

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

LISTED ON:
VLR
06/19/2013
NRHP
08/27/2013

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Walnut Valley
Other names/site number: VDHR Architectural Inventory Number: 090-0023;
Archaeological Site 44SY0262
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: State Route 634
City or town: Highgate State: VA County: Surry
Not For Publication: ****See redactions**** Vicinity:

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 at the following
level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A ___ B X C X D

[Signature] 8/17/13 8/2/13
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title : State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: Postmedieval English

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE; WOOD: Weatherboard, Shingle; METAL: Steel; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Walnut Valley consists of a ca. 1770 plantation house, a frame slave quarter built in 1816, eight contributing nineteenth- and twentieth-century agricultural and domestic outbuildings and structures, an archaeological site, and eight non-contributing resources within a plantation yard of approximately 3.5 acres. The yard lies at the center of 262.91 acres of level agricultural fields edged with wooded stream margins in rural Surry County. The one-and-a-half-story, four-bay, double-pile, side-gabled frame house rests on an English bond brick foundation and has one brick end wall laid in Flemish bond. The architectural resources and archaeological deposits document local agricultural history and its association with slavery and share-cropping in this Tidewater Virginia region. The contributing outbuildings are an early nineteenth century frame kitchen, and a late-nineteenth-century storehouse and a granary. Among the outbuildings around the house are three contributing early twentieth-century chicken houses. Two nineteenth-century agricultural outbuildings (a barn and a granary) have collapsed and are non-contributing. A third resource non-contributing due to its condition is a ca. 1940 hog pen. Non-contributing resources due to age include a ca. 1970 equipment shed, three above-ground metal storage tanks, and a commemorative marker.

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT: Not in use

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

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****BEGIN REDACTION****



****END REDACTION****

Narrative Description

Setting

Walnut Valley plantation house and its dependent agricultural and domestic outbuildings stand in a 3.5-acre yard centered within an irregularly shaped 262.91-acre tract. This rural setting is near the eastern end of Surry County, one of Tidewater Virginia's less developed jurisdictions, where agriculture still contributes significantly to the local economy. Walnut Valley is situated approximately halfway between two of Virginia's major urban areas—40 miles northwest of Norfolk and 55 miles southeast of Richmond. The yard consists of open lawn with scattered mature shade trees; the dense foliage of the three magnolia trees just west of the house screens the facade from the unpaved farm road approaching from Highgate Road/State Route 634, the property's western boundary. A second unpaved drive approaches the yard from Chippokes Farm Road/State Route 634, which defines the property's northwestern boundary. From the property's northernmost corner on Chippokes Farm Road/State Route 634, the boundary extends in a straight line southeastward to the source of an unnamed stream that flows east-northeastward to its confluence with Cobham Creek at the northeast corner of the tract. Lower Chippokes Creek flows eastward along the southern edge of the property, turns northeastward along the southeast boundary, and flows into Cobham Creek at the property's northeast corner. Approximately half of the tract consists of cultivated fields extending across flat to very gently sloped (up to 6 percent) sandy to loamy soils. The remainder of the property consists of mixed deciduous and coniferous woods, confined largely along the southern, eastern, and northeastern edges of the property. The stream margins along these parts of the property line consist either of more steeply sloped soils (10 to 15 percent slopes) or nearly flat, frequently flooded soils.

Agricultural outbuildings and structures generally are scattered across the yard to the north of the house. All of the buildings are exactly or very closely oriented either north-south or east-west like the main house, which faces west. The agricultural buildings include a granary and a barn that have collapsed within the previous decade, one at the northern end of the yard on the east side of the drive approaching from Chippokes Farm Road and the other farther south on the west side of the drive. A storehouse, a granary, and an equipment storage shed stand north of the house. Among these are three large metal storage tanks, the largest for propane and the two others for water. A dilapidated hog pen stands at the northeast corner of the yard and a corrugated metal silo east of the barns. A small well house and capped well are northwest of the house near these agricultural buildings. Closer to the house are three chicken houses and a kitchen with two brick end chimneys. An early slave quarter stands south-southwest of the

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house. Its location and evidence from a 1933 photograph of a similar building suggests that the two buildings could have been situated in a formal arrangement flanking the main drive leading from present Highgate Road/State Route 634 to the main house entrance.

Resources

Plantation House ca. 1770 (1 - Contributing Building)

Exterior

Walnut Valley is a one-and-a-half-story, four-bay, double-pile, side-gabled wood frame house with one brick end on the north and its front on the west. Exterior measurements of the building, minus any porches and extensions, are 40 feet 4 inches by 30 feet 5 inches. Although the building rests on a solid brick foundation laid in English bond, the north end wall is laid in Flemish bond above the foundation. Cladding consists of beaded weatherboard trimmed with cornerboards. The standing seam metal roof has tapered, beaded bargeboards and box cornices. Piercing the roof slopes are three front-gabled dormers on the west and two on the east. There are three brick chimneys. On the north end, an interior end chimney with corbeled cap pierces the roof ridge. An interior end flue two stretchers square pierces the south end of the west roof slope. Toward the east end of the south wall is a large exterior end chimney laid in three-course American bond with two stepped weatherings; the portion above the second weathering has fallen or been removed. Fenestration consists of one-over-one, two-over-two, and four-over-four double-hung, wood sash windows. Projecting from the main mass of the dwelling are a one-story, one-bay, front-gabled porch on the façade/west; a one-story, two-bay, shed-roofed screened porch and one-story, one-bay, shed-roofed enclosed porch on the south; a one-story, three-bay, shed-roofed porch on the east; and a low one-bay, shed-roofed, enclosed entrance leading to the basement on the north.

The west elevation features a one-bay, front-gabled porch with a low-pitched standing seam metal roof supported by square wood posts with thin, plain square caps; the base of the porch rests on four brick piers and is accessed by treated wood steps. Federal-style balustrades with square balusters and rounded handrails connect the porch support posts to plain, squared wood pilasters set against the house wall. Built-in Federal-style benches with ogee-cut legs are set back next to the balustrades. On either side of the porch, grated openings pierce the foundation to ventilate and light the basement. Each of the wooden coverings consists of a central vertical board flanked by four square, vertical wooden bars set into the frame diagonally. Openings on the first floor of the façade include, from south to north, two four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows, the single-leaf, six-panel wooden main entrance door, and a third four-over-four, double-hung wood sash window. Hinged, louvered wood shutters flank the end windows; due to the proximity of the porch, the window that is just south of the porch has only one shutter, on the south side. Each of the three gabled dormers has horizontal beaded weatherboard cheeks and two-over-two windows.

A one-story, two-bay, shed-roofed, screened porch resting on brick piers extends across the west half of the south elevation. The standing seam metal roof with plain fascia board rests on a frame of single and double 2x4-inch lumber with screening stretched between. A set of concrete

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block steps accesses the porch entrance opening (with screen door missing) near its west end; in turn, the porch accesses the house through a double-leaf wooden door. Plain weatherboards clad the west end above the roof of the porch. Adjacent to the east and recessed slightly from the front plane of the screened porch is a one-story, one-bay, shed-roofed porch with a four-over-four window centered in the south wall. Walls are clad in beaded weatherboard trimmed with cornerboards. The standing seam metal roof has plain fascia and bargeboards. Abutting the east side of this porch is the exterior end chimney with stepped weatherings. East of the chimney is a four-over-four window. Lighting the gable of the south elevation is a two-over-two window.

The east elevation has a nearly symmetrical appearance. Piercing the foundation on either side of the one-story, shed-roofed porch are rectangular openings to the basement, centered between the outer edges of the porch and the end walls of the house (an additional opening is found just inside each outer edge of the porch). Flanking each side of the porch in the first story is a single window placed closer to the porch than the end wall. Above, the inside edges of two gabled dormers in the main roof slope align with the outer edges of the porch roof. However, the principal entrance to this elevation is situated just north of center, and there is a second three-quarter-sized door accessing the indoor kitchen in the southern half. The four basement openings have vertical-board covers. Both first-story windows are four-over-four. The three-bay porch rests on brick piers. Square wooden posts with thin, plain wood caps support the standing seam metal roof with exposed tapered rafter ends; the rear support posts have been notched to fit flush against the weatherboards of the east wall of the house. From the porch, a small single-leaf, door with two recessed panels provides access from the kitchen, and a full-size, double-leaf door with three recessed panels accesses the stair passage. Vertical boards clad the half-gables of the porch. The dormers on the east elevation have two-over-two windows and horizontal beaded weatherboard cheeks.

Brickwork on the north elevation consists of English bond in the foundation, with Flemish bond above, and common bond in the chimney above the roofline. Toward the west end of this wall is a shed-roofed entrance to the basement with a double-leaf, vertical-board door attached with large metal strap hinges; side walls of the entrance are clad in plain weatherboards. At the west end of the first story is a four-over-four window, while a small two-over-two window lights the east end. Each of the two cuddy areas in the eaves has a small square opening with framed board windows. A four-over-four window with rowlock course lintel is at either side of the gable just above the level of the tops of the cuddy windows.

Alterations and additions: Prior to construction of a screened porch ca. 1950, a second exterior chimney stood along the south wall, adjacent to the west side of the enclosed porch. The interior flue on the front roof slope replaced this chimney. The base, still visible below the screen porch, indicates that this chimney was laid in three-course American bond and comparable in scale to the existing chimney. Further evidence of the chimney is evident from the house siding in the area of the screen porch. A vertical break in the weatherboards indicates where the former chimney stood against that wall to the north of the double-leaf door. Previously, then, the south elevation would have had a double chimney with a frame pent porch between.

The present front-gabled porch on the façade modified an earlier porch sometime in the mid-twentieth century. The present superstructure is visible in a photograph taken during a 1959

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HABSI survey, while photographs taken in 1929 and 1933 show a Federal-style flat-roofed superstructure with a plain architrave and a broad, paneled frieze supported by two chamfered square posts at the front and two paneled columns to the rear, adjacent to the house. The present porch retains the Federal handrail and benches. The solid, paneled rear porch supports are stored in in the basement.

According to former resident Raymond Holt Mitchell, the rear porch underwent major modifications in the mid-twentieth century. Previously, the porch may have extended across most of the east elevation. This is confirmed for the north end by a 1933 photograph that shows the north end of the porch extending nearly to the north wall of the house. On this end, the porch was enclosed with wooden panels on the lower half and window screen above. On the south end, Mr. Mitchell recalls that the small door from the kitchen accessed a completely enclosed pantry that was part of the porch.

Other modifications evident from photographs taken in 1929 and 1933 include replacement of wood roof shingles with standing seam metal, loss of decorative pendant trim on the southeast corner of the roof, and removal of shutters from the largest window on the north elevation.

Interior

Although intensive-level survey of this building was beyond the scope of the present study, the following description is offered based on observations from a brief tour of the interior in 2012, augmented by field notes, drawings, and photographs by architectural historian Dell Upton (1976-1977) and architect Milton Grigg (1929).¹

First Story: The first story consists of four main rooms, a small stair passage, and a small, enclosed porch on the south converted to a bathroom in the 1950s. The front entrance affords direct access to the hall (northwest room, measuring 18 feet 8 inches by 17 feet 3 inches). The fireplace opening in the northeast corner has a Federal-style mantel. Walls consist of plasterboard over horizontal boards. Wood trim includes a picture rail and recessed-panel wainscot with an early-nineteenth-century chair rail. A single-leaf door with four ovolo-bead recessed panels centered on the south wall opens into the southern front room; a single-leaf door with four ovolo-bead recessed panels and a patent Carpenter-type lock with brass knobs enters the stair passage at the south end of the east wall.

In the stair passage (7 feet 10 inches by 11 feet 7 inches), the closed-string staircase rises from the rear of the house (east) toward the mid-story landing. The balustrade with urn and column balusters and rectangular railing connects to a square newel post. Walls are covered with plain horizontal boards fastened with T-head "clasp" nails except for the lath-and-plastered south wall. The closet under the staircase has a single-leaf, two-panel door with recessed ovolo-bead panels. In addition to the door to the hall (northwest), there are two interior doors, to the chamber (northeast) and to the kitchen (southeast), and an exterior door to the porch. In the northeast corner next to the staircase and opening into the chamber (northeast) room is a single-leaf door. The single-leaf door opening into the kitchen (southeast) has four recessed ovolo-bead panels. The double-leaf exterior door to the rear porch has three recessed panels in each leaf and retains the original brown paint on the exterior.

