

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rowe is a large, three-part late 18th-century plantation house, strikingly set on the banks of the James River in Charles City County. Its setting is enhanced by the presence of several trees of prodigious size and includes a walnut tree planted in 1855, the offspring of another which stood in the front yard until early in the present century and which was believed at the time to be the largest such tree then in existence.

The frame house presently consists of a two-story, three-bay central section flanked by two story-and-a-half, three-bay wings, each with three gabled dormers. The main block has a central entrance, which in its present form with sidelights and transom dates from the mid-19th century; 6/6 sash of the same age are used on the first floor, and the upper floor has early 6/9 sash. The block is crowned by a low gable roof treated with a pediment and a modillion cornice. An exterior end chimney at the rear was enclosed by extending the house several feet in the mid-19th century.

Each of the wings has a door in the bay nearest to the central portion of the house; however, that in the east or downstream wing is a false door, and a stair rises behind it. The wings each have 6/6 sash on the first floor, 4/4 sash in the dormers, and Flemish-bond exterior end chimneys with tiled weatherings. The whole is set upon a low basement with wooden-mullioned ventilators serving the cellar under the upstream wing. Inspection of this cellar reveals that the upstream wing antedates the rest of the house, as the double sills show.

The plan of The Rowe consists of a single large room in the main block set behind a narrow passage running across the front. This passage connects with passages running front to back in each of the wings. There is a winder stair at the front of the east passage and at the rear of the west passage. Each wing terminates in a single room.

The interior of The Rowe is not available for inspection and has not been so for many years. The owner reports that there is apparently original woodwork in the wings, but that the original woodwork of the central section was missing before the family purchased the property in 1932. The exterior alterations to the central block and unlabeled sketch notes made by a Colonial Williamsburg staff member in 1933 suggest that the central section may have been redecorated in the Greek Revival manner during the last century.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

DU

The boundaries have been drawn to follow natural boundaries on 3 sides - the tree line on the N, the James River on the W, and a tributary of the Tomahund Creek on the S. The E boundary is State Route 613. The nominated acreage includes the house and its approach.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Picturesquely situated on the banks of the James River and surrounded by ancient hardwood trees, The Rowe is one of a group of architecturally significant late 18th-century three- and five-part houses provincially adapted from a "Palladian" model. Owned during its early history by the Minge family, The Rowe is thus connected through social history to another group of important houses, including Kittiewan and Weyanoke, in Charles City County.

Although it is difficult to fix a date for the construction of The Rowe, it is likely that the original section--the story-and-a-half north wing--may have been in existence when David Minge died in 1779. At that time, Minge, who did not live on the property, left "my plantation in this [Charles City] county called the Rowe... unto my son George Hunt Minge." George W. H. Minge did live at The Rowe, and it is likely that he expanded the house to its present size before his death in 1808. At that time, the plantation passed to his son David, who was given his choice of the Charles City property or land in North Carolina. Seventeen years later, David Minge sold the property to Walter Spratley of Surry County, with William Allen as trustee. A complex series of transactions among Spratley, Minge, and Allen led to the purchase of the property in 1828 by Allen's ward, William Lightfoot, through and from Allen, for \$7,845. Lightfoot's mother, who had married into the Minge family after her first husband's death, inherited the property after her son's death in 1832. She held it in conjunction with Robert B. Bolling, who was the sole owner after she died in 1837. In 1850, The Rowe was purchased by Benjamin H. Harrison, and in 1881 Harrison Shirley acquired it from Harrison's estate. The Garrison family bought The Rowe in 1932.

The Rowe is one of a group of three-part provincial "Palladian" houses--including Fortsville in Southampton County and Woodburn in Charles City County--which were built in eastern Virginia and North Carolina in the last quarter of the 18th century and the first quarter of the 19th. The Semple House (ca. 1770) in Williamsburg may have been the prototype; the plan of its central two-story block, like most of the others, consists of a single large room set behind a narrow passage running across the front. This passage provides access to a single room in each of the wings. The plan of The Rowe basically follows the model but also includes a passage running from the front to the back of each wing. Thus, no two rooms are contiguous; each is separated from the others by a passage.

DU, MTP

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles City County Deed Books 7, 10, 13.
Land Tax Books, 1831-1850.
Will Books 2, 3, 4.
 Archives of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3 2,6 1,2,0	4,1 2,4 8,6,0	B	1,8	3 2,6 2,2,0	4,1 2,4 7,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	3 2,5 9,2,0	4,1 2,4 5,6,0	D	1,8	3 2,5 8,0,0	4,1 2,4 7,8,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 15 acres comprising The Rowe property are bounded by a line beginning at a point on W side of State Route 613, approximately 4500' SW of intersection of state routes 613 and 623; thence extending approximately 500' SE, following along W side of State Route 613 to a point (B); thence extending approximately 1200' SW to a point (C) located on NE bank of James River; thence extending approximately 600' NW along said bank; thence extending approximately 1300' NE, following S side of tree line to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

October 1977

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE NOV 15 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

The Rowe, Charles City County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

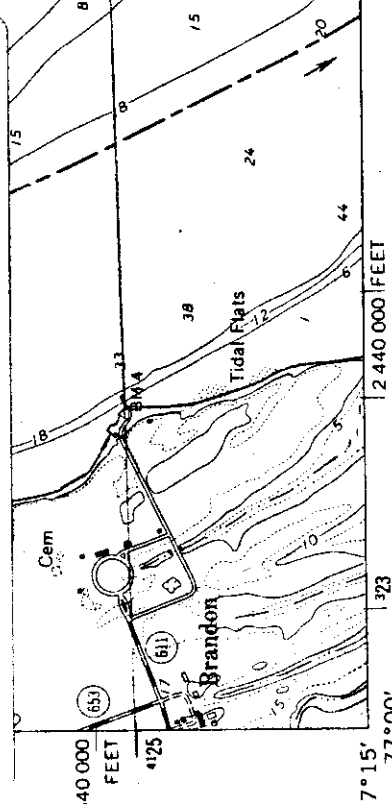
The Rowe, Charles City County, Virginia

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

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Brandon, Va.

THE ROWE, CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References:

A- 18/326120/4124860 C- 18/325920/4124560
B- 18/326220/4124740 D- 18/325800/4124780



(SAVED)
BASE LINE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
Supersedes USC&GS map dated 1952

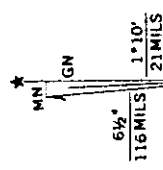
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS
Chart 530 (1964). This information is not intended for
navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system,
south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

1:244,000 FEET

UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR LINES REPRESENT ELEVATION
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDES

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC

