

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 Robert Tynes House

other names/site number Tynes Plantation

D M Number 046-0002

### 2. Location

street & number 13060 Courthouse Highway

not for publication

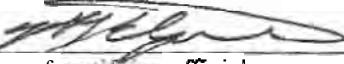
city or town Smithfield

vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Isle of Wight code 093 Zip 23430

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official

Date 2/15/07

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Signature of commenting or other official 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

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

private  
 public—local  
 public—state  
 public—Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

building (s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	1 buildings
1	0 sites
2	0 structures
0	0 objects
5	1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

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## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling  
DOMESTIC Secondary structure

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling  
DOMESTIC Secondary structure

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## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK  
Roof METAL  
Walls BRICK  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## 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.

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

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

**Period of Significance** 1750-1802

**Significant Dates** 1750—erection of the dwelling by Robert Tynes  
1802—Timothy Tynes frees his eighty-one slaves

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Tynes, Robert—builder

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

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

#### **10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.3 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 <u>18</u>	<u>351949</u>	<u>4092067</u>	2		

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: Kimble A. David  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_ date: 23 June 2006  
 street & number P O Box 7638 telephone 757/623.3456  
 city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23509

#### **Additional Documentation**

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 Toni D. Anderson  
 street & number 13060 Courthouse Highway telephone 757 / 365.9356  
 city or town Smithfield state VA zip code 23430

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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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 1**

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**Summary Architectural Description:**

The Robert Tynes House was constructed in 1750 and is designed in the Georgian style with a Tidewater Gambrel-roofed form. The dwelling exhibits Flemish-bond brick masonry with glazed headers construction and a prominent gambrel roof. The three-bay façade is symmetrical and the entrance door features a brick etched with "R T 1750" above the brick lintel. The windows on the first story are 9/9 and the windows on the second story are 6/6 wood double-hung sash. The dwelling also features an entrance door on the north elevation to the dining room with a brick above the lintel etched with "M T 1750". The interior features a center-passage single-pile plan. There is an enclosed stair accessing the second story and basement level within the hallway. The fireplaces in the first story rooms feature wood paneled mantels. There is an enclosed stair to the attic on the southwest corner of the second story. The attic features pegged roof rafters that have been numbered with Roman numerals. There is a smokehouse, kitchen foundation and chimney, chicken house, and remnant of a boxwood garden with a centrally-placed concrete well on the 1.3 acre house site. The Robert Tynes House is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the development of African American communities in Isle of Wight County following Timothy Tynes' manumission of his eighty-one slaves and the bequeathing real property to them in 1802. It is also eligible under Criterion C for its architectural style and construction date of 1750. The period of significance associated with this property is 1750 to 1802 and includes five contributing resources and one non-contributing resource.

**Architectural Description:**

The property comprises 1.3 acres and lies on the west side of Courthouse Highway (Route 258) in Isle of Wight County approximately two miles south of the Town of Smithfield. The site is generally level. Immediately behind the dwelling, smokehouse, and kitchen foundation and chimney is a tidal marsh associated with Holly Creek, which feeds the Pagan River. The property descends forty feet toward the creek bed. The property has a generally triangular shape and fronts Courthouse Highway for 239.18 feet. The property extends west approximately 400 feet. The secondary buildings are situated near the main dwelling.

The Robert Tynes House was constructed in 1750 by Robert Tynes. The form of the dwelling is a Tidewater Gambrel roof house in the Georgian style. The building is brick construction laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. There is a prominent watertable at the base of the building. The gambrel roof is wood frame pegged together and clad in pressed metal sheets. There is a boxed cornice at the base of the gambrel roof on the east façade and west elevation at the first and second

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 2**

---

story juncture. The façade is three-bay with a central entrance flanked by window openings on the first story and three shallow shed-roof dormers on the gambrel roof. The side elevations feature flush brick chimneys with corbelled tops and brick caps. The windows on the first story are 9/9 wood double-hung sash and the windows on the second story are 6/6 wood double hung sash. The small windows flanking the chimneys in the attic story are 4-light wood casement and are pegged. The entrances are single-leaf with wood paneled doors. The main entrance on the east façade features a brick above the lintel etched with "R T 1750" signifying Robert Tynes and the construction date of the building. There is a door on the north elevation at the west corner with a brick above the lintel etched with "M T 1750" signifying Mary Tynes, wife of Robert Tynes, and the construction date of the building. The façade features a centrally-placed porch with three-bays topped by a hipped roof clad in standing-seam metal. The porch features square columns and a balustrade with squared balusters. The porch foundation is brick and the porch decking is wood plank. On the north elevation there is a porch sheltering the door at the west corner. The porch features a shed roof clad in standing-seam metal with squared posts filled with lattice. This porch appears in early 20<sup>th</sup> century photographs of the property.

