

Listed On:  
VLR 04/19/1983  
NRHP 07/28/1983

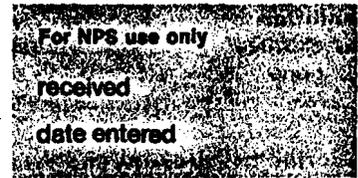
046-0094

NPS Form 10-800  
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018  
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic BASSES CHOICE/DAYS POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT (VHLC 46-94)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number [REDACTED]  not for publication

city, town Rushmere  vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Isle of Wight code 93

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Robert W. Waddell

street & number 1100 First Colonial Road

city, town Virginia Beach N/A vicinity of state Virginia 23454

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Isle of Wight County Courthouse

street & number U.S. Route 258

city, town Isle of Wight state Virginia 23397

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
title Inventory Forms 44IW11, 13, 14, 17, has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
35, 36, 39, 40, 42-49, 63, 64, 71, 78  
date 1977-1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records P.O. Box 368

city, town Yorktown state Virginia 23690

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Basses Choice/Days Point Archaeological District [REDACTED] a choice spot for both aboriginal and European settlement. Fringed by a wooded border [REDACTED] the property consists primarily of flat, open fields which are currently in cultivation. A sheer thirty foot cliff runs along the James River frontage, while marsh covers the lowland between the tract [REDACTED]. Except for an occasional modern farm building, the property is undeveloped, despite its proximity to the town of Smithfield. The Basses Choice/Days Point area was surveyed on three occasions by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission's Research Center for Archaeology in January 1977, Spring 1979, and March 1981. The acreage nominated contains twenty-eight known archaeological sites, six of which have solely prehistoric components (44IW11, 35, 63, 64, 71, and 78) (Figure 1, Photo 1). Fourteen other sites have prehistoric components in association with historic components (44IW13, 14, 17, 36, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49).

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

All of the prehistoric sites identified within the Basses Choice/Days Point Archaeological District are situated in cultivated fields or open areas, with the exception of two, 44IW11 and 71, which are located in wooded areas. Datable artifacts indicate prehistoric occupation at this location from ca. 4000 BC to ca. AD 1600. Site types range from small, temporary Archaic and Woodland camps to larger, more sedentary Woodland communities represented by extensive shell midden deposits.

[REDACTED]

occupation habitat during the Archaic and Woodland periods, manifested in the large number of identified prehistoric sites. Upland and marsh areas contained a wide variety of exploitable plants and animals. Riverine resources included fish and shellfish, whereas upland soils were suitable for prehistoric agriculture.

To supplement surface collections from the twenty identified sites with prehistoric components, limited test excavations were conducted at 44IW63 and 71, both of which are shell middens. Test excavations demonstrate that both date principally to the Middle Woodland Period (ca. 500 BC to AD 900) and that they are characterized by good preservation.

44IW63 measures ca. 150 m. x 75 m. (492' x 246'). Most of the site lies in a cultivated field, with portions in adjacent woods. One 1 m. x 2 m. test pit identified subsurface cultural deposits extending to a depth of ca. 45 centimeters below grade (Photo 2). Based on ceramics recovered in Levels 1A-1C (0-36 centimeters), 44IW63 dates principally to the Middle Woodland Period. Besides ceramics, lithic and bone artifacts as well as fire cracked rock were encountered. Identified subsistence remains include

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 4000 BC - 19th century Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Basses Choice/Days Point Archaeological District, which includes twenty-eight archaeological sites, reflects a nearly continuous span of human occupation ranging from ca. 4000 BC through the 19th century. Prehistoric archaeological resources have been identified at twenty sites within the property nominated. Dating from ca. 4000 BC to ca. AD 1600, site types range from small, temporary Archaic and Woodland camps to larger, more sedentary Woodland communities represented by extensive shell midden deposits, a significant sample for archaeological studies on changing socio-cultural adaptations in the James River area. Of particular significance is information on the development of semi-sedentary communities and related adaptations occurring in the area by the Middle Woodland Period.

