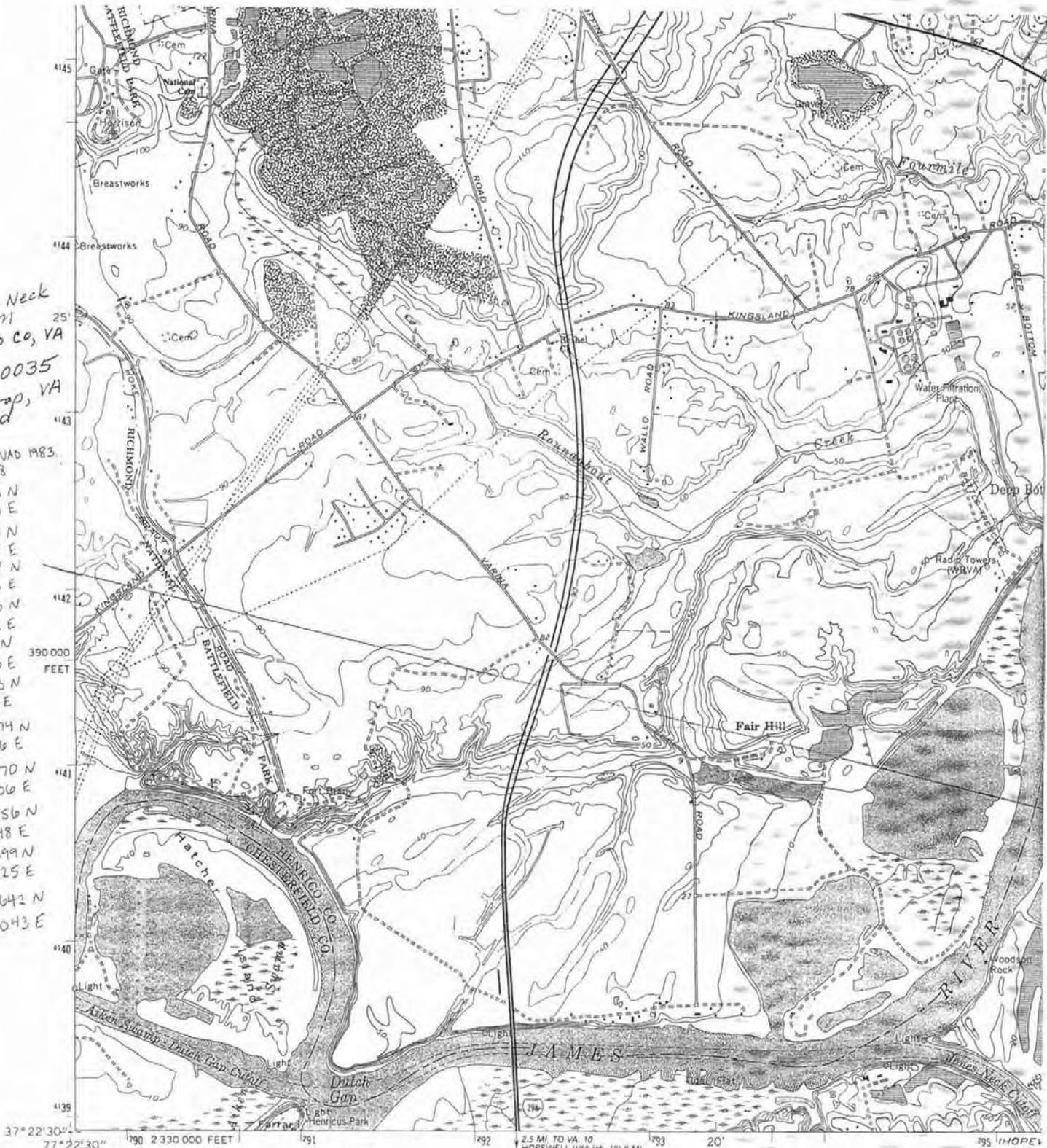
DUTCH GAP, VA.  
37077-D3-TF-024

1969  
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AL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
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ND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

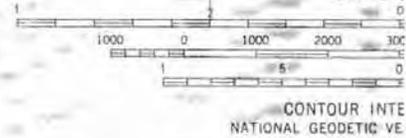
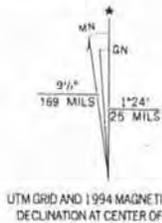
Curles Neck Farm  
Henrico Co, VA  
#043-0035  
Dutch Gap, VA  
Quad

