

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Charles City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Eppes Island

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Shirley Hundred Island

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Between Eppes Creek and the James River at the confluence
of the James and Appomattox Rivers.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Charles City CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
James van Deusen Eppes and Richard Eppes

STREET AND NUMBER:
447 Heckwelder Place, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; City Point, Hopewell, Va.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 37;45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Charles City County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charles City STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 500 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #18-32, 33

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site is bounded on the south and west by the James River, and on the north and east by Eppes Creek. The entire "particular plantation" of Shirley Hundred In-The-Island is encompassed by the present property. The site of this pioneer settlement, the present "house field," may be archaeologically productive. On the western end of the island is the Shirley Hundred village site near the present house. The swamp south of the house contains a woodland site and an archaic site, both of which are extensive. Slave quarters stand near the geographical center of the island adjacent to the sites of other quarters. The two easternmost fields each contain eighteenth-century house sites. The unmarked cemetery on the eastern end of the island is reputed to be the early Eppes burial place. A boundary ditch between fields four and five dates certainly from the eighteenth century and probably from the seventeenth century. It is one of the best-preserved boundary ditches in Virginia. The field-outlines by which the island is subdivided reflect some of the oldest extant property lines in America. Each field was originally a separate farm, patented to early settlers when private landholding was first introduced to Virginia. As the Eppes family obtained title to the island during the early part of the Colonial period, they retained the old property lines as field boundaries.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape		Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Eppes Island has been occupied by successive generations of the Eppes family since 1624, making it the oldest family farm in Virginia, still owned by its original owners' descendants. Under the Virginia Company, and under the Crown before the establishment of shires, the Charles City Corporation was divided into "hundreds" for purposes of government. Each hundred was under the command of a captain who was responsible for military and civil order. Shirley Hundred, one of the more prosperous, was divided into two parts with a commander for each. The two parts were described as "in the Island" and "in the Maine." By 1624 the Eppes family was established on the Island, and William and Francis Eppes are both described in that year as being of the Island. Over the following years the Eppes family (descendants of Francis) bought out the other landowners. In 1824 they purchased the last parcel from Hill Carter, thereby consolidating the estate. The western end of the island contains the only modern habitation, a house first built about 1790. A site near the eastern end of the island (44Cc6) has been excavated and was found to be that of another eighteenth-century house. Slave quarters still stand in ruins. A site on the easternmost field apparently is that of still another eighteenth-century house. John Smith met Opechancanough here in 1607, on his first voyage up the James. This island was one of the Pamunkey chieftain's principal seats. Edmund Ruffin commented in his Essay of Calcareous Manures that the soil of Eppes Island was uniquely rich in Tidewater Virginia. This is one of the few sites of particular plantations ("hundreds") from the period of the Virginia Company which can be identified, and which is available for archaeology by officially recognized groups.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Diaries of Dr. Richard Eppes, Manuscript Division, Alderman Library, University of Virginia.
Heite, Edward F., "Excavations at Eppes Island," Quarterly Bulletin, Archeological Society of Virginia, September, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 20' 02"	77° 16' 02"				
NE	37° 20' 02"	77° 13' 55"	WTM			
SE	37° 19' 12"	77° 13' 55"	NE	18 302 260	4134080	
SW	37° 19' 12"	77° 16' 02"	SE	" 302 260	4132450	
			SW	" 299 300	4132300	
			NW	" 299 140	4134110	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: May 1, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name _____

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

