

**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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Timberneck 2022 Update and Boundary Increase

Other names/site number: DHR ID: 036-0074

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 6452 Blackberry Circle

City or town: Hayes State: VA County: Gloucester

Not For Publication: ***see redactions*** Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A X B X C X D

Julio V. Yanez 4-5-2022

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State X
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District X
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2
Previously listed resources are the dwelling and smokehouse; the early 20th century picket
fence is no longer extant

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure
FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS
FUNERARY: cemetery
LANDSCAPE: park: State park

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard, Shingle; BRICK; METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The following provides additional documentation for Timberneck (DHR ID# 036-0074), located in Gloucester County, Virginia. Timberneck was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1979, at which time the historic boundary included approximately 14 acres. The period of significance was marked on the form as 1800-1899 and the areas of significance were Architecture and Other: Rural Life. The expanded boundary includes a total of 31.88-acres and, in addition to the previously listed single dwelling and early 19th-century smokehouse, includes a contributing late 19th- to early 20th-century wellhouse, a contributing 19th-century cemetery of the Catlett family, and a contributing archaeological site, 44GL0387, with boundaries that are coterminous with the expanded historic boundary. The boundary of site 44GL0387 encompasses several archaeological loci (44GL0388-44GL0393) and the Mann and Page Family Cemetery (44GL0456) that have been identified through various field investigations in the past 40 years. Both of the cemeteries were outside of the original historic boundary. Timberneck is a two-story, double-pile, six-bay frame house built in the Federal style with a side gable roof covered in cedar shingles. The three-bay west portion of the house was built circa 1793 over a full cellar, and contains a large, partially finished attic space, while the east side is an 1850s addition with an independent front entrance and no cellar or accessible attic. The cedar shingle roof replaced the previous asphalt shingle roof in March 2021. The house sits on a rise along a ridgeline at the confluence of Timberneck Creek to the east and wetlands associated with the Catlett Islands to the west. Most of the historic farm structures were removed in the early 2000s, and they were outside the original historic boundary.

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Non-contributing resources are related to the property's current use as part of Machicomoco State Park, and consist of two picnic shelters, a restroom building, an interpretive structure, a granite map display, a shell sculpture, a floating boat dock, a boardwalk, and two interpretive areas with benches. The floating dock was built c. 2008, while the remaining non-contributing resources were added in 2019-2020 as part of development of the recently created state park. The expanded boundary for Timberneck contains two contributing buildings (house and smokehouse), one contributing structure (well house), one contributing cemetery, one contributing archaeological site (44GL0387), and 10 non-contributing buildings, structures and objects which are part of the state park infrastructure.

Narrative Description

Introduction

Setting – Updates and expansion

The Timberneck house sits on a high ridge overlooking a rolling landscape, the confluence of Timberneck and Poplar Creeks where they flow into the York River, and the low-lying Catlett Islands. The house is surrounded by an open landscaped yard and former pasture, with agricultural fields in the distance, and forested buffers along the waterways. This setting has remained largely consistent over time, despite the property shifting from a private farm to a current state park. Additions to the landscape circa 2008 include an asphalt road and a turnaround loop built as part of a formerly planned residential development, as well as a floating dock, groves of trees and black-painted board fences surrounding the two cemeteries. The creation of the turnaround loop included some grading to the landscape, but its location downhill from the house and beyond the Catlett cemetery minimizes the visual change to the setting.

These elements have all been included as part of the current use of the 645-acre Machicomoco State Park, which was opened in April 2021 with the goal of interpreting past occupation by Virginia Indians, providing recreational opportunities, and preserving Timberneck. The most recent additions are interpretive and guest infrastructure, including a large parking lot, picnic shelters, bathrooms, and interpretive structures and objects, constructed in 2019-2020. Most of these are located west of the house in the area formerly occupied by a cluster of agricultural buildings, and represent a significant landscape shift, although the style and setting of these building is congruent with the surrounding rural and naturalized landscape. A walking trail also passes in front of the house and leads to an overlook at the confluence of Timberneck and Poplar Creek, with interpretive bench structures along the path. The river view is little changed from that seen in early 20th-century photographs (see below). While the setting of Timberneck and Machicomoco State Park is largely rural, surrounding land has seen increased suburban development with some agriculture and forested land. From the Timberneck house and yard, this growth is most visible across Timberneck Creek, where a variety of modern houses line the waterfront. However, Machicomoco State Park and the Catlett Islands, owned by VIMS, preserve the largely rural setting that surrounds the nominated acreage.

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View toward Timberneck Creek from front of Dwelling (2008, DHR Archives)

Timberneck (single dwelling, contributing building, c. 1793, 1850s)¹

Timberneck is a two-story, double-pile, wood frame house built in two distinct phases by the Catlett family. Based on dendrochronology testing, construction of the western block of the house took place circa 1793, and the two-story addition on the east was built in the 1850s. The addition was built with its own front entrance, while on the second floor a connection between the two parts of the building was created through a closet. The foundation is hand-made brick laid in Flemish bond on the original block and 1:4 common bond on the addition. Fenestration on the south façade of the older portion consists of two nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and three six-over-nine sash on the second floor. This pattern was replicated on the eastern addition facade. Two interior gable end chimneys were built on the east side of the original house, with English bond brickwork visible within the cellar. The exterior gable end chimney on the east side of the mid-19th-century addition was laid in 1:5 common bond, and is partially removed. On the western elevation is an exterior chimney using 1:7 common bond, added in the early 20th century and blocking an original cellar window. Each entrance on the south façade has a porch that consists of wood steps and a wood deck set on brick piers (with brick in-filling between the piers), with square wooden posts and a front gable roof. A frame kitchen with brick piers and a brick foundation on the dwelling's north (rear) side was added to the northeast corner of the house in the early 20th century (pre-1943), replacing a detached kitchen and bringing

¹ Much of the following description of the main house is abstracted from Monica McMann's study of the house in 2008 and described in *EARLY DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE IN BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA*, College of William and Mary, National Institute for American History and Democracy, Summer 2008 Field School in Architectural History. Tara Babb, Jennifer Betsworth, Mark Landis, and Monica McCann. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Department of Architectural Research, pages 43-49.