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The parlor (southwest room) measures 19 feet 3 inches by 17 feet 3 inches and has trim that is similar to that found in the hall except that the chair rail along the south portion of the east wall and the east portion of the south wall has Greek Revival moldings. All floor boards break 5 feet 3 inches from the south wall. At the east end of this wall, a Federal-style single-leaf door with four recessed panels and quirk molding opens in from an enclosed porch (bathroom); there is a wood latch on the porch side of the door. At the west end of the wall, a double-leaf door opens in from a screened porch. Centered between the doors is a Federal-style mantel.

The chamber (the rear room in the northeast corner) measures 10 feet 8 inches by 11 feet 6 inches and has a chair rail. The fireplace in the northwest corner of the room shares the northern interior chimney with the hall.

Sometime in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, the room in the southeast corner became the kitchen, a function that the frame building with two interior end chimneys just east of the house had served previously. In this room, measuring 19 feet 2 inches by 11 feet 5 inches, the trim consists of flush wainscot with a molded pedestal cap chair rail (profile available in Dell Upton's 1977 field notes). The window on the east end of the south wall has Greek Revival trim. Immediately south of the window is a Federal-style mantel. The low, three-quarter-sized, single-leaf door with two recessed panels accesses the front porch; formerly, this part of the porch included an enclosed pantry.

An early-nineteenth-century pent that formerly was flanked by two chimneys on the south end of the house was converted for use as a bathroom in the mid-twentieth century; the western chimney was removed to make room for a screened porch at about the same time, according to former resident Raymond Holt Mitchell. Measuring 7 feet 3 inches by 8 feet, this room has a single-leaf door with a wooden latch that opens into the parlor.

Second Story: From the landing, the staircase leads southward up to the second story. The molded railing in this portion connects to Tuscan colonette newels that extend to the ceiling. In 1929, while working for Perry, Shaw, & Hepburn on the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, architect Milton Grigg visited Walnut Valley and drew a profile of the distinctive posts and railing; a similar design dating slightly earlier can be found at the Getty House on Duke of Gloucester Street.

Currently, the second story consists of two rooms divided by the staircase and landing on the east (rear) and by a closet on the west (front). The room on the north currently measures 22 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 2 inches but formerly consisted of two rooms. A fireplace is centered on the north wall. A single-leaf door opens into the room from the stair passage.

The southern room measures 15 feet 9 inches by 21 feet 3 inches and has a double-beaded chairboard. A mantel on the west half of the south wall formerly was served by the now-demolished southern chimney. Adjacent to the mantel, on the south half of the west wall is a shallow closet without a door. A single-leaf door opens into the room from the stair passage.

The closet (4 feet 10 inches by 10 feet) centered on the southern half of the second story is lit by a single dormer window. The only access is through a single-leaf door that opens in from the stair passage, with a twentieth-century three-light transom above.

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Basement: An earthen-floored cellar is beneath the two western rooms (hall and parlor). The walls comprise the English bond underpinning of the house. Irregularities in the brickwork mark the southern extension of the house that is apparent above in the parlor floorboards.

Walnut Valley appears to have been built in the late eighteenth century, possibly ca. 1770. In particular, the stair appears to be of pre-Revolutionary date. Later finishes cross over the boundary between the original core structure and the extension, which added approximately 5 feet to the southern end sometime in the early nineteenth century. Irregularities in the foundation brickwork approximately 5 feet from the current south wall and a break in the floorboards at the same distance from the south wall of the parlor indicate the location of the dwelling's original south wall. Although twentieth-century linoleum has covered any evidence of an extension in the floorboards of the kitchen, the trim in the two southern rooms suggests a later reworking. Both rooms feature Greek Revival wall trim, and the kitchen has a Greek Revival window surround.

Slave Quarter 1816 (1 - Contributing Building)

According to dendrochronological testing conducted in 2009, the one-story, two-bay frame slave quarter has been dated to 1816.² The 14-by-16-foot building rests on brick piers, and walls are clad in replaced horizontal weatherboard attached with wire nails. The side-gabled roof is covered with standing seam metal and has a box cornice. On the east is a brick exterior chimney laid in three-course common bond with a mousetooth cap. The entrance, set off center on the west half of the north elevation, consists of a vertical-board door. Other openings include two original two-over-two double-hung sash wood windows with molded muntins and window frames, one on the north and one on the south elevation. There is a door opening west of center on the south elevation with a wide vertical-board door that appears to have been borrowed from an agricultural building; this opening may have been added or widened for the building's use as storage in the twentieth century.

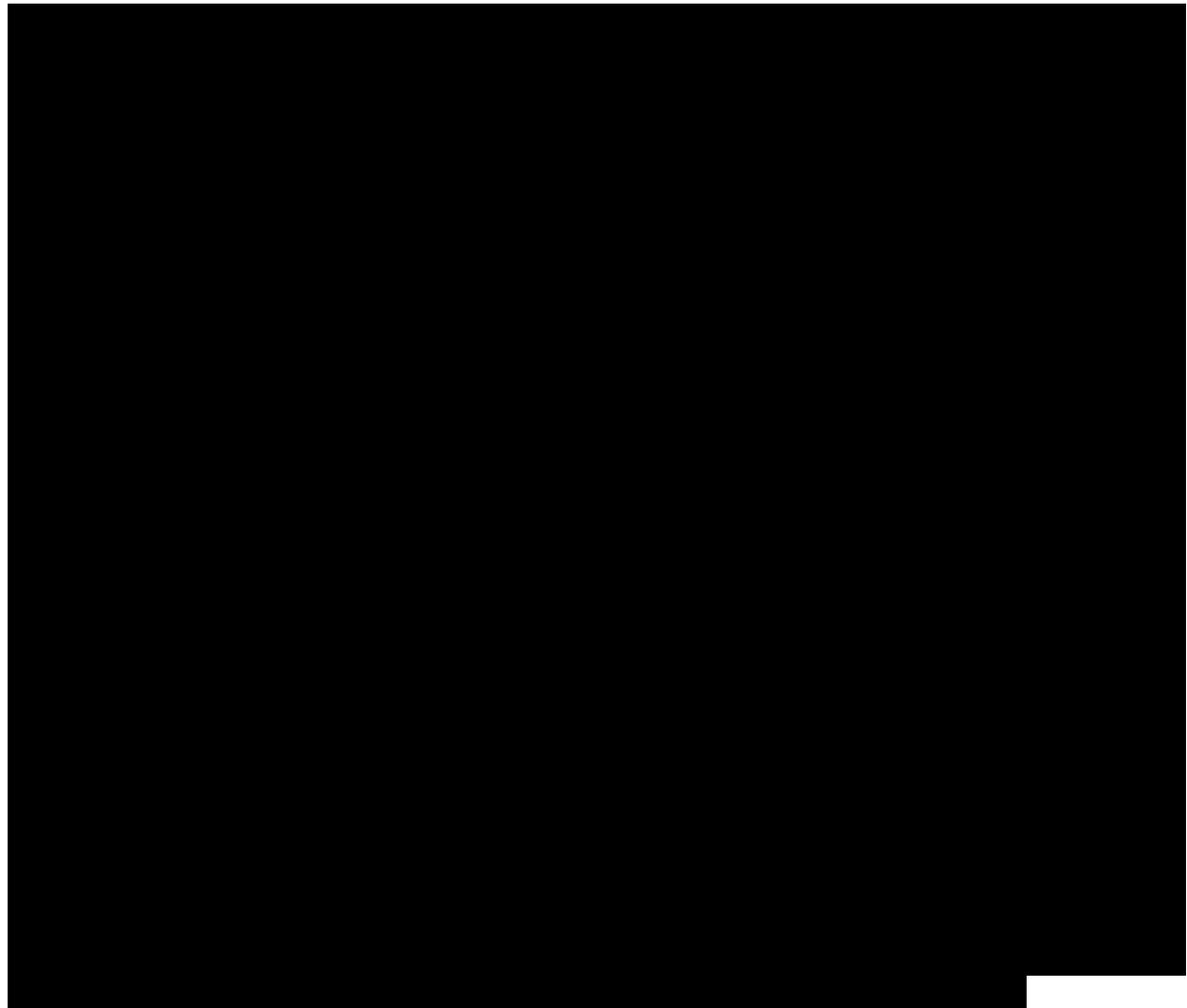
Archaeological testing revealed that the building originally had a solid brick foundation along the east wall. Sometime after the Civil War, these were replaced by brick piers and piers supporting the other walls were reworked.³ At this time, circular-sawn wall sills and floor joists replaced earlier timbers that would have been hewn or hand-sawn. An impression visible in the chimney mortar around the hearth indicates that the siding originally consisted of beaded weatherboard, replaced at the time of the postbellum renovation with plain weatherboards attached with wire nails.

The renovation also made modifications to the interior. Originally, a ladder next to the hearth would have provided access from the single first-story room to the garret through a rectangular opening, of which the outline is still visible in the cut lines of the ceiling boards. Following the renovation, this access was replaced by an opening in the northwest corner next to the front door.⁴ The garret partition was reversed, separating a larger east room from a narrow west room with the ladder stair landing. Access between the two upper rooms is through a vertical-board door hanging on wooden hinges. Visible in the first-story room are traces of an 1881 newspaper used as wallpaper.

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****BEGIN REDACTION****



****END REDACTION****

Kitchen ca. 1816 (1 - Contributing Building)

This one-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame kitchen has two interior end chimneys and rests on low brick piers. Cladding consists of horizontal weatherboards, and standing seam metal covers the roof. Trim includes plain cornerboards, a simple box cornice, and narrow bargeboards. Breaks in the laying of weatherboards on the east and west elevations slightly north of the building's center suggest the building was constructed in two stages. The northern portion of the façade (west elevation, facing the rear of the main house) has a six-over-six, double-hung wood sash window near the north end and a board and batten door to the south; south of the break in

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the weatherboard is a second door. The door in the northern portion is approximately four to six inches taller than the southern door. There is a small square window opening in the east half of the south wall. The rear/east elevation has three window openings: a four-over-two double-hung wood sash near the south end; what appears to have been a four-over-four, double-hung wood sash (only the lower sash is extant) just north of the weatherboard break; and near the north end, based on size and proportion of the opening, a six-over-six, double-hung wood sash like the one opposite to it on the west elevation. There are no openings on the north elevation. Archaeologist Richard Guercin had the opportunity to inspect the interior of the building during archaeological fieldwork around the building in October 2009 and observed evidence of two building phases. The southern two-thirds, utilizing timber frame construction techniques, may be contemporary with the ca. 1816 slave quarter. However, the northern third of the building is built with the lighter framing members, butt joints, and wire nails. Based on a combination of archaeological findings and construction techniques, Guercin estimates that the northern third of the building dates to the late nineteenth century. The existing chimneys only extend just below the level of the loft, indicating that they served wood stoves rather than fireplaces. The location of the building (and configuration of the plantation house) indicates this building's use as kitchen. However, based on the presence of two doors and two chimneys once the building was expanded in the late nineteenth century, the building probably also served in the late nineteenth century as a multi-family residence. The building is in a vulnerable state, with a pronounced eastward list.

Granary ca. 1870 (1 - Contributing Building)

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled timber-framed granary has a one-story shed-roofed addition on the east and an open-sided shed abutting the north. The open addition is supported by rounded, milled posts; at least one irregularly shaped replacement post appears to have been prepared on the premises rather than industrially milled, and there is a reinforcing steel post support on the interior. The original gable-roofed granary rests on massive brick piers laid in 3-course American bond situated at each corner; two smaller brick piers are visible between the end piers along the west wall; the enclosed shed-roofed addition obscures the east wall supports. Standing seam metal covers the roofs of all three portions; the east addition roof also includes patches of corrugated metal. Although the interior was not accessible during the current survey, interior photographs taken in 1973 illustrate timber frame construction with mortise-and-tenon joinery.

