

VLR-6/19/79 NRHP-9/10/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Timberneck

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off State Route 635 at Timberneck Creek on edge of York River,  
E of Wicomico.

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

VICINITY OF  
CODE

First (Paul S. Trible)

COUNTY

CODE

Virginia

51

Gloucester

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. J.W.C. Catlett Sr.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wicomico

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23184

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Gloucester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Gloucester

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1969

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE  
D.C.

## 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

Timberneck, set near the confluence of Timberneck Creek and the York River, is a large, frame house built around 1800 and enlarged by the addition of a frame wing in the mid-19th century.

The main block is a two-story, three-bay structure lighted by 9/9 sash on the first floor and 6/9 on the second. Some sashes are old and two closet sashes are original. The east end of the main block has two original interior chimneys, while the west end has one rebuilt exterior chimney. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and trimmed with a modillion cornice. Similar sash and cornice are employed on the mid-19th-century wing, which retains louvred blinds on its second-floor front windows. A four- and five-course American-bond brick chimney serves this end of the house. Both front doors are served by small, early porches with pedimented and modillioned roofs, and the whole is covered with relatively modern, undecorated weatherboards except for a patch of early beaded weatherboarding at the center of the facade.

The plan of Timberneck consists of an entry in the southwest corner of the first floor, with a small room behind it and two larger rooms to the east. The addition has a single room and a stair passage.

Strong, late-Georgian decoration is used in the original section. In the entry it consists of raised-panel wainscoting with a single panel running the full length of each wall. The stair has a square, fluted newel, molded diamond balusters and a closed string. The front door has six raised panels on the exterior and diagonal sheathing on the interior.

The front east room retains its original raised-panel wainscoting, but the mantel was replaced, probably when the wing was added, by a Greek Revival mantel with plain Doric columns. In the rear (northeast) room, however, the original chimney breast survives. This consists of two horizontal raised panels - the upper taller than the lower, over the fireplace. These are bracketed at the sides by double tiers of narrow, vertical raised panels separated by a small section of chair rail, and at the top by a heavily molded unsupported shelf. A symmetrically molded chair rail encircles the room.

In the wing the passage has an open-string, plain-spandrel stair with an oval rail, tapered newel, and two rectangular balusters to a tread. The doors and windows throughout this part have symmetrically molded trim with plain corner blocks. The most interesting feature of this room, however, is the original end windows of the main block which were not blocked, as was the usual practice, but left intact with their original louvred blinds in place. These are hung on tapered, button-strap hinges and have what appears to be an original coat of blue-grey paint and twisted iron tieback hooks. The main room in this block is very plain with only a fluted Greek Doric mantel for decoration.

Two features of the site are of particular interest. The front yard is enclosed by a 19th-century picket fence, a very rare survival of a once-common feature. Northwest of the house is an original gable-roofed frame smokehouse. The roof has a deep overhang on all four sides; the door has an original lock and key.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The register bounds form a rough quadrilateral, with a wire fence forming the north and west sides, and the waterline forming the remainder of the perimeter.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) rural life
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timberneck is a broad peninsula bordered by Cedarbush, Poplar, and Timberneck creeks, all tributaries of the York River. The property is significant for its rambling, Post-Revolutionary farmhouse which has striking, well-preserved interior appointments, including a fine stair and much original hardware. With its rural setting, early smokehouse, rare 19th-century picket fence, old trees, and commanding view of the York, Timberneck is a substantially undisturbed Tidewater plantation. It is associated with the Catlett and Mann families, both prominent in the social and political history of Gloucester County.

Timberneck was, in the 17th and 18th centuries, the Mann family homestead. On the property are two late 17th- and one early 18th-century tomb slabs marking Mann family graves. Shortly before 1793, John Catlett of King William County purchased 600 acres of land from Governor John Page of nearby Rosewell and added another 109 acres by 1797. John Page was a descendant of the Mann family. On the 109-acre parcel, sometime before his death in 1808, Catlett built the first portion of the present house. His will, recorded in 1808 and copied in a family history in 1918, named his son, John W. C. Catlett (1803-1883) as heir to "the plantation in which I now live."<sup>1</sup> (Few such early Gloucester wills exist as most of the county's antebellum records have been destroyed). As recorded in the land tax books, John W.C. Catlett added the large wing which comprises the remainder of the historic portion of the house in 1856-58. Although the Catletts had come to Virginia in the 17th century, settling in what was to become Essex County, it is really with John W.C. Catlett that the family gained political prominence in Gloucester. John W.C. Catlett was a lawyer and a member of the State Senate. His second son and heir to Timberneck was Charles Catlett (1845-1917), a county judge.

Timberneck remains in the Catlett family.

