

VR 6/19/8
NRHP 9/12/8

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hills Farm
other names/site number VDHR File #001-0023 Hunting Creek Plantation

2. Location

street & number 19065 Hills Farm Road not for publication N/A
city or town Greenbush vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Accomack code 023 zip code 23357
001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally . See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

W. C. Switzer Signature of certifying official July 30, 2008 Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic Secondary Structures
Agricultural/Subsistence Storage
Agricultural/Subsistence Animal Facilities

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic Secondary Structures
Agricultural/Subsistence Storage
Agricultural/Subsistence Animal Facilities

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/Postmedieval English
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Slate
walls Brick
other Weatherboarding [additions]

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

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.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1747-1942

Significant Dates 1747, 1856, 1942

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder 1747: Unknown; 1856: William H. White; 1942: James W. Adams

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Hill's Farm

Accomack County, Virginia

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repositories: VDHR; Accomack County, Clerk of Circuit Court Record Room; Library of Virginia Archives, Richmond

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 5 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing
18 437970 4181640

___ See continuation sheet.

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

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

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Camille Wells, Ph.D. Architectural Historian
 organization N/A date 8 January 2008
 street & number 9203 Minna Drive telephone 804-747-1507
 city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23229

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

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

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Timothy T. Brown and Susie Upshur Brown
 street & number 19065 Hills Farm Road telephone 757-665-5605
 city or town Greenbush state VA zip code 23357

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the

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**Hills Farm
Accomack County
Virginia**

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Hills Farm is the historic name of a house for which Richard Drummond III, then one of the wealthiest planters in Accomack County, began construction in 1747. Built of Flemish-bond brickwork to one full story in height, the house has regular, although not strictly symmetrical, north and south elevations, each with a central doorway and four flanking windows. With ground dimensions of about fifty-two by thirty feet, Hills Farm comfortably accommodates a central passage that organizes access to three first-story rooms. A passage and two more rooms are situated above the eaves of the gable roof.

In 1856 John R. Drummond, a descendant of the builder, supervised a major renovation of the house at Hills Farm. He replaced most of the colonial interior with more up-to-date Greek Revival details. He also added a one-story wood-framed and weatherboarded wing to the east gable end of the original house. A few years later he built a wood-framed ell onto the north side of this wing.

Hills Farm again was revised in 1942 when new owners Henry and Fredonia Richardson engaged architect James W. Adams to restore the house using the conventions of the Colonial Revival style. Adams created interior embellishments that include many elegant and witty interpretations of colonial architectural forms. His designs now are considered one of Hills Farms many historical assets.

Surrounding the colonial house at Hills Farm are eleven contributing farm buildings, all constructed with traditional wood frames and sided with weatherboards. Two of these dependencies, originally a smokehouse and a dairy, may date from the eighteenth century. Four were constructed in the nineteenth century. A barn and three small sheds date from before 1920. Finally a caretaker's cottage dates from the 1940s era of restoration.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

SETTING

Hills Farm was constructed with a north-south orientation so that its long elevations face Hunting Creek as well as the sandy, level road that was the original land approach from the south. Superior brickwork indicates that this landside elevation always was intended to be the façade of the house. Like much of the Eastern Shore, the terrain around Hills Farm rarely rises more than five feet above sea level, and to the north and east of the house, it settles into many acres of salt marsh. When the house was erected, the surrounding plantation encompassed six hundred acres. Along with the house, about 230 acres of this colonial tract now are incorporated into a 633-acre parcel of more modern delineation.

EXTERIOR: EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Hills Farm is a one-and-a-half-story house for which construction was begun in 1747.¹ It is built of very good-quality sand-molded bricks that are laid up, all the way from the bottom of the cellar walls to the cornice line, in Flemish bond. Even the bases of the two gable-end chimneys, both set entirely within the perimeter of the foundation, are laid up in this pattern. The house has a full cellar illuminated by a set of four openings in the south wall and two openings in the north wall. Each of these openings is finished off with a wood frame and central stanchion into which are set horizontal wooden slats. Original access to this cellar was by way of a bulkhead entrance situated at the base of the west gable-end wall.

The exterior walls of the house, both below and above the beveled plinth or water table, are laid up with a regular pattern of glazed headers, as is characteristic of fashionable Virginia brickwork before 1750.² The north and

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south elevations both have centered doorways flanked on each side by pairs of window openings. While the presentation of the façade appears symmetrical, the windows situated east of the doorway are set closer together than are those located on the west side. This configuration accommodates variation in the size of rooms within the house. Each of the south bays is finished off with a jack arch composed of gauged bricks with joints secured by lime-putty mortar. The corresponding bays on the north side of the house are surmounted by plainer rowlock courses of brick. This is the clearest indication that Richard Drummond and his family thought of the house as having a distinct front and back, rather than land-side and water-side facades.

The west gable end has four small windows, two of which illuminate the first, and two the upper, west rooms. As the west room on the first story receives light from both the north and south windows, it is likely that the lower two gable-end windows illuminated closets built to fill the space on either side of the chimney. Those that illuminate the room above stairs suggest that the dormers, clearly of eighteenth-century design, were added after the initial construction of the house. This possibility gains strength from the date 1768 penciled on one of the rafters near the west end of the house.³ A jack arch originally finished off each of these east and west gable-end windows. On the east end of the house, one window with proportions and details identical to those set into the west gable end still illuminates the east room above stairs. An early twentieth-century photograph indicates that it originally was one of a pair. A doorway set into the east gable end wall offered independent access to the southeast room on the first story.

Embellishing the transition from the brick walls to the gable roof was a cornice distinguished by unmolded modillions and finished at each corner with decoratively shaped stops. Originally the roof was covered with wood shingles. It apparently sustained the addition of five dormers on both the north and south planes of the roof during its second generation of occupation. This improvement indicates that the central passage and two finished rooms above stairs made an important contribution to household space.

INTERIOR: EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

The plan of Hills Farm is organized around a passage that extends from the north to the south exterior doorways and is a generous seven feet wide. A double-flight staircase with a landing that spans the entire width of the passage rises from the east partition wall and provides access to a smaller passage and a pair of rooms located on the upper half-story. Situated on the west side of the first-floor passage is a single large room with a fireplace and chimneybreast centered on the end wall. To the east side of the passage, two doorways originally provided independent access to each of two rooms. That which opens into the northeast room once passed beneath the stair carriage, an obscuring from view that imparted to that room a particular level of privacy. Corner fireplaces originally heated each of these east rooms.

Later episodes of alteration occasioned the removal of almost all of Hills Farm's original interior finish. The single exception to this generality survives on the upper story: a boldly shaped eighteenth-century bolection molding surrounds the fireplace in the west room. Although Hills Farm's interior as it presently is embellished offers few clues regarding original room functions, some inferences are possible. Hills Farm's central passage permitted the Drummond family or their designated representatives to manage access to their house from the exterior as well as entry into each of the various rooms.⁴ The first story of the house also encloses three rooms with functions that were well established in Virginia by the 1740s.⁵ There was the formal sitting room called "the hall" or, less commonly, "the parlor." A first-story bedroom occupied by the Richard and Catherine Drummond was known as "the chamber." Although offering retreat and repose was its principal function, the chamber in colonial Virginia often served as a place of reception or entertainment, particularly for the women of the household.⁶ Unlike the hall and chamber, both of which figured prominently in house plans of the seventeenth century, a designated dining room was a comparatively recent arrival, having made its appearance during the second quarter of the eighteenth century.

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At about the time Hills Farm was constructed, a change in hierarchy of room functions was underway. Whereas the hall once had been the largest and most elaborately embellished room in any wealthy Virginian's house, the dining room was increasing in size and richness of detail. This change occurred because the taking of meals was gaining popularity among Virginians as occasions for hospitality and display as well as scenes of important social interaction.⁷ While the southeast room, with its conveniently direct access to the detached kitchen, seems a likely location for dining, there are indications that the large west room was intended to be—or quickly became a few years after the house was completed—the Drummonds' dining room.