Storehouse ca. 1890 (1 - Contributing Building)

This one-and-a-half-story, front-gabled frame storehouse has shed-roofed additions on the south and west sides. Low brick piers may have supported the building, but these were not clearly visible. Both additions have one side open for ease of access for vehicle and equipment storage. Cladding on the original portion of the building consists of plain weatherboard; some of the material is in poor condition and some has been replaced with a variety of metal and vinyl siding pieces. Vertical boards sheath the additions. The entrance, centered on the north wall, is a broad, single-leaf vertical-board door with metal strap hinges. Directly above, but below the level of the gable, a small opening that had a vertical-board door in a 1973 photograph has been covered with

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corrugated metal. One the south end of the building is a higher but similar-sized opening in the gable; covered with horizontal boards in the 1973 photograph, it now has a cover of corrugated metal. The slightly overhanging eaves are covered with a plain fascia board. Each gable has narrow bargeboards, and the roof is covered with standing seam metal. Sometime prior to the mid-twentieth century, the building served a domestic function. According to Raymond Holt Mitchell, born on the property in 1930, his parents referred to the building as "Aunt Betty's House." This use is further suggested by the presence of a sash window in the east wall, now almost completely boarded over.

Well House ca. 1950 (1 - Contributing Building)

This one-story, side-gabled well house rests on the west half of a concrete pad. Centered on the east half is a circle of handmade brick that represents the top of the early brick well lining, possibly contemporary with the late-eighteenth-century plantation house; the well opening has been sealed with a concrete cap. Horizontal weatherboards clad the well house walls, and standing seam metal covers the roof. Trim includes cornerboards and plain bargeboards. Although Raymond Holt Mitchell recalls that the building was erected ca. 1950, the entrance, centered on the south wall, has an earlier single-leaf, vertical-board door.

Chicken House A ca. 1920 (1 - Contributing Structure)

This shed-roofed frame chicken house has a slightly lower shed-roofed addition on the east; both portions are open on the south. The highly weathered cladding consists of vertical boards on the original portion and horizontal boards on the addition. In some areas, missing boards have been patched with sheets of standing seam metal, which also covers the roof.

Chicken House B ca. 1910 (1 - Contributing Structure)

This shed-roofed frame chicken house has weatherboard cladding and a standing seam metal roof that slopes down to the north. Openings take up most of the south elevation: a single-leaf vertical-board door on the western third and a large window that spans the upper portion of the eastern two-thirds and is partly covered with a translucent plastic panel. The east and west walls each have a centered window opening reaching from the top of the wall half way down. The west window is partially covered by a translucent plastic panel.

Chicken House C ca. 1920 (1 - Contributing Structure)

This shed-roofed frame chicken house has weatherboard cladding and a standing seam metal roof that slopes down to the north. Openings take up most of the south elevation: a single-leaf, vertical-board door on the western third and a large window that spans the upper portion of the eastern two-thirds and is partly covered with a translucent plastic panel. Both the east and west walls each have a centered window opening reaching from the top of the wall half way down. The west window is partially covered by a translucent plastic panel.

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Silo ca. 1960 (1 - Contributing Structure)

This circular silo, approximately 15 feet in diameter and 18 feet tall, rests on a concrete pad. It is clad in corrugated metal sheets and has a low-pitched conical roof covered with standing seam metal, which is topped by a circular metal cap; ladder rungs are welded into one of the standing seam metal roof panels to provide access from the lower edge of the roof to the cap. A heavy convex metal panel covers a door-sized opening approximately 3 feet above the ground on the north side of the silo. According to Raymond Holt Mitchell, who was born at Walnut Valley in 1930, his father assembled the structure ca. 1960 from a kit. A metal plate on the side of the silo indicates that the kit was produced by the Long Manufacturing Company of Tarboro, North Carolina.

Equipment Shed ca. 1970 (1 - Non-Contributing Structure)

This large open-sided, frame vehicle shed has a low-pitched gable roof and a small, lower gable-roofed addition projecting from the north gable end; both portions rest on square wooden support posts. Sheets of corrugated metal in the gables of the original portion and the gable and upper sides of the addition provide additional protection from the weather. The roof is covered with standing seam metal.

Storage Tanks ca. 1970 (3 - Non-Contributing Structures)

Three horizontal, cylindrical metal storage tanks are located among the agricultural outbuildings north of the main house: one immediately east and one immediately north of Chicken House C are for storing water. A larger tank, north of the equipment shed, stores propane for peanut-drying equipment. The two water tanks rest on cradles improvised from tree stumps and metal machinery scraps. The propane tank appears to be more permanently mounted and connected to an underground gas distribution system.

Hog Pen ca. 1940 (1 - Non-Contributing Structure)

This dilapidated, low, shed-roofed structure is open on the south end. Formerly, it served as a shelter for hogs, but has been used more recently for storing farm equipment. Originally, the structure may have had four bays.

Commemorative Marker 2005 (1 - Non-Contributing Object)

This low brick monument with a slanted top stands about 100 feet west of the Walnut Valley plantation house facade. Set in a bed of concrete on the top of the marker, a rectangular bronze tablet with a black leatherette background and raised, polished frame carries the following inscription in raised, polished letters: "This Walnut Valley Plantation/Is a Gift to the Citizens/of the/Commonwealth of Virginia/By/Lucy F. Reasor/In Memory of her Husband/Woodrow W.

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Reasor/January 14, 2004.” The date on the marker corresponds to the date on the deed of gift from the Reasors’ holding corporation.⁵ The marker was erected in 2005 and unveiled at a ceremony that year.⁶

Granary ca. 1900 (Collapsed/Ruin – Non-Contributing Building)

Since architectural historian Dell Upton performed a field survey in 1977, this gable-roofed frame granary has collapsed. On his site plan, Upton tentatively identified the building as a granary, an identification confirmed by Raymond Mitchell whose family farmed the property since the early twentieth century. From evidence discernible in the building ruin, the nailed frame had walls clad in horizontal boards and a wood shingle roof that later was covered with standing seam metal.

Barn ca. 1870 (Collapsed/Ruin – Non-Contributing Building)

Since architectural historian Dell Upton performed a field survey in 1977, this barn has collapsed; according to Raymond Holt Mitchell, the building collapsed sometime after 2005. It was at least partially collapsed when DHR staff visited the property in 2009. A photograph that architectural historian Bernard Herman took in 1973 shows the south gable end. Based on this view, the front-gabled, one-and-a-half story barn had shed-roofed additions on the east and west sides that were open, at least on the south elevation. Centered on this gable end was a single-leaf, vertical-board door with metal strap hinges. A smaller opening in the gable had a similar door. Horizontal boards clad the walls, and standing seam metal covered the roof. Ruinous components of the building bear evidence of timber framing with mortise-and-tenon and notched joints.

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8. Statement of Significance

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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic Non-Aboriginal

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American

Period of Significance

1770-1963

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

African American

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Walnut Valley consists of a ca. 1770 plantation house, an early nineteenth-century slave quarter, with associated nineteenth- and twentieth-century agricultural and domestic outbuildings and structures, and an associated historic-period archaeological site within a 262.91-acre property that has remained largely intact since the late eighteenth century. The property is locally significant in the areas of Agriculture (Criterion A), Archaeology (Criterion D), and African American Ethnic Heritage (Criterion A), and significant at the statewide level in the area of Architecture (Criterion C), with a period of significance of 1770-1963. This period begins with the approximate construction date of the oldest extant resource (the plantation house). It ends in 1963, the 50 year cut off. The plantation house retains most of its original fabric from the late eighteenth century, but also documents trends in elite domestic architecture. The existence of a standing slave quarter is a rare survival of housing for the enslaved. This well-constructed little building is particularly interesting as it typifies early- to mid-nineteenth-century reforms in slave housing both motivated by humanitarian/religious feeling as well as the desire to “invest” in the health of slaves, usually the most valuable assets of large plantation owners in the region. The prominent siting of the slave dwelling along the main drive approaching the plantation house (possibly arranged symmetrically on either side of the approach with a no longer extant twin building) demonstrates an aesthetic of power that emphasized the planter’s position in the local hierarchy. The plantation’s varied assemblage of agricultural and domestic outbuildings further contributes to the property’s eligibility. ****BEGIN REDACTION****



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REDACTION****

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Walnut Valley is eligible for listing under Criterion A at the local level of significance in the area of **Agriculture**. The property represents a large portion of one of Surry County’s earliest land grants (1635) in the Rich Neck, an area of European settlement south of the James River, just downstream from Jamestown. However, due to lack of known tangible resources remaining from this period (such as cultural landscape features, archaeological deposits, or architectural resources), the period of significance does not extend back into the century and a half of European occupation prior to ca. 1770. Extant archival evidence indicates that the shift from tobacco to grain cultivation had begun on the plantation by the late eighteenth century. Through the mid-nineteenth century, the Jones family prospered by utilizing slave labor (up to 46 slaves worked on the property during this period) as well as by implementing innovative agricultural techniques such as the liberal application of marl as a soil amendment. Walnut Valley is also notable as an example of a plantation that profited from a brief early-nineteenth-century boom in

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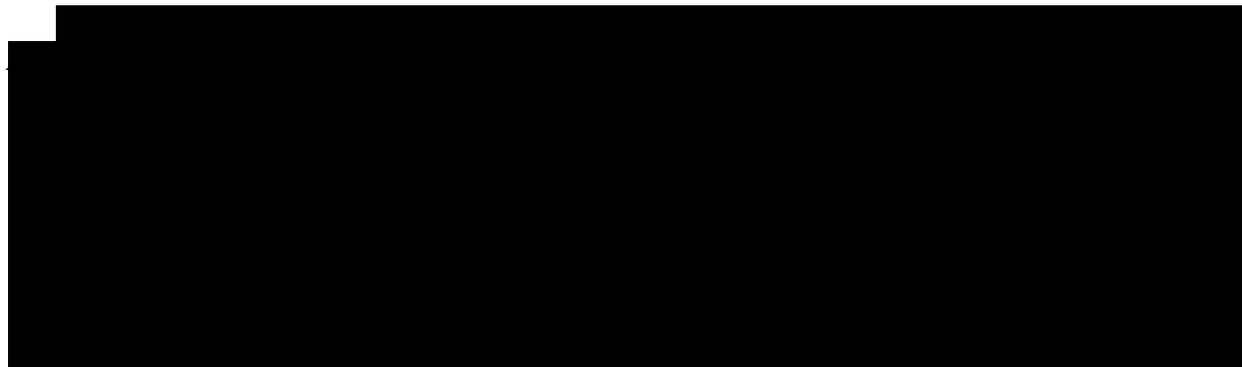
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the fruit orchards and distilling that occurred in Surry and Isle of Wight counties. Following a period of economic stress during and after the Civil War, the plantation returned to productivity under the ownership of the Pegram, Holt, and Warren families. Perhaps in the late nineteenth century but definitely by the dawn of the twentieth century, the property was entirely under cultivation by tenants of the Warren family. These included a mix of African American tenants who lived in outlying areas of the plantation, possibly at the locations of former slave quarters, and the white Mitchell family who lived in the plantation house. Under public ownership, the long tradition of agriculture on this land nevertheless continues because one member of the Mitchell family continues to hold life rights for farming the property. A large assemblage of nineteenth- and twentieth-century agricultural outbuildings document help document the rise and fall of peanut cultivation and the importance of hog raising to the local economy.

Walnut Valley is eligible for listing under Criterion A at the local level of significance in the area of *African American Heritage* for the well-documented history of slave labor associated with the property. Census, tax, and court records, as well as a plantation ledger provide details about the identity and history of slaves who worked on the plantation during the Early National and Antebellum periods. Less thoroughly documented but nonetheless significant is the property's association with African American sharecropping families who lived at various locations on the property while a white sharecropping family occupied the old plantation house.