MTP/DU

<sup>1</sup>Dr. and Mrs. William Carter Stubbs, A History of Two Virginia Families. (New Orleans, 1918), pp. 38-40.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Butler, Patrick H. "The Memorial Art of Tidewater Virginia, 1650-1775." Dissertation, University of Delaware, 1969.
- Gloucester County Land Tax Books 1782-1860.  
Personal Property Tax Books 1782-1820.
- Stubbs, Dr. and Mrs. William Carter. A History of Two Virginia Families. New Orleans, 1918.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 14 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Clay Bank, Virginia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 1 8	3 6 3 8 3 0	4 1 2 8 8 0 0	B 1 8	3 6 4 0 2 0	4 1 2 8 6 9 0
C 1 8	3 6 3 9 6 0	4 1 2 8 4 1 0	D 1 8	3 6 3 8 6 0	4 1 2 8 4 0 0
E 1 8	3 6 3 7 4 0	4 1 2 8 6 1 0	F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point 400' W of Timberneck Creek, 1300' SW of State Route 635 and approximately 1 3/4 mi. S of intersection of said route and State Route 636; thence extending 650' SW to said creek; thence extending about 1000' S following shoreline along said creek; thence extending 300' W; thence extending about 800' NW following shoreline of said creek; thence extending 750' NE 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

June 1979

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

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUN 19 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Timberneck, Gloucester County, Virginia

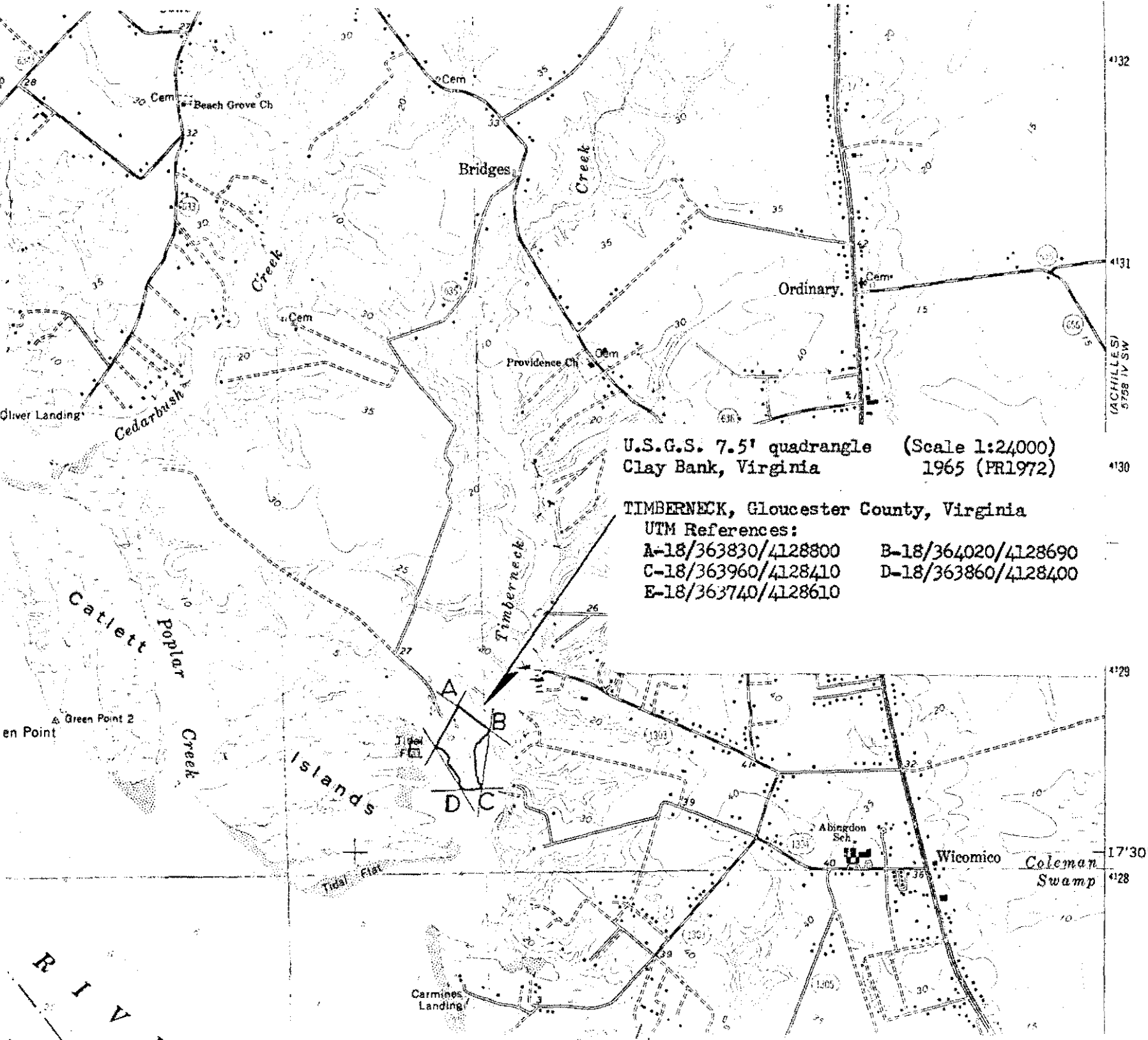
CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968, 1979 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24,000)  
Clay Bank, Virginia 1965 (PR1972)

TIMBERNECK, Gloucester County, Virginia

- UTM References:
- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A-18/363830/4128800 | B-18/364020/4128690 |
| C-18/363960/4128410 | D-18/363860/4128400 |
| E-18/363740/4128610 |                     |

A  
B  
C  
D

4132  
4131  
4130  
4129  
17'30"  
4128

(ACHILLES)  
6758 1/4 SW

R I V E R