The evidence for this is in Richard Drummond's 1752 probate inventory. Although his appraisers did not present their findings in room-by-room format, they nevertheless documented the exceptional profusion of Drummond's tableware, which included two china punch bowls, a silver tankard, a silver teapot, and fifty-five pieces of china associated with serving and drinking tea. Most remarkable was Drummond's collection of silver serving and dining pieces; they weighed a total of nine pounds and at £68.09.08, were the costliest of all his household possessions.⁸ Clearly the Drummonds took quite seriously their receiving of guests for dinner, tea, or stronger drink, and the size as well as the superior detailing of their dining room almost certainly corresponded to the richness of the table they set. If the Drummonds were like most of Virginia's gentry, they liked to have it polished and on display. The "2 corner cupboards" in Drummond's inventory probably served this purpose. Moreover, the situation of windows, doorways, and chimneybreasts within Hills Farm leaves only the west room with sufficient corner space to accommodate such furniture.⁹

Thus it appears that the east side of the passage at Hills Farm was divided into a hall and, behind it, a chamber. This arrangement put the hall in a place that may have been conveniently versatile. With the chamber door open, it became a comparatively private family sitting room. With the chamber door closed and independent access available through the gable-end doorway, it could serve as a sort of office for meetings of various sorts. Alternatively, with refreshment coming in from the kitchen, the hall became a place for receiving guests for social occasions as well.

EXTERIOR: NINETEENTH CENTURY

On August 2, 1856 the builder whom John R. Drummond had hired to update his family's hundred-year-old house paused, fatigued in the August heat, to scribble on the back of a new mantel he was about to install: "This work was done in 1856 by Wm. H. White, boss; Lemuel N. Windsor, joiner; & John W. White & Jesse Shield prentise [apprentices]. Done for John R. Drummond & Elishe Anne his wife & its very hot summer and the boss is [boss's] wife had her tenth child while we were at work here. This mantel was made by me in my 46th year, W. H. White; Wm. Mears, bricklayer; Henry Carmine, plasterer."¹⁰

Thus was recorded the year in which Hills Farm received its first substantial revision, the exterior details of which survive only in old photographs. White, with his colleagues and apprentices, reglazed all of the windows with six-over-nine double-hung sash distinguished by the larger panes and more attenuated muntins commonly available in Virginia by the antebellum period. They also set louvered blinds on each side of the first-story windows. The builders widened the south doorway in order to make room for sidelights and transoms, a fashionable change that also helped offset the darkening of the passage occasioned by the construction of a pedimented porch set on brick piers and supported by pairs of Doric columns.¹¹

That the construction of a one-story wood-framed and weatherboarded wing to the east end of the original house occurred during the 1856 campaign is indicated by the designs of the window sash and blinds, which are identical to those added to the original part of Hills Farm. This plain gable-roofed wing was well constructed, with a brick foundation tall enough to require only a moderate step down from the main house. Its interior brick chimney

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was partially exposed on the exterior, a nicety of detail that required extra carpentry. The façade composition of a doorway set to the side of two windows suggest that this wing enclosed a side passage with a secondary staircase

and a single heated room both above and below.¹² Before many years had passed, John R. Drummond again enlarged his house with a gable-roofed, wood-framed addition distinguished by a partially exposed interior brick chimney. Apparently it always enclosed a single capacious room on both its first and upper floor.¹³

INTERIOR: NINETEENTH CENTURY

The record of the changes John R. Drummond wanted made to the interior of Hills Farm comes largely from accounts of their later undoing. The most significant change was to the plan: the builders removed the partition wall between the two east rooms and rebuilt the chimney so that a fireplace was centered along the east wall of the new single room. The deeply beveled reveals of every north and south windows lost their interior shutters in favor of the more versatile exterior blinds. Apparently William Mears the bricklayer closed over all of the gable-end windows at the

same time. A statement that the west room originally was fully paneled is plausible but not necessarily confirmed by a tradition that there was copious reuse of eighteenth-century trim behind Henry Carmine's freshly plastered walls. It is clear, nevertheless, that almost none of the colonial interior embellishment survived John and Elisha Drummond's intention to create a plain, fresh-scrubbed interior with severe Greek Revival mantels and architraves.¹⁴

When the updating was complete, the Drummonds had made of the west room a conventional Victorian parlor, which during the nineteenth century had become the most elaborately detailed room in any well-appointed Virginia house. The two east rooms have given way to a large dining room with finish that corresponded to that of the parlor, but was perceptibly less fine. In nineteenth-century Virginia, dining with family or guests had become far less formal and leisurely, just as the food and its presentation had become much less luxurious and much less likely to be leavened with wine or spirits.¹⁵

The original gable-end doorway almost certainly became the means by which meals still arrived from a detached kitchen, and this may account for its having been widened at this time. The new porch built in front of the wing also made direct service possible to the two new rooms it enclosed. One of these may have been an informal family sitting room, accessible from the dining room by way of a new doorway opened near the north corner of the original east gable end.

EXTERIOR: TWENTIETH CENTURY

As is the case with the 1850s remodeling of Hills Farm, its twentieth-century restoration in the Colonial Revival style may be dated in part by a builder's notation. In consultation with their architect, owners Henry and Fredonia Richardson decided to finish off their eighteenth-century house with slate shingles; at the time, many believed that such roofing was original to many of Virginia's colonial houses. In anticipation of the heavy load of slate, carpenters added a pair of new rafters between every pair of original rafters supporting Hills Farm's gable roof.

On one of these reinforcing rafters, Harry Wilt wrote that he was a carpenter from Frederick, Maryland and that he was at work in the attic of the house on December 12, 1942.¹⁶ Clearly the Richardsons, who had acquired the Hills Farm tract in January of that year, undertook its rehabilitation with alacrity.

To supervise the work, they hired James W. Adams, an architect from Washington, D.C. who appears to have specialized in revival styles.¹⁷ His work at Hills Farm was bold, but his grasp of Colonial Revival materials and motifs was firm. In addition to replacing the wood-shingled roof with slate, he removed all of the porches and directed masons to reverse changes to the brickwork. This meant narrowing the south central doorway and entirely rebuilding its jack arch. Most of the other jack arches on the façade required some repair as well. Repointing around the north doorway also was necessary, as was replacing its rowlock course above the lintel. He had the small gable-end

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windows reopened and replaced remnants of the original jack arches with rowlock courses. Brickwork around the original bulkhead entrance to the cellar also required extensive repair. Adams used Colonial Revival "license" to rebuild the chimneys to a point of elaboration the Drummonds would not have recognized: where they rose above the

apex of the roof, he gave both of them T-shaped stacks finished off with a composition of beveled and corbelled brickwork.

Though likely deteriorated, the wood-framed stanchion-and-slat screen for the cellar window survived in some locations and could be reproduced. Adams replaced every window with nine-over-nine-light double-hung sash, in the process removing the nineteenth-century blinds, adding new architraves with eighteenth-century profiles, and replacing the wooden sills with beveled brickwork matching the slope of the plinth below.¹⁸ For each of the gable-end windows he fashioned a two-by-four-light set of casement windows that have proven more resistant to weather than the original sash windows—this is likely the principal reason these windows had been closed over. To both the north and south entrances he added double-leaf doors, and he surmounted the south doorway with a transom that may well have been part of the original façade composition. In the matter of entries, his design of raised-panel double-leaf doors for the bulkhead entrance is a clever gesture toward the Colonial Revival notion that early Virginia architectural detailing was consistently refined, even in work-a-day locations.

The original modillioned cornice, with its decoratively shaped stops had survived, so Adams could have these repaired or recreated. His designs for stoops, or roofless porches, with stairs to serve the north and south doorways are set on brick foundations supported in part by a segmental arch so that the new brickwork abuts the eighteenth-century elevations as lightly as possible. The wooden porch flooring and stair treads are framed by over-scaled balusters and molded handrails—the resulting approaches to the house thus cut much bolder figures than did their eighteenth-century predecessors.

To the west wing and ell additions Adams added dormers and gable-end windows the better to illuminate the upper half-story rooms. He also replaced the weatherboarding and revised the fenestration. His goal here was to install in these additions most of the facilities of twentieth-century living. Both wing and ell received new porches with shed roofing and lightly decorative segmental arches between each pair of posts.

INTERIOR: TWENTIETH CENTURY

Upon turning his attention to the interior of Hills Farm, James Adam began by restoring the original plan; he had the partition wall between the original two east rooms replaced and the angled chimneybreasts with their corner fireplaces rebuilt. With this 1747 armature back in place, Adams freely drew upon his artistic sensibility as well as his knowledge of classical motifs as colonial Virginians understood them to create a remarkable Colonial Revival interior for Hills Farm.