Historic period occupation includes portions of three Virginia Company settlements: Basses Choice, Giles Jones's plantation and the easternmost part of Bennetts Welcome, all of which were occupied during the first quarter of the 17th century and which were in an area severely affected by the 1622 massacre. During the 17th and early 18th centuries, Basses Choice, the southern portion of the acreage nominated, was the manor plantation of the Taborers, a prominent Isle of Wight County Quaker family. [redacted] part of Bennetts Welcome and the Giles Jones plantation, was possessed during the late 17th century by a Bennett grandson, James Day. Archaeological research on the historic sites in the Basses Choice/Days Point Archaeological District would illuminate the social and economic characteristics of a little-studied, distinct cultural region of colonial Virginia.

### PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

During the transition between the Archaic and Woodland Periods, increasing population growth in coastal Virginia was associated with increased utilization of shellfish, the development of agricultural systems, and increased sedentism. These significant changes, established by the Middle Woodland Period, were directly related to subsequent adaptations and changes in socio-cultural organization which, by the Late Woodland Period, resulted in the development of chiefdoms/rank societies in the region.

The primary significance of the prehistoric archaeological resources within the nominated property is their potential to serve as an archaeological data base for investigations on the changing socio-cultural adaptations previously noted. Within a limited area, there are twenty known archaeological sites with prehistoric components covering at least ca. 5500 years of occupation.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #7)

Boddie, John B. Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County Virginia. Chicago: Chicago Law Printing Co., 1938.  
 Hening, W.W., ed. The Statutes At Large. Richmond, 1881.  
 Hinshaw, W.W., ed. Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, VI. Ann Arbor: Edward Brothers, 1950.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approx. 426 acres

Quadrangle name Mulberry Island, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date April 1983

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell  
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date APR 19 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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BASSES CHOICE/DAYS POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT,

Continuation sheet #1 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION--Archaeological Analysis

oyster and periwinkle shells, turtle shell fragments, and deer, raccoon, bird, and various unidentified bone fragments. The presence of preserved floral remains was documented at 44IW63 through the recovery of a charred walnut shell fragment. Levels 1D and 1E (35-45 centimeters) were characterized by the total absence of ceramics, indicating a possible earlier Archaic Period occupation. Two small, shallow shell filled features were noted. In addition to lithic artifacts and fire cracked rock, various faunal remains were recovered, including oyster and periwinkle shells, turtle shell fragments and deer and other identified bone fragments.

44IW71 is located totally within a wooded area and measures ca. 30 m. x 60 m. One 1 m. x 1 m. test pit noted cultural deposits extending to ca. 25 cm. below surface. Based on recovered ceramics, the site dates principally to the Middle Woodland Period. Besides ceramics, lithic artifacts and fire cracked rock were recovered. Identified faunal remains include oyster shells, turtle shell fragments, and unidentified bone fragments. While no features were identified, their presence is likely due to the good state of preservation at this site.

The earliest identified historic period occupation in the Basses Choice/Days Point Archaeological District is represented by sites 44IW13, 36 and 39, which date to the first half of the 17th century. 44IW13 consists of a heavy shell scatter containing an abundance of artifacts including sherds of Merida and North Devon coarsewares, an Iberian olive jar, a Netherlandish delftware plate or charger, and a Bellarmine medallion. The density of the surface scatter of artifacts, along with its size--approximately 195' x 75' (59.5 m. x 22.9 m.)--indicate that 44IW13 was the most intensely occupied area on the property during the early 17th century.

Both 44IW36 and 39 were smaller, measuring approximately 50 feet (15.2 meters) in diameter and characterized by light to moderate shell scatters. Each contained artifacts dating to ca. 1625-1650: 8/64 and 9/64 inch bore diameter English pipestem fragments, sherds of Surry and East Anglia coarsewares, Italian slipwares and case bottle glass.

One site, 44IW40, dated to the second half of the 17th century. Approximately 75 feet (22.9 meters) in diameter with a moderate scatter of brickbits and bog iron, the presence of wine bottle glass dates the site to post 1650. Other finds included case bottle glass, Rhenish brown stoneware, Midlands purpleware, and Staffordshire coarseware.

