

VLR-7/18/78 NRHP-11/16/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED Nov 16 1978

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
Bewdley
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 3.6 miles SSW of St. Stephens Church; 350' N of Mattaponi River;
1.3 miles SW of southern intersection of State Routes 633 and 634;
700' NW of confluence of Georges Swamp and Mattaponi River.
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN St. Stephens Church VICINITY OF First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY King and Queen CODE 097

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. T. C. Williams Smith MR + MRS JACK SPAIN
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Walkerton VICINITY OF STATE Virginia 23177

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. King & Queen County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN King & Queen Court House STATE Virginia 23177

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

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE 1958 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set in rural King and Queen County on the banks of the Mattaponi River, Bewdley is a large, two-story, L-shaped plantation house built in the third quarter of the 18th century. It is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with random glazing and is further embellished with a beveled water table, a three-course belt course, and rubbed and gauged segmental window heads. The windows are glazed with modern 6/6 sash and have reproduction Federal-type, recessed-panel shutters. An early 19th-century pedimented dwarf portico supported on four Tuscan columns shelters the main entrance. The whole is crowned by a hipped roof embellished with a 20th-century modillion cornice.

The plan of Bewdley consists of a single-pile main block having two rooms separated by a wide central passage, with another passage and a smaller chamber in the ell. This arrangement resembles that of several other large houses built on the Middle Peninsula and the Northern Neck of Virginia from the third quarter of the 18th century through the early 19th century. Partitions in the main block are brick, while those in the ell are framed.

Little 18th-century trim survives in Bewdley, but this is because the original owner was caught in a financial scandal, and the house was apparently left unfinished for half a century after its erection. The largest (east) parlor contains a reproduction Federal mantel and Greek Revival trim on the windows and doors. No other decoration is present here.

The early 19th-century, open-string stair in the main passage is very plain with a square capped newel, round railing, and two rectangular balusters to a tread. It covers a pedestal chair rail, and no evidence of an earlier stair is discernible. Consequently, it seems likely that 18th-century work on the house was halted before a stair was ever installed here.

The dining (southwest) room contains another reproduction mantel, but much early decoration remains. This decoration includes Federal recessed-panel trim and doors and an 18th-century symmetrical chair rail.

In the rear passage is an original closed-string stair with a square newel, slender turned balusters, and a molded rail, all on a very diminutive scale characteristic of other large Tidewater houses of the 1760s and 1770s. Though clearly intended as a secondary stair, it was for many years the only access to the second floor. An early 19th-century, double-beaded chair board and a similar pegboard also survive here.

The north chamber has early 19th-century flush wainscoting with a pedestal cap and features a reproduction mantel. Closets flank the chimney breast; that on the west (left) retains its original shelves.

No early outbuildings survive, though there is a late 19th- or early 20th-century frame barn north of the house.

The register boundaries for Bewdley have been drawn so as to include a sufficiently large portion of the open field north of the house to account for the possible archaeological remains of early plantation farm structures. For the most part, the bounds follow natural tree and water lines.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bewdley is an imposing brick structure set on the banks of the Mattaponi River in King and Queen County. It was erected in the third quarter of the 18th century, probably by the Marriott family. Its formal mass, handsome brickwork, and L-plan make it one of the outstanding late-Colonial plantation houses of Tidewater Virginia. At the same time, its unfinished interior and curious history connect Bewdley with the Speaker John Robinson scandal, one of the most significant political events of the state's pre-Revolutionary history.

The land on which Bewdley stands was perhaps originally patented to the Tunstall family. By the middle of the 18th century, however, it was in the possession of Obadiah Marriott, who probably began to build the present house just before his death ca. 1760. A prominent lawyer and King's Attorney for Essex County, Marriott died before it was revealed after the death of Speaker of the House of Burgesses John Robinson in 1766 that Robinson had made extensive illegal loans from the Colonial treasury to his political cronies and allies, among whom were many of the political Old Guard of pre-Revolutionary Virginia. As an offshoot of a political struggle between these men and a younger group in the legislature, the creation of a loan office which would have concealed Robinson's misdeeds and relieved the embarrassment of his debtors was prevented. Obadiah Marriott was listed in the first compilation of debtors to Robinson's estate, and in 1792 another list noted that the debt was "doubtful of payment". Architectural evidence suggests that this financial blow to the estate caused work on the house to be stopped, a conclusion reinforced by the following notice which appeared in the Virginia Gazette for May 7, 1767:

To be Sold,

The fee and simple estate in a tract of land in King and Queen County, known by the name of Bewdeley There is a new brick house upon it, which may be finished at a small expense, with all necessary out houses and a valuable orchard of the best fruit trees.