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modernization and more connection between the two parts of the house. Two bathrooms were installed in 1961. The house was built with large rooms and high ceilings and sits on an elevated terrace above the York River, giving it a commanding and distinctive presence on the landscape.

Period I (c. 1793)

Exterior

The exterior of the Period I house has a Flemish bond foundation over a raised cellar, made of handmade bricks with scribed joints. The interior of the cellar foundation is laid in English bond. The cellar windows have closers, though the window sash are mid-20th-century metal-frame replacements. The chimney on the dwelling's west gable end was added in the early 20th century using machine-made bricks in 1:7 common bond. The house has two enclosed end chimneys on the east side. These are intact through to the attic, while the tops were rebuilt above the roof line in the late 20th century. At the northeast corner of the period I house there is a partially filled door opening. This doorway once connected the detached kitchen to the dining room, but when an attached kitchen was added in the twentieth century, this door was changed to provide additional access to the cellar. The dwelling's south façade is covered in a combination of plain and beaded weatherboards, while the remaining elevations all have plain weatherboards. The beaded weatherboards may be original, while the plain boards likely date to later in the 19th century through the mid-20th century. This section is three bays wide, with the primary door entering the west bay of the south façade. The door appears to be an original six-panel wood door surmounted by a four-light transom. Fenestration on the north elevation matches the south, except there is a window in the west bay of the north elevation, rather than a door. An earlier door is suggested by the lack of a cellar window in this location as well as archaeological evidence for potential porch posts. Cellar windows are present under the eastern two windows. The west elevation contains a single window at all four levels from cellar to attic, with a six-over-six wood sash window lighting the attic centered on the gable end. Matching windows at the cellar, first- and second-story levels were replaced by the early 20th-century chimney. On each elevation of the period I house, the first-story windows are nine-over-nine, while the second-level windows are six-over-nine wood sash. First- and second-story windows share a vertical axis. The windows are pegged with molded windowsills and double Roman architraves on the south elevation, and single architraves on the north (rear) and west elevations. A modillioned cornice runs beneath the roofline. A small, gable-roofed addition centered on the west elevation, covered in weatherboard and with a plank door, encloses an original cellar entrance, though the wood stairs are late 20th century. The small front porch consists of wooden steps and decking set on brick piers (with brick in-fill between piers) with square wood posts and a front gable roof. It was added in the mid-20th century, replacing a larger porch that was damaged by an explosion in 1943.² Photographs from the early 20th century show a one-story porch stretching across the length of the south façade and providing access to both front doors.

² Mark St. John Erickson, "Deadly WWII blast strikes at Yorktown," *Daily Press*, 16 Nov. 2018.

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Interior

The cellar extends beneath only the Period I section. An original cellar entrance is centered on the west gable, with late 20th-century wood stairs covering evidence of earlier stairs. Another cellar entrance is in the northeast corner, accessed through either the pre-1943 kitchen addition, or from a boarded and partially bricked-in doorway on the north elevation. The underside of the floorboards on the ground floor are sawn, but not undercut. They are supported by hewn and pit sawn joists which are mortised into large summer beams bisecting the breadth of the building. All the joists have tapering cuts before being mortised into the sills, summer beam and chimney trimmer. An additional north-south summer beam separating the west bay from the others is supported by an interior brick wall, creating two major rooms. The interior of the brick walls are laid in English bond. There are two wide, pegged wooden doorframes through this wall. One batten door with strap hinges remains in place, while the other is stored in the cellar. The interior brick wall is deteriorating and has been augmented by modern cinderblock piers. The westernmost of the two rooms includes no additional features and this area was most likely used for storage of goods. The east wall of the eastern room contains a fireplace with a flue, indicating that the cellar may have been used as a service space, with a small wooden closet or storage space constructed of various types of lumber and finished boards to the left of the firebox. Both of these main rooms currently have dirt floors. The northeast corner of the cellar was separated from the main room by the addition of a cinderblock wall in the 20th century to create a utility room, accessible from the kitchen. This space contains a concrete floor, storage shelves, and the lower portion of the northern chimney, which has been parged with cement, but does not have a firebox.

The main floor plan consists of a side stair passage in the southwest corner with a smaller heated room behind it and two larger rooms to the east. The stairs, located on the west wall, are a closed string and have square newel posts with slightly molded caps; the primary newel at the base has bold vertical fluting. The unusual balusters are fluted and diamond shaped. The stair passage



Stair Hall (DHR Archives, 2008, photos by Calder Loth)

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walls have wainscoting to chairboard height and plastered walls above, while the other rooms have plastered walls with molded chairboards and baseboards. The stair ascends to a landing, and then turns east to reach a small hallway on the second floor.



An early 21st-century hole in the plaster of the rear west room reveals that the post and other framing members were hewn and pit sawn. The floors throughout are tightly joined, secret nailed pine boards. The first-floor architraves are the same throughout the ground floor. They are double architraves with cyma reversa backbands. The doors are primarily raised, six-paneled doors hung on wrought iron HL hinges. Most locks and doorknobs appear to be mid-to-late 19th century, and there is evidence for previous locks. The front door and the door from the rear east room to the kitchen addition have diagonal sheathing on their interior surfaces (at left, photo by Calder Loth, 2008) and four-light transoms. The latter door was likely an exterior entrance prior to the addition of the kitchen.