Throughout the house Adams was lavish with raised panels; only a few closet doors were constructed with flat panels on their interior surfaces. Every door has a six-panel composition and every reveal has a raised-panel composition to match. In the passage and two east rooms, there is raised-panel wainscoting below the surbases. To each of the splayed window openings he added paneled window seats. Even the base of the lower flight of the staircase and the soffit of its upper flight are enriched with raised panels.

To offset this potential tyranny of panels Adams designed distinctive profiles for each cornice and surbase installed in the passage and first-story rooms. Moreover, he knew something about the use of interior trim to signal a social hierarchy among rooms, although the study of room functions and circulation schemes in colonial housing lay decades in the future.¹⁹ For the northeast room he designed a paneled fireplace surround finished off with a molded cornice. The wall above this composition is plastered. The southeast room received a perceptibly higher level of

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finish: a fully paneled chimneybreast and a cornice with a dentiled bed mold. The west room received the most elaborate degree of embellishment. It is fully paneled with a deep modillioned entablature. Fluted Doric pilasters flank the fireplace that is framed by a heavy torus molding—an obvious homage to the surviving 1747 fireplace surrounds in the two rooms above stairs.

The modillioned cornice in the passage is arrestingly over-scaled, although it is a visual match for the heavily paneled staircase and the distinctive composition of its balustrade. The turned balustrade and molded handrails are conventional enough, as are the square newels with molded caps. The fun begins with the turned pendants at the bottom of each newel situated above the first-floor level. This detail draws attention to the dramatic concave ramping of the balustrade and handrail as they rise to the upper story and of the identical ramped profile of the surbases that finish off the staircase landing.

The present owners of Hills Farm understand Hill's Farm's colonial origins, the remnants of its nineteenth-century farmscape, and the quality of its twentieth-century interiors. Thus they have confined their changes to the original part of the house almost entirely to surface decoration and furnishing. They did close over the doorway between the northeast room and the passage, thus creating space for a powder room, accessible from the passage, beneath the staircase.

SECONDARY BUILDINGS

The site of Hills Farm includes eleven contributing auxiliary buildings. All are weatherboarded, and all but one are gable-roofed. To the east side of the house are two small nineteenth-century dependencies. The more northern of these buildings appears in at least one historic photograph and may have been built for cool storage. By the late nineteenth century its interior had been sheathed with matchboard paneling and its floor had been paved with brick. The more southern of the two dependencies originally was a chicken house, but its cleaned-up interior makes it serviceable now as a planting shed.

Situated north and west of the house at Hills Farm are a series of outbuildings that, at least since 1942, have been connected by post-and-rail or paled fencing. The structure closest to the northwest corner of the house has a hipped roof and a worn brick-paved floor. Indications are that it originally was built as a dairy and it may be eighteenth-century in origin, although the only visible nails date from the middle of the nineteenth century. It now is used for domestic storage. Directly west of the dairy is a double-studded structure that was built with two plates—the lower plate receives the joists and the upper plate carries the rafters. This almost certainly was a smokehouse, and all but its roof structure may date from the eighteenth century.

The third building in this row is traditionally framed with oak in use for the sill, studs, and rafters, while the plates are made of poplar. A series of outriggers are set into the plate and support the rafters, thus eliminating the need for joists. This nineteenth-century structure may have been a granary. Its more recent use has been as a shed for farm tools and as a garage. The fourth structure in this row has the same design, framing system and pitch of roof as the one sited directly to its east, although the carpentry is much more rough and involves many reused framing members. It also has joists that carry a loft floor. The purpose of this building may also have been for dry crop storage.

Situated southwest of this row of outbuildings is an early twentieth-century barn with a traditional braced framing. Because its sill sets directly on the ground, it clearly was used to shelter farm animals or vehicles. A gable-end doorway permitted the loading and unloading of a fully floored loft. Spaced evenly along a fence line that runs south of this barn are three identical late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century wood-framed building. Each of the three has an interior finished with flush board siding and a sturdy floor. These characteristics support the speculation that they once served as temporary housing, but they are only about ten feet wide and fifteen feet long. Moreover, none has a window or source of heat. The last contributing structure is a caretaker's house, a one-and-a-half-story

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wood-framed structure that probably was built in the early 1940s. Some of its interior trim dates from the nineteenth century and thus may have been brought from the colonial house when it was undergoing restoration.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hills Farm is the historic name of a house built by Richard Drummond III in 1747 on a six-hundred-acre plantation bordering Hunting Creek in Accomack County, Virginia. Drummond's great-great grandfather Richard Hill had patented this land in 1663. Hills Farm is an excellent example of the sort of housing built and occupied by Virginia's planter elite during the eighteenth century. Its function was not only to provide a superior level of domestic comfort for its inhabitants but also to contribute to the family's status through the manifest costliness of its materials, size, and workmanship. What distinguishes Hills Farm is that the genteel colonial family who built it descended from an indentured servant; their narrative of social advancement is far less common than elite family histories that begin with a founder who arrived in Virginia with substantial resources already in hand.

Hills Farm also handsomely represents a second period of historic and architectural significance. Having endured the nineteenth century as the increasingly work-a-day farmhouse of Drummond family descendants, the house was purchased by Washington, D.C. residents Henry J. Richardson and Fredonia R. Richardson in 1942. The couple also set about reassembling sections of the original Hill plantation. At the same time they engaged Washington architect James W. Adams to replace Hills Farm's plain Greek Revival interior, the installation of which had occasioned obliteration of its eighteenth-century embellishment, and to restore the house to a twentieth-century conception of its original appearance. Adams restricted his treatment of Hills Farm's exterior, for the most part, to the repair and replacement of manifestly original features. He then designed completely new Colonial Revival interiors for the house using elements of colonial Virginia architecture in the idealized form they had achieved well before the middle of the twentieth century. He took this opportunity, however, to "comment" on that idealization with distinctive and arrestingly fresh compositions. There is no other Colonial Revival interior in Virginia quite like it. Hills Farm with its twelve historic buildings is eligible under National Register Criterion C for architecture with a period of significance from 1747 to 1942.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

RICHARD HILL THE FOUNDER

The origins of Hills Farm as a colonial plantation begin in 1663 when Richard Hill patented a thousand acres on Hunting Creek in Accomack County. Richard Hill's was a story of hopes fulfilled in colonial Virginia at a time when tobacco could make an ordinary man's fortune—and quickly—but only if his luck equaled his skill and determination.²⁰ In 1637 when he was fifteen years old, Richard Hill traded seven years of bound servitude to John Neale in exchange for the price of his passage to Virginia.²¹ Neale was a wealthy merchant who owned land and operated stores on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay, so there were many places where Hill, who could read and write, might be of use to his master.²² In any case, he came to the Eastern Shore "as a servant unto Mr. Jno. Neale" in 1640.²³ Shortly thereafter, Neale transferred Hill's service to Arent Cortsenstam, a Dutch merchant who also had interests in the Eastern Shore. The following year Cortsenstam assigned to Samuel Lucas "two servants for their [remaining] tymes their names being Richard Hill and Elias Harman."²⁴

Richard Hill had completed his indenture by 1650, when he appeared in the Northampton County records as Edmund Scarburgh's overseer.²⁵ Scarburgh was one of the most wealthy and influential landholders in the Eastern Shore. He was a prominent local magistrate and a county militia officer of advanced rank. He also represented Northampton County in the House of Burgesses, served for a year as its Speaker, and enjoyed for a time the confidence of Governor Berkeley. His attitude toward the Indians of the Eastern Shore, however, was intolerant, aggressive, and eventually disruptive.²⁶

Edmund Scarburgh apparently approved of his overseer and saw his potential, for he did Richard Hill the great favor of making him a freeholder. In about 1651 he conveyed to Hill by deed of gift two hundred acres "on the

