

VLR-9/17/74 NRHP-11/19/74

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA
COUNTY: NORTHAMPTON
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Westerhouse House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: West Bank of Westerhouse Creek, .6 mi. North of Route 619
.4 mi. West of Intersection of Route 619 and Route 657.

CITY OR TOWN: (Bridgetown Vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First (Thomas N. Downing)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Northampton CODE: 131

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. B. Earl Williams

STREET AND NUMBER: Star Route, Box 395

CITY OR TOWN: Machipongo STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Northampton County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Eastville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (See continuation sheet)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Northampton
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the north shore of Church Neck on Westerhouse Creek, Westerhouse is a small, one-story farmhouse with a steep gable roof and asymmetrical elevations. Although altered and much deteriorated, the house retains its essential architectural character and could be restored to its original appearance.

The house is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and has a beveled brick water table. It is devoid of rubbed and gauged brickwork, however the windows and doors are spanned by rowlock lintels of alternating glazed and unglazed headers. Of particular note is the east exterior end chimney with its heavy pyramidal base, long sloping tiled weatherings and squat free-standing stack. The original chimney on the west end was probably similar, although in the mid-nineteenth century the west end apparently settled out from the structure and was at that time replaced with the present brick end laid in seven-course American bond. The tall, slender chimney stack was built at the same time.

The south elevation retains its original four-bay fenestration with two doors flanked by windows. The fenestration on the north elevation, however, has been partially altered by the addition and removal of later wings. Corresponding to the fenestration, the interior plan of Westerhouse is a simple hall-parlor arrangement typical of pre-Georgian Virginia dwellings. Access to the loft area is gained through an enclosed stairway projecting from the central partition wall into the east room and entered from the west room. The loft, like the first floor, has a two-room plan. The house probably was built without a basement, having only brick-lined root cellars situated in front of the hearths and entered by interior trap doors such as the one surviving in the east room. The half cellar under the west end of the structure apparently was dug during the course of mid-nineteenth-century repairs.

The steep gable roof of Westerhouse has, to the present day, been covered with wood shingles fixed to evenly spaced nailing slats rather than the more commonly employed solid plank sheathing found in most early houses. The roof framing presently exposed by the deterioration of the shingles and interior plaster is of mortise-and-tenon construction with half-dovetailed collar beams and tilted plates.

Unfortunately no original interior trim survives in any of the rooms, and much of the plaster has been replaced at least once.

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6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although in a state of advanced deterioration, Westerhouse remains an outstanding and exceptionally rare example of Stuart-period Southern vernacular architecture. The prototype for the small, compact farmhouse is the two-unit medieval cottage of the West Country and Highland zone of England. Characteristic features of the type are the one-story elevation, the steep gable roof, the hall-parlor plan and the asymmetrical arrangement of the openings. No influence of the bookish classical style that had such a heavy impact on the character of the vernacular architecture of the Georgian period is evident. An interesting regional feature of the house is its massive exterior-end pyramidal chimney with its steeply sloped tiled weatherings. This feature is shared by less than a half dozen Eastern Shore structures remaining from the same period. Unfortunately the preservation of none of these structures has been secured, and this rare and most appealing architectural species is in danger of extinction.

The builder and exact construction date of Westerhouse is uncertain, however comparative stylistic analysis indicates a date around 1700. The Westerhouse family, from which the property takes its name, had been established in Northampton County since 1661 when William Westerhouse of New England is recorded to have bought land on what is now Westerhouse Creek. William Westerhouse died in 1684 leaving his land to his son, Adrian. Therefore the house probably was built by Adrian Westerhouse before his death in 1705, or shortly thereafter by his son and heir, William Westerhouse II. The property remained in the ownership of the Westerhouse family until the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

CCL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Whitelaw, Ralph T. Virginia's Eastern Shore, Vol. I.
 Gloucester, Massachusetts: Peter Smith, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY.			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37 ° 27 ' 06 "	75 ° 58 ' 17 "				
NE	37 ° 27 ' 06 "	75 ° 58 ' 03 "				
SE	37 ° 26 ' 46 "	75 ° 58 ' 03 "				
SW	37 ° 26 ' 46 "	75 ° 58 ' 17 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **22 acres**

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION: **VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION** DATE: **August, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **VIRGINIA** CODE: **51**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title Commission

Date _____

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY NORTHAMPTON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

- 6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1967 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. (Code 11)

37° 27' 06"

WESTERHOUSE HOUSE

37° 26' 46"

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Franktown, Va. 1968

WESTERHOUSE HOUSE

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 27' 06"	75° 58' 17"
NE	37° 27' 06"	75° 58' 03"
SE	37° 26' 46"	75° 58' 03"
SW	37° 26' 46"	75° 58' 17"