There are three fireplaces on the first floor. The rear west room fireplace has a surround of machine-made brick with firebrick. The black painted mantel is Greek Revival style with symmetrical fluted pilasters and a plain entablature. It may have been moved from another location, as this fireplace was added in the early 20th century. The rear east room (dining room) has a finished wood mantelpiece with raised panels, vertical on the sides and horizontal above the firebox and a molded mantelshelf. This appears to be the only original mantel in this part of the house. The firebox has been covered to incorporate a stove. The front east room (parlor) has a painted wood Greek Revival mantelpiece and has also been modified to fit a stove. Another notable feature, located in the front east room, is a window with the names of several Catletts and others and the date September 18, 1844, etched into the middle pane, which may relate to John W. C. Catlett's marriage to Frances King Burwell in that year. This is on one of the original east exterior windows which were unaltered, including the retention of exterior shutters, when the east addition was constructed in the mid-19th century.

Many of the rooms on the second floor have been replastered in places, with drywall added in some areas. A molded chairboard and beaded baseboard is present throughout the rooms except the passageway's west wall. The single architraves of the second-floor door surrounds contrast with the first-floor double architraves. The doors are also raised, six-paneled doors hung on HL hinges except one in the rear west room which has butt hinges with marks from previous HL hinges. There are also three fireplaces on the second floor with later mantels. The mantel in the rear west room is a simple Greek Revival style mantel with fluted pilasters and Doric capitals, with a firebox of machine-made brick and firebrick. This fireplace was added in the early 20th

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century. The fireplace in the front southeast bedroom, located on the east wall, has a late 19th-century mantel with angled brackets. There is a cast iron insert, narrowing the opening to fit a coal grate. The rear northeast bedroom fireplace is the same as the front southeast room, but without the iron insert. Because of the Period II addition, the east side of the second floor underwent minor changes. Closets flank both the front and rear room fireplaces. The south closet in the rear northeast room and north closet in the front southeast room have been connected. Ghost marks on the walls indicate previous shelving that was taken down when the opening was made to connect the closets. A doorway has also been cut in the east wall of the front southeast room closet. This is a four-paneled door with an unmolded surround and butt hinges and connects to the Period II section of the house. It is not clear if these connections were made when the addition was built, or sometime later.

The attic boasts a hewn and pit sawn common rafter framing system with rafters pegged at the apex. Several charred rafter tops at the east gable end are evidence of a small fire. The rafters sit on a false plate and are dovetailed and pegged to the collar beams. The walls beside the winder stairs are partially finished with plaster and lath, held in place with wrought nails. A partial wooden balustrade with square newel post is at the top of the stairs, and studs and a doorway were framed in at the top of the stair but lath and plaster were not added. More evidence of finishing can be seen in tightly fitted floorboards. Given this and the presence of the plaster and lath, it is probable that this space was intended to be used as living space but was never finished. There is no evidence of lath nails on the underside of the rafters and collars.

Period II (1850s)

Exterior

The exterior of the three-bay, mid-19th-century addition to the east side of the dwelling is similar to the form of the original house with some notable differences. The foundation is laid in 1:4 common bond, rather than Flemish. There are no cellar windows; instead, air holes are present on the south and east ends to ventilate the crawl space. The weatherboards have both machine cut and wire nails, though some of them are beaded and run across the joint with the original home, indicating that they were still using beaded boards in the mid-19th century. The entrance door is four-paneled and the windows on the addition have single architraves with a flattened cyma reversa with a bead, similar to the windows on the west and north sides of the Period I section. The small pent closet and attic windows on the east end have plain board architraves. Window sizes and fenestration patterns replicate that of the original house. A mid-20th-century porch on the south façade entrance matches the one sheltering the Period I south façade entry door. The chimney on the east end was built in 1:5 bond with oyster shell mortar but no decorative mortar joints and was also once whitewashed or painted white. The two sets of shallow shoulders are stepped and there is a decorative belt course in the middle, matching the west end chimney. The corbelled top of the chimney was rebuilt in the late 20th century with machine-made brick, and this portion collapsed in 2019/20.

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Interior



The plan of the mid-19th-century addition consists of a side stair passage on the west side with a single room on both floors opening off the east side of the passage. The closed string staircase rises in a straight run along the east wall of the passage, has cavetto molding at the junctions of the risers and treads, an oval handrail, a plain round newel post, and thin rectangular balusters (at left, photo by Calder Loth, 2008). The walls are plastered and have tall slightly molded baseboards with early brown painting, matching the grain painting in the rest of the stair hall. The original floor boards are tightly joined.

The entrance door is four-paneled with a four-light transom above. It has ceramic tortoise shell knobs, iron locks, and butt hinges. The rear door connecting to the early 20th-century kitchen is not original and has a single panel at the bottom with ovolو and cavetto molded stiles and rails. The upper half is a nine-light window with molded muntins. It has iron

knobs and locks, cast HL hinges with decorative screws, and a four-light transom above, indicating this doorway led to the exterior prior to the addition of the kitchen. The door from the passage to the east room is the same as the front door except it has a three-light transom. The doors have Greek symmetrical fluted architraves with corner blocks and all have early brown grain painting. The windows on the west side of the passage are intact from Period I, with the same grain painting as the other trim in the room. They are pegged with molded window sills and double architraves, like the other original windows on the façade, and have intact exterior louvered shutters on wrought iron strap hinges.

The front east room has plastered walls, and the baseboard matches that in the passage. An exposed stud beneath a window indicates some 20th-century repairs to the south wall. A closet in the northwest corner of the room was converted to a bathroom in the 20th century (see below). The door to the bathroom on the west wall is two paneled with simple molded trim and butt hinges. The adjoining closet has 20th-century louvered hinge doors. The east closet door is four paneled with an iron lock and ceramic tortoise shell knob. The architraves on the windows and the entrance door are symmetrical fluted Greek architraves with plain corner blocks. The mantel is Greek Revival with fluted pilasters matching the door and window trim, and a plain entablature.