Appended to the west elevation is a two-story gabled-roof addition. The addition was erected circa 1950 and then expanded in the 1970s. The addition has a concrete foundation and is wood frame construction clad in vinyl siding. The gable roof is clad in standing-seam metal and obscures the central portion of the 1750 dwelling. The addition has a screened porch on the north elevation and a wood balcony on the south elevation. There are two projecting oriels that extend above the roofline on the north elevation with gable roof. The oriels feature diamond-paned windows. The windows on the addition are 6/6 wood double-hung sash.

The interior of the dwelling has a center-passage single-pile plan. The first story comprises a living room south of the hall and dining room north of the hall. The hall has an enclosed stair with narrow wood treads and steep wood risers ascending to the second story. There are kite winders at the west end. The stairwell features wood picture and chair rails. Below the stair is a stair descending to the basement story. The stair is steep with wood treads and risers. This stair is accessed by narrow double-leaf one-panel wood doors. The walls on the first story are plastered. The ceiling in the hallway is covered with a foliate patterned covering. Wood baseboards are found on the north wall of the living room, south wall of the dining room and within the hall. The chimney breasts in the living and dining rooms are also plastered with wood mantels with pegged panels. There are also wood chair and picture rails on the south wall of the dining room and north wall of the living room. The doors to the living and dining room are wood two-panel single-leaf with iron hardware. The flooring has been replaced with narrow oak boards. In the dining room, there is an enclosed wine closet at the northeast corner between the chimney breast and east façade wall.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 3**

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The second story comprises a central hall flanked by two bedrooms. The bedrooms features projecting chimney breasts, but there is no evidence of a mantel or fireplace in the south bedroom. The north bedroom mantel is a turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century replacement. The walls are plastered and there are wood chair rails in each bedroom. There are picture rails on the north wall of the south bedroom and south wall of the north bedroom. The flooring is wide board original to the dwelling. The doors are replacements and have modern forms or are six-panel wood and single-leaf. Closets have been added to the rooms under the stair to the attic in the southwest corner and at the southeast corner of the north room. A closet has also been added to the hall at the northeast corner. The hallway extends to the west toward the addition.

The attic is accessed by a vertical board door nestled into the southwest corner of the south bedroom. The door gains access to a steep narrow stair leading to the attic. The attic is unfinished and yields the exterior brick end walls and four light casement windows flanking the chimneys at each end. The roof rafters are hand hewn and pegged. In addition, the rafters are numbered with Roman numerals for the ease of assembly on site.

The basement story yields two rooms. The north room serves as a storage room and the original fireplace is visible at the north wall. It features a rounded arch brick opening that has been filled. The south room originally served as the kitchen and features a fireplace with a rounded arch opening. The flooring is poured concrete and the brick walls have been parged. The first story floor joists are also visible. The original timbers have been hand hewn and are notched into the sills. There are six-light casement windows piercing the foundation on the east façade. A Dutch door is situated on the west elevation at the south end.

The addition comprises the kitchen, breakfast room and lavatory on the first story, and bedroom, storage and lavatory on the second story. The walls are drywall and the flooring is covered in wall to wall carpeting or vinyl sheeting. The kitchen cabinets date to circa 1970. The second story has a vaulted ceiling.

It is noted that in the 1930s a former owner reoriented the stairway in the original dwelling. The current plan is consistent with similar plans of the period and it is not clear as to how this modification may have been made. In addition it is noted that the same renovation included the removal of a brick wall. It is not known which brick wall was removed. Additional information includes that the basement was used as the kitchen as late as 1930s and possibly until the addition dating to circa 1950 was erected. The dwelling is considered a contributing building to the property.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 4**

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**Secondary Resources**

**Garden and Well:** North of the dwelling are the remnants of a boxwood garden. The garden has a rectangular shape and encompasses a concrete well. The above ground concrete portion of the well is believed to date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and covers the earlier well on the property. A few boxwoods remain and the general form of the garden is intact. The well is considered a contributing structure to the property due to its location above the original well site. The boxwood garden is a contributing site to the property due to its association with the house during the period of significance.