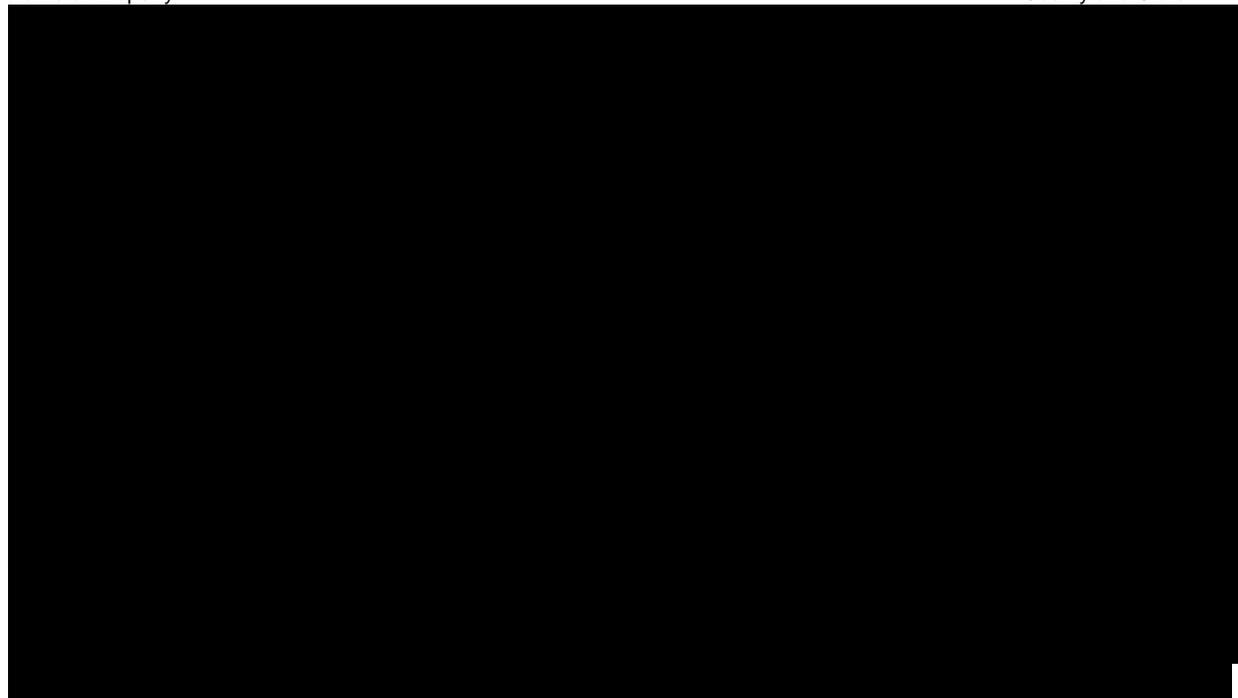
Walnut Valley is eligible for listing under Criterion C at the statewide level in the area of *Architecture*. The property rises to this second tier of importance due to the rare presence of a slave quarter. Still in fair condition, this frame structure with a brick chimney is in the process of a stabilization and restoration campaign that will allow the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to include the building in expanded interpretive programs for Chippokes Plantation State Park; Walnut Valley was annexed to this park when the previous owner conveyed it to the Commonwealth of Virginia through a deed of gift in 2004. At the local level of significance, the plantation house is an excellent example of a late-eighteenth-century elite dwelling that was expanded in the early nineteenth century. A mix of frame and brick construction and the construction of paired chimneys with a frame pent on one end of the house demonstrate period trends in elite domestic architecture. Walnut Valley also boasts a wide variety of contributing agricultural and domestic outbuildings and structure spanning the early nineteenth century through 1960s. Types include barn, granary, storehouse, silo, chicken house, well house, well, and kitchen.

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Developmental history/additional historical context information

Following the English settlement of Jamestown in 1607, colonists established plantations along both sides of the James River as far as the Fall Line near present-day Richmond. The area that is now Surry County was known as the Territory of Tappahanna, the part of the Corporation of James City that lay on the south side of the river across from Jamestown. The land that comprises Walnut Valley was in a part of Tappahanna called the Rich Neck. This swath of land, probably called “Rich” for its fertile soils, extended for about three and a half miles southwest from the bend in the James River called Cobham Bay toward present State Route 10, confined on the southeast by Cobham Creek and its tributary Lower Chippokes Creek and on the northwest by the swampy drainage of College Run.⁸

The first settlement in the Rich Neck occurred on land closest to the river. In 1619, Capt. William Powell acquired 1,200 acres of the area that is now Chippokes Plantation State Park. Important military and administrative posts at Jamestown afforded him the opportunity to acquire this large tract. Following his death in 1623, during a raid on the Chickahominy Indians, the property descended to Powell’s widow Margaret and her new husband, Edward Blaney.⁹ Although these owners lived in Jamestown, a 1625 census of the Virginia Colony indicates that fifteen of Blaney’s servants lived on the property, which included three dwellings and three tobacco houses.¹⁰ It was not until 1635 that Robert Sheppard received a grant of 300 acres for the next tract inland from Chippokes, although he may have settled the property earlier.¹¹ As an owner-occupant Sheppard would have established one of the Rich Neck’s earliest homesteads.

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Adjacent to the inland side of Sheppard's holding, William Newsum patented a 550-acre tract in 1636. Newsum's land extended from College Run to Lower Chippokes Creek and encompassed what is now Walnut Valley. Through the headright system of land grants, Newsum claimed the property on the basis of 11 persons transported to Virginia. Newsum may have been born at Newsham Hall in Lancashire, England. He traveled to Virginia perhaps a year or more before 1636, long enough to have been widowed twice after arriving in the colony. Among the individuals claimed as headrights were Newsum himself, a succession of three wives, and seven individuals.¹² In the absence of any other identification besides their names, these three women and four men probably were white indentured servants. Assuming they worked on the tract for at least seven years before gaining their freedom, the servants would have provided Newsum with a crucial path to wealth-building in early seventeenth-century Virginia. His control of their labor afforded Newsum the means to clear land, grow tobacco for export, and accumulate capital.

Newsum remained on the property and renewed the patent in August 1643.¹³ Court records through the time of his death in 1691 indicate that he remained a resident of Surry County (created as a distinct jurisdiction from the portion of James City County on the south side of the James in 1652). Moreover, his dwelling stood somewhere on his acreage in the Rich Neck. One court record dated May 1668 describes Old Chipox Road as a "Carte pathe that goeth from WM Newsams house to Chipoxaks."¹⁴ In 1678, when "m. Harris" purchased a 100-acre tract along College Run, the boundary description included neighboring properties belonging to Robert Ruffin and William Newsum.¹⁵

Definitive ownership of the acreage that now comprises Walnut Valley is difficult to confirm during the late seventeenth century. Due to the cursory descriptions of land sold and bequeathed by William Newsum through 1691, there are several owners who might have owned and/or occupied the property. In 1656, William Batt acquired 275 acres that originally was part of Newsum's tract. Historian James Kornwolf suggests that this parcel, which Batt sold in the same year to Ralph Jones, may be the tract now known as Walnut Valley.¹⁶ This is based on the fact that subsequent records confirm the ownership of Walnut Valley by the Jones family in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Newsum's 1691 will suggests that his dwelling could have been on a property near what is now Walnut Valley by that time. Newsum mentions four sons and two daughters who were living when he wrote his will.¹⁷ As his namesake and the first mentioned, his son William may have been the eldest, born about 1648 based on an approximate age of 24 stated in a 1672 court record.¹⁸ He inherited his father's "Plantation & Land in Rich Neck," which he could not sell for at least 21 years. However, John Newsum inherited the plantation his father had "bought of Mr. Harris, where I now dwell."¹⁹ Although the deed conveying the land from Harris does not appear among the court records, a 1678 deed of 100 acres from "m. Harris, the only son of Thomas Harris" to Thomas Jaroll describes the tract as bordering on College Run, and lands of Robert Ruffin, William Newett, and William Newsum.²⁰ If this was Harris' only tract in the county, Newsum's dwelling at the time he signed his will in 1691 likely stood on land near or adjacent to his original patent in the Rich Neck.

As noted above, by the eighteenth century, the land encompassing Walnut Valley was in possession of the Jones family. In the 1704 Quit Rent Rolls for Surry County, the only Jones

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listed is James Jones with 1,000 acres.²¹ During the late eighteenth century, land tax records indicate that Richard Jones owned several tracts in Surry in the late eighteenth century. About this time or probably no later than 1806, Walnut Valley was in the possession of his son William.

It is during this period, ca. 1770, that the Jones family built their Walnut Valley plantation house. A substantial building assessment for the tract can be traced through the earliest land tax records (1820) that recorded building values separately from land values. Earlier records from 1782 to 1819 combine the assessment for land and buildings so that is more difficult to identify changes in building value that can indicate construction, destruction, or dilapidation of major buildings. In 1820, buildings worth \$1,246 stood on William Jones' 47.25-acre property which he held as a separate tract beginning in 1811. Beginning in 1806, he appears in the Surry County land tax lists with 350 acres, quite likely a portion of Walnut Valley. The 47.25-acre tract identified with the high building assessment by 1820 did not become his tax liability until 1810. Before that year, his parents may have been responsible for the property. The 14 slaves listed under William Jones' name in the 1810 census very likely worked at Walnut Valley. Before he appeared in the tax lists, William Jones began keeping a ledger of accounts for Walnut Valley in 1803 and continued through 1813. In the ledger, he wrote his middle initial "C," which generally does not appear with his name in other documents.²² From 1820, the 47.25-acre tract was the only one among the six that Jones owned in Surry County (totaling 723.25 acres) with a valuation for buildings. This value remained constant (with the minor upward adjustment of 25 cents in 1821) through the 1830s.²³

The December 1833 appraisal of William Jones' estate paints the picture of a thriving, mixed plantation. Jones balanced his personal wealth between an impressive collection of capital-consuming luxury items for both personal pleasure and display of status, and a more valuable array of capital-producing assets such as livestock, farming implements, equipment for processing farm products, and slaves.²⁴ Among the items that could be considered contributing to the improvement of his property were issues of the *Farmers' Register*, a journal dedicated to dissemination of new agricultural technologies and advances in farming methods. Distant kinsman Edmund Ruffin had begun its publication in 1833, the year Jones died.²⁵

Although the concept of human beings as chattel is now obsolete, in the world of William Jones, the slaves on his plantation represented his most valuable capital-producing assets. In 1833, the estate appraisers valued 30 individuals who toiled without wages on his plantation at \$5,875, compared to only \$2,583 for the rest of his personal estate. Moreover, the appraisal of slaves did not include an additional enslaved woman named Venus, whom Jones bequeathed to his wife Ann.²⁶ Among the plantation's labor force were seven adult men, assigned values ranging from \$50 to \$525. Three of the six adult women were listed without children and their values were \$175, \$375, and \$400, respectively. The other three women had their values combined with their young children. The appraisers described four individually listed young slaves as "boy" and two as "girl." However, with values ranging between \$175 and \$350, these four young people would have contributed significantly to the productivity of the plantation. The names and values assigned to the slaves appear in the papers of a chancery case that settled the distribution of the slaves to various heirs. Adult or adolescent male slaves included: Isham (\$800), Randolph (\$650), Jeffery (\$700), Pork (\$200), Frank (\$450), Jesse (\$100), Edmund (\$450), Dick (\$575), and Jack (\$350). The adult female slaves without children were Anne Eliza

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(\$325), Lunno (\$450), Hannah (\$500), Judith (\$400), Rachel (\$250), and Lavinia (\$75). Other female slaves were listed alongside their children: Lydia and her daughter Agnes (together valued at \$675), Rebecca and her daughters Polly and June (\$825), Clary and her children Elizabeth and Henry (\$775), Betty and her son Robert (\$450). Eady was described as an “old woman” with a value of “minus \$50” to the estate.²⁷

As an offset to the harshly exploitive institution of slavery, William Jones had to provide at least minimal support for the welfare of three elderly female slaves and six slave children who were not of prime working age.²⁸ On the other hand, the upkeep he bestowed on the children was an “investment” in their potential to serve as future productive laborers, or even as “disposable” capital. Even though the market for slave labor in Virginia had decreased from the late eighteenth century, with economic decline and a shift to less labor-intensive crops, demand for slave labor steadily rose across the cotton-producing Deep South and the new slave territories and states to the west. Often, when Virginia planters found themselves under financial stress, they sold one or more of their slaves to raise cash.