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seaboard side of Northampton County."²⁷ In 1652 Hill himself patented three hundred acres of land in the vicinity of Pungoteague Creek on the basis of six headrights, three of which had been transferred to him from Scarborough. This tract became Richard Hill's first "dwelling plantation."²⁸ Between 1652 and 1664 Hill used headrights of his own to accumulate an additional 1,950 acres. The key acquisition for a thousand acres on Hunting Creek in Accomack County was dated February 23, 1663, the same year in which Accomack County was partitioned from Northampton County. This is the land upon which the house now known as Hills Farm later was built.²⁹

Sometime during these years Richard Hill took a wife. Tradition holds that she was Mary Drake, daughter of Robert Drake who patented land in Northampton County in 1636, but died shortly thereafter.³⁰ If this is accurate, Mary must have been born after the family had arrived in Virginia, for her father based his claim to two hundred acres on four headrights: one each for himself, his wife Joan, his son Robert, and his daughter Elizabeth.³¹ Richard Hill certainly had a wife named Mary by 1655, when two of his creditors took, as compensation for the debt, two hogsheads of tobacco from "the howse of Rich: Hill." He was not at home, but their purpose met with "the consent of Mary the wife of the sd. Rich. Hill."³²

During these and later years Richard Hill figured in the court records of Accomack and Northampton Counties as a man of good character and steadily improving judgment. He first served on a Northampton County jury in 1648 while he was in Edmund Scarborough's employ. By 1651 he held a seat on the vestry of the upper parish in Northampton County. In 1654 he successfully represented Robert Drake of London, who may have been his brother-in-law, in a suit to recover the two hundred acres of land that Drake's father had patented eighteen years earlier.³³ Hill botched, through behavior deemed disrespectful, his position as an Accomack County jury foreman in 1663, but having apologized to the court, he received another jury appointment later that year. In 1666 the magistrates of Accomack County appointed Hill and three other men to appraise the estate of John Die [Dye].³⁴

Having thus completed the tacit "apprenticeship" by which freeholders demonstrated their fitness for more formal positions of authority, Hill received a commission as one of Accomack County's magistrates in 1666.³⁵ Appointments to, and promotions in, the cavalry of the Accomack County militia soon followed, and they contributed to Hill's rise in local stature. In 1680 when he was by his own reckoning fifty-eight years old, Hill still was serving the county as both justice and militia officer.³⁶

"Captain Richard Hill of Hunting Creek" died in 1694 at the age of seventy-two. He had no surviving sons, but his two daughters had married men of good estate. Richard Hill had further enriched both couples through generous dowries. To his daughter Mary and her husband John Ayres he gave the Pungoteague plantation, and there they had settled. In his will Hill directed that the Ayres' dwelling plantation, along with other land he owned, should be divided among their five sons. With his daughter Patience and her husband John Drummond he already had divided management of the Hunting Creek tract, where he was seated at the time of his death.³⁷ In his will he directed that these two equal parcels descend to the Drummonds' eldest sons Richard and John. He further specified that Richard should have the part on which Hill himself was living, while his brother John should receive the section where his parents had built a house.³⁸

THE DRUMMONDS OF HUNTING CREEK

Mary [Drake] Hill survived her husband, and thus faced the intrusion into her household of her grandson Richard and his young family. In an unusual gesture of reassurance, Richard Drummond quickly wrote and entered into public record his pledge that . . .

my dearest grandmother Mrs. Mary Hill shall and may from time to time occupy posses and enjoy for her owne proper use and behoofe during her naturall life t[ha]t part of the now dwelling house at Hunting Creek where my grandfather and she did dwell [and] she shall make choice of and in

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particular the rooms where they used to lye in soe that neither I nor any by from or under me shall at any time hereafter during her naturall life debar hinder or molest her my sd grandmother therein.³⁹

In this way Richard Drummond revealed that the house in which his grandparents had lived was one of the rambling, many-roomed dwellings favored by Virginia planters whose fortunes and labor force were increasing during the third quarter of the seventeenth century.⁴⁰

Richard Drummond of Hunting Creek had married Elizabeth Scarburgh, the granddaughter of Richard Hill's old swashbuckling benefactor, and the couple had two sons—Richard and Scarburgh—before Elizabeth Drummond passed away.⁴¹ Drummond exceeded the political status of his father and grandfather: between 1710 and 1718 he served Accomack County in the Virginia House of Burgesses.⁴² His departure from the House of Burgesses may have been occasioned by ill health, for he died in 1720. By this time both of his sons were grown, indeed, Richard Drummond the Younger already was married and the father of three children. To one of them, named Elizabeth after her departed grandmother, Richard Drummond the Elder left a doting gift of chamber furniture, new pewter tableware, and costly fabrics.⁴³

The first Richard Drummond was inclusive in his bequests, but he specified that “my plantation I now live on including the half of Half Moon Island” should descend to Richard Drummond the Younger. This reference is important, for it is the only confirmation that the Drummond dwelling plantation was still on Hunting Creek.⁴⁴ Richard Drummond did not bother to mention that he had remarried, but when he wrote his own will in 1720 Richard Drummond the Younger directed that “my loving [step] mother Anne Drummond have her choice of any one of the rooms in my house and a negro woman to wait on her and sufficient maintenance suteable for and during her life.”⁴⁵

This second Richard Drummond apparently chose to keep his political profile entirely at the local level. He was the fourth generation of his family to serve as a county magistrate, so his appointment to this position may have been grounded in local presumption. He also was appointed sheriff of Accomack County in 1728 and inspector of the county's tobacco warehouse at Pungoteague in 1731. Both assignments to office confirm that the gentlemen of the county respected Drummond's character and judgment.⁴⁶

Richard Drummond II died in 1732 leaving a widow and six children, some of whom were not yet of age. He gave his wife Anne Hack Drummond “the use of my plantation” during her widowhood, with the understanding that when their eldest son attained majority, he should “have liberty . . . to build and live on any proper place of my said plantation where my wife shall think fit.” This son, Richard Drummond III, ultimately inherited his father's Hunting Creek “plantation I now live on being six hundred acres.”⁴⁷

A probate inventory survives for Richard Drummond II, so it is possible to know that he had made good use of his inheritance. His twenty-five slaves had all the necessary tools and stock to cultivate extensive crops of tobacco. He also owned a “sea sloop” with which he could participate in the tobacco economy as a merchant as well as a planter. He enjoyed showing off as well: among his personal possessions were a silver snuffbox, watch, and spurs, as well as a silver-hilted sword. This last he probably had inherited. No doubt he wore it when he sat on the bench of the county court as well as when he attended a muster of the militia.⁴⁸ Such finery notwithstanding, it appears that Drummond and his family still lived in the seventeenth-century house of his grandfather Hill, for the inventory mentions three cast-aside casements with broken quarles of glass, thus indicating the sort of window design and glazing generally in use at Drummond's place. This is not to say Drummond and his family lived in crude or uncomfortable circumstances: his many household comforts included twelve feather beds with bedsteads. Six of them could be made elegant and private with curtains and valences.⁴⁹

In 1747 Richard Drummond III began construction of his own house on a site near the mouth of Hunting

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Creek.⁵⁰ By this time he had married Katherine Harmansen and the couple had two daughters: Ann who was born in 1743 and Elisha who was several years older.⁵¹ By 1749, if not before, the family could move into a new house with fashionable brickwork, double-hung-sash windows, and details drawn from western European interpretations of ancient classical design. A central passage offered independent access to a hall, chamber, and dining room on the main story. A handsomely trimmed staircase rose to a second passage and two additional rooms above stairs. Every room in the house had a fireplace, plenty of natural light, and detailing that underscored the family's genteel status.⁵²

Richard Drummond III wrote his will in 1744, probably in response to the birth of his younger daughter.⁵³ When he died in 1751, this document had been misplaced, so the county magistracy ordered a close accounting and assessment of his estate.⁵⁴ Their records reveal that he may have resisted most public appointments in favor of developing his land and its potential. He had diversified production on the Hunting Creek plantation to include grain as well as tobacco. His lines and seines were substantial enough to indicate that he also was fishing commercially. His "water mill lying on the head of Hunting Creek." was turning out lumber for sale as well as for plantation use.⁵⁵ Drummond had exchanged his father's small sloop for a "bay boat" and half-interest in a "large sea sloop" with a total value of £450.⁵⁶ Finally, two parcels of "European goods" worth about £80 indicate that he had been maintaining a store as well.⁵⁷

