

VLR - 9/16/80

NRHP - 12/9/80

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**1. Name**

historic Upper Weyanoke

and/or common

**2. Location**

State Route 619, W of Kittiewan Creek, E of James  
street & number River

not for publication

city, town Charles City ☒ vicinity of congressional district First (Paul S. Trible)

state Virginia code 51 county Charles City code 36

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. John H. Moon

street & number 1613 Hanover Avenue

city, town Richmond ☐ vicinity of state Virginia 23220

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles City County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Charles City state Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys** (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

title (1) Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date 1958 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state DC

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Upper Weyanoke is located on the Weyanoke peninsula in Charles City County off State Route 619 on the James River. The property contains a 1½-story cottage built in the first quarter of the 19th century and a larger two-story residence erected in 1858-59.

The cottage has irregular-spaced openings and is executed in Flemish-bond brick. A one-story brick wing and connecting hyphen were added to the north elevation ca. 1954 and are also executed in Flemish-bond brick. A glass sun porch and its hyphen were added to the south wall at the same time. The main entrance is found on the east elevation. The entrance consists of the original paneled door within a three-part architrave surmounted by an ungauged brick jack arch. Side entrances are provided by the north hyphen and sun porch. Original fenestration as depicted on an early 20th-century photograph consisted of 6/6 hung-sash windows on the front (east) elevation and what appear to be 4/4 hung-sash windows on the north elevation. Windows on the east and west walls are surmounted also by ungauged brick jack arches. The 6/6 dormer windows were added in a 1930-33 renovation. At the same time the original corbeled brick chimneys were altered into the present "T"-shaped, semi-exterior end chimneys. A wood-shingle roof was replaced by a slate roof at the same time. The original plan of Upper Weyanoke is undisturbed and consists of a hall and parlor plan with a closed-well stair leading to the second-floor chambers. The building of the north wing added additional living and sleeping space. The hall in the main block is the best preserved in the house. It contains a paneled Federal-style mantel and a simply executed beaded chair rail. The original paneled doors are framed by molded architraves. The architrave in the parlor, a later addition, is flanked by wooden bookcases, also a 20th-century addition. The second-floor mantels constitute 20th-century replacements. Archaeological excavations of foundations to the west of the cottage indicate that it originally was one of a pair.

The 1858-59 house is located approximately 100 yards to the south of the cottage. The house is constructed in American-bond brick that may have originally been covered with stucco. Evidence of stucco remains on a side (north) wing. The house's main entrance is presently located on the river (west) elevation. It consists of the original paneled door set within a transom-light architrave. The entry is sheltered by a pedimented portico that constitutes a later 20th-century addition. Two entries are located on the east elevation. Evidence remains of a brick foundation of what was presumably a covered porch. The elevation has a very asymmetrical appearance resulting from the porch's removal. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows with wooden lintel heads throughout the house. The wing and side elevations have a stepped parapet wall, original to the house.

The asymmetrally positioned hall contains the main open-well stair. The stair has a turned newel, turned balusters, and a molded handrail. The architraves in the hall and in the principal rooms have Greek Revival-style symmetrical architraves with applied corner blocks. The mantels are simply executed; the mantel in the first-floor south parlor is a Federal replacement.

The lawn to the south of the later house contains a Victorian-style garden that has undergone a 20th-century renovation. The garden contains a path surrounded by figs, boxwood, crape myrtle, and magnolias. Later plantings consist of gardenias, camellias, poet's laurel and numerous grasses and flowering plants. To the east of the later house is a

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates early 19th century; 1858-9 Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Occupied since the mid-17th century, Upper Weyanoke is one of the James River's oldest estates. Evidence derived from recent archaeological excavations reveals an almost unbroken succession of settlements from the late 17th century to the late 19th century. The present structures on the property include a quaint early-19th century brick cottage and a larger Greek Revival dwelling completed in 1859. The cottage, originally one of a pair, is an interesting example of vernacular architecture and exhibits in its detailing the transition from colonial to later building methods. Also on the property is a well-preserved 19th-century garden. With its houses and archaeological remains, Upper Weyanoke offers considerable potential for the study of three centuries of plantation life on the James.

Sir George Yeardley, Governor of Virginia, first patented the 2,200-acre Weyanoke Plantation in 1618. In 1624 Yeardley sold his plantations, Weyanoke and Flowerdew Hundred. The lands were uninhabited until the 1650s when they were patented by Joseph Harwood who rented portions of the tract to tenant farmers. After a succession of owners in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the land was acquired by John Minge. His grandson, David Minge, willed the land, along with considerable other acreage in the county, to his wife Christina to whom it is charged in 1782, the first year of the tax books. By 1800, the Upper Weyanoke tract is charged to David and Christina's son, John Minge.