From the Walnut Valley farm ledger, it is evident that Walnut Valley depended on additional labor besides slaves. It is presumed that regular cash payments to a free African American named Dannell (or Daniel) Trusty, were for his labor. In addition, the ledger reveals that Jones paid for inmates of the county poor house to work on his property.²⁹

Judging from the products, implements, and livestock on hand, the labor force worked on a variety of farm tasks. They used draft animals such as oxen and mules, plows, cultivators, and a variety of hoes to tend crops of corn, cotton, and peas. Among the equipment were three marl carts, purposed to the arduous task of restoring the fields’ productivity with the application of the lime-rich fertilizer. The large quantities of the following products stored at Walnut Valley suggest the main crops: 1,440 lb. of cotton, 99½ barrels of corn, and eight bushels of peas. The quantity of cotton and the specific mention of a cotton gin in William Jones’ will indicates that he was growing cotton as a cash crop.³⁰ The number of livestock in the appraisal indicates that Jones raised many of the animals for marketable meat or other products, as well as for home consumption by the 50 or so individuals making up the owner’s family and the slave labor force. Listings for shears and spinning wheels suggest that the 45 sheep primarily provided wool, but may have been culled occasionally for meat. In addition, there were 20 cows, a bull, 10 sows, two boars, and 32 shoats, 30 hens, four ducks, and three turkeys.³¹ Listing of a special-purpose “log cart & wheels” suggests that Jones may have sold cordwood in addition to simply thinning the wooded area in the marginal soils around the drainages on his property for home heating and cooking.

Along with this typical mix of livestock and crops found on many Tidewater farms in the early nineteenth century, William Jones also grew orchard fruits for distilling. Local historian Helen Haverty King has identified an early-nineteenth-century boom in the distilling industry that occurred in Surry and Isle of Wight County in the early nineteenth century.³² William Jones’ inventory lists an astonishing 1,060 gallons of apple brandy and 196 gallons of peach brandy, worth \$318 and \$117.60, respectively, along with two barrels of cider, an apple mill, and a cider press.³³ Not included in the inventory was “his best still,” which William Jones bequeathed to his

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son Bolling in his will.³⁴ Consistent with this trend, Albert Carroll Jones planted apple orchards and installed distilleries at neighboring Chippokes plantation when he purchased it in 1837.³⁵

As a prosperous plantation owner, William Jones owned household possessions that emphasized his status within the county's elite. Among items mentioned in his will and appraised in his inventory are luxuries such as a mahogany bed, table, and sideboard, a set of 12 Windsor chairs, mirrors, window curtains, sets of table "China" (porcelain), specialized tea service items, silver spoons, 10 wine glasses, among other items.³⁶

In his will, William Jones stipulated that his son "Bowling" Jones inherit the "Land and plantation whereon I at present reside," along with property purchased from Lucy Paradise (of Chippokes Plantation) and from Henry Blow on "the Mill pond belonging to the estate of William Finch." The inheritance was conditional on providing adequate support to his mother, equivalent to a stipend of £50 per annum. Bolling Jones would serve as executor, while W. E. B. Ruffin would be the guardian William's minor offspring, William Claiborne and Minerva.³⁷

By the 1830s and 1840s, Bolling Jones, like many other Tidewater farmers, sought to improve the yields of soils exhausted from centuries of tobacco cultivation, followed by decades of poor management practices for growing cereal crops. In a response to a survey about the application of marl as a soil amendment in an 1841 issue of the *Farmer's Register*, Bolling Jones noted that he had come into possession of Walnut Valley in 1834. Previously, he noted, management of the farm was "not such as could be considered meliorating, or even as preserving its fertility." Jones devoted considerable effort to marling at Walnut Valley and attested to impressive results. Although his father had applied the soil amendment to a portion of the property, by 1841, Bolling Jones added marl to 241 acres of his cultivated fields and the following year intended to have his entire arable acreage amended. Unlike many planters who only had their laborers do the work "at leisure times," Jones devoted a "separate force" of his workers to the task of applying some 250 to 300 tons of marl per acre. The reward for this effort was a sharp increase in crop yields, amounting to 25 to 100 percent after the first year of applying the marl.³⁸

To carry out the labor at this productive farm, including the extra labor of intensive marl application, Bolling Jones kept a large number of slaves. The 1840 census lists Bolling Jones with 45 slaves. Jones was 42, and thus born about 1798. In his household were two white females, aged 20-29 (his wife) and 15-19 (a daughter). In the 1850 slave census, Bolling Jones was listed as owning 36 slaves. The larger number of slaves for the 1840 census included 26 slaves that came under his control through his wife Henrietta's inheritance from her father Richard H. Edwards in December 1839: Isham (valued at \$800), Randolph (\$650), Jeffery (\$700), Pork (\$200), Frank (\$450), Jesse (\$100), Edmund (\$450), Dick (\$575), Jack (\$350), Ann Eliza (\$325), Sunno (\$450), Hannah (\$500), Jonathan (\$400), Lydia and child Agnes (\$675 combined), Rebecca and children Polly and Jane (\$825 combined), Clary and two children Elizabeth and Henry (\$775 combined), Betty and child Robert (\$450 combined), Rachell (\$250), Levinia (\$75), and old woman Eady (negative \$50, evidently because she could not work and needed care). The aggregate value of the slaves was assessed at \$9,100.³⁹

Bolling Jones died in 1855. In his will he directed that his wife Henrietta could remain on the property and have life rights to all of the farm's livestock, household furniture, and farm

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equipment. She also would have a labor force of seven slaves. There were three adult male slaves: Billy, Clary, and Lewis; and three female slaves: Betsy, Lydia, and Elizabeth and her young son, Richard. Bolling's brother, William C. Jones, also received a bequest of slaves: Jeffrey, Edmund, Frank, Annetta, and her issue.⁴⁰ At least three of the slaves, Frank, Jeffery, and Edmund, may be the same individuals who came to Walnut Valley through Henrietta Jones' inheritance of slaves from her father in 1839.⁴¹ Upon the death of his wife, Bolling directed, Walnut Valley and his other slaves would be sold so that his brother would receive two-thirds of the proceeds of the sale, and \$2,500 would go to his niece Minerva E. Pegram. Any debts that Bolling Jones owed could be settled with proceeds from the sale of cord wood, indicating this was yet another regular source of income from the versatile property.⁴²

Several items in Jones' will point to his wealth and a luxurious lifestyle. To his wife, Henrietta, he left both a buggy and a barouche. The latter vehicle was a fashionable four-wheeled carriage pulled by a pair of horses that had two double seats facing each other, a collapsible hood, and high seat for the driver. Bolling Jones also owned a gold watch, a library of books, and a violin with a collection of sheet music.⁴³

By far the most significant portion of Bolling Jones' wealth was in slaves, with 33 slaves worth some \$21,100.⁴⁴ Although Walnut Valley was a prosperous farm needing a large labor force, many other areas of Tidewater were experiencing agricultural and economic stagnation in the first half of the nineteenth century. Established families who remained on their eastern Virginia farms—while many others ventured west—accumulated great debts as exhausted soils produced lower yields. In order to maintain a genteel lifestyle or even simply to hold onto their estates, the sale of slaves was an inviting solution. With a high demand for labor, and therefore slaves, in the cotton-producing regions of the Deep South, the value of slaves had steadily risen. In the first half of the nineteenth century, Tidewater slave owners sold slaves whenever their debt burdens reached unmanageable levels.

Shortly after Bolling Jones' death, complications regarding his will, coupled with the economic upheavals of the Civil War, led to a protracted chancery suit. The case involved his wife Henrietta, his brother William C. Jones, his half-brother and executor William E. B. Ruffin, niece Minerva Pegram, and husband Blair Pegram. Even though Bolling Jones had written a will, ambiguous wording in the document led the county court to declare him intestate, requiring the court to consider the inheritance rights of various "heirs-at-law," or members of his extended family whom he had not designated in his will. Specifically, the will was deficient because he had been unclear "as to the residue of lands and slaves" once the two-thirds portion for William C. Jones and the \$2,500 for Minerva Pegram were subtracted from the proceeds of selling his plantation and slaves not specifically bequeathed to his heirs.⁴⁵ In 1857 the heirs-at-law agreed that it was in their mutual interest not to await the death of life rights holder Henrietta Jones before selling Walnut Valley. According to a court decree assenting to the premature sale, "Mrs. Jones, the widow has so contracted her farming operation" as to discontinue cultivation of the lands her husband had left to her. Although the property was in good condition, it would only depreciate in value if rented out, thereby diminishing the sum that would eventually go to Jones' heirs from the proceeds of selling the plantation.

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On December 27, 1858, executor W. E. B. Ruffin auctioned the property, and Blair Pegram, the husband of Bolling Jones' neice Minerva, who was to receive \$2,500 from the proceeds, made the winning bid and paid \$5,178 for the property, with a two-year note to pay the full purchase price. He received title to the property on May 11, 1863, after paying \$5,112.34 for principal and interest in Confederate currency, although initially it was understood that he could defer paying the principal so that the interest payments could help support the widow Henrietta.⁴⁶ Transfer of ownership is corroborated by an 1863 Confederate engineers' maps of Surry County that show a building in the approximate location of Walnut Valley bearing the name Pegram.⁴⁷

By 1863, W. S. Underwood was serving as commissioner responsible for collecting payments on the sale of the property, following W. E. B. Ruffin's death two years earlier. As wartime inflation soared, Blair Pegram had convinced Underwood to accept full payment for the property in Confederate treasury notes. By 1863, Confederate paper money was worth only one-sixth of the value of gold currency, the generally accepted form of payment for real estate transactions. Moreover, following the payment of the principal Underwood had invested the funds in a Confederate bond. Although this financial instrument initially had an annual return of 7 percent, the investment proved to be disastrous because Confederate bonds "were depreciating every day."⁴⁸ The case continued without financial resolution until the 1880s, carried on through heirs of the various parties long after the deaths of Henrietta Jones and William C. Jones.

The Pegrams retained possession of the property until the 1880s. In 1881, the couple executed a deed of trust for the the 352.25-acre Walnut Valley home tract with T. N. Jones in order to secure a debt owed to Micajah J. Holt.⁴⁹ Three bonds, each worth \$585.33 1/3 plus 8% interest, were payable over the following three years. Five years later, in March 1886, Micajah Holt and his wife Margaret Pegram Holt conveyed the property to Minerva Jones Pegram for \$4,523.17, apparently as a release of the lien.⁵⁰ In 1904, Minerva Pegram began leasing the Walnut Valley house and a share of the land to George Washington Mitchell and his wife Francis.⁵¹

In her will (probated in December 1916), Minerva Jones Pegram devised life rights to her "farm in Surry known as Walnut Valley" jointly to her daughters, Mrs. Charles Warren and Mrs. May Pegram Jones. After their deaths, her grandson Walker Pegram Warren would inherit the property.⁵² According to the 1920 census Walker Pegram Warren, age 37, was married to Violet L. Warren and earning his income from farming. Warren and Violet Warren lived in Smithfield, in the household of his parents, Charles W. Warren and Carrie Pegram Warren.⁵³ Walker Pegram Warren also inherited Bacon's Castle as a gift from his father in 1931.⁵⁴ Throughout their lives, Walker and Violet Warren lived in Smithfield and used Bacon's Castle as a summer residence. For their income, the Warrens depended on leasing and sharecropping arrangements on their Bacon's Castle and Walnut Valley properties.⁵⁵

The Mitchell family has continued to farm Walnut Valley to the present. According to the Raymond Holt Mitchell, the current leaseholder who was born at Walnut Valley in 1930, three to six African American sharecropping families leased portions of the property for as long as he could remember. Throughout the twentieth century, peanuts were the main crop. In exchange for the lease, every fourth row of peanuts went to the owner's share. The farm also had a large herd of hogs, kept in a hog lot at the northeast edge of the yard. The 1910 census records George

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Washington Mitchell and Francis Mitchell living on the farm with their son Raymond Ward Mitchell (12), George's stepson John Carroll (18), and his mother Mary Price. By 1920, the family included the Mitchells, their son Raymond W. Mitchell, and four grandchildren with the last name Savely. Ten years later, the elderly George and his wife lived with son Raymond and his wife Susie Mae Holt. Susie Mitchell's maiden name, passed on as the middle name of her son Raymond, suggests a continued connection to the intermarried Holts, Pegrams, and Joneses who had owned Walnut Valley since the eighteenth century. In 1940, George W. Mitchell still lived at Walnut Valley, but his son Raymond W. Mitchell had succeeded him as head of household. Raymond's wife Susan and his 10-year-old son Raymond Holt Mitchell also lived in the house.