**Smokehouse/Frame Shed:** To the west of the dwelling is a smokehouse constructed circa 1800. The building rests upon a brick foundation and is wood frame construction clad in weatherboard. The north elevation is clad in beaded weatherboard. The building is topped with a side-gable roof clad in standing-seam metal. There is a single-leaf door on the east façade comprised of vertical boards with iron hinges and hardware. Appended to the north elevation is a shed-roofed addition that rests on a concrete foundation. It is wood frame construction clad in weatherboard. There is a single-leaf door on the east façade near the juncture of the two portions of the building. Appended to the façade is a pent roof overhang clad in round-cut wood shingles. It is supported on the north end at the east corner by a plain wood post. This resource is considered a contributing building to the property.

**Kitchen Foundation:** North of the smokehouse is a kitchen foundation and chimney. The foundation is brick and is overgrown. The chimney is one-and-one-half stories in height and exhibits fireplace openings on the first story and attic story. The chimney has brick corbelling on the south end of the stack. The chimney exhibits a Flemish-bond brick pattern with glazed headers and also 3-course American bond brickwork. This building is referred as the “early house” in documents dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and may have served as a dwelling and then later a kitchen with quarters in the attic story. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century image of part of the building reflects that it was one-and-one-half stories in height and had a wood frame structural system clad in weatherboard. A window opening is evident and may have had a 6/6 wood double-hung window. This structure is considered a contributing resource to the property.

**Chicken House/Frame Shed:** South of the dwelling is an overgrown chicken house. The chicken house is wood frame construction with a chicken-wire fence extending from the building enclosing a chicken yard on the south and west. The building has a shed roof. This resource was constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and is considered a **non-contributing** building to the property.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 5**

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**Summary Statement of Significance:**

The Robert Tynes House is an example of the Tidewater Gambrel form of dwelling developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and found in the lowland areas of Maryland and Virginia in the region of the Chesapeake Bay. This Georgian style incorporates English sources in domestic architecture. Constructed in 1750 by Robert Tynes, the dwelling remains on its original site though the extensive land holdings have been diminished to the 1.3-acre house site. Robert Tynes amassed a large landholding, which was willed to his son Timothy Tynes. Timothy Tynes increased the landholding having over four thousand acres of land at his death in 1802. Timothy Tynes is best known for the manumission of his eighty-one slaves in his will of 1802 and the division of his estate primarily to his slaves. This action affected the population of African-Americans in Isle of Wight County in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries forming enclaves of African Americans in regions where they inherited land from Timothy Tynes. The Robert Tynes House is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the development of African American communities in Isle of Wight County following Timothy Tynes' manumission of his eighty-one slaves and the bequeathing real property to them in 1802. It is also eligible under Criterion C for its architectural style and construction date of 1750. The period of significance associated with this property is 1750 to 1802 and includes five contributing resources and one non-contributing resource.

**Statement of Significance:**

The Robert Tynes House is an example of the Tidewater Gambrel roof house developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The dwelling reflects common building proportions from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its style is consistent with forms found in the Tidewater region of Virginia and Maryland. The dwelling is forty-feet wide by twenty-feet deep and is brick construction laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The proportion is consistent with dwellings constructed during the late 16<sup>th</sup> and through the 17<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup> The façade is symmetrical and three-bay with a central entrance flanked by 9/9 wood double-hung sash windows. The windows comprising shallow dormers on the gambrel roof are 6/6 wood double-hung sash and repeat the window and door pattern found on the first story. The dwelling features flush chimneys with corbelled tops and brick caps. This building form was common during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, though many dwelling were constructed of wood due to the abundance of available timber. Many of these frame dwellings have been lost over time, but brick dwellings, such as the Robert Tynes House remain. While the brick dwellings remain due to their more permanent construction, there were fewer constructed during this period.<sup>2</sup> This dwelling is a rare example of an intact building in this style and form found in Isle of Wight County.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 6**

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Tidewater Gambrel Houses in Southeastern Virginia had their sources in English architecture of the period. The first English settlers constructed rough frame houses. With the addition of a slave workforce in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the larger landholding plantation owners were able to construct more permanent dwellings. The plantation was a self-sufficient farmstead with blacksmith's shops, buildings to process livestock and crops, and served as a location for the baking of bricks for building construction. Most plantations were situated along a creek or river due to the numerous waterways that permeated the Tidewater region. The waterways were the easiest mode of travel from inland plantations during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries since roads were rough and many were undeveloped. The waterways allowed for the shipping of goods from the plantations to market.<sup>3</sup>