- Datum NAD 1983  
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  - B. 414067 N  
297535 E
  - C. 414008 N  
297386 E
  - D. 413989 N  
297302 E
  - E. 413992 N  
297043 E
  - F. 4140073 N  
296815 E
  - G. 4140074 N  
296496 E
  - H. 4140670 N  
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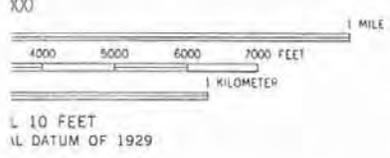
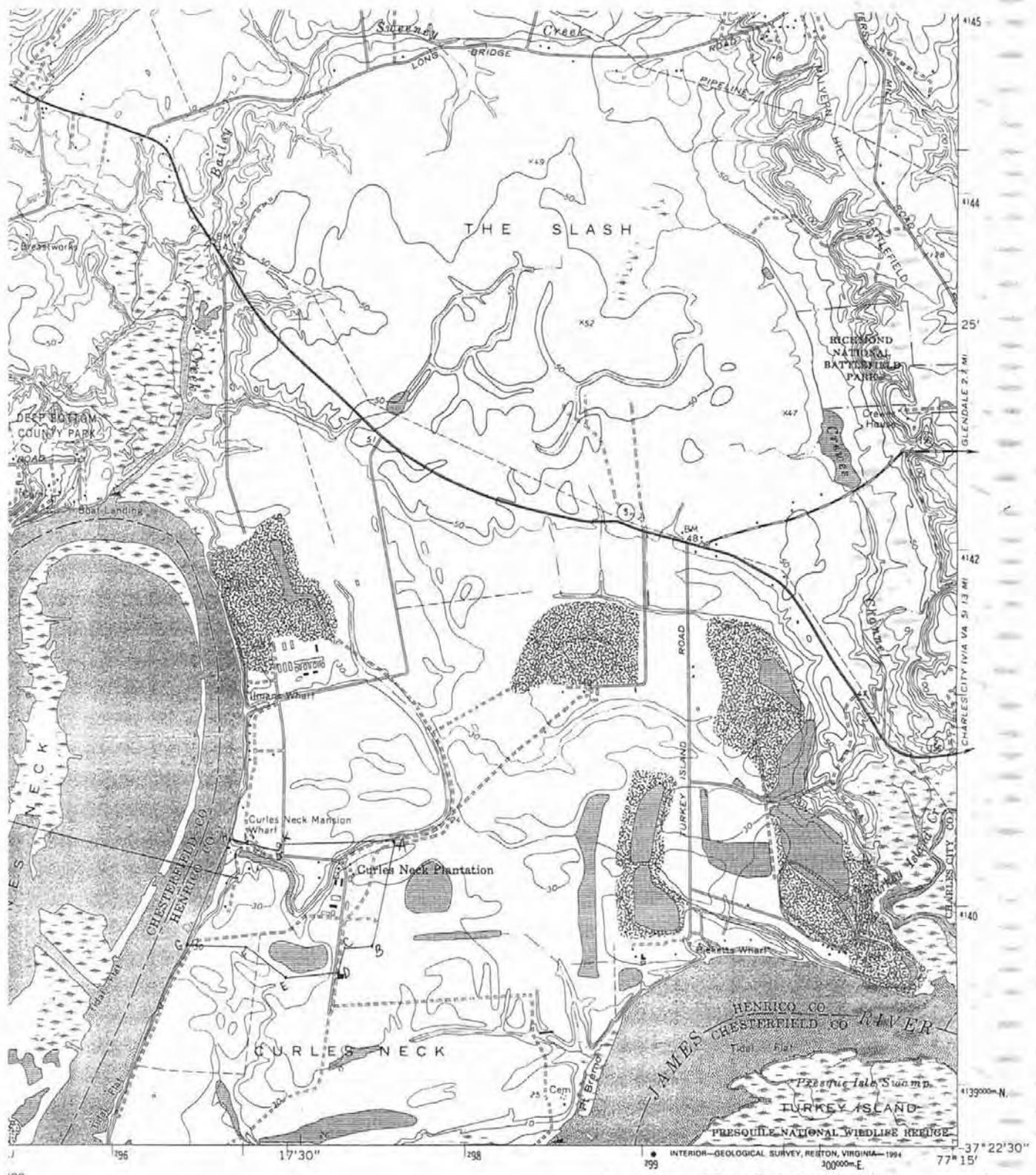


CHESTERTON  
2558 17 SW

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by planetable surveys 1938, Revised from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Virginia coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks  
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER  
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS



**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
○ Interstate Route	□ U. S. Route
	○ State Route

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1989 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1994

Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
 SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**DUTCH GAP, VA.**  
 37077-03-TF-024  
 1969  
 REVISED 1994  
 DMA 5558 IV NE - SERIES V834

(WESTOVER)  
 2558 / SW