Major occupation in the 18th century took place at three locations, 44IW14, 42, and 51. 44IW42 measured about 200' x 160' (61 m. x 48.8 m.) and consisted of an intense shell scatter with brick fragments and a heavy concentration of artifacts dating from ca. 1700 to 1800. A surface collection recovered sherds of Nottingham stoneware, white saltglazed stoneware, creamware, Pennsylvania and local coarsewares, Rhenish stonewares, and shell-edge, and transfer-printed pearlwares. The site is likely to have been occupied by the manor house of Major Thomas Taborer and his descendants, who were Quakers.

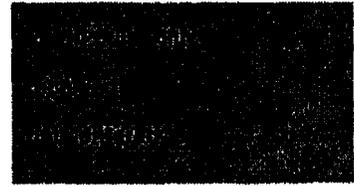
(See Continuation Sheet 1A)

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BASSES CHOICE/DAYS POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT,

Continuation sheet #1A ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA Item number 7



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## 7. DESCRIPTION--Archaeological Analysis

44IW14 is a backfilled basement located [REDACTED] along the James River (Photo 3). It has suffered severe damage due to erosion. Salvage excavation on this basement revealed that the structure was divided into two rooms, one of which had a cobble-lined floor (Photo 4). Pearlwares in the backfill indicate that the structure was abandoned post 1780. A large, heavy artifact and shell scatter, measuring approximately 300' x 135' (91.5 m. x 41.2 m.) is located immediately south of the surviving foundation and is believed to be associated with the building. It suggests the presence of pits, outbuildings, or an area which may have been used for refuse disposal.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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BASSES CHOICE/DAYS POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT, ISLE OF

Continuation sheet #2 WIGHT COUNTY, VA Item number 7, 8

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7. DESCRIPTION--Archaeological Analysis

44IW51 was manifested by an intense shell and artifact scatter, covering an area 125 feet (38.1 meters) in diameter. Burslem and Rhenish stonewares suggest an 18th-century occupation date, while pearlwares infer post 1780 destruction. A building is depicted in that vicinity on maps dating to the period 1864-1873.

Several other smaller, less heavily and more briefly occupied 18th-century sites are situated on the property. These include 44IW16, 17, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51, which have been dated artifactually to the period 1750-1820. According to an 1818 map, 44IW50 was then the residence of a Mr. Wilson (Figure 2). An 1873 hydrographic map depicts structures as being present at 44IW16, 31, 40, 41, 42, and 51 (Figure 3).

One major site found on the property, 44IW41, dates exclusively to the 19th century. It consists of a heavy shell and artifact scatter containing many sherds of whiteware and fragments of purple glass, a structure, which is depicted on an 1864 Gilmer map, at which time the property was in the possession of the Blackwell family (Figures 4, 5).

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Prehistoric Background & Historical Background

Critical to an understanding of increased population growth and sedentism in conjunction with changing socio-cultural organization are well preserved data on changing adaptations in subsistence exploitation of the local environment. 44IW63 and 71, which were subjected to limited test excavations, were found to be in a good state of preservation. The documented presence of well-preserved subsistence remains and related artifacts dating principally to the Middle Woodland Period makes both of these sites particularly significant. Moreover, at 44IW63 there are documented earlier levels with not only well-preserved subsistence remains and related artifacts, but also intact cultural features. Analysis of faunal material recovered also indicates that the site contains evidence on variations in resource exploitation over time. Data from these and neighboring prehistoric sites within the nominated boundaries thus have high potential for significantly aiding the understanding of changing subsistence patterns related to increased population growth and sedentism as well as associated changes in socio-cultural organization in the lower James River area during the Archaic and Woodland Periods.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Early in 1619 a group of English settlers, including Captain Christopher Lawne and Lt. Nathaniel Basse, resolved to plant in Virginia on the south side of the lower James River in the vicinity of Warresqueake (Burwell) Bay. Lawne arrived at Jamestown aboard the Marygold in April 1619 bringing with him one hundred settlers. He proceeded to a location at the western periphery of Warresqueake Bay, near a creek which became known as Lawnes Creek, and settled there. Lawnes Creek Plantation, however, experienced great sickness and mortality, and Lawne quit his land and departed for Charles City, where he died in November 1619.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

In November 1620 the fellow adventurers of the deceased Captain Lawne obtained a confirmation of their old patent, at which time their land was designated Isle of Wight Plantation. Along with Christopher Lawne's heirs, they were allowed until the summer of 1625 to replenish the quota of men they had agreed to settle in Virginia.