The Robert Tynes House is situated on Holly Creek which is a tidal creek of the Pagan River the major shipping route to the James River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The location and architecture of the building reflect the development of 18<sup>th</sup> century plantations in Isle of Wight County and southeastern Virginia. In addition the plantation house was owned by Robert Tynes and his son Timothy Tynes, two of the largest landowners in Isle of Wight County in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>4</sup>

The Tynes family in Isle of Wight County was begun with Timothy Tynes, born by 1686 most likely in Bermuda. He was married to Elizabeth (unknown maiden name) in 1715 and produced two sons, Thomas (1720-1769/1770 and married to an unknown Pruden in 1740 and then married to Celia West in 1744) and Robert (by 1722-1790/1794 and married to Mary Joyner in December 1746), along with daughters Sarah (1718-1764 and married to Arthur Washington), Elizabeth (circa 1730-May 1768 and married to Thomas Brown), Mary (circa 1730-after 8 October 1779 and never married), Martha (circa 1735-between August and November 1778, never married), and Jane (born circa 1740 and it is unknown if she married). Timothy Tynes died August 1752.<sup>5</sup>

In Timothy Tynes will dated 26 August 1747 and probated on 6 August 1752 he mentions his wife, Elizabeth, sons Robert and Thomas, and grandson, Timothy (son of Robert). His second son, Robert, received all the lands, appurtenances and one copper still. To his grandson, Timothy, he bequeaths a Negro boy called Jimmy. To his wife he allowed her use of all his lands, slaves and cattle for her maintenance as long as she lived. After her death, the cattle and slaves were to be equally divided between all of his children, which included his sons Thomas and Robert, and his daughters.<sup>6</sup> His eldest son, Robert, is not noted as receiving any of the estate and may have received a portion of the landholdings and stock upon coming of age, which was common for the first born son.<sup>7</sup> Thomas and his mother were named executors of the estate, but Robert Tynes was named executor on 3 September 1772 on the same day as he was named the executor of Elizabeth Tynes' (his mother) estate. In

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 7**

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addition to serving as executor of his father and mother's estate, he also signed a bond to deliver a parcel of land to his sisters, Mary, Martha and Jane.<sup>8</sup>

Robert Tynes (son of Timothy Tynes) was most likely born in the early 1720s and it is estimated he was born in 1722. He is noted in land transactions from 1743 until his death in 1794. With the extensive landholdings he inherited and purchased he was considered a prosperous man in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He erected his house south of Smithfield in 1750 on lands believed to be part of the Timothy Tynes estate that he inherited. The kitchen foundation and chimney to the rear of the house are often referred as the "old house" and may have been his first residence on the property. It is noted that Robert Tynes requested that the road be moved from his front yard, though it is not clear if the road was moved and to what location.<sup>9</sup> The topography of the lands in the immediate area of the house did not allow for the construction of the house much more west than its present location. The road may have been moved from the immediate front of the dwelling to the east, but this is not confirmed.

Robert Tynes, who erected the Robert Tynes House married Mary Joyner and produced seven children; Elizabeth (married Thomas Day), Timothy (bachelor), Robert Jr. (died in 1773 with no issue), Henry (married Sarah Chapman), Mary (married Thomas King), Jean (married Charles Fulgham), and Sarah (not included in his will and purportedly died in her youth). Robert Tynes, in addition to being a large landowner, also served as a Justice in Isle of Wight County from 1746 through 1752. He was active in the Newport Parish Episcopal Church and was named a vestryman on 28 June 1746, serving until at least 1776.<sup>10</sup> Tynes managed his large landholdings which had been amassed by his father and himself. In addition he was a local merchant operating a store at Tynes Corner, situated south of the dwelling, and appears in numerous court records during his active period.<sup>11</sup>

Robert Tynes outlived five of his seven children, and Timothy Tynes was his only male child living at his death. In Robert Tynes will of 14 October 1769 and proved on 3 January 1771, he bequeathed five shillings each to his sons-in-law, husband of his granddaughter, and to his grandson Robert Tynes. To his wife he bequeathed five slaves and use of the plantation with the stock of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs. In addition she was permitted to use the household furniture. After her death, all his land and slaves, the right to his father's (Timothy Tynes) estate, the stock on all his plantations, which comprised his entire estate was bequeathed to his son, Timothy Tynes.<sup>12</sup>