The advertisement was signed by Marriott's law partner and by one of his executors.

The King and Queen County records have been destroyed, and it is not possible to know whether the house was actually sold. Indeed, the subsequent history of the ownership of Bewdley is hazy at best. Samuel Garlick, whose wife was a niece of Marriott's widow, was living at Bewdley by 1779. Though Garlick's personal property tax assessments indicate that he held substantial numbers of slaves, livestock, and vehicles, he apparently never bothered to finish the house.

After Garlick's death ca. 1807, the 454-acre tract passed to his administrator and son-in-law, Wiley Roy, and then to Roy's wife Mary. In 1826 John Mason, Roy's son-in-law,

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Chalkley, Lyman. Abstracts from Original Court Records of Augusta County, Va., 1745-1800. Baltimore, 1965.
- Colles, Christopher. A Survey of the Roads of the U.S.A. 1789. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1961.
- Cox, Virginia D. and Willie T. Weathers. Old Houses of King and Queen County, Virginia. Richmond: King and Queen Historical Society, 1973.
- Essex County Order Books 1733-1767. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 52 acres E - 18 - 317770 - 4180500
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	31,81,6,0	4,18,05,4,0	B	1,8	31,82,7,0	4,17,99,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	31,79,5,0	4,17,99,2,0	D	1,8	31,78,2,0	4,18,01,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on N bank of Mattaponi River, 1100' W of confluence of Georges Swamp and said river; thence extending approximately 500' NNW to tree line; then following tree line 400' NW; thence extending approximately 1000' N; thence extending approximately 1250' E to W side of Georges Swamp; thence following along W side of said swamp (creek) to confluence with river; thence extending W along N bank of said river to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804)786-3143

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

Tucker Hill, Executive Director

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUL 18 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Bewdley, King and Queen County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7 & 9 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1968, 1977 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