In each census available since the Mitchells began leasing the property, the census taker recorded the households of several African American neighbors, confirming the proximity of other sharecropping families on the property, as Raymond H. Mitchell reported in a 2013 interview. In 1930, one of the possible sharecropping families was that of Andrew and Louise White (both aged 37) with seven young children. Another was Charlie T. Brown (65) and his wife Georgiana (57). Other African American families in the vicinity owned their homes, such as the Thomas Butler, John Bailey, Hardy Wingfield, and Chester Brown.

In 1972, Walker and Violet Warren died in an automobile accident; the couple had no children.⁵⁶ The following year, James O. Heptinstall and United Virginia Bank/Seaboard National Bank (as co-executors of Walker Pegram Warren's estate) conveyed Walnut Valley to W. W. Reasor, a real estate developer from Virginia Beach.⁵⁷ The 315-acre tract consisted of two parcels. The first parcel corresponds to the existing Walnut Valley property, while the second was a parcel on the north side of State Route 633 that included a branch of College Run as one of its boundaries.⁵⁸ Woodrow Reasor and his wife Lucy continued to lease the property to Raymond Holt Mitchell, under the terms of his lifetime lease.

In 1995, the Reasors conveyed to property to their holding company, Reasor Corporation.⁵⁹ Mr. Reasor died on October 5, 1999. Lucy Reasor conveyed Walnut Valley from Reasor Corporation to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the Department of Conservation and Recreation on January 14, 2004.⁶⁰ In April 2005, Mrs. Reasor and Virginia government officials dedicated a brick marker with a plaque honoring Mr. Reasor that stands in the front yard of the plantation house.⁶¹ The Department of Conservation is working to incorporate the property into its programs.

Architectural context of Walnut Valley plantation house

Based on the appearance of Walnut Valley and comparisons with other historic buildings in Surry County, the plantation house may date to the late eighteenth century, perhaps between 1770 and 1790. It should be noted, however, that Surry's historic architecture tends to be stylistically very conservative. Historian James Kornwolf has observed, "As late as the Civil War, the style and manner of building characteristic of the later Colonial period remained in force."⁶² A broad range of sometimes tenuous dates has been ascribed to several other frame houses with brick end walls in the county. Cedar Ridge, built sometime in the eighteenth century and moved to Williamsburg in the twentieth century, is a one-and-a-half-story frame house with brick ends remarkably similar in proportion to the north wall of Walnut Valley. Both walls have a centered interior end chimney and similar roof slopes.⁶³ Pleasant Point is an earlier example,

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possibly built in the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Just like Walnut Valley, this house has a basement laid in English bond with Flemish bond end walls above. The depth is similarly double pile, although Pleasant Point includes a full center passage, while Walnut Valley incorporates that space behind the front door into a large hall.⁶⁴ Finally, Melville is another possibly early-eighteenth-century example of a frame house with brick end walls. In this case, however, the chimneys are not flush with the end walls, but instead pierce the clipped gables.⁶⁵

Walnut Valley is notable for preserving several distinctive features of regional eighteenth-century vernacular dwellings. In his dissertation, Dell Upton documented examples of domestic architecture across the counties of southeastern Virginia, noting several trends that are evident at Walnut Valley. Like many other contemporary dwellings, the stair to the second story is compactly tucked away in order to maximize floor space in the rest of the first floor. Although the center passage had become a common feature by the late eighteenth century, it was by no means ubiquitous. The small stair passage at Walnut Valley is to the rear of the hall (the north, front room) and has a staircase that rises from the rear of the house but not directly in front of the rear door with a fairly plain balustrade consisting of a square newel post, a rectangular railing, and urn and column balusters. It is the upstairs that receives a slightly more elaborate touch marked by floor-to-ceiling Tuscan colonette newels. Typical of other contemporary double-pile dwellings, the second story is only one room deep on either side of the stair passage, which adjoins both bedrooms as well as the storage room to the south of the passage. Walnut Valley conforms to Upton's general observations about one-and-a-half-story houses, that "...every room should be directly accessible from the stair landing...the stair should be set off from all of the other rooms." With the stair rising from the first-story hall or a separate stair passage, the configuration kept "the second-story space secluded from direct access."⁶⁶

Even though Walnut Valley's frame construction with a northern brick end wall has a decidedly colonial-period appearance, the early configuration of the south end appears firmly rooted in the turn of the nineteenth century. Only a portion of one exterior end chimney survives on the south end to recall Walnut Valley's former, distinctive double chimney with frame pent. This feature is best known on Southern Maryland dwellings dating to the turn of the nineteenth century. However, a local survey of historic buildings reveals that the design also enjoyed considerable popularity in Surry County during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Walnut Valley's double chimneys probably date no earlier than the first decade of the nineteenth century, as evidenced from the two stepped weatherings and three-course American bond construction. Likewise, the paired chimneys at Chippokes Plantation's Ludwell House, built ca. 1805-1815, have a frame pent room projecting beyond the exterior faces of the chimneys.⁶⁷ Another example on an adjacent property is Richneck. With its gambrel roof, this all-brick building harkens back to the colonial period but in fact was built about 1800 in three-course American bond. The large brick pent also extends beyond the outer faces of the chimneys.⁶⁸ Other examples of double brick chimneys with pents in Surry include Ellerslie (ca. 1800), the Judkins House (ca. 1790), King plantation (ca. 1790), Laurel Spring (with a two-story pent, built in the late eighteenth century), and the late eighteenth-century Macintosh's Tavern.⁶⁹

It is possible that Walnut Valley originally consisted of a frame house with symmetrical brick end walls with interior end chimneys flush with the wall planes. A later remodeling may have demolished a brick end wall, extended the south end of the house by 5 feet, and erected a frame

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and weatherboard wall featuring a double exterior brick chimney with a frame pent between the stacks. Certainly, a significant building campaign occurred on the plantation in the early nineteenth century. The configuration of the south end of the main house, and the diagnostic stepped weatherings and three-course American bond construction of the chimneys indicate a date in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The date of the south wall configuration may coincide with the construction of the slave quarter building still extant southwest of the house. Dendrochronological analysis of structural framing members in the dependency points to a construction date of 1816. The frame kitchen to the east of the plantation house also may have been built at this time. Given the apparent prosperity of Jones' plantation at the time of his death in 1833, he may have had the means one to two decades earlier to invest in upgrades to the existing plantation house as well as new construction of dependencies.

Walnut Valley Slave Quarter in the Broader Context of Nineteenth-Century Slave Housing

Dated to 1816 through dendrochronological testing, the slave quarter at Walnut Valley is a sturdy frame building with a wooden floor that originally rested on a solid brick foundation (and now on brick piers); sophisticated finishes include a chimney with an ornamental mousetooth cap, box cornices with crown molding, and sash windows in molded casings. Very early in its history, it also was wallpapered with newspaper; during a visit by DHR staff remnants of an 1831 newspaper was observed on an interior wall. Although this little building may seem remarkably well-constructed and finished to have served as housing for slaves, it should be noted that slave holders utilized a very wide range of accommodations over the course of the history of slavery in Virginia and across the South.⁷⁰ At one end of the spectrum, many field slaves in the tobacco economy of the colonial period lived in crudely built, poorly lit, damp, and badly ventilated shelters of hewn or round logs or other inexpensive materials, located out of sight from the planter's house. As a rigidly hierarchical society developed in Tidewater Virginia over the course of the late seventeenth and eighteenth century, elite planters emphasized their status with outward displays of wealth and taste that ranged from fashionable consumer goods, such as imported porcelain and fine furniture, to architecture and designed landscapes in the public areas of their plantations. Slave housing for domestic servants and for other slaves working near the main house sometimes contributed to the display of wealth and power designed to impress other members of white society who moved through the plantation landscape.⁷¹ Separate slave quarter buildings and domestic outbuildings such as kitchens, smokehouses, and dairies often were built in styles and materials that resembled and complemented the main house, creating a harmonious, ordered assemblage of buildings. By the early nineteenth century, improvements to slave housing extended beyond aesthetically pleasing exteriors in the most visible areas of the plantation. Based partly on religious convictions, there was a call for more humane treatment of slaves, in the form of better living conditions, among other priorities such as church attendance. At the same time, a more scientific approach to agriculture focused on improving efficiency and productivity. This not only meant employing fertilizers and soil amendments to improve crop yields. In the South, a more rational, efficient mindset also applied to taking better care of the planter's most expensive capital investment---the unpaid labor force of self-reproducing slaves. One way to improve health and longevity was to provide more wholesome accommodations with better heating, ventilation, and lighting. The sturdily built and handsomely finished slave quarter at Walnut Valley appears to manifest both the superficial aesthetic sensitivities of planter status as well as a concern for living conditions that promoted better health and productivity.

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With as many as 45 enslaved individuals living on the property in the Antebellum period, there would have been other slave quarters on the property. Nothing is known about these buildings. There is only a possibility of finding archaeological remains based on the assumption that locations of nineteenth- to twentieth-century African American sharecropper dwellings (noted by twentieth-century resident Raymond H. Mitchell) may correspond to earlier slave quarter sites. Based on the interest that William Jones and later his son Bolling Jones showed in efficient plantation management, they probably invested in dwellings that promoted better health, perhaps with raised wooden floors to minimize dampness, windows for light and ventilation, and tightly fitting logs or boards to block out drafts. If these quarters stood in the margins of the property where the sharecropper dwellings were located, however, their exterior appearance would have been baldly utilitarian, eschewing the additional costs of moldings, cornices, and chimney ornament found on the extant quarter near the house.

A substantial record from the first half of the nineteenth century documents an interest in building improved, more wholesome living quarters for slaves at reasonable costs. Scores of letters and articles about slave housing and health appeared in the *Farmers' Register*, *DeBouw's Review*, *Southern Cultivator*, and other periodicals. One 1837 letter summarized the basic improvements in log dwellings that could make a significant difference in health and productivity:

“Hewed log cabins with white oak sills, 16 feet by 18, make very comfortable houses. The roof should be framed. The old fashioned cabins, with log roofs and slabs not nailed but merely confined by logs, almost invariably leak and keep the cabin floor always wet, which...is one origin of the catarrhal affections which terminate in what is called “negro consumption.”⁷²

With increased availability of milled lumber, raised plank floors became a popular alternative to damp earthen floors. In many cases, planters even invested in frame construction clad in wooden boards. According to one former slave from North Carolina interviewed in the 1930s, “Our little home was made of planks, heavy oak lumber, all whitewashed with lime.”⁷³ Articles in agricultural journals also called for wood shingle roofs and brick chimneys instead of wattle and daub chimneys. Some even advocated brick house construction as more cost-effective over time.⁷⁴

Besides their concern for more humane treatment, better health, and lower mortality, reformers also recognized the need for alternatives to the threat of violence against their slaves as a means of fostering compliance. Slaves might be less resistant to their repressed condition with improved living conditions.⁷⁵ One planter proposed sophisticated multifamily buildings equipped with a stove-heated central common area. He emphasized contentedness and compliance as benefits of his innovations. A warm, convivial common area not only saved on fuel over multiple inefficient fireplaces. It also left less incentive to wander outside the plantation during free time in the evenings: “A master may at night keep his slaves under the best control...keep his negroes home, unless absent by leave.”⁷⁶

While the tightly built frame quarter at Walnut Valley would have provided sound and fairly comfortable accommodations, exterior sophistication clearly places the building within a complex that was designed to emphasize the good taste, wealth, and status of the owner.

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Standing just south of the main approach to the plantation house from the west, the slave quarter would have been one of the first buildings visible to visitors. In harmony with the planter's dwelling, this dependency was a frame gabled building covered with weatherboard and heated by a brick chimney. Although the present weatherboard, probably dating to the second half of the nineteenth century, is plain, impressions on the chimney mortar indicate that the original boards were beaded like those on the plantation house. Photographic and residual physical evidence shows that both buildings originally had roofs covered with wood shingles. Other common finishes include a box cornice complete with crown molding and glazed sash windows in molded casings. The mousetooth chimney cap added an eye-catching decorative flourish not found on the main house. The attention to sound construction and finishes such as box cornices, cornerboards, and bargeboards can be found on the kitchen building, which appears to have been constructed in the early nineteenth century like the slave quarter. A prominent example of slave quarter dependencies that reproduced features of the main house can be found at West End in Louisa County, Virginia. Details on the quarter echo the Classical Revival details of the mansion.