On the second floor, the east room door is four-paneled with butt hinges (stamped T. Clark and Broad) and iron locks. Outer molding is symmetrical Greek style with graining while the inner

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molding is a single quirked cyma architrave. The walls are partially redone in plaster with metal lath. The mantel on the east wall is Greek Revival with unmolded pilasters and Doric capitals.

The door from the south room closet of the original section into the addition is a grained, four-paneled door with a molded surround, iron locks, and butt hinges. The landing window is a six-over-nine single-hung sash with quirked cyma molding. Window architraves in this addition are all quirked cyma moldings.

The attic of the addition is visible through the gable wall in the attic of the original house, as well as through a small ceiling access in the second-floor passage of the addition. Pre-1850s beaded weatherboards with t-headed nails are visible on the east wall of the Period I house, preserved by the addition. The period II roof ridgeboards appear to be circular sawn as well as the rafters. Collar beams are present on every other rafter.

Period III (pre-1943)

Exterior

The kitchen was added to the northeast corner of the period I section of the house in the early 20th century, prior to 1943. It is supported by brick piers as well as a full brick foundation along the north side. It has a shed-style roof clad in standing seam metal. The room is accessed by a set of wooden steps on the east side, which lead to a six-panel wood door. The door is flanked by a pair of nine-over-nine wood sash windows with trim matching the windows of the east, period II addition. The north wall includes a six-over-nine double-hung wood sash window and a fixed six-pane wood sash above the enclosed staircase to the cellar.

Interior

The kitchen measures 12 feet by 15 feet and provides access to both the original dining room and the passage of the 1850s addition. The floor is black and white linoleum tile and there is a white painted baseboard. Built-in cabinets are along the north wall, including two upper corner cupboards, along with a sink and under-counter water heater. The built-in cabinets along the south wall include a closet in the southeast corner and tall upper cupboards which reach the 10 1/2-foot-tall ceiling over a wooden counter and lower cupboards. Cabinet hardware includes cast iron latches and decorative cast hinges from the early 20th century. A six-panel wood door in the northeast corner leads to the cellar.

Two bathrooms were added to the house in 1961, preceding a wedding in July of that year.³ On the first floor of the east 1850s addition, a small closet in the east room was converted to a bathroom. This small space includes a shower, toilet and sink with vanity. The manufacture date stamped on the toilet is 1970, suggesting the fixtures were added or updated at this time. The floor and most of the walls are covered in blue and white ceramic tile, and the ceiling is low and angled due to the staircase above. There is no baseboard or trim in this room.

³ Elizabeth Page Aldrich, Personal Communication 2021.

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The bathroom on the second floor of the 1850s addition is located in the south half of the stair passage. The lower half of the walls are covered in green tile-board over the plaster, and there is a white painted baseboard. The west wall window is a pegged four-over-four sash with a single cyma architrave from Period I, which lights a closet in the front southeast room of the original house. The door is four-paneled with graining and butt hinges. The butt hinge is stamped with the name T. Clark and Broad. The doorframe has a considerable slant, and a small board was added to the top of the door to close this gap. There is a circular pipe on the west wall for a stove. This could be an indication of a previous living space before the bathroom was installed. The west wall also has a simple board with iron coat/towel hooks.

Secondary Resources

Beyond the house, the nominated boundary contains one contributing building (early 19th-century smokehouse) and one contributing structure (late 19th- to early 20th-century well house), located just north of the house (see below), and two contributing sites: the 19th-century Catlett family cemetery located north of the house, and archaeological site 44GL0387, a Woodland period through 20th-century resource that is coterminous with the property's historic boundary.



*Timberneck dwelling (center), smokehouse (right), and well house (left)
(DHR Archives, photo by Calder Loth, 2008)*

The non-contributing resources include one building, eight structures, and one object. All of these are infrastructure and interpretive elements associated with Machicomoco State Park, and most are grouped together several hundred feet west of the house. The remaining elements include two interpretive bench structures located along the walking trail southeast of the house, and two docks: a pedestrian boardwalk along the shoreline of Poplar Creek south of the house, and a larger floating dock and boardwalk to the east of the house on Timberneck Creek.

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Smokehouse (early 19th century, contributing building)

As described in the 1979 nomination, an early 19th-century smokehouse sits to the north of the main dwelling. Facing south, the building is 32 feet from the northwest corner of the house. The smokehouse is a one-story, one-bay, side-gable, wood-frame building, measuring 14.5 feet square and clad in wood weatherboard. It stands on a concrete block foundation that was built in the early 20th century, likely to replace an earlier failing foundation. The roof is covered in wood shingles and has deep eaves overhanging the walls on all four sides. The interior is one room and there are no windows. The entrance on the façade is a single board-and-batten door with a large wood and iron box lock, and wrought iron HL hinges with rosehead nails and original leather ‘washers’. Electrical boxes are mounted on the façade to the right of the door. The framing is visible on the interior, including closely set vertical studs (1 foot on center), some of which are pit sawn and are mortised into the sill and top plate, alternating with others that are circular sawn and nailed. The large framing members and corner braces are hewn and mortised together. The rafters appear to be similar to the wall studs. The building has a dirt/sand floor. Some of the tie beams contain many dowels for hanging meat and show extensive evidence of salt exposure from the salting and smoking process. The interior framing suggests an early 19th-century date, though the foundation is an early 20th-century cinderblock replacement. Although somewhat altered, the building continues to contribute to the property as an example of an early 19th-century smokehouse and due to its association with the property’s historic use as a family home with substantial agricultural activity.