The inheritance and additional land acquisitions made by Timothy Tynes during his life made him one of the largest landholders in Isle of Wight County by his death in 1802. He purchased a large plantation from John Bennett in 1776.<sup>13</sup> He owned over four thousand acres of land and had at least

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 8**

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eight-one slaves working on his numerous plantations. Timothy Tynes never married and had no legal descendants. He lived at his father's house until his death in 1802.<sup>14</sup>

Timothy Tynes managed his landholdings and served as a Commissioner of the Peace in 1769. He was made a major in the Virginia Militia on 5 September 1772 and became a commissioner of Oyer and Terminer for Isle of Wight County, holding this position until 1779. He did not appear in the court records in 1776 and was excused from the position in 1779 being described as "old and infirm" although at this time he would have only been approximately thirty-six years old. It is surmised that he may not have been in favor of American independence though no accusation of Tory sympathies were ever levied against him.<sup>15</sup>

Timothy Tynes gained additional prominence after his death in Isle of Wight County. Upon his death his property would have been passed to his nieces and nephews, but his will outlined a course of events that changed the character of Isle of Wight County evident today.

In Timothy Tynes will of 1802 he freed his eighty-one slaves and bequeathed large parts of his landholdings and real property to slaves named in the will. This manumission of his slaves was the largest in Isle of Wight County's history and shaped communities of African-Americans in the regions of Isle of Wight County extending from the James River near the north end to the vicinity of the Tynes, Robert, House.

The manumission of slaves was not permitted in Virginia until the passage of the Emancipation Act of 1782. On 6 May 1782, the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act stating:

*That it shall hereafter be lawful for any person, by his or her last will and testament, or any other instrument in writing, under his or her hand and seal, attested and proved in the county court by two witnesses, or acknowledged by the party in the court of the county where he or she resides, to emancipate and set free, his or her slaves, or any of them, who shall thereupon be entirely and fully discharged from the performance of any contract entered into during servitude, and enjoy full freedom as if they had been particularly named and freed by this act.*

In addition to the manumission of slaves, the act required that the master provide for the young, aged and infirmed freed slaves. The freed slaves were given an instrument of emancipation, which became known as the Freedom Paper.<sup>16</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 9

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In Isle of Wight County, Quakers who had settled in large numbers influenced plantation owners to free slaves. The earliest notations of the manumission of slaves after the enactment of the Emancipation Act were William Scott who freed fourteen adult slaves and fourteen slaves under the age of twenty-one in 1782. Matthew Jordan freed a Negro woman and three minor children in 1783.<sup>17</sup>

Timothy Tynes listed in his will the names of all the slaves to be freed upon his death. In addition he willed plantations and land to the slaves. The largest plantation was 1200 acres near the village of Comet, and another large plantation of 800 acres was situated on the James River in the area of Tyler's Beach. There was another 150-acre plantation on the James River and other smaller pieces of land near Tynes' Corner to the south of the Tynes, Robert, House. He also willed livestock and farm equipment. Slaves also received money. In total he willed 2600 acres of land and 900 pounds sterling.<sup>18</sup>

His will follows<sup>19</sup>:

*Isle of Wight County*

*In the name of God amen, I Timothy Tynes do make and ordain this  
to be my last Will and Testament in the following manner (to wit). My Will  
and desire is that all my slaves of every description (to wit) Prince, Bob, George,  
Peter, Jacob, Great James, little James, Dick, Silver, Chaney, Nancy, Bathia,  
Conny, Phillis, Fanny, Lily, Sukey, Nancy, Little Phillis,  
Harry, Patience, Isham, Harriott, Davy, Linda, Dolphin,  
Aaron, Isaac, Bukey, Betsey, Moses, Cherry, Great Charles, Little Charles,  
Robin, Grace, Sam, Lewis, Kitt, Godfry, Jack, Beck, Venus, Caty,  
John, Iris, Charles, Daniel, Ephraim, Fanny, Rose, Foreman, Sidy,  
Rhoda, Joe, Sirius, Nanny, Soukey [or Loukey?], Harry, Jesse, Dick, Mary, Jude,  
Pricilla, Nancy, Willis, Benn, asia, Sarah, Hannah, Dick unge,  
Tina, Randall, Ned, Tom, Talus, Cambo, Sal, Daughny, Aggy, Bob,  
& Ally together with their increase including Nancy's Child and all other  
of my Slaves that are not herein mentioned -- be fully & freely liberated from  
all Slavery & stand discharged from Slavery & bondage to enjoy all the privi-  
leges that Free Negroes are entitled to by the Laws and regulations of the  
state of Virginia. It is to be understood that all my slaves & their increase  
are to be liberated. It is my will that that part of my River Land call'd  
Bennett's shall be occupied by Beck (which formerly belonged to*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 10