John Minge came of age in 1791 and married Sarah Harrison in 1795. They had a number of children, most of whom were born at Upper Weyanoke, according to the family genealogical chart. It is John Minge who is believed to have built the present cottage at Upper Weyanoke along with a larger residence. This contention is supported by the elevated tax rate on the Upper Weyanoke parcel from 1782 to 1820; moreover, the personal property tax books in 1815 show Minge charged with a house on the 450-acre Upper Weyanoke tract valued at \$3,300.

In the late 1830s substantial new construction was made on the property by Dr. John Minge, son of John Minge. It is possible that the improvements were the ones destroyed by fire in 1857 as noted in the tax books of that year. The earlier main residence apparently was destroyed in 1854 when the taxes were lowered on account of a loss of buildings. The property valuation of \$3,000 is reduced to \$1,143.18 "on account of buildings burnt." In 1859 under the ownership of Robert Douthat the valuation is raised to \$3,000 with the notation, "altered on account of buildings." This refers to the two-story Greek Revival house now on the Upper Weyanoke estate.

The records of the plantation found in the Charles City County Tax Records are supported by recent archaeological data. Archaeological investigation conducted by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology in the spring of 1980 has revealed the remains of a brick foundation measuring 19' x 34' centered on and parallel to the existing cottage which is located 45' to the east. One test hole located a 1½-course brick partition wall while another located the northwest corner of the same structure. While the dates of the foundation are yet to be determined, the artifacts found on the site date to three periods: ca. 1690-1720, ca. 1740-1770, and ca. 1770-1790. The periods cover both the colonial period



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Charles City County Deed Books 9, 10, 11.  
Land Tax Books 1782-1860.  
Will Book 3 (1824-33).

Henings, William W. The Statutes at Large. New York: R and W and G Barlow, 1823. Vol. 6, p. 13. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 110 acres

Quadrangle name Charles City, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	8
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3	1	6	4	8	0
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4	1	3	0	4	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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3	1	6	5	3	0
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4	1	2	9	5	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	8
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3	1	5	7	6	0
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4	1	2	9	1	3	0
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D 

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3	1	5	9	9	0
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4	1	2	9	9	0	0
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E 

1	8
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3	1	6	1	5	0
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4	1	3	0	3	0	0
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F 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on W side of State Route 619, 1000' E of James River, approximately 2½ mi. SSW of intersection of said route and State Route 5; thence extending 4/5 mi. S following W side of said route 619 to N side of private drive; thence extending approximately 3000' SSW following said drive to bank of river; thence extending NNE following river bank about 4/5 mi.; thence extending 1050' NNE to said side of said route 619 and point of origin.

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1980

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

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Tucker Hill, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date SEP 16 1980

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Upper Weyanoke, Charles City County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6, 7, 8

Page 1

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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:**

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1967, 1973, 1975, 1980 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**7. DESCRIPTION:**

modern caretaker's dwelling. Between the two older houses is a broad lawn planted with a variety of trees. Panoramic views of the James River and the opposite shore are obtained from practically all points on the property. The field to the north of the house grounds contains three archaeological sites identified in a recent survey.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The nominated property of approximately 110 acres is a small part of the original Minge holdings of 450 acres. The boundaries are drawn to include the houses, gardens and all known archaeological sites. Non-contributing structures include an alfalfa barn (1957-58), pool (1951) and pool-house (1958) to the North of the cottage, and a tenant's house (1945) and storage barns to the South of the cottage. A holding dam has recently been built to the West of the house adding 45' to the property in an area subject to the problems of erosion.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE:**

when the land was rented to tenants and the duration of the Minge ownership. Further archaeological digs have the potential to reveal more on the life and occupations of the James River plantation from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Three test digs were made also in the field to the north of the cottage and revealed artifacts dating from the late 17th century to the late 18th century. The foundations of the destroyed Minge structures were not located.

The two residences on the property are of a fairly modest type and show a significant stylistic change in architectural taste on the James River. While the earlier structure may be called a cottage, the larger two-story house is much more spacious both in its parlors and second-floor bedrooms. The house is complemented by a formal garden path that extends from the house to the James River. The path owes its origins to the interest in landscape gardening that developed from the writings of Alexander Jackson Downing which were published at the time the house was built in the 1850s. A romanticized history of Upper Weyanoke set in the 17th century is portrayed in the novel, To Have and To Hold by Mary Johnston and published in 1900.

MTP/RCC

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Upper Weyanoke, Charles City County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 9

Page 1

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Johnston, Mary. To Have and To Hold. Boston and New York: Riverside Press, 1900.  
Richmond, Virginia. Virginia State Library Archives. Genealogical Charts of the Minge  
Family.

MAPS:

Commager, Official Atlas of the Civil War, Plate XCIII.  
Frye-Jefferson Map, 1775.  
Gilmer Map, 1864.  
Madison Map, 1818.  
Map by the Proprietors, Richmond, 1807.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
Charles City, VA

(Scale 1:24000)  
1965 (PR 1974)

UPPER WEYANOKE, Charles City County, VA

UTM References:

A-18/316480/4130420

B-18/316530/4129520

C-18/315760/4129130

D-18/315990/4129900

E-18/316150/4130300