By November 1621, however, Edward Bennett, a London merchant, had obtained a patent which allowed him to establish a settlement beyond the bounds of Christopher Lawne's plantation, near the midpoint of Warresqueake Bay's shoreline. At the time Bennett acquired his patent, he agreed to bring one hundred people to his plantation, where settlement was already in progress. That same month Nathaniel Basse and a new group of investors gained official permission to establish a particular plantation, in exchange for transporting one hundred persons to Virginia. Basse's settlement, too, was already underway at the easternmost edge of Warresqueake Bay, for on 30 January 1622 Basse's patent was approved in the right of its being already planted. Neither the Basse nor Bennett patent infringed upon the prior claim of Christopher Lawne's associates, or on that of Giles Jones, an "ancient" planter who was granted land in Warresqueake near the mouth of the Pagan River.

On 22 March 1622, settlers on Warresqueake Bay suffered heavy depredations in the famous Indian massacre of that year. John Smith wrote that the Indians "fired Lt. Basse his house, with all the rest thereabout, slain the people and so left that plantation."<sup>1</sup> Edward Waterhouse's tabulation of massacre victims in the Warresqueake Bay area, which appears in Virginia Company records, lists a total of fifty-four persons killed "At Edward Bennett's Plantation," perhaps including those slain at Basses Choice along with Bennett's people. In contrast, John Smith records fifty victims at the Bennett plantation and seven more "At Another Place," perhaps a reference to Basses Choice.

After the Indian massacre, Warresqueake was evacuated and its inhabitants and their belongings brought up to Jamestown by Captain Ralph Hamor, under whose command the settlers were placed. Warresqueake was not resettled until after October 1622 subsequent to an expedition against the Warresqueake and Nansemond Indians.

By June 1623 conditions in Warresqueake were apparently much improved, for Robert Bennett of Edward Bennett's plantation, which he called Bennetts Welcome, wrote optimistically of the future to his brother Edward, still in England. He described the men of their plantation as being in good health despite a shortage of food and reported that he anticipated good crops of corn and tobacco. He also stated that a fort was then under construction.

The 1625 muster reveals that the residents of Basses Choice were then living in small households of one to four persons. Three nuclear families were in residence as independent households, suggesting that the area was assuming a more permanent character. The settlement was relatively well-housed and provisioned, together possessing a total of 7 houses, 176 bushels of corn and 900 pounds of fish. For defense, they had 20 guns, 4 pistols, 1 large carbine, 1 small cannon, 300 pounds of lead, 27 pounds of powder, 12 swords, 11 coats of mail and 11 corselets. Captain Nathaniel Basse, age thirty-five,

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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BASSES CHOICE/DAYS POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT,

Continuation sheet #4 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA Item number 8

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

was credited with two houses and his muster record reveals that his household was the most heavily fortified at Basses Choice, for he possessed a carbine and cannon, 2 pistols, 7 guns, 12 pounds of powder and all of the settlement's 300-pound supply of lead, plus half of its armor and swords.

In May 1625 when a list of patented land was sent back to England, ten men claimed land in Warresqueake, which was described as extending from Hog Island thirteen miles eastward down the James. Nathaniel Basse's three hundred acres and the one hundred fifty acres of Giles Jones were the only tracts listed as planted, despite the well-documented existence of Edward Bennett's plantation. Although the omission of the plantation from the list may have been due to the death of Bennett and the fact that his estate was then being settled, it is more likely that the Bennett land claim represented by the name of John Pollentine (Pollington), to whom is attributed six hundred acres. Pollentine and his family in the February 1624 census were listed among the people of Bennetts Welcome, and he represented the Warresqueake area in the 1624 Assembly. The Pollentines may have been deceased by 1625, for they are not included in the muster of the colony's inhabitants nor do their names afterwards appear in any other official records. That the Pollentine family once resided in the vicinity is also suggested by the fact that the promontory later known as Days Point was called Pollentines Point during the last half of the 17th century, when the area formed part of the estate of Edward Bennett, deceased.