Wellhouse (late 19th/early 20th century, contributing structure)

Northwest of the house is a late 19th/early 20th-century well house, 13 feet from the northeastern corner of the smokehouse. This is a one-story, one-bay, front-gable, wood-frame and brick structure measuring 5.5 by 7.5 feet. The upper part is clad in wood weatherboards over a high brick foundation in running bond with wide mortar joints. The roof has asphalt shingles and exposed rafter tails. There are no windows, but a board-and-batten door (now missing) provided an entry point. A circular concrete well housing dating to the 20th century is adjacent to the west side of the wellhouse. The structure is contributing due to its association with the property’s historic uses as a family home and farm.

Catlett Family Cemetery (19th century, contributing site)

The Catlett Family cemetery is located approximately 80 feet north of the well house. Its location is not marked on topographic maps dating back as early as 1906. It contains ten gravestones and one marble table tomb set on a brick foundation, along with another decorative stone that does not match any other grave. Most of the gravestones are flush on the ground, while five of the stones are at least partially upright. In addition to the inscribed markers, there are six footstones. As of 2010, the cemetery has been enclosed with a three-rail wood fence, measuring 75 feet east/west and 60 feet north/south. Additional unmarked and thus unknown graves are likely present. Other stones recorded as being at Timberneck, but no longer present include footstones with initials ‘W.B.C.’ and ‘J.C.T.’, as well as a fragmented stone with the inscription ‘In Memory of Mildred Thruston, Daughter of John and Sarah Thruston, ... October 1756,

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....1758.”⁴ The cemetery was in active use during Timberneck’s period of significance and is directly associated with the families who lived here during the 19th century.



Examples of Grave Markers that are flush to the Ground (DHR Archives, 2008, photos by Calder Loth)

Table 1. Catlett Family Cemetery Gravestone Inscriptions

#	Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Inscription	Notes
1	William Burwell Catlett	12/29/1847	10/18/1864	Wm Burwell Catlett/ Born/ December 29, 1847/ Died/ October 18, 1864	Broken vertical stone; 2 fragments nearby that don't match
2	N/A				Decorative marble stone; likely for a table tomb
3	John W. C. Catlett	12/ 25/1803	7/11/1883	John W. C. Catlett/Born/ Dec. 25, 1803/ Died/ July 11, 1883	Flat stone on ground
4	Fanny K. Catlett	11/14/1814	4/3/1903	Fanny K./ Wife of/ John W. C. Catlett/ And third daughter of/ Col. Armistead and/ Mary Turnbull Burwell./Born/ in Dinwiddie Co. Va./ Nov. 14, 1814/ Died at Timber Neck,/ Gloucester Co., Va./ April 3, 1903	Broken slab; now flat and in ground; Stone maker: Couper, Norfolk VA
5					Probably foot stone- no marks
6	John W. C. Catlett			[J] W. C. C.	Footstone for no. 3

⁴ “Epitaphs of Gloucester and Mathews Counties in Tidewater Virginia Through 1865” (Richmond, VA: Virginia State Library, 1958).

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#	Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Inscription	Notes
7	Powell Burwell Catlett	10/11/1854	1/2/1894	In Memory of/ Powell Burwell Catlett/ Born/ October 11, 1854/ Died/ January 2, 1894	Flat in ground; broken
8	Hettie Catlett	11/5/1852	3/31/1875	Hettie/Daughter of/ J. W. C. and F. K. Catlett/ Born in Glou Co., Va.,/Nov 5, 1852/ Died in Balto. Md./ Mar. 31, 1875	Broken stone; 1 part vertical, 2 flat
9	Hettie Catlett			H. C.	Foot stone
10	Powell Burwell Catlett			P. B. [C- missing]	Foot stone for no. 7
11	Lucy Chiswell Catlett	6/11/1861	12/23/1904	Lucy Chiswell/wife of/Charles Catlett/and oldest daughter of/R.H. & Sally B. Nelson/Born at Glendale/Henrico Co. Va./June 11, 1861/Died at Timber Neck,/Gloucester Co Va/Dec. 23, 1904	Broken; flat and vertical
12	Lucy Chiswell Catlett			L. C. C.	Foot stone for no. 11
13	Charles Catlett	7/12/1845	10/7/1917	Charles Catlett/Born/July 12, 1845/Died/October 7, 1917	Flat stone; fragments nearby
14	Mary Louisa Catlett			M. L. C.	Decorative foot stone for no. 15
15	Mary Louisa Catlett	c. 1835	1/27/1845	In memory of/ Mary Louisa/ eldest child of Thos. E. and F. C. Catlett/ who departed this life/ Jany 27 th 1845/ in the 10 th year of her age/ She was a dutiful child/ Weep not for me dear parents/ for your loss is my gain/ I now rest with my Savior	Broken and flat
16	Mary Thruston	c. 1791	12/13/1843	Mary Thruston/ Consort of Robert Thruston/ and Daughter of/ John and Ann Catlett/ Timber Neck/ departed this Life/Dec. 1 st , 1843/ Aged 52 years	Vertical stone; very worn, hard to read
17	Col. Robert Thruston	3/30/1782	2/22/1857	To/ the memory of/ Col. Robert Thruston/ of Landsdown, Gloucester County, Va./ A plain, practical farmer/ one who devoted a long life/ solely to agricultural pursuits./Born March 30, 1782,/ Died February 22, 1857/ Aged 75/Let not a word be wanting to his ashes/ for memory to his virtue	Table tomb on brick base with plain marble pillars at each corner; broken slab and worn

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#	Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Inscription	Notes
18	John C. Thurston ⁵	c. 1851	9/26/1839	In Memory of/ John C. Thurston/son of Robert and/ Mary Thurston/ who departed this life/ September 26 th 1839/ Aged Eight years	Vertical stone; worn