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*Allen Cock's estate) and all her children during their lives & after  
the death of them all the said land shall revert to David Tynes Son  
of Benjamin Tynes decd. to him & his heirs forever. I give & bequeath  
to John & iris Children of Beck the sum of Five Hundred pounds  
to be Equally divided between them. -- It is also my Will & desire  
that they may have each of them one feather Bed & furniture and  
five head of Cattle & that John have my bay colt at the river plantation.  
I give & bequeath unto Sukey the daughter of Nancy two hundred & fifty pounds  
to her and her Heirs for ever. -- I give & bequeath unto Beck (of A. Cock's Estate)  
One Hundred & fifty pounds to her & her heirs forever. It is my Will and  
desire that my River plantation, formerly Drews, be given to John  
the son of Beck to him and his Heirs forever. It is also my will & desire  
that the said John shall have the stock of every description on the said place  
(river plantation) formerly Drews, to him & his heirs forever. I Give and bequeath  
to Prince a servant liberated by my Will a Plantation which my Father Robert  
Tynes purchased of James Jones to him & his heirs forever. I give & bequeath to  
Tim a servant liberated by my Will One Hundred acres of Land, being part  
of the Tract which my father purchased of Rascow. I give and bequeath  
unto Sam One Hundred Acres of the said Tract it is understood to them and  
their Heirs forever. I give & bequeath to Dick unge one Hundred acres of Land  
of the Tract whereon he now lives to him & his heirs forever. I give & bequeath  
the ballance of the said Tract to be equally divided amongst the Negroes liberated  
by me, living on the said Plantation with Dick unge & the stock to be equally  
divided amongst Dick unge & others on the said plantation and also Plantation  
utensils. I give & bequeath to my Niece Sally Tynes Purdie the whole  
of that tract or parcel of land formerly the property, of Timothy Tynes decd.  
(now known by the name of Harry's to her & her Heirs forever. I give & bequeath after  
my decease the whole of the tract of land which I now live on, & which was  
generally known by the Appellation of Tynes's Store unto David Tynes to him  
& his heirs forever. I Give & bequeath unto little Charles my Plantation known by  
the name of Toby's together with the stock thereon and also the stock at Harry's  
& where I now live to him & his Heirs forever. I constitute and appoint my friend  
James Johnston whole & Sole executor of this my last Will & Testament. In  
Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this 9th day of May  
one thousand eight Hundred & two.*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 11

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*Timothy Tynes {Seal}*

*Signed & Sealed  
In the presence of  
John Easson  
P. Jordan  
Will Johnston*

*It is also my will & desire that my Plantation formerly Charles  
Chapmans be given to little Charles to him & his Heirs forever,  
this property did not occur to me at the time of devising my  
other property. -- Tim'y Tynes {Seal}*

*Teste  
John Easson  
P. Jordan  
Will Johnston*

*At a Court held for Isle of Wight County, June 7th 1802. This Will was presented in  
court by the Executor therein named who made oath thereto according to law, and  
the same being proved by the oaths of William Johnston & John Easson two of the  
Witnesses thereto; and ordered to be Recorded. -- On Motion of said Executor who  
together with William Johnston his Security entered into and Acknowledged  
their bond in the penalty of 20000 dollars with condition as the Law directs  
Certificate is granted to him for obtaining a probat thereof in due form.*

*Teste  
Nathaniel Young C.M.C.*

The slaves were not the only people to receive portions of his estate. The plantation house on which Timothy Tynes lived or the Robert Tynes House was bequeathed to David Tynes, son of Timothy Tynes' first cousin, Benjamin Tynes. Another plantation known by the name of Harry's was willed to his niece, Sally Tynes King Purdie. All the remaining lands were willed to his slaves.<sup>20</sup>

The motives for the manumission of Timothy Tynes slaves are unknown. It has been speculated that Tynes was unhappy with his brother, Robert. It has been alleged that Tynes intended to will the slaves