Nathaniel Basse's influence in the affairs of the colony throughout the 1620s and early 1630s is manifested in the records of the House of Burgesses and those of the Council and General Court. In 1623-24 he represented Basses Choice in the Assembly and served as a member of the Convention of 1625. He made recommendations to the Privy Council in 1624 on fortifications necessary against a foreign enemy and was one of the Burgesses who advocated the construction of a palisade between Martins Hundred and Kiskiake.

In January 1625 Basse personally came to the aid of negligent sentinels at the Warresqueake fort when it came under Indian attack. He was later commissioned to ransom English prisoners from the Nansemond Indians. In 1626 he and three other men were commissioned to try causes in Warresqueake with the exception of capital offenses, and in 1632 he was designated "one of the quorum" to hold monthly meetings. In March 1629 he was appointed commander of Warresqueake and the men in that area, and was charged with clearing the woods between Hog Island and the Nansemond River to prevent Indians from coming near the settlements in that area. Basse held an interest in land beyond the confines of Basses Choice, for in the right of a debt due him he was allowed to farm acreage in Bermuda Hundred. In October 1629 he was among the adventurers who sent men to plant at Kiskiake on the York River and was appointed to the Governor's Council in 1630.

Basse died sometime after 1632, but his plantation, Basses Choice, continued to be a local landmark. In 1639-40 when tobacco viewers were appointed for specific districts along the James River, district three consisted of the area between "the Alps" or rocks

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

at the mid-point of Warresqueake Bay, [REDACTED], a reference which not only documents the settlers' recognition of the area's earlier aboriginal occupation but also reflects their preference for occupying land cleared by the Indians.

In 1640 Peter Knight, a merchant, was granted one hundred fifty acres known as Basses Choice. When he repatented it in 1643, Basses Choice was described as a 255-acre [REDACTED].

Patent research reveals that Hull in 1639, acquired one hundred acres of the one hundred fifty-acre tract which had formerly belonged to Giles Jones, an ancient planter whose acreage was listed as planted by May 1625. Hull's deed, which recounts a series of property transactions which occurred between Jones's December 1619 acquisition of the property and its sale twenty years later, also states that the one hundred acres did not include "the late mansion house" of Jones, which lay to the north upon the river shore. The mansion site has subsequently been greatly eroded by the James River.

The record of contemporaneous land transactions indicate that Hull's property was located to [REDACTED] of the Basses Choice acreage acquired by Peter Knight and further suggests that at least part of Basses Choice had been owned successively by Hugh Williams and William Dawson prior to 1635, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] Giles Jones's one hundred fifty-acre patent lay directly upon the James River, just west of the mouth of the Pagan River; Edward Bennett's plantation extended eastward behind it, to Days Point. That the three hundred acres which originally comprised Basses Choice lay [REDACTED] inland, [REDACTED], and not upon the James is also supported by the locational information contained in the 1628 patent of Martha Key, [REDACTED].

Maps of the 1670s including those of Francis Lamb and Augustine Herrman, indicate that small settlements dotted the shoreline along the lower James River, encompassing Warresqueake Bay and both sides of the mouth of the Pagan River, a settlement pattern further demonstrated by John Thornton's 1725 "New Map of Virginia" (Figure 2). Archaeological sites found [REDACTED] nominated indicate that at least three portions of the Basses Choice/Days Point tract were occupied between the second and fourth quarter of the 17th century.

Peter Knight's Basses Choice acreage was subsequently sold to John Bland, a London merchant. After the latter's death, his son and attorney, Giles Bland, conveyed Knight's acreage to Major William Taborer in 1675. The land boundaries given in Taborer's patent reveal that he was acquiring land along Hutchinsons (Williams) Creek, including its marshes, acreage which extended in a northeasterly direction, to the land of James Day near Days Point, and northwest as far as the land of John Munger, who had acquired the property of Peter Hull, formerly Giles Jones's. The easternmost portion of Taborer's tract constitutes the southern portion of the acreage nominated.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

Major Thomas Taborer lived at Basses Choice until his death in 1694. A member of the county court from 1659-1680, the House of Burgesses in 1657-58 and 1680, and a major of militia in 1680, Thomas Taborer was married to the widow Margaret Wood, a Quaker. Throughout the fourth quarter of the 17th century, the names of the Taborer daughters who intermarried with some of the colony's most prominent Quaker families such as the Jordans, Copelands, and Newmans, appear in records of the Society of Friends.