Archaeological Site 44GL0387 (Woodland period; 17th-20th century, contributing site)

Archaeological Site 44GL0387 is a multiple-component site that includes Woodland period Virginia Indian cultural deposits (c. 1200 B.C. to 1600 A.D.), a late 17th-century through 21st-century Euro-American/African American domestic site, and the archaeological remains of a substantial 19th/20th-century agricultural complex (See Figures 1-5 at the end of this document). The boundary of Site 44GL0387 matches the expanded boundary of Timberneck. When first identified during previous field investigations, the site was originally assigned a smaller acreage alongside the designation of seven other archaeological sites, specifically 44GL0388-44GL0393 and 44GL0456 (also known as the Mann and Page Family Cemetery).⁶ Subsequent archaeological survey and excavation identified significant artifact concentrations and intact cultural contexts across all of the current nominated acreage.⁷ This resulted in the expansion of Site 44GL0387's boundaries to match all surveyed areas and the current nominated acreage. The earlier identified archaeological sites includes components from the 17th century (44GL456), 18th century (44GL0390, 393 and 456), 19th century (44GL0389, 391, 392 and 456), 20th century (44GL0389 and 390), and from the Woodland period (44GL0388-390, 392, and 393; note that these sites are recorded but at present are not understood to be associated with Timberneck).

Site 44GL0387 is situated along an elevated peninsula extending from Blackberry Circle to the southeast, bounded on the east by Timberneck Creek and on the south by Poplar Creek. The soils are classified as Suffolk fine sandy loam, primarily with 2-6% slope except along the east and south boundaries where the slope increased to 6-12%. Historic map analysis confirms the longstanding agricultural complex that formed the core of the Timberneck farm operation within the site boundaries and largely located northwest of the house, while additional evidence exists for buildings to the northeast (potentially quarters for enslaved African Americans) and at least one building approximately halfway to the point of land southeast of the house. Five of the previously identified sites, as well as recent survey work north and east of the house have produced evidence of Woodland period occupation of this peninsula by Virginia Indians.

⁵ Thurston was used incorrectly instead of Thruston on the tombstone.

⁶ Dennis B. Blanton, Charles M. Downing, Donald W. Linebaugh. "A Cultural Resource Overview and Preservation Plan for the Timberneck Farm Property and Catlett Islands, Gloucester County, Virginia." The William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1993.

⁷ Victoria Gum, David Brown and Thane Harpole. "Phase I Archaeological Survey at Timberneck Farm (44GL0037, 44GL0365, 44GL0367, 44GL0387, 44GL0456, 44GL0492, 44GL0493), Gloucester County, Virginia." DATA Investigations, Gloucester Point, Virginia, 2019. Aaron M. Levinthal, Dawn M. Frost and Carol D. Tyner. "Phase I Archaeological Survey of Timberneck at Catlett Island, Gloucester County, VA." Circa~CRM, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2008.

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The archaeological fieldwork conducted on the property to date is largely in response to cultural resource management needs related to the planned construction of a never-completed housing development (c. 2008) and the recently completed infrastructure (c. 2019-2020) for the newly established Machicomoco State Park. Research methodology was largely based on the need to identify the presence and extent of archaeological resources, evaluate their eligibility for inclusion within an expanded or new nomination to the state and national registers of historic places, and to mitigate park improvements that could not be redesigned and their impacts would destroy the resources. Research goals included the full documentation of the 19th/20th-century agricultural complex, the search for evidence of 17th- and 18th-century plantation-related buildings and activity areas, and the delineation of two known cemeteries to avoid the disturbance of human remains during construction activities, as well as their proper recognition and preservation. Although noteworthy, the aforementioned Woodland-period deposits are not associated with Timberneck's significance as currently understood but are recorded to inform any future park development.

At least one Page and two Mann family members were interred in the cemetery and archaeological evidence from 2009 suggests as many as 62 other individuals (approximately 39 adults and 23 children based on recorded grave shaft size) may be interred there as well.⁸ No grave markers remained to identify the area. During the 20th century, the area was used for livestock and its location is not marked on topographic maps dating back to as early as 1906. Three tombstones were relocated from the property to Abingdon Church in August 1980 (Table 2), but there is no evidence the remains were relocated with the stones. After the Mann/Page stone relocation, the area continued to be used for livestock and animal pens. As of 2010 the cemetery and related cultural features are enclosed by a three-rail wood fence, approximately 100 feet east/west by 140 feet north/south. The breadth of archaeological materials found and their representation of occupations that span over 3,200 years within the boundary of Site 44GL0387 speaks to the significant potential to learn from the site and the need to recognize and preserve this acreage.

Table 2. Mann and Page Tombstone Inscriptions at Abingdon Church

Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Inscription	Notes
Elizabeth Page	c. 1690	3/15/1693	[Page Coat of Arms] Here lyeth ye Body of/ Elizabeth Page Daughter/ of Mathew Page of ye Colony/ of Virginia gentle man aged/ three years who departed/ this life ye 15th day of march/ Anno Domini 1693	small rectangular grey stone slab on brick base
John Mann	c. 1627	1/7/1694	[Page Coat of Arms] Here lyeth ye Body of/ John Mann of Gloucester County/ in Virginia, Gent. aged 67 years/ who departed this life y 7 Day/ of January Anno Domini 1694	large rectangular grey stone slab on brick and concrete base

⁸Aaron M. Levinthal, Dawn M. Frost and Carol D. Tyrer. "Cemetery Delineation at the Catlett Family and Mann-Page Cemetery at Catlett Island, Gloucester County, VA." Circa-CRM, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2009.