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 12**

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to his brother with a condition that Robert Tynes name his son “Timothy” in honor of Timothy Tynes. Robert declined and instead named his son Henry Lexington Tynes. The allegation states that Timothy Tynes was “mad” and freed the slaves versus willing them to his family.<sup>21</sup>

Another theory that is supported by African-American oral history is that Timothy Tynes had a relationship with one of his slaves named Beck.<sup>22</sup> She is specifically mentioned in the will as are her children. It has been alleged that the children of Beck were progeny of Timothy Tynes. Beck was willed part of the “River Land call’(e)d Bennett’s” where she and her children were to live their lives. Once they died, the land was to revert to David Tynes, son of Benjamin Tynes, who had inherited the Tynes, Robert, House. Beck was also given 150 pounds sterling. John Tynes, son of Beck, received the “River plantation, formerly Drews,” as well as livestock, furniture, a bay mare, and 250 pounds sterling. Iris, daughter of Beck, received 250 pounds sterling. In addition other named slaves, such as Sam, Dick unge, and little Charles, were willed named plantations and land holdings.<sup>23</sup>

Upon the filing of the will, Timothy Tynes family filed suit to prevent the distribution of the estate outlined in Timothy Tynes will. They sued James Johnston, executor of the will, in a Chancery Cause claiming that an injustice would be done to them if the slaves were to be freed and received the money, land and goods willed to them. They received a temporary restraining order that prevented Johnston from delivering copies of the will to the slaves. In the meantime the slaves were freed at the persistence of Johnston and some remained at the plantations outlined in the will working the lands and tending to the livestock.<sup>24</sup>

The Chancery Cause was brought by Elisabeth Day, and infant, by Davis Day, her next friend, Thomas Purdie and Sarah his wife, Pleasants Jordan and Elizabeth, his wife, Robert Tynes Fulgham, Mary Fulgham, Martha Fulgham, Jane Fulgham and Charles Fulgham Junior, they the said Jane and Charles Fulgham infants by Charles Fulgham, their next friend, and David Tynes. Interestingly David Tynes and Sarah Purdie had received plantation tracts in the will, but most likely joined the cause to retain the slaves to help maintain the plantation lands. The legal wrangling extended over a period of ten years before it was probated as written in 1813.<sup>25</sup>

While Timothy Tynes family was unable to stop the manumission of the slaves and division of the lands, they were able to battle over a plantation that Timothy Tynes forgot to include in his will. The family in 1812 petitioned to have it divided among them and won. They sold the land and the proceeds were divided among family members.<sup>26</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 13**

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David Tynes withdrew his name from the Chancery Cause two month after it was filed. He was ultimately unable to run the plantation he was willed and over a period of years sold the plantation lands off in pieces until 1818 when he sold the Robert Tynes House to Andrew Woodley.<sup>27</sup> The house with 140 acres was sold again in 1829 to Robert Butler and was willed to Butler descendants until after the Civil War when it was sold to Richard Edwards. Supposedly there is an Edwards cemetery in the vicinity of the house though its site is unknown.<sup>28</sup> The property passed through a number of hands in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The property diminished in the sales until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when the remaining house tract of 1.3 acres remained.

The influence of the manumission of Timothy Tynes slaves and their acquisition of plantations in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century is reflected in the enclaves of African American communities in Isle of Wight County in the vicinity of the original plantations willed to his former slaves. In addition many of Tynes' former slaves took his last name as theirs and there are numerous African-American Tynes descendants living in Isle of Wight County. Some of the freed slaves sold their lands and left Isle of Wight County, but a number stayed on the lands they were bequeathed.<sup>29</sup>

In 1790 there were 3867 slaves and 375 free African-Americans in Isle of Wight County. By 1800 there were 4029 slaves and 578 free African-Americans. The manumission of slaves by Timothy Tynes contributed to the increase in free African-Americans within Isle of Wight County. By 1810 there were 4041 slaves and 698 free African-Americans. Not all of Timothy Tynes freed slaves remained in Isle of Wight County and the numbers of free African Americans steadily increase from the period 1810 to 1860. While the manumission of the Timothy Tynes slaves did not appear to dramatically affect the number of free African-Americans in Isle of Wight County, it did appear to affect the number of slaves in the county. Between 1800 and 1810 the number of slaves increased by 12. Compared to the differences between 1790 and 1800, with an increase of 162 slaves, and 1810 and 1820, with an increase of 256 slaves, the affect of Timothy Tynes manumission had an immediate effect on the slave population. Increases in the free African-American population during the 19<sup>th</sup> century can also be attributed to the influences of Timothy Tynes actions in 1802. The progeny of his former slaves that remained in the county attributes to the increase in free African-Americans over the years until the end of slavery.<sup>30</sup>