The nearest example of slave housing with sophisticated finishes similar to Walnut Valley occurs at neighboring Bacon's Castle (only 3 miles away). The location of this slave dwelling, only 123 feet from the main house (the Walnut Valley slave quarter is 125 feet from the house), probably influenced the investment in sturdy construction, pleasing appearance, and wholesome design. This frame duplex dwelling is covered with weatherboards and has two exterior end brick chimneys. Each half is lit by opposing front and rear windows on both the first story and the half-story above, and there are fireplaces on both floors. Each half had approximately 400 square feet of floor space, roughly equivalent to the area of the Walnut Valley quarter.⁷⁷

The architectural prominence of the slave quarter at Walnut Valley is further suggested by the possible presence of a twin building somewhere in the vicinity. A building shown in a photograph taken by artist Frances Johnston in 1933 is nearly identical to the standing slave quarter. It has similar proportions, form, and features such as a chimney with a mousetooth cap, a door and small window on the main elevation, and weatherboard siding. However, the configuration of openings relative to the chimney and to an open field to the rear suggests that the photograph shows a building that is a mirror image of the extant quarter. Furthermore, the photograph shows a rear, shed-roofed extension for which there is no evidence on the extant building. The presence of two such buildings suggests the possibility of twin slave quarters flanking the approach to the house.

This use of slave quarters as a display of status is consistent with scholarly research on plantation complexes. Dell Upton has effectively argued that plantation architecture and landscape in Virginia were designed to convey the importance of the planter relative to peers and inferiors in white society. Plantation houses were surrounded by outbuildings, gardens, pathways, and approached by tree-lined avenues. What Upton terms the "processional landscape" dictated that white visitors move through prescribed approaches and only be allowed into certain areas of the yard and house, depending on their status. On the other hand, control of slaves depended on physical punishment and the threat of violence rather than the subtle messages of the processional landscape communicated to white visitors. Upton contends that

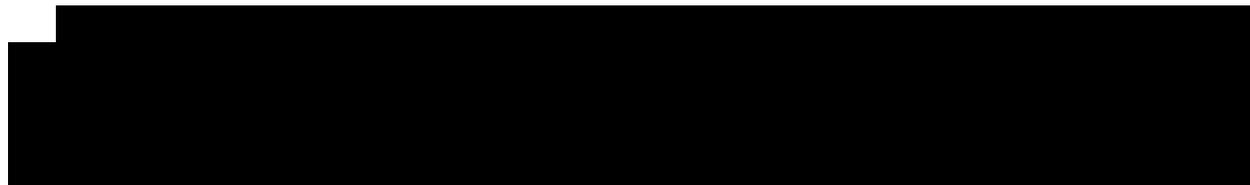
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slaves moved “invisibly” through this landscape, going about their daily chores in the yard and house.⁷⁸

It should not be surprising, then, to find slaves’ housing so prominently featured in the most visible area of the plantation yard. On the contrary, the control of slave labor was an important status symbol. Domestic slaves housed in separate, aesthetically pleasing buildings near the main house emphasized the planter’s wealth and importance. On some plantations, such as Locust Grove in King and Queen County, Virginia, for example, the planter kept more domestic slaves than needed in order to more conspicuously display his wealth. Walnut Valley, too, may have housed an excessive number of slaves when Bolling Jones’ wife Henrietta received her inheritance of slaves from her father’s estate in 1839.⁷⁹ In his study of slave dwellings through records and interviews collected by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s, John Michael Vlach cites examples of slave dwellings on either side of the driveway leading to the mansion, similar to the prominent display of slave housing found at Walnut Valley.⁸⁰ Vlach’s art historical study of slavery illustrates an even more lavish display of slave housing flanking the main approach to the plantation house at Mulberry House in South Carolina. With a slave labor force numbering in the hundreds, the plantation owner flaunted his wealth with rows of slave houses that became known as Mulberry Street.⁸¹ While on a much smaller scale, Walnut Valley appears to have followed the same general principle of display.

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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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency

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Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR no. 090-0023 / Archaeological Site 44SY0262

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 262.91

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 37.128741°
Longitude: -76.740315°

B. Latitude: 37.125230°
Longitude: -76.738608°

C. Latitude: 37.126848°
Longitude: -76.732850°

D. Latitude: 37.117154°
Longitude: -76.739009°

E. Latitude: 37.116480°
Longitude: -76.745809°

F. Latitude: 37.122114°
Longitude: -76.746708°

G. Latitude: 37.125873°
Longitude: -76.747866°

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

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NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Chippokes Farm Road/State Route 634 defines the property's northwestern boundary. From the property's northernmost corner on Chippokes Farm Road/State Route 634, the boundary extends in a straight line southeastward to the source of an unnamed stream that flows east-northeastward to its confluence with Cobham Creek at the northeast corner of the tract. Lower Chippokes Creek flows eastward along the southern edge of the property, turns northeastward along the southeast boundary, and flows into Cobham Creek at the property's northeast corner. A precise delineation of the Walnut Valley boundary appears on the accompanying Googleearth location map. The nominated property occupies all of Tax Parcel no. 30-4 in Surry County, Virginia, as shown on the attached tax parcel map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Walnut Valley boundary encompasses the current property conveyed to the Commonwealth of Virginia by the previous owner. The 262.91-acre tract represents the home tract as well as a significant portion of the larger plantation as it existed in the late-eighteenth- to early-nineteenth-century period of construction of the extant plantation house, kitchen, and slave quarter. The area encompassed by the boundary retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association that conveys the property's historical association and significance in agriculture, architecture, archaeology, and ethnic heritage.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David Lewes, Project Manager
organization: William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research
street & number: 327 Richmond Road
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e-mail: dwlewe@wm.edu; jbjone@wm.edu
telephone: (757) 221-2580
date: March 15, 2013

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

All photographs are common to:

Property: Walnut Valley
County: Surry County
City or Vicinity: Highgate
State: Virginia

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

View: Plantation House, West Elevation
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0001.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: August 2012

View: Plantation House, West Side of South Elevation
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0002.tif
Photographer: Theresa A. Duffey
Date: February 2012

Walnut Valley

Name of Property

Surry County, Virginia
County and State

View: Plantation House, South and East Elevations

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0003.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Plantation House, East Elevation

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0004.tif

Photographer: Theresa A. Duffey

Date: February 2012

View: Plantation House, North Elevation

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0005.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Plantation House, West/Front Porch Detail

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0006.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Plantation House, Southeast Corner Detail

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0007.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Plantation House, Base of South Wall's Former West Chimney, Removed to Build Screened Porch

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0008.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: February 2013

View: Plantation House, Interior, Floor-to-Ceiling Newel Posts in Second-Story Landing

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0009.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Plantation House, Interior, Wainscoting in Parlor/Southwest First-Floor Room

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0010.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Slave Quarter, North and West Elevations

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0011.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

Walnut Valley

Name of Property

Surry County, Virginia

County and State

View: Slave Quarter, East and North Elevations
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0012.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: August 2012

View: Slave Quarter, South Elevation
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0013.tif
Photographer: Theresa A. Duffey
Date: February 2012

View: Slave Quarter, Interior, North Wall and Brick Hearth
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0014.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: August 2012

View: Slave Quarter, Interior, Loft Partition and Opening to Ladder Stair Landing
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0015.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: August 2012

View: Kitchen, West and South Elevations
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0016.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: August 2012

View: Storehouse, Looking Northeast
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0017.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: August 2012

View: Storehouse, Top of Window Casing on East Wall
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0018.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: February 2013

View: Granary, Looking Northwest
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0019.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: August 2012

View: Granary, Piers Detail
Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0020.tif
Photographer: David W. Lewes
Date: August 2012

Walnut Valley
Name of Property

Surry County, Virginia
County and State

View: Well House and Well, Looking Northwest. Note Top of Early Brick Well Lining Around Base of Concrete Cap.

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0021.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Equipment Shed, Looking Southeast

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0022.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Chicken House A, Looking Northwest

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0023.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Chicken House B, Looking Northwest

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0024.tif

Photographer: Theresa A. Duffey

Date: February 2012

View: Chicken House C, Looking Northwest

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0025.tif

Photographer: Theresa A. Duffey

Date: February 2012

View: Silo, Looking South

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0026.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Commemorative Marker

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0027.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Hog Pen, Looking North

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0028.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: Collapsed Barn, Looking Northwest

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0029.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Walnut Valley

Name of Property

Date: August 2012

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County and State

View: Collapsed Granary, Looking Northwest

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0030.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: General View, Looking Northeast Toward Plantation House

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0031.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

View: General View, Looking South Toward Plantation House

Image: VA_SurryCounty_WalnutValley_0032.tif

Photographer: David W. Lewes

Date: August 2012

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ENDNOTES

¹ Milton Grigg, Photographs and drawings from 1929 visit to Walnut Valley (On file, Rockefeller Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia); Dell Upton, Field notes, drawings, and photographs from architectural survey of Walnut Valley in 1976 and 1977 (Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1976-1977).

² Daniel W. H. Miles and Michael J. Worthington, *The Tree-Ring Dating of Eight Virginia Slave Buildings* (South Oxfordshire, United Kingdom: Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, 2009), 1, 11-12, 25.

³ Douglas Sanford, "Investigating the Slave Building at Walnut Valley Plantation (44SY0262), Surry County, Virginia," *Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia* 67, no. 1 (2012): 32.

⁴ Sanford, "Investigating the Slave Building at Walnut Valley Plantation," 32.

⁵ Surry County, Deed Book 189, p. 221 (Clerk of Surry County Circuit Court Office, Surry, Virginia).

⁶ Patrick Lynch, "Chippokes To Grow With Addition Of Farm," in *Daily Press* April 1, 2005.

⁷ Sanford, "Investigating the Slave Building at Walnut Valley Plantation," 41.

⁸ James D. Kornwolf, *Guide to the Buildings of Surry County and the American Revolution* (Surry, Va.: The Surry County Virginia 1976 Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 103.

⁹ Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks (VDHL), "National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form: Chippokes Plantation Historic District/Chippokes State Park (090-0070)," 1986.

¹⁰ Douglas C. McLearn, "Phase I Archaeological Survey of an Area of Proposed Campground Facilities at Chippokes Plantation State Park, Surry County, Virginia" (Report prepared for Department of Conservation, Richmond; Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center, Richmond, 1993), 6; Virginia M. Meyer, John Frederick Dorman, Annie Lash Jester, and Martha Hiden, *Adventurers of Purse and Person: Virginia, 1607-1624/5*, 3rd ed. (Alexandria, Va.: Order of First Families of Virginia, 1987); James D. Kornwolf and

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Georgiana Wallis Kornwolf, *Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial North America: England in North America, 1585 - 1867* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002), 552.

¹¹ Kornwolf, *Guide to the Buildings of Surry County*, 103.

¹² Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Volume One: 1623-1666*, 37.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Luke Brackett, "Historic Chipoax Road, Chippokes Plantation State Park" (Report on file at Chippokes Plantation State Park, Surry County, Virginia, 2003).

¹⁵ Surry County, Deeds, Wills, &c., 2: 149.

¹⁶ Kornwolf, *Guide to the Buildings of Surry County*, 103.

¹⁷ Surry County, Va., Deeds, Wills, &c., 4: 226.

¹⁸ Surry County, Va., Deeds, Wills, &c., 2: 16.

¹⁹ Surry County, Va., Deeds, Wills, &c., 4: 226.

²⁰ Surry County, Va., Deeds, Wills, &c., 2: 176.

²¹ *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography [VMHB]* (1921): 22, 24.

²² This William C. Jones, who owned Walnut Valley in the early nineteenth century and kept the 1803-1813 ledger, died in 1833. He should not be confused with his son, William C. Jones, who lived until 1867 but was born until about 1815, according to the U.S. Census of 1860.

²³ Land tax records, on microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

²⁴ Surry County, Va., Wills &c. 7 [1834-1840]: 83-86.