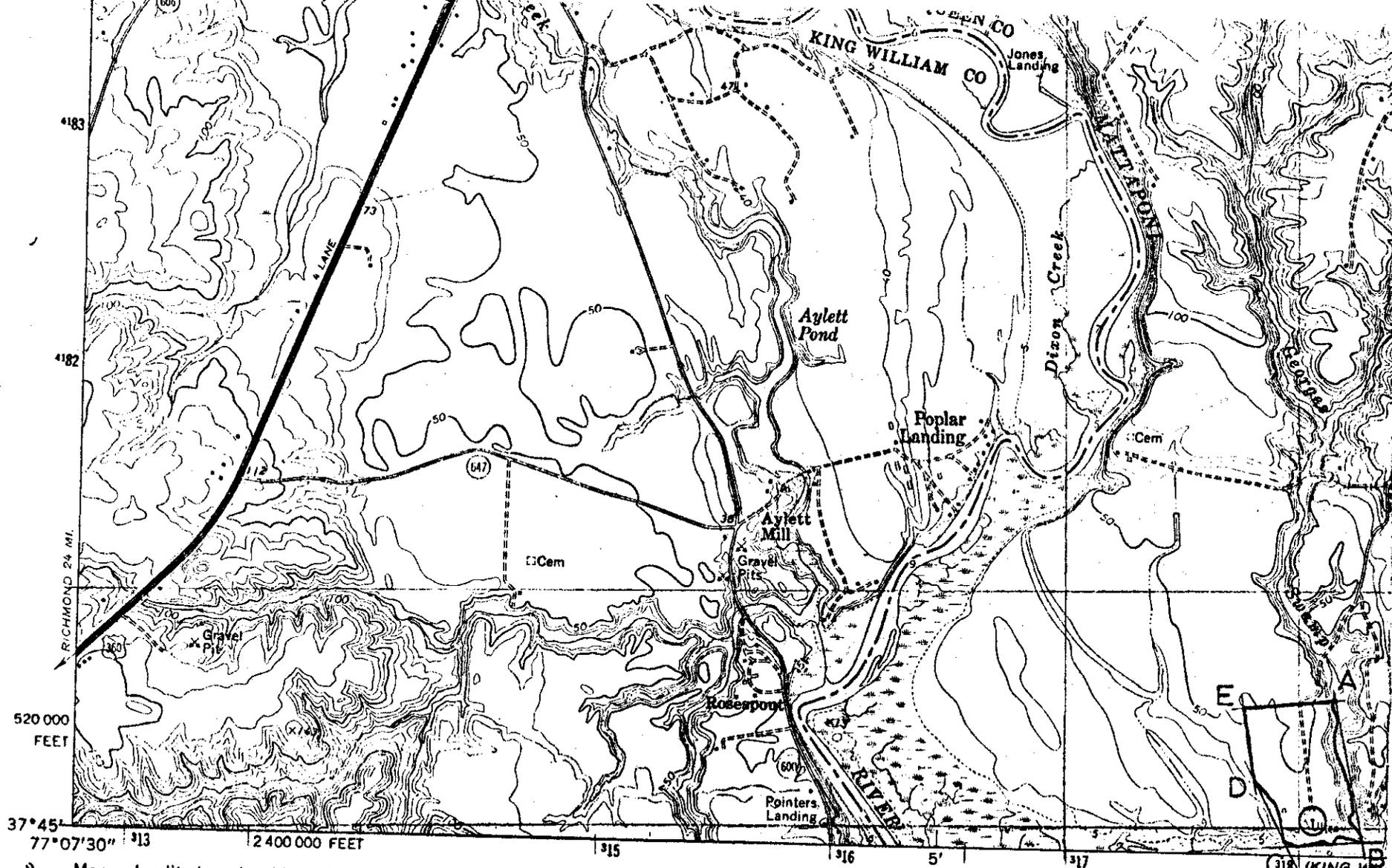
8. SIGNIFICANCE

inherited the property. It was probably during the tenure of Mason or his widow that the Federal-style improvements, including the main stair, were installed. In 1837 Mason's widow sold the property to Archibald Pointer, who retained it until the time of the Civil War,

VDS/du

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Fleet, Beverley. King and Queen County Records Concerning 18th Century Persons. (Virginia Colonial Abstracts). Vols. 4, 14, 28, 33. Richmond, v.d. (1937-1949).
King and Queen Historical Society Bulletin. Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 17.
King and Queen County Land Tax Books 1782-1863.
Personal Property Taxpayer Lists 1782-1804.
Mays, David John. Edmund Pendleton 1721-1803. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1952.
Nugent, Nell M. Cavaliers and Pioneers. Vol. 2, 1666-1695, indexed by Claudia B. Grundman. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1977.
Sanchez-Saavedra, E. M. Virginia Cartographers and Their Maps. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1975.
Sydnor, Charles S. American Revolutionaries in the Making. New York: The Free Press, 1952.
The Virginia Gazette, 5/7/1767; 9/2/1767; 2/26/1769; 1773; 1775.



(MANQUIN)
5559 II NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1967. Field checked 1968
 Supersedes U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map dated 1947
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 496 (1969)
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18,
 shown in blue
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Aylett, Va. 1968

BEWDLEY, King and Queen County, Virginia
 UTM References:
 A-18/318160/4180540 B-18/318270/4179940
 C-18/317950/4179920 D-18/317820/4180190
 E-18/317770/4180500

318 KING WIL
5559 II N
SCALE 1:24000

NTOUR INTERV
 LINES REPRESENT
 DATUM IS MEAN
 SOUNDINGS IN FE
 REPRESENTS THE APPRO
 RANGE OF TIDE IS M
 ES WITH NATIONAL
 GEOLOGICAL SURV
 GENERAL RESOU

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AT