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Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Inscription	Notes
Mary Kempe Berkeley Mann	c. 1647	3/18/ 1703/4	Here Lyeth interred the Body/ of M Mary Mann of the/ County of Gloucester in the/Collony of Virginia Gentle Wom/ who Departed this life the 18 th / day of march 1703/4 aged 56 yeares	large rectangular grey stone slab on brick and concrete base

Picnic Shelter #1 (non-contributing structure)

Approximately 375 feet west of the Timberneck house lies a picnic shelter. The single-story, corrugated metal shed-roof building is open on all sides and covers a continuous concrete floor. It was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance.

Picnic Shelter #2 (non-contributing structure)

Approximately 550 feet west of the Timberneck house lies a picnic shelter. The single-story, corrugated metal shed-roof building is open on all sides and covers a continuous concrete floor. It was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance..

Restrooms (non-contributing building)

Approximately 400 feet west of the Timberneck house lies a restroom. The single-story, three-bay, wood frame building has an asphalt shingle, side gable roof with plexiglass skylights. The building has a slab concrete foundation and vertical wood siding and corrugated metal shed roof additions on the south, west, and north elevations. It was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance.

Interpretive Structure (non-contributing structure)

Approximately 260 feet west of the Timberneck house lies an interpretive structure built in the shape of an Algonquin *yihakin* or “long house.” The single-story, metal frame structure is open on its west side and uses corrugated metal panels on its exterior and flat interpretive panels to explain Virginia Indian history and traditions along its interior. It was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance.

Granite Map (non-contributing object)

Approximately 300 feet west of the Timberneck house is a large, four-piece, etched-granite map of eastern Virginia. The structure rests on a substantial circular pedestal and incorporates bronze discs stamped with symbols alongside Algonquin place names and current museums, parks, and cities. It was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance.

Shell Sculpture (non-contributing object)

Approximately 350 feet northwest of the Timberneck House stands an approximately three-foot-tall, two-foot-wide, and two-foot-deep block of oyster shell and concrete. It was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance.

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Floating Boat Dock (non-contributing structure)

Approximately 525 feet east of the Timberneck house is a wood frame boardwalk that leads to a series of concrete floating boat docks installed on the property c. 2008 along the west bank of Timberneck Creek. The plank board walk includes a retractable metal bridge connecting to the floating concrete structure that is stabilized by wooden pilings and has slips for at least 20 boats. The floating boat dock postdates the property's period of significance.

Boardwalk (non-contributing structure)

Approximately 430 feet south of the Timberneck House is a wood frame boardwalk that overlooks the north bank of Poplar Creek. The boardwalk was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance..

Bench/Interpretive Area (non-contributing structure)

Approximately 350 feet southeast of the Timberneck House are two wooden bench seats divided by an oyster shell path. The benches are built from substantial wooden beams stacked on their sides for use as both a seating and interpretive area. The bench/interpretive area was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance..

Bench (non-contributing structure)

Approximately 875 feet southeast of the Timberneck House is a long wooden bench along the eastern edge of an oyster shell path terminus. The bench area was constructed c. 2020 and postdates the property's period of significance..

Integrity Analysis

Timberneck retains a high degree of integrity regarding location, design, materials, workmanship, and setting. The extant house is situated on a prominent rise above the mouth of Timberneck Creek where it was built c. 1800, with wide views of the York River. The surrounding land is now a state park, but it still retains the open look of the former agricultural landscape. Two small outbuildings, two family cemeteries, and intact archaeological sites, all contributing resources, surround the house and add to its integrity of location and setting. Archaeological site 44GL0387, extending across the nominated acreage, includes cultural components spanning the Woodland period to the 20th century which represent Native American occupations, a 17th-century colonial settlement and the Mann/Page family cemetery, and the extensive domestic and agricultural complex operated by the Catlett family and primarily enslaved African American men and women. Archaeological survey and test excavations were conducted across much of this acreage, and more extensive excavations were undertaken ahead of infrastructure improvements for the state park. These have confirmed that intact cultural layers and features exist throughout Site 44GL0387, are representative of all periods of the property's history, and have extensive research potential for a deeper understanding of this cultural landscape. The main house and outbuildings retain substantial integrity of design and materials. The house has a c. 1793 primary block, an 1850s wing, and a pre-1943 kitchen, and each section retains most of its original or early interior features, including flooring, windows, door hardware, chair rails, wainscots, staircases and doors. There have been very few alterations to the interior

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layout, so most rooms retain their original size and height, an original feature that created a sense of grandeur but without elaborate ornamentation. Original windows and shutters from the exterior of the c. 1793 house were retained when the 1850s wing was added. The building foundations, as well as the framing visible in the basement and attic, are largely original or historic, revealing only modest changes across the life of building. The exterior of the house reveals important historic details such as a foundation of handmade brick in Flemish bond and the original fenestration plan, with several windows on the façade retaining their original molded sills with double architraves. The modillioned cornice is a prominent feature of the house, and this feature was extended to the 1850s wing, which was accessed through a separate front door on the façade. A long porch connected these doors until 1943 when it was damaged and replaced by two smaller stoops. The siding is a mix of early beaded boards and plain siding. The three early chimneys were repaired in the latter part of the 20th century with machine-made brick caps, while the early 20th-century chimney on the west side has no modifications. The remaining outbuildings also retain integrity of materials: the smokehouse has its original early 19th-century framing with added historic framing and an early door with wrought hinges and an early lock. The foundation was replaced with cinderblock in the early 20th century, while the siding and roof shingles are more recent replacements. The pump house has its original early 20th century brick foundation and roof frame but has modern asphalt shingles and is missing its door. Though archaeological testing has indicated that other outbuildings were likely present around the house, the house and two remaining outbuildings retain substantial integrity of design, workmanship, and materials and, along with the Catlett family cemetery, convey a strong sense of the historic cultural landscape that has endured on this property.