By 1765 when the will of Richard Drummond III at last surfaced and was probated, Katherine Harmansen Drummond had remarried, and Elisha Drummond was dead.⁵⁸ Thus it was of little consequence that Richard Drummond III had given his wife the Hunting Creek plantation and its new brick house for the term of her widowhood, or that he had intended that it descend to his elder daughter Elisha. Although Drummond had other lands in mind for his younger daughter, the county court's obvious course of action was to assign all of her father's estate to Ann Drummond and her new husband, Thomas Bayly, who may have found the lost document and certainly presented it to the court.⁵⁹

THOMAS BAYLY OF HILLS FARM

At the ages of twenty-eight and twenty-two, Thomas Bayly and Ann Drummond Bayly were indisputable owners of the fashionable brick house on Hunting Creek, as well as the Drummond plantations and their considerable assets. In 1768 they improved their house with the addition of dormers, and perhaps in other ways as well.⁶⁰ Thomas Bayly developed the commercial value of the Drummond "water mill" site, adding a gristmill and a smith's shop. During the next two decades he used his profits to purchase more still more land in Accomack County.⁶¹

Bayly had serving as a justice for Accomack County's Court since 1762 and he continued in this respected position until at least 1772.⁶² In 1774 the vestry of St. George's Parish in Accomack County elected Bayly to fill a position "in room of Luke Luker, dec'd." He remained on the vestry until 1787, and probably longer.⁶³ In these ways the master of Hunting Creek plantation still was figuring publicly as a member of the county gentry.

Over the course of her adult life at Hills Farm, Ann Drummond Bayly gave birth to twelve children, only five of whom survived her. She died in 1801, having lived fifty-eight years, although it may have seemed rather longer.⁶⁴ Thomas Bayly lived but seven years more, but during this time he optimistically married again; this second wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" Bayly, figured in his will and in the accounts of his estate.

The death of Thomas Bayly occasioned the recording of documents that pertain to the house at Hunting Creek and the patina accruing to it. Bayly identifies himself as "of Hills Farm and Hunting Creek," thus revealing that he had been in the process of changing the name of his estate. It had been, as he had carved on Ann Drummond Bayly's gravestone, a "plantation" during the colonial period when tobacco was every Virginian's principal crop. It

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had become, as every Virginian who continued to cultivate land understood the term, a “farm” on which grain was the most lucrative cash crop.⁶⁵ Bayly’s thinking about the way he should use his property embraced what was modern.

Equally modern—that is, new in the early decades of the American Republic—was his promotion of the Hunting Creek tract as a place with ancient boundaries and continuous ownership by the same family over the course of six generations. In changing the name of his property he was honoring its “antient” origins. As he phrased it in Ann Drummond Bayly’s epitaph, she was the descendant of “Richard Hill, the proprietor and patentee of this plantation in the year 1666 [sic].”⁶⁶ Hill’s origins in indentured servitude probably were unknown and decidedly unthinkable.⁶⁷

Thomas Bayly made special bequests in his will that indicate he had been commissioning portraits as well attempting to trace the family lineage: he mentioned “my large gold ring with the family coat of arms on it,” likenesses of his deceased son Edmond Bayly, and Edmond’s widow Rachel, images of Thomas Bayly himself and his second wife Betsy. There also was “the family tree picture” and “the large family bible.”⁶⁸ Of greatest importance was a portrait of Tabitha Scarburgh that probably had come to the Hunting Creek household when her niece Elizabeth Scarburgh married the first Richard Drummond. Manifestly of seventeenth-century origin and superior in execution to most colonial Virginia portraiture, Bayly concluded that he was looking upon the face of Richard Hill’s lady, Mary Hill.⁶⁹

Significantly Bayly gave all of these family treasures to a grandson named John Hill Bayly. The boy likewise was to inherit Hills Farm, while Bayly’s two surviving sons and daughters received other tracts of land.⁷⁰

Thomas Bayly’s inventory notes that the three principal rooms within the house at Hill’s Farm were known by the end of his life as the “Parlour,” “Hall,” and “Mrs. Bayly’s [chamber].”⁷¹ Of the three rooms, only the hall was furnished comprehensibly—as a dining room. Indications are that this was the largest of Hills Farm’s three rooms, for it contained, in addition to a pair of mahogany dining tables and “12 old walnut chairs,” a tea table, a tea board, two carpets, and a desk-and-bookcase of the sort known to be a common auxiliary furnishing of eighteenth-century Virginia dining rooms.⁷² Another indication that the large west room was this “hall” is that its walls were hung with a large pair of mirrors, most of the family portraits, a framed family tree, and Monroe’s Map of Virginia.⁷³

The established function of the parlor appears to have been disrupted. Recognizable features of a late eighteenth-century sitting room included a smaller dining table and two sets of Windsor chairs—twelve of them painted green, and twelve yellow.⁷⁴ Crowding these pieces, however, was a bedstead fully accoutered with a bed, bolster, pillows, and curtains, as well as two chests of drawers, two trunks, and a cradle. One plausible explanation is that the new Mrs. Bayly had arrived at Hills Farm with accoutrements of her own, some of them perhaps over-scaled or redundant in the already well-furnished house.⁷⁵ Just as it appears that Mrs. Bayly had taken over the parlor for sleeping, the chamber, called simply “Mrs. Bayly’s” had essentially become a place for storing a profusion of linens and tableware. The appraisers may have ascended to “the head of the stairs” with some relief and mopping of brows, only to find that the Baylys were using the upper story largely for storing nine or ten bedsteads with their bedding.

INTO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

At the time Thomas Bayly’s will was probated, John Hill Bayly was only sixteen years old, so his uncles Richard D. Bayly and Thomas M. Bayly supervised Hills Farm on his behalf. The young man did attain his majority, marry, and assume management of his own affairs, but he died young and intestate, leaving his two uncles to file suits in which each claimed Hills Farm as his own. Matters remained unresolved until November of 1830 when the court of Accomack County assigned to Thomas M. Bayly “all that tract or parcel of land called Hills Farm . . . which was the property of John H. Bayly at the time of his death.”⁷⁶ By this time Richard D. Bayly of Drummondtown, also was deceased.⁷⁷

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In 1830 Thomas M. Bayly was well ensconced at his farm called "Mount Custis" in the company of five children from his first marriage as well as a second wife and their small daughter. In 1828 Bayly had penned a will that provided for all his immediate kin, but in 1836 when he passed away, he had not revised this document to take into account his acquisition of Hills Farm or the arrival of three new babies.⁷⁸ The ensuing tangle occupied Accomack County's Chancery Court for eleven years.⁷⁹ The ultimate resolution in 1847, however, did not mention Hills Farm.

Apparently it was assigned either by the court or by family agreement to the three Bayly children who were born after their father wrote his will. By the time this decision was made, Thomas M. Bayly's second wife, who apparently commanded resources of her own, had moved with three of her four children to Richmond.⁸⁰ The house at Hills Farm had no resident owner for at least twenty years.

In 1853 John Rowles Drummond rescued Hills Farm from the Bayly family's partitioned and absentee ownership. He bought the house and a total of 350 acres from siblings Samuel and Rosa Bayly, two of the three children who had neither been "provided for nor disinherited by the last will and testament of . . . their father."⁸¹ Both John Drummond and his wife Elishe Fletcher Drummond were descendants of Richard Hill and his son-in-law John Drummond, so the acquisition must have given the family pleasure. The couple already were in their thirties and the parents of three young children when they set about repairing and updating the Hills Farm house, a process that included new window sash, doors, and exterior window blinds.⁸² Their more aggressive changes included removing the partition from between the two east rooms, constructing a wing on the east end of the house, and replacing almost all the original woodwork with interior detailing executed in the Greek Revival style.