Major Thomas Taborer's will, dated 14 January 1693, left his home plantation to his grandson Joseph Copeland, the child of his daughter, Elizabeth. Taborer's will suggests that young Joseph Copeland had been orphaned, for a son-in-law, John Newman, was charged with providing his education, and Newman was to occupy Basses Choice Plantation until Joseph became of age. Thomas Taborer's inventory, which includes numerous items of silver, pewter, and brass, books and fine furnishings, indicates that he was a man of affluence and cultivated tastes.

James Day, who by 1675 possessed the land contiguous to Thomas Taborer on the north, was a grandson of Edward Bennett of Bennetts Welcome. Day occupied his land on Pagan Bay in the right of his mother, Mary Bennett Day Bland Cropley, who, with her sister Sylvester, had inherited fifteen hundred acres extending from Rock Wharf to Pollentine (later Days) Point, exclusive of the acreage of the Giles Jones-Peter Hull tract. The acreage inherited by the Bennett sisters was partitioned legally into two 750-acre tracts by 1663 and Mary and her second husband, Thomas Bland, repatented her landholdings in 1664 in behalf of her heirs. Mary Bland's property comprised the eastern half of the fifteen hundred-acre tract. James Day, a son of Mary by her first marriage, predeceased his mother. After her death, the property reverted to the ownership of the Bland family.

Basses Choice, prior to the death of Joseph Copeland ca. 1726, was sold to Joseph Walker, a York County merchant. Walker's will, prepared in 1723, conveyed Basses Choice to his daughter Judith who married George Banks, also of York County. By 1753 Banks was dead and his widow moved to "Cleve" in King George County. Apparently being in somewhat severe financial straits, Judith Walker Banks divested herself of the property she had inherited from her father and filed suits in York County against her husband's debtors.

By the first quarter of the 19th century, the Wilson family occupied Basses Choice and the eastern portion of the Bennett-Jones tract. An 1818 map entitled "Reconnoitering the Chesapeake Bay" shows Mr. Wilson's house as being located in the vicinity of 44IW50 (Figure 3). The more detailed Gilmer maps, prepared for the Confederate army in 1864 show that the Blackwell family was residing on the property and reveal the presence of other structures at the locations of archaeological site numbers 44IW16, 31, 40, 42, and 51 (Figures 4 and 5). A hydrographic map also depicts these sites, revealing their fence lines and roadways (Figure 6). Today the property is rural in character and undeveloped.

(See Continuation Sheet #7)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

During the early 17th century, Jamestown was nothing more than a small, struggling remote outpost in the New World. The population expansion and dispersal during the period 1617-1625, represented by the Virginia Company Sites, was the initial step paving the way to permanent settlement of Virginia. Records suggest there were only about sixty principal Virginia Company sites; several have been destroyed, the location and condition of few are known, and only three have been scientifically excavated. Clearly, with such a limited body of information on the early settlers of Virginia, each site is significant in its potential to reveal the nature of frontier life in Virginia as well as social and economic differences among the first colonists and their associated material culture and architecture.

Isle of Wight is not well represented in the known archaeological record. It was ~~located~~ outside of the mainstream of culture in Virginia. Southside, and thus Isle of Wight, was a poorer region of Virginia occupied primarily by small planters and shifted from servants to slavery at a later date than most of Tidewater. The gentry class was poorly developed, accordingly the direction normally given to society by this class was absent. The sites within the Basses Choice/Days Point archaeological district should thus illuminate the social and economic ramifications from the 17th through the 19th centuries in this peripheral area of Tidewater.

<sup>1</sup>John Smith, Generall Historie of Virginia in Narratives of Early Virginia, ed. Lyon G. Tyler (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1907), p. 361.

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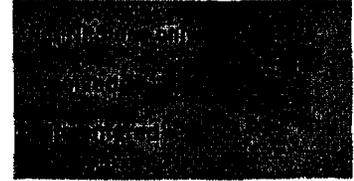
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Continuation sheet #8 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA Item number 10



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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Boundary Justification/Verbal Boundary Description (cont.)

Boundary Justification: The boundaries have been drawn to encompass all twenty-eight archaeological sites which are distributed throughout the 426 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description (cont.)

[REDACTED]