

VLR-10/16/79 NRHP-12/28/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED Dec 28 1979

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

Cedar Grove

AND/OR COMMON

Cedar Grove

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 609

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Providence Forge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First (Paul S. Trible, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

New Kent

CODE

127

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Edmund M. Ware

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 123

CITY, TOWN

Quinton

VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia 23141

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New Kent

STATE
Virginia

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

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" 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

Cedar Grove, a New Kent County farmhouse, is situated on the north side of route 609 near Providence Forge. The present brick and frame structure was built at two different periods. The 2½-story, single-pile brick house was built ca. 1810. The frame section was added ca. 1916 and replaces an earlier frame building. The present out-buildings date to the present century.

Set on a brick foundation, the front (south) elevation of three bays is laid in Flemish bond. The former one-story facade porch was removed in the present century. The present brick steps were added when the porch was removed. The main entrance consists of a paneled double door set within a three-part architrave. A four-pane transom is found above the door. A stuccoed keystone arch above the doorway was removed in the present century. Fenestration consists of 9/9 hung-sash windows within three-part architraves. All windows were formerly surmounted by flat keystone arches of stucco that were removed in the present century. A dentil cornice embellished the eaves course. Standing-seam sheet metal presently covers the roof. A brick water table is found on the north, south and west walls. The north elevation is similar to the south.

Fenestration on the west elevation consists of 9/9 hung-sash windows on the first story and 6/9 hung-sash windows above. The gable is wood framed rather than brick, is weatherboarded, and contains 4/4 hung-sash windows. The east elevation is dominated by a two-story, wood-frame wing added in 1916. The addition's fenestration consists of 2/2 hung-sash windows. A one-story porch shelters the east entry.

Cedar Grove contains a traditional one-room side-hall plan. The hall is dominated by an open-well, closed-string stair that ascends to the second floor. The stair has a square newel, molded handrail, and finely turned balusters. The hall doorways are framed within finely molded surrounds. A wooden wainscot with a molded chair rail together with a dentiled cornice add further embellishment. The parlor contains a finely executed Federal mantel, pedestal chair rail and baseboard. A dentiled cornice, similar to that found in the hall, ornaments the room. The second-floor chamber also contains a finely executed mantel. The interior of the 1916 addition is undistinguished.

A wood-frame smokehouse and several sheds were erected in 1916 to replace earlier outbuildings. Approximately 100 yards to the north of the house is the Cedar Grove cemetery. The 19th-century cemetery contains the graves of the Christian family, including Letitia Christian Tyler, the first wife of President John Tyler.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property of fourteen acres includes the house, cemetery, and the out-buildings. It is a small fraction of the 342 acres held by Robert Christian in 1789. The cemetery contains Christian family graves, and the outbuildings are replacements of older structures.

RCC

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1810; 1916 (wing) BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cedar Grove is a landmark to the social and cultural past of New Kent County and rural Tidewater generally. It was the farm residence of the Christians, a leading county family of colonial and early-Republican times, and architecturally reflects their standing. Letitia Christian, the first wife of President John Tyler grew up, was married, and is buried at Cedar Grove. The house, built ca. 1810 by Robert Christian, is, in its exterior design, a somewhat provincial adaptation of typical Richmond town houses of the period. While the keystone arches, mantels, and dentil cornices are in keeping with architectural fashions in the capital city, the house's staircase is Georgian in feeling, underscoring a country location twenty miles from Richmond. The most notable of a number of early-19th-century graves in the Christian family cemetery at Cedar Grove is that of Letitia Christian Tyler. The remains of Mrs. Tyler were brought here from the White House following her death in 1842.

Cedar Grove stands on property patented in the 18th century by Anthony Langston and was owned variously in the 18th century by the Bacon and Clopton families. An examination of the tax books reveals that the owner previous to Robert Christian was Thomas Mitchell. Mitchell was charged with 342 acres through 1788. The same 342 acres is charged to Robert Christian beginning in 1789. That same year Christian's taxable chattels included, "7 slaves, 2 horses, and 1 chair," indicating a homestead on his newly acquired land.

Robert Christian served in the General Assembly from New Kent and was a candidate for presidential elector in 1808. He amassed substantial acreage in New Kent. Among his children was Letitia Christian Tyler, who married John Tyler on March 29, 1813. Letitia was born at Cedar Grove, in what is believed to have been an earlier 18th-century frame section that had been attached to the brick house. The older portion was removed ca. 1916 for the present frame wing. According to tradition it was Letitia's abilities as a plantation supervisor that enabled Tyler to engage in a successful political career. Due to poor health, the First Lady shunned public appearances and maintained a private apartment in the White House where she died on September 10, 1842.