²⁵ Mary A. Stephenson, *Old Homes in Surry & Sussex* (Richmond, Va.: The Dietz Press, 1942), 4.

²⁶ Surry County, Va., Orders 1833-1838, p. 59; Wills &c. 6 (1830-1834).

²⁷ Surry County, Va., Chancery Records Index 1836-011 (Virginia Memory digital collections, Library of Virginia, Richmond).

²⁸ Surry County, Va., Wills &c. 7 (1834-1840): 83-86.

²⁹ William C. Jones, Walnut Valley Plantation Ledger, 1803-1813 (On file, Special Collections, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville), 232.

³⁰ Surry County, Va., Wills &c. 6 (1830-1834).

³¹ Surry County, Va., Wills &c. 7 (1834-1840): 83-86.

³² Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County*. Isle of Wight, Va.: Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993), 196.

³³ Surry County, Va., Wills &c. 7 (1834-1840): 83-86.

³⁴ Wills &c. 6 (1830-1834).

³⁵ VDHL, "Chippokes Plantation Historic District NRHP nomination form."

³⁶ Surry County Wills &c. 6 (1830-1834); 7 (1834-1840): 83-86.

³⁷ Surry County Wills &c. 6 (1830-1834).

³⁸ Bolling Jones, "Walnut Valley," *Farmers' Register* (1841): 265-266.

³⁹ Surry County, Va., Chancery Records Index 1840-006.

⁴⁰ Surry County, Va., Will Book 10: 215.

⁴¹ Surry County, Va., Chancery Records Index 1840-006.

⁴² Surry County, Va., Will Book 10: 215.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Surry County, Va., Will Book 10: 244-248.

⁴⁵ Surry County, Va., Will Book 10: 215; Surry County, Va., Chancery Records Index 1889-006.

⁴⁶ Surry County, Va., Deed Book 14: 40.

⁴⁷ W. Izard, Map of Surry, Sussex and Southampton counties, Virginia. /From surveys by W. Izard, Lieut. P.E. ; C. E. Cassell[,] C.F.N. Smith, Asst. Engrs. C.S.A. under the direction of A.H. Campbell, Capt. P.E.C.S.A. in charge Topogrl. Dept. D.N.V. ; J. Houston Patton, Draughtsman. [S.l.] : Chief Engineer's Office, D.N.V., 1863 (online version, Library of Congress, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.ndlpcoop/gvhs01.vhs00380>).

⁴⁸ Surry County, Va., Chancery Records Index 1889-006.

⁴⁹ Surry County, Va., Deed Book 18: 41.

⁵⁰ Surry County, Va., Deed Book 21: 137.

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⁵¹ Raymond Holt Mitchell, interview by David Lewes, Walnut Valley, Highgate, Va., 4 February 2013; Dell Upton field notes (On file, Va. Dept. of Historic Resources, Richmond). In 1976, Raymond [W.] Mitchell told architectural historian Dell Upton that he was born at Richneck and had lived at Walnut Valley for 71 years. This indicates he moved there in 1904-1905, confirming the 1904 date his son Raymond Holt Mitchell gave for the lease of the farm by his grandfather George Washington Mitchell.

⁵² Surry County, Va., Will Book 16: 324. Both Mrs. Warren and Mrs. Jones lived in Smithfield when they jointly owned Walnut Valley in the early twentieth century (Stephenson, *Old Homes*, 4).

⁵³ U.S. Population Census 1920.

⁵⁴ John Bennett Boddie, *Virginia Historical Genealogies* (Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009), 252.

⁵⁵ Raymond Holt Mitchell, interview; 1; Bruce Roberts and Elizabeth Kedash, *Plantation Homes of the James River* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press Books, 1990), 87.

⁵⁶ Roberts and Kedash, *Plantation Homes*, 87.

⁵⁷ Surry County, Va., Deed Book 77: 145.

⁵⁸ Surry County, Va., Deed Book 77: 145-146.

⁵⁹ Surry County, Va., Deed Book 135: 499.

⁶⁰ Surry County, Va., Deed Book 189: 221.

⁶¹ Patrick Lynch, "Chippokes To Grow With Addition Of Farm," *Daily Press* (1 April 2005).

⁶² Kornwolf, *Guide to the Buildings of Surry County*, 7.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 34-35.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 95-101.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, 81-83.

⁶⁶ Dell Upton, "Early Vernacular Architecture in Southeastern Virginia" (Ph.D. dissertation, Brown University, 1979), 280, 285-286.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 38.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 106.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 1976:52, 73, 75, 77, 149.

⁷⁰ Martha B. Katz-Hyman and Kym S. Rice, eds., *World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States*, 2 vols. (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011), 1: 448-453

⁷¹ Dell Upton, "White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia." In *Material Life in America, 1600-1860*, Robert Blair St. George, ed. (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1988), 357-369.

⁷² Quoted in James O. Breeden, ed., *Advice among Masters: The Ideal in Slave Management in the Old South*, Contributions in Afro-American and African Studies no. 51 (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1980), 115; from "Management of Slaves &c.," *Farmers' Register* 5 (May 1837): 32-33.

⁷³ John Michael Vlach, *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*, Fred W. Morrison Series in Southern Studies (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993), 20.

⁷⁴ Breeden, *Advice among Masters*, 121, 123, 125.

⁷⁵ Sanford, "Investigating the Slave Building at Walnut Valley Plantation," 34-35; John Michael Vlach, "'Snug Li'l House with Flue and Oven': Nineteenth-Century Reforms in Plantation Slave Housing," in *Gender, Class, and Shelter: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture V*, Elizabeth Collins Cromley and Carter L. Hudgins, eds., (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995), 118-121, 126-127).

⁷⁶ Breeden, *Advice among Masters*, 118.

⁷⁷ Dennis Pogue, Andrew Stempel, and Doug Sanford, Bacon's Castle Slave Quarter "DECA and Photo Sites" entry in "Virginia Slave Housing Database," created and maintained jointly by Mount Vernon Ladies' Association; and University of Mary Washington – Center for Historic Preservation. Accessed online 2012 <<https://sites.google.com/site/slavehousing/deca-forms/bacon-s-castle-slave-quarters>>.

⁷⁸ Upton, "White and Black Landscapes."

⁷⁹ Surry County, Va., Chancery Records Index 1840-006.

⁸⁰ Vlach, *Back of the Big House*, 21.

⁸¹ John Michael Vlach, *The Planter's Prospect: Privilege and Slavery in Plantation Paintings*, The Richard Hampton Jenrette Series in Architecture and the Decorative Arts (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002), 8.

⁸² Sanford, "Investigating the Slave Building at Walnut Valley Plantation," 41.

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⁸³ Jolene Smith, "Archaeology of the Enslaved at Walnut Valley Cabin, Surry County, Virginia," (paper Presented at the joint annual meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia and the Eastern States Archeological Federation, Williamsburg, Va., October 2010), 2-3.

⁸⁴ Sanford, "Investigating the Slave Building at Walnut Valley Plantation," 35-38.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 39-40.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, 37-38.

⁸⁷ Richard Guercin, "Playthings in the Yard: A Summary of the 2009 Excavations at Walnut Valley Farm," (paper Presented at the joint annual meeting of the Archeological Society of Virginia and the Eastern States Archeological Federation, Williamsburg, Va., October 2010).

⁸⁸ Raymond Holt Mitchell, interview.

⁸⁹ Frances Johnston, "Walnut Valley, Bacon's Castle vic., Surry County, Virginia," 1933 (digital copy of photograph accessible online, Library of Congress, < <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/csas200905748/>>).

Additional Visual Material



View: Plantation House, North Elevation with Original Porch (right) and Kitchen Building (left) (printed from digital copy held by Library of Congress: <<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/csas200905747/>>)

Photographer: Frances Johnston

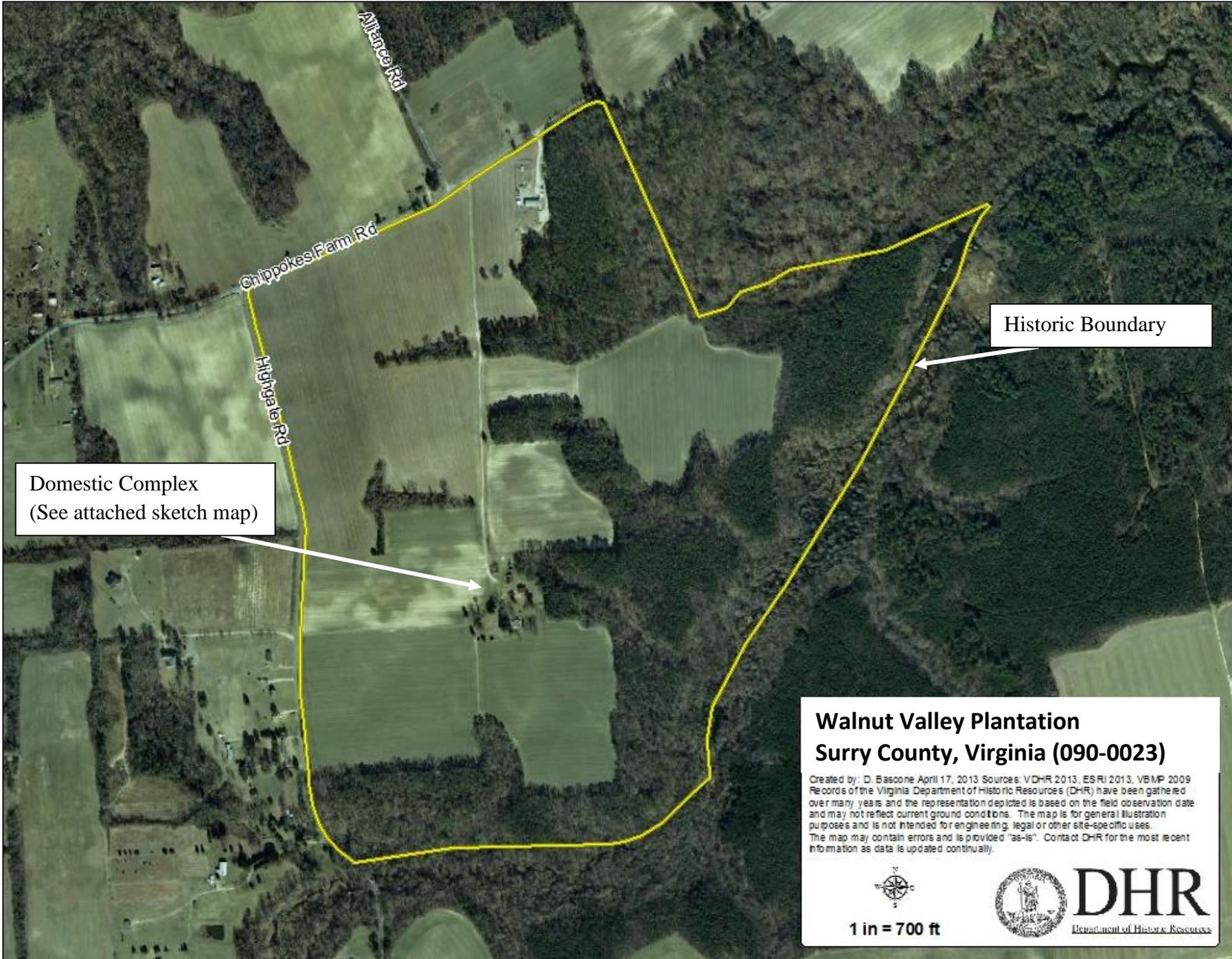
Date: 1933



View: Slave Quarter or No Longer Extant Twin Building with Shed-Roofed Extension (printed from digital copy held by Library of Congress: < <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/csas200905748/>>)

Photographer: Frances Johnston

Date: 1933



Allance Rd

Chippokes Farm Rd

Highgate Rd

Domestic Complex
(See attached sketch map)

Historic Boundary

**Walnut Valley Plantation
Surry County, Virginia (090-0023)**

Created by: D. Bascone April 17, 2013 Sources: VDHR 2013, ESRI 2013, VBMP 2009
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered
over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date
and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration
purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses.
The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent
information as data is updated continually.



1 in = 700 ft



DHR
Department of Historic Resources