The Drummonds were cultivating the land at Hills Farm and operated "Drummond's Mill" with the help of nine slaves in 1860, when John Drummond's estimated worth included \$22,000 in real estate and \$10,800 in person property.⁸³ After the Civil War, the Drummonds curtailed their farming but received help when two collateral members of the family became members of their household.⁸⁴

OBSCURITY AND RENEWAL

When he died in 1882, John R. Drummond divided Hills Farm and another tract of land among his three surviving daughters and his son, Fletcher Drummond, who had become a physician. He also directed Fletcher Drummond to sell Drummond's Mill, which apparently had fallen into disrepair.⁸⁵ Fletcher Drummond died unmarried in 1922, so he bequeathed Hills Farm in fractions to his one remaining sister along with five nieces and nephews.⁸⁶ Shortly after Dr. Drummond's will was recorded, his heirs designated one of their number to take action on their behalf, and in 1923 he conveyed Hills Farm, which had dwindled to 230 acres, to J. Steward Mathias.⁸⁷ When Mathias was unable to weather the Great Depression, Hills Farm was auctioned to cover his debts in 1939. Four of Mathias' creditors offered the highest bid.⁸⁸ One of them, Stephen T. Parks, bought the interests of the other three, and in 1942 he conveyed Hills Farm and 230 acres to Henry J. and Fredonia R. Richardson.⁸⁹

The couple was looking for an old house to use as a country retreat while Mr. Richardson continued to practice law in Washington, D.C. They also wanted to enlarge the farm, and they succeeded to a modest extent in 1944 when they acquired about 43 acres of adjacent land.⁹⁰ Early photographs indicate that the Richardsons confronted a colonial house that was quite down-at-heel, and they embarked on a very thorough restoration.

Henry J. Richardson died in 1975, and Hills Farm became the property of his widow. Fredonia R. Richardson died seven years later, leaving her Virginia farm and its restored house to her niece Frances R. Settle.⁹¹ During her ownership, Mrs. Settle acquired 358 additional acres, thus giving back to Hills Farm its original extent, although not its original boundaries. The present owners, Timothy T. Brown and Susie Upshur Brown acquired the Hills Farm house and all three parcels of land from Mrs. Settle's executor in 1995.⁹²

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are delineated on the accompanying surveyed site plan: on the north and east sides by Hunting Creek on the south and west sides by a board fence, farm road, and a dotted line designating the "edge of yard." The "Plat of Survey" is scaled at 1" = 50' and referenced in Will Book 40, Page 122, Article 17, and as Accomack County tax map 77-A-154.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries encompass the 1747 house and all of its contributing outbuildings.

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED

1. Measured plan of Hills Farm.
2. Final report on the dendrochronological dating of Hills Farm, 2005.
3. Map of the Hunting Creek vicinity and Half Moon Island, 1820.
4. Seventeenth-century portrait of Tabitha Scarborough which hung at Hills Farm from the time of construction until about 1830.
5. Photograph of Hills Farm taken from the southwest in about 1930 by Frances Benjamin Johnston.
6. Photograph of Hills Farm taken from the northeast in about 1930 by Frances Benjamin Johnston.
7. Photograph of Hills Farm taken from the south in about 1920.
8. Photograph of Hills Farm taken from the southwest in about 1920.
9. Photograph of Hills Farm taken from the southwest in about 1935.
10. Photograph of Hills Farm and its outbuildings taken from the southeast in about 1935.
11. Photograph of Hills Farm, its outbuildings, and its nominated boundaries taken in about 1950.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property:	Hills Farm DHR File No.001-0023
Location:	Accomack County, Virginia
Photographer:	Camille Wells
Date:	July 2005 and May 2006
Negatives and Digital Images Stored:	Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Photo # 0001 Hills Farm, south elevation, façade

Photo # 0002 Hills Farm, west elevation

Photo # 0003 Hills Farm, west wall of the west room

Photo # 0004 Hills Farm, fireplace and chimneybreast, southeast room

Photo # 0005 Hills Farm, eighteenth-century fireplace surround, west room above stairs

Photo # 0006 Hills Farm, passage, detail of ramped wainscoting on stair landing

Photo #0007 Hills Farm, passage, wainscoting and spandrels of staircase

Photo #0008 Hills Farm, passage, wainscoting of staircase soffit

Photo #0009 Hills Farm, passage, detail of modillioned cornice

Photo #0010 Hills Farm, agricultural buildings located northwest of the house

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ENDNOTES

¹ This date was derived by analysis of cores extracted from framing members accessible in the attic and cellar of the house. Edward R. Cook, William J. Callahan, Jr., and Camille Wells, "Dendrochronological Analysis of Hills Farm, Greenbush, Accomack County, Virginia," unpublished report, 2005.

² Calder Loth, "Notes on the Evolution of Virginia Brickwork from the Seventeenth Century to the Late Nineteenth Century," Bulletin: Association for Preservation Technology 6 (1974), pp. 82-120.

³ Ralph T. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1951), p. 984.

⁴ Mark R. Wenger, "The Central Passage in Virginia: Evolution of an Eighteenth-Century Living Space," in Camille Wells, editor, Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture II (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1986), pp. 137-149.

⁵ Dell Upton was the first to identify this three-room formula in his essay "Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Virginia," Winterthur Portfolio 17 (Summer-Autumn 1982), pp. 95-119.

⁶ Mark R. Wenger, "Architecture and Privacy in Early Virginia," a paper presented at the annual conference of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, Annapolis, Maryland, 9 May 1998; Jan Kirsten Gilliam and Betty Crowe Leviner, Furnishing Williamsburg's Historic Buildings (Williamsburg: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1991), pp. 35-47.

⁷ Mark R. Wenger, "The Dining Room in Early Virginia," in Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman, editors, Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture III (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989), pp. 149-159.

⁸ Inventory of the Estate of Richard Drummond [III], 27 August 1752, Accomack County Will Book 1752-1757, pp. 98-105.

⁹ Gilliam and Leviner, Furnishing Williamsburg's Historic Buildings pp. 25-33.

¹⁰ The Richardsons, who commissioned the Colonial Revival restoration of the house in 1942, copied this inscription and passed it on to Ralph T. Whitelaw who published it in Virginia's Eastern Shore, p. 984.

¹¹ The south porch appears in old photographs, while extensive later patching suggests that such a porch also sheltered the north entrance to the house.

¹² This was the plan of the east wing when Fleming McMullin, Jr. first recorded Hills Farm for the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1958. Survey form on file with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, File 001-0023.

¹³ The characteristics of these two wood-framed additions are best recorded in a photograph taken by Frances Benjamin Johnston in about 1925. Fleming McMullin, Hills Farm, Historic American Buildings survey, 1958.

¹⁴ Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, p. 984.

¹⁵ For a discussion, though not a full explanation, of the nineteenth-century revision to the Virginia house, see Camille Wells, "New Light on Sunnyside: Architectural and Documentary Testaments of an Early Virginia House," Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society 32 (1995), pp. 3-26.

¹⁶ Recorded by Camille Wells, 3 June 2005.

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¹⁷ The annual city directories for Washington, D. C. indicate that James W. Adams began his career in the office of noted architect Horace Peaslee. Adams opened his own office in 1927. During the 1930s Adams completed a house for the Richardsons at an address near Massachusetts Avenue that later became the residence of Averell Harriman. He also restored Uplands, a house in Georgetown that currently is occupied by the Embassy of the German Republic. Adams' practice disappears from the city directory in 1967. Betty Bird, conversation with Camille Wells, 17 July 2005.

¹⁸ One oversight—notable because Adams clearly had an eye for detail—is that the size of the windowpanes and their muntins are more characteristic of the nineteenth century than the eighteenth century.

¹⁹ For an evolution of scholarly or professional attention to colonial housing—at least in Virginia—see Camille Wells, “The Multistoried House: Twentieth-Century Encounters with the Domestic Architecture of Colonial Virginia,” Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 106 (Autumn 1998), pp. 353-418.

²⁰ For a discussion of Virginia's seventeenth-century tobacco “boom,” see Edmund Morgan, American Slavery American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia (New York: W.W. Norton, 1975); for threats to every seventeenth-century colonist's health and longevity, see Carville V. Earle, “Environment, Disease, and Mortality in Early Virginia,” in Thad W. Tate and David L. Ammerman, editors, The Chesapeake in the Seventeenth Century (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1979), pp. 96-125.

²¹ In 1637 John Neale claimed 200 acres in Accomack County on the basis of four headrights: he had transported to Virginia Francis Seamer, Edward Eason, Thomas Moore, and Richard Hill. Nell Marion Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants (Richmond: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1992), v. 1, p. 68. Richard Hill's age is calculated from a deposition he made many years later.