By 1815 the Cedar Grove house was valued at \$2,500, a substantial amount. Robert Christian died in 1822, and the property was then charged to his son, John B. Christian. The house remained in the immediate family until it was acquired by a great-nephew of Robert Christian. The name "Cedar Grove" does not appear in the early tax books, although it does appear in an 1850 deed and on the 1864 Civil War maps.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Kent County Personal Property & Land Tax Books, 1782-1863.
 U.S. Census, 1850. New Kent County, p. 48.
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives. Notes by A. P. Gordon, 1979.
 Virginia State Library Archives. "Christian Papers," Accession #24601, Richmond, VA.
 "The Christian Family." William and Mary Quarterly, ser. 1, 8 (1900): 123-127.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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

QUADRANGLE NAME Providence Forge, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1:24000

| | | | |
|---|------|---------------|---------------|
| B | 1, 8 | 3 1 3 0, 4, 0 | 4 1 5 0 4 5 0 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | 1, 8 | 3 1 2 8, 2, 0 | 4 1 5 0 7 6 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point 1100' NNW of intersection of state routes 609 and 615, approximately 2.75 mi. NNW of Mountcastle and about .5 mi. SE of Kent Lake; thence extending SE 1000', E of private drive to N side of said route 609; thence following said route along N side, past entrance to said drive in a NW direction for about 700'; thence extending 700' N on W side of cemetery; thence extending 500' E 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 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 OCT 16 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE Dec 28 1979

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Cedar Grove, New Kent 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

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVE

5559 (11/58)
(QUINTON)

77°07'30"
37°30'

313000m.E

314

TALLYSVILLE (VA) 3 1/2 MI

5' 316

317

318

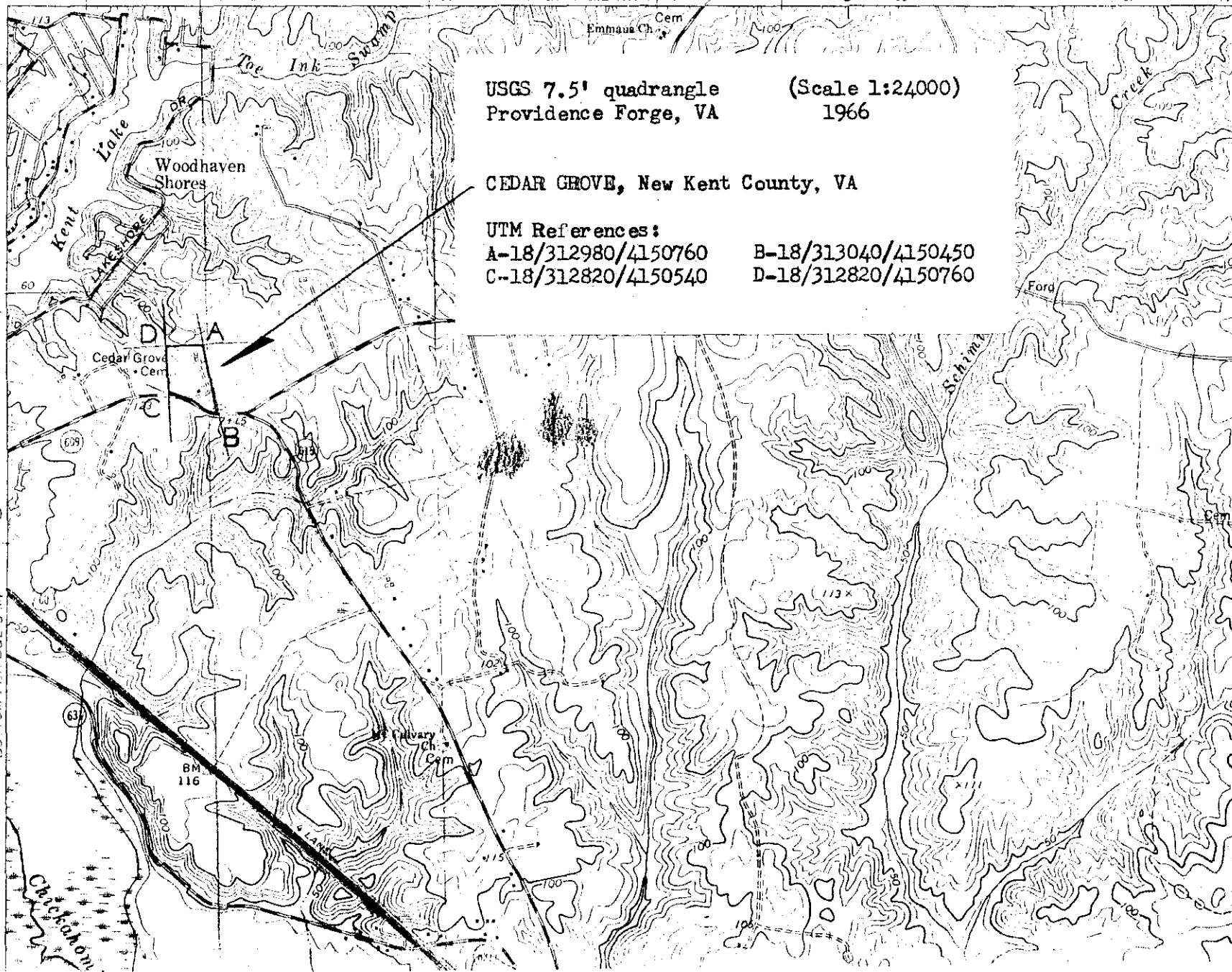
4152000m.N

4151

4150

4149

RICHMAN RD 19 MI
BOTTOMS BRIDGE 5 MI



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Providence Forge, VA

(Scale 1:24000)
1966

CEDAR GROVE, New Kent County, VA

UTM References:

A-18/312980/4150760

B-18/313040/4150450

C-18/312820/4150540

D-18/312820/4150760