Among landowning free African-Americans in the period just prior to Timothy Tynes manumission of his slaves there were ten free African-Americans owning approximately 430 acres of land. The largest landholding of the listing of free African-Americans was 100 acres but most of the listings were in the fifty to thirty-acre range. By 1824 the number had increased to 1545.5 acres of land with the largest

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 14**

---

free African-American landowners being Prince Tynes with 139 acres and Jonathan Wood with 150 acres.<sup>31</sup>

Beck and her son, John, lost the James River property left to them in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was sold to James Wilson in 1813. The 800-acre Drew's Plantation bequeathed to John, Beck's son was sold off through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By 1876, the last small thirty-three acre parcel was sold by Beck's granddaughter. The area inland from the James River in the vicinity of Rushmere along the Old Stage Highway (US Route 10) was populated by the Tynes freed slave descendants. In addition the community of Tyler's Beach was populated by the descendants of the freed Tynes slaves. Both of these communities are situated near the James River plantations willed to the Tynes slaves.<sup>32</sup>

The area of Comet comprising 1200 acres was inherited by fourteen of Timothy Tynes' freed slaves. The land distribution among the group had to be settled in court. It has been purported that they had difficulty farming the lands and selling their agricultural goods. They began to sell off portions of the land to have money for living expenses. Other former slaves held onto their land, such as Long Nancy Tynes or Long Black Nancy Tynes. She had inherited farmland in the immediate vicinity of the Robert Tynes House at the intersection of Courthouse Highway (Route 258) and Foursquare Road (State Road 620). This area was populated with a small group of freed slaves prior to the 1802 manumission by Timothy Tynes, but this number increased after this period. The land was retained within the Tynes descendants. Lots were partitioned along the roadways leaving the valuable farmland mostly intact. Numerous African-Americans reside at this intersection where the Long Nancy Tynes House is currently situated.<sup>33</sup>

The Robert Tynes House is a representative example of the Tidewater Gambrel-roofed house in the Georgian style constructed during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, the house represents the location of the manumission of the largest number of slaves in the pre-Civil War era in Isle of Wight County. The manumission of the Timothy Tynes slaves molded communities of African Americans in Isle of Wight County. This property is significant for its architecture, association with Timothy Tynes and the manumission of his slaves from the period 1750 to 1802.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 15**

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**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Foster, Gerald, "American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home," (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004), 90-96.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 81-84.

<sup>4</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesTimothy.html>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesSuccessions.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Isle of Wight County Will Book 5, pp 446-447.

<sup>7</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesSuccessions.html>.

<sup>8</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesTimothy.html>

<sup>9</sup> King, Helen Haverty, "Historic Isle of Wight," (Isle of Wight, VA: Helen Haverty King, 1983), 82.

<sup>10</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesTimothy.html>

<sup>11</sup> King, Helen Haverty, "Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia," (Isle of Wight County, VA: Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993), 461.

<sup>12</sup> Isle of Wight County Will Book 10, pp. 304-305.

<sup>13</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesTimothy.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> King, "Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia," 134.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 134-135

<sup>18</sup> Isle of Wight County Will Book 11, pp. 587-589.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesTimothy.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Isle of Wight County Will Book 11, pp. 587-589.

<sup>24</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesSuccessions.html>.

<sup>25</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesTimothy.html>.

<sup>26</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesSuccessions.html>.

<sup>27</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesTimothy.html>.

<sup>28</sup> Jordan, Florence, "Hearn House," Works Progress Administration Survey, 8 April 1936.

<sup>29</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/TynesTimothy.html>.

<sup>30</sup> King, "Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia," 139.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> King, "Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia," 150-151.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 9 Page 16**

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 9 Page 17**

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 9 Page 18**

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Robert Tynes House  
Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Section 10 Page 19**

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

This property comprises 1.3 acres and is denoted as parcel number 21-01-028. The property is known as 13060 Courthouse Highway, Isle of Wight County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries of the property include the current 1.3-acre parcel listed with Isle of Wight County containing the house and its associated resources as what remains of the historic Tynes property.