²² By the time he claimed the headrights for Richard Hill and the three other young men, John Neale had patented a total of 2050 acres, including all of Smiths Island. Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, pp. 18, 36, 43. Hill signed his name to his deposition regarding a theft in Accomack County Court on October 5, 1641. Susie M. Ames, editor, County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton 1640-1645 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia), p. 124.

²³ Deposition of Richard Hill, 30 May 1654, Northampton County Record Book, v. 5, pp. 10-12. In this testimony Hill reckoned that he was about thirty-two years old and that he had come to the Eastern Shore “fourteen years hence.”

²⁴ Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, v. 1, pp. 96 and 104; Susie M. Ames, editor, County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia 1640-1645 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1973), p. 149.

²⁵ Meeting of the Northampton County Court, 7 May 1650, Northampton County Record Book 3, p. 212. Richard Hill had threatened an Occahannock Indian who was hunting on Scarborough's land.

²⁶ For Scarborough's leadership as well as his high-handed behavior, see James R. Perry, The Formation of a Society on Virginia's Eastern Shore 1615-1655 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990) and T. H. Breen, and Stephen Innes, “Myne Owne Ground”: Race and Freedom on Virginia's Eastern Shore 1640-1676 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980). For Scarborough's doings in Jamestown, see Warren M. Billings, A Little Parliament: The Virginia General Assembly in the Seventeenth Century (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2004), pp. 167-169. His term as Speaker of the House of Burgesses is noted in William G. Stanard and Mary Newton Stanard, editors, The Colonial Virginia Register (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1965), p. 51.

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²⁷ Deposition taken in Northampton County Court, 30 May 1654, Northampton County Record Book 5, p. 11. Hill explained how he had received this two hundred acres and that he subsequently had sold it to Andrew Jacob.

²⁸ The date of this patent was 10 May 1652. Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, v. 1, pp. 261-262. The clerk of Accomack County Court noted that Richard Hill "a dweller of Pungotege" on September 18, 1666. JoAnn Riley McKey, Accomack County Virginia, Virginia Court Order Abstracts 1663-1666 (Bowie, Maryland: 1966), p. 167.

²⁹ Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, v. 1, pp. 482, 507-508, and 516. For the partitioning of the two Eastern Shore counties, see William Waller Hening, editor, Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia . . . (Richmond, New York, and Philadelphia: 1819-1823), v. 1, pp. 224, 249.

³⁰ Ralph T. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1951), p. 979.

³¹ Drake's claim was dated September 8, 1636. Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, v. 1, p. 46.

³² Deposition of William Gowers taken at a session of Northampton County Court, 21 January 1655/6, Howard Mackey and Marlene Hinkley Groves, editors, Northampton County Record Book 1645-1651 (Rockport, Maine: 1999), p. 249.

³³ Mackey and Groves, editors, Northampton County Record Book 1645-1651, pp. 305-306; vestry meeting held 13 June 1652, Northampton County Record Book 1651-1654, f. 86; suit brought in Northampton County Court, 29 July 1654, Northampton County Record Book v. 5, p. 20; for Robert Drake's patent, see Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, v. 1, p. 46.

³⁴ JoAnn Riley McKey, Accomack County Virginia Court Order Abstracts, 1663-1666 (Bowie, Maryland: 1996), pp. 19, 58-60, 167, and 170.

³⁵ Richard Hill first appears among the county's justices of the peace at the court session held on 18 December 1666. JoAnn Riley McKey, Accomack County Virginia Court Order Abstracts, 1666-1670 (Bowie, Maryland: 1998), p. 11 and numerous entries thereafter. For a very clear description of how a colonist of rather humble origins could rise to a position of authority in seventeenth-century Virginia, see John Ruston Pagan, Ann Orthwood's Bastard: Sex and Law in Early Virginia (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), pp. 27-37.

³⁶ "Public Officers in Virginia, 1680," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 1 (January 1894), pp. 225-252. Historians of colonial Virginia generally regard such political positions as signs that an individual was, or has attained, status as county gentry.

³⁷ John Drummond was serving as a justice of the peace for Accomack County by 1696. "Historical and Genealogical Notes," William and Mary Quarterly Series 1, v. 6 (April 1898), p. 259. The family often spelled their name "Drumond" until it became standardized as "Drummond" around 1800.

³⁸ Will of Richard Hill, written 20 March 1687/8 and proved 12 November 1694, Accomack County Will Book 1692-1713, pp. 115-116.

³⁹ Pledge of Richard Drummond to Mary Drake Hill, 13 November 1694, Accomack County Will Book 1692-1713, p. 116.

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⁴⁰ Dell Upton, "The Origins of Chesapeake Architecture," Three Centuries of Maryland Architecture (Annapolis: Maryland Historical Trust, 1982), pp. 44-57.

⁴¹ Mention of Elizabeth Hill, who was a daughter of Charles Scarburgh, appears in "Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 4 (January 1897), pp. 316-318. See Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, p. 979.

⁴² "Members of the House of Burgesses," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 18 (April 1910), p. 192; "Public Officers in Virginia, 1702 and 1714," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 2 (July 1894), pp. 1-15; Stanard and Stanard, editors, Colonial Virginia Register, p. 102.

⁴³ Will of Richard Drummond I written 24 February 1719/1720 and proved 9 April 1720. Accomack County Will Book 11715-1729, pp. 253-254.

⁴⁴ Will of Richard Drummond I, p. 254. Richard Hill had patented this island in 1672. Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, v. 2, p. 108. Half Moon Island appears near the mouth of Hunting Creek in an 1820 map of Accomack County. Surveyed and drawn under the direction of John Wood, Map Division, Library of Virginia.

⁴⁵ This second wife of Richard Drummond I was Anne Tilney Michael Drummond. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, p. 979. Will of Richard Drummond II, written 9 June 1720 and proved 4 April 1732, Accomack County Will Book 1729-1732, pp. 197-199.

⁴⁶ "Virginia Council Journals 1726-1753," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 37 (April 1929), pp. 23-27, 119-129.

⁴⁷ This reference to six hundred acres represents half of the original Hunting Creek plantation--plus some augmentation or a more accurate survey—that Richard Hill had divided between two of his grandsons in 1694. Will of Richard Drummond II, pp. 197-199.

⁴⁸ For ceremonial dress among Virginia's gentry, see Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982), pp. 88-95.

⁴⁹ Inventory of the Estate of Richard Drummond II, 3 June 1735, Accomack County Deed and Will Book 1729-1732, pp. 450-456.

⁵⁰ 1747 is the cutting date for timbers used in the construction of the house. Edward R. Cook, William J. Callahan, Jr., and Camille Wells, "Dendrochronological Analysis of Hills Farm, Greenbush, Accomack County, Virginia," unpublished report, 2005.

⁵¹ Margaret Seymour Hall, "Tombstones at Hills Farm, in Accomac[k] County," William and Mary Quarterly Series 1, v. 7, (October 1898), pp. 106-108.

⁵² This characterization of Drummond's new house is based in part on its surviving features and in part on inferences drawn from other eighteenth-century houses on the Eastern Shore and elsewhere in Virginia. That the interior of the house was fitted out in an arrestingly fashionable way is surmised by the thorough and determined replacement of its woodwork with more up-to-date trim in 1856.

⁵³ Ann Drummond's gravestone records her birth date as February 26, 1742/3. Hall, "Tombstones at Hills Farm," pp. 106-108.

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⁵⁴ The first recorded document concerning the estate of Richard Drummond III is dated 1751. Accounts of Richard Drummond III, 27 November 1751, Accomack County Will Book 1749-1752, pp. 339-341.

⁵⁵ Reference to the "water mill" appears in Will of Richard Drummond III, written in April of 1744 and proved 31 October 1765, Accomack County Will Book, 1761-1767, pp. 595-596.

⁵⁶ Katherine Drummond offered for sale "one half of the sloop Sally, belonging to the estate of Richard Drummond deceas'd, about 15 months old, burthen 90 tons, with her tackle, lying in Hungar's River, Northampton County" Virginia Gazette (Hunter) 12 June 1752, p. 2, c. 2.

⁵⁷ The total value of Drummond's personal estate was £1309.10.4. While the list of his household furnishings indicates that his family was living well, most of what he owned contributed, in one way or another, to his income. Inventory of Richard Drummond III, Accomack County Deed and Will Book 1752-1757, pp. 98-105.

⁵⁸ Katherine Drummond's remarriage is mentioned in Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, p. 980.

⁵⁹ Will of Richard Drummond III, pp. 595-596.

⁶⁰ The date 1768 is penciled onto a rafter near the west end of the attic.

⁶¹ Will of Thomas Bayly, written 27 March 1808 and proved 16 May 1808, District Court Will Book 1807-1830, pp. 49-52; Account and Sale of Thomas Bayly's Estate, Eastern Shore District Court Will Book 1807-1830, pp. 282-301.

⁶² H. R. McIlwaine, "Justices of the Peace of Colonial Virginia, 1757-1775," Bulletin of the Virginia State Library 14 (April-July 1921), pp. 61, 83, 105, 107, 114, and 128.

⁶³ Gail M. Walczyk, editor, St. George's Parish Accomack County Vestry Book (New York: 1998), pp. 46-123.

⁶⁴ Epitaph of Ann Drummond in Hall, "Tombstones at Hills Farm," pp. 106-108.

⁶⁵ The designation "farm" in place of "plantation" had nothing to do with the size of an owner's landholding, as it would later in the nineteenth century and in the cotton-growing South. Instead, it differentiated a grain-growing property from one on which tobacco was the dominant crop. As early as 1768 William Nelson of York County wrote "I have made but 6 hhds. at both those plantations, one of which I have given to my son, who hath converted it into a farm, to produce wheat corn etc." William Nelson to Capel and Osgood Hanbury, 27 February 1768, William Nelson Letterbook 1766-1775, folio 25, Library of Congress.

⁶⁶ Hall, "Tombstones at Hills Farm," pp. 106-108.

⁶⁷ Elite Virginians increasingly idealized their colonial past after the revolution. For a discussion of this trend, see Robert P. Sutton, "Nostalgia, Pessimism, and Malaise: The Doomed Aristocrat in Late Jeffersonian Virginia," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 76 (January 1968), pp. 41-55.

⁶⁸ Will of Thomas Bayly, pp. 49-52.

⁶⁹ Because the tradition persisted in other quarters that the subject of this portrait actually was Tabitha Scarborough, there emerged the tradition that Richard Hill had married her after the death of his first wife. Richard Hill's will and his son's subsequent pledge confirm that Mary Drake Hill outlived her husband. However, but the fact that the last of

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Tabitha Scarborough's four husbands, Edward Hill of Shirley, made her for some years "Madam Hill" does nothing to revise such a longstanding tradition. See "Additions and Corrections to 'Lee of Virginia,'" Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 34 (July 1926), pp. 373-374; Suzanne Lebstock, A Share of Honour: Virginia Women 1600-1945 (Richmond: Virginia Women's Cultural History Project, 1984), p. 158.

⁷⁰ Will of Thomas Bayly, p. 49.

⁷¹ Inventory of the Estate of Thomas Bayly, 26 May 1808, Accomack District Court Deed And Will Book 1807-1830, pp. 276-282.

⁷² Mark R. Wenger, "The Dining Room in Early Virginia," in Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman, editors, Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture III (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989), pp. 149-159.

⁷³ This was the map surveyed and printed under the direction of James Madison, a cousin of the president, who served as president of the College of William and Mary and later as the first bishop of Virginia's Episcopal Church. It was published in 1807, making Virginia the first southern state to have been fully mapped. It thus was a very recent, and clearly prized, acquisition when Thomas Bayly died. Richard W. Stephenson and Marianne M. McKee, editors, Virginia in Maps: Four Centuries of Settlement, Growth, and Development (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2000), pp. 120-121.

⁷⁴ Mark Wenger has observed that over the course of the eighteenth century, well-to-do Virginia planters began to favor painted Windsor chairs for passages, where they functioned as informal seating and stood ready to be drawn out onto porches or even onto the lawn. Mark R. Wenger, "The Central Passage in Virginia: Evolution of an Eighteenth-Century Living Space," in Camille Wells, editor, Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture II (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1986), pp. 137-149. After the middle of the century, as Virginia dining room advanced in size and social importance, the old hall or sitting room—what is designated as the "parlour" in Thomas Bayly's inventory—often was less formally furnished, and Windsor chairs often figured there as well. In 1797, for example, appraisers found that Francis Lightfoot Lee's "parlor" contained "one looking glass quilt frame, 1 card table, 2 small dining tables and 12 [W]indsor chairs." It was the most inexpensively furnished room in his house. Inventory of the Estate of Francis Lightfoot Lee, 3 July 1797, Richmond County Will Book 9, pp. 82-84.

⁷⁵ That this was the case is suggested by a passage in Thomas Bayly's will: "I give to my loving wife . . . a suit of bed and window curtains which she bought in Philadelphia, all the trunks chests and boxes she keeps her cloathes in, [and] her case of drawers." Will of Thomas Bayly, p. 50.

⁷⁶ Deed of William P. Custis, commissioner for Accomack County court to Thomas M. Bayly, 10 November 1830, Accomack County Deed Book 25, pp. 26-29.

⁷⁷ Will of Richard D. Drummond written 17 May 1823 and proved 28 July 1828, Accomack County Will Book 1826-1846, pp. 14-16.

⁷⁸ Will of Thomas M. Bayly, written 9 March 1828 and proved 27 January 1834, Accomack County Will Book 1828-1846, pp. 146-151.

⁷⁹ Estate of Thomas M. Bayly, final ruling, 11 June 1847, Accomack County Chancery Account Book 1846-1855, p. 74.

⁸⁰ Seventh Federal Census [1850] Schedule 1 for the Independent City of Richmond, Virginia.

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⁸¹ This discouraging phrase comes from a determination in the case of Thomas M. Bayly's estate dated October 7, 1836. Accomack County Chancery Accounts Book 1831-1845, p. 103. Deed of Samuel T. Bayly and Rosa F. Bayly to John R. Drummond, 25 October 1853, Accomack County Deed Book 39, pp. 154-155. This instrument pertains only to the house at Hills Farm and 150 acres. In his will, John R. Drummond mentioned a second purchase of two hundred acres that he had made from the Bayly siblings. Will of John R. Drummond, written 16 May 1882 and proved 28 August 1882, Accomack County Will Book 1882-1901, pp. 10-12.

⁸² Seventh Federal Census [1850], Schedule 1 for Accomack County, Virginia.

⁸³ Eighth Federal Census [1860], Schedules 1 and 2 for Accomack County, Virginia.

⁸⁴ Ninth Federal Census [1870], for Accomack County, Virginia.

⁸⁵ Will of John R. Drummond, pp. 10-12.

⁸⁶ Will of Dr. Fletcher Drummond, written 8 January 1921 and proved 25 February 1922, Accomack County Will Book 21, pp. 48-49.

⁸⁷ Agreement between Fletcher Drummond's heirs and George L. Fosque, 1 March 1922, Accomack County Deed Book 124, p. 237; Deed of George L. Fosque to J. Steward Mathias, 10 June 1923, Accomack County Deed Book 141, p. 330.

⁸⁸ Deed of H. Ames Drummond, trustee for J. Steward Mathias, to Stephen T. Parks, Lee Wessells, Charles F. Turman, and Clinton Mason, 3 November 1939, Accomack County Deed Book 157, pp. 501-502.

⁸⁹ Deed of Stephen T. Parks to Henry J. Richardson and Fredonia Richardson, 17 January 1942, Accomack County Deed Book 164, pp. 329-330.

⁹⁰ Deed of C. J. and Florence Prettyman to Henry J. Richardson and Fredonia R. Richardson, 10 October 1944, Accomack County Deed Book 174, pp. 69-70.

⁹¹ Will of Henry J. Richardson, written 21 August 1972 and proved 28 August 1975, Accomack County Will Book 34, pp. 140-142; Will of Fredonia R. Richardson, written 21 August 1979, proved 9 March 1982, Accomack County Will Book 40 pp. 123-125.

⁹² Deed of Frank and Marilyn Ewing to Frances Rowland Settle, 31 August 1984. Accomack County Deed Book 480, p. 677 and Accomack County Plat Book 6. p. 63; Deed of Robert E. Settle, Jr. to Timothy T. Brown and Susie Upshur Brown, 5 December 1995, Accomack County Deed Book 704, pp. 796-800 and Accomack County Plat Book 5, p. 85.