Though there has been minor loss of historic materials over time, those materials have largely been replaced in kind. Timberneck retains integrity of location, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. It retains substantial integrity of materials and design. Timberneck retains integrity of location, as it remains where it was originally constructed. The surrounding landscape remains minimally developed, except the interpretive infrastructure of Machicomoco State Park located to the west of the house. This park infrastructure distracts somewhat from the integrity of setting, and it occupies an area formerly populated by a dense array of agricultural buildings that were removed in the early 2000s. These buildings were a mix of late 19th-century to 20th-century structures, including equipment sheds, animal barns, silos, and other structures, with most dating to the early 20th century. Despite the loss of outbuildings, the integrity of setting and feeling remain largely intact. Timberneck also retains integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. While there has been some material loss, particularly as the house sat vacant for several years, much of the original materials remain in place. Past replacements and repairs often used in-kind materials that are identifiable on close inspection but blend visually at a distance. The form and mass of the south façade has remained largely unchanged since a lateral addition was built in the mid-1850s, except that the front porch was damaged in 1943 and was replaced with the extant smaller mid-20th century entry stoops. Other additions, such as the kitchen, were added to the rear of the house, creating a minimal impact to the exterior design. Interior alterations, such as modern bathrooms, reused extant spaces such as closets, and so left the plan of the house intact. The retention of original materials throughout the house and the

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relatively few changes made to the interior spaces over time means that much of the original workmanship, such as the shaping of joints, is still visible.

Though the Timberneck property is no longer owned by the Catlett family who lived there for two centuries, their farm is now part of Machicomoco State Park and retains much of its open, agricultural viewshed. The integrity of the house, outbuildings, historic cemeteries, and surrounding archaeological sites, coupled with early photographs and ample records of the Catlett family's tenure on the property, convey a strong sense of the 19th- and early 20th century domestic and agricultural landscape, with the potential to learn much more about the creation and maintenance of this space over several centuries by members of the Catlett family and enslaved Africans and African Americans who lived and worked on the farm. Future investigations may provide further insight into the Woodland period including how Virginia Indians' occupation may have influenced selection of this property by English colonists in 1680.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic – Non-Aboriginal

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1680-1943

Significant Dates

1793

1855

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Catlett, John W.C. (1803-1883)

Cultural Affiliation

African American

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Timberneck is eligible at the local level under *Criterion B* in the area of Politics/Government for its association with John W. C. Catlett, who served Middle Peninsula communities in a variety of roles, including as a lawyer and a member of the state senate. The significant date of 1855 concerns Catlett's contributions in the Virginia Senate as a member of the Committee on Finance and Claims, during which he argued for measures that anticipated circumstances leading to the Panic of 1857. Timberneck is locally significant under *Criterion C* in the area of Architecture for its intact Federal-style architecture, as it is one of few surviving Federal-style single dwellings in Gloucester County. Of those, it is the most complete representation of a professional man's family home, occupying a place between the grand plantation house and the vernacular dwelling of small landholders. Timberneck is also locally significant under *Criterion D* in the area of Archaeology: Historic – Non-Aboriginal for its demonstrated archaeological potential to yield significant information about 17th-century European settlement and early plantation development, and the evolution of an agricultural landscape over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries that was shaped by the extended Catlett family and a labor force of enslaved African American men and women. Yet to be fully investigated is the information potential of loci associated with small Woodland period Virginia Indian occupations, potentially associated with a nearby village.

The period of significance for Timberneck begins with the purchase of the property by John Mann in 1680 and concludes in 1943, by which time the Timberneck dwelling had reached its fully evolved form, visible in several early 20th-century photographs. The significant date of 1793 is due to John Catlett's acquisition of the property. After 1943, several changes were made to the dwelling, including replacing the large porch with two smaller porches, thus changing the appearance and flow of the house on its primary (south) elevation. Other changes after that date included replacing the cellar windows, repairing chimney tops, and adding bathrooms. Archaeological research has uncovered intact and potential cultural resources spanning the late 17th through 20th centuries across several acres surrounding the dwelling, along with earlier Woodland period habitation. The house and smokehouse both retain significant integrity from the early and mid-19th century, with additional details in the house dating to the early 20th century, by which time the wellhouse also had been constructed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context and Property History

The context below is substantially extracted from Camille Wells' "Documentary History" in *Blueprint for Preservation of the Ruins at Rosewell, Gloucester, Virginia* (2008).

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The first patent on the north side of the Charles River (later the York River) was granted in 1639 to George Menefie, an English lawyer who immigrated to Virginia in 1622, settled on a lot in Jamestown, and by 1630 had grown wealthy through, among other ventures, his position as the official merchant and factor for the corporation of James City.⁹ Menefie had already developed two extensive tobacco plantations—Littletown in James City County and Buckland in Charles City County—when, in 1639, transport of sixty people to Virginia entitled him to his patent of three thousand acres. This tract, the makings of Rosewell plantation, of which Timberneck farm was a part, “beginn [sic] at the creeke upon the west side of the Indian fieldes opposite Queenes Creeke and extends downe the river to a creeke called by the name of Timber necke Creeke eastward.”¹⁰ No firm boundaries or points of reference yet existed to fix Menefie’s acreage in the landscape, so its description was limited to a specified length of shoreline between two creeks. Its most useful locator was its situation opposite the well-known Queens Creek on the river’s southern shore.¹¹

George Menefie’s principal heir was his daughter Elizabeth, to whom he gave “all my lands at Westover, at James City, and at York River.” In this way Elizabeth Menefie came into possession of Littletown, Buckland, and Timberneck.¹² Shortly after her father’s death she married Henry Perry who was her neighbor at Buckland, and, as son of George Menefie’s second wife Isabell, her stepbrother as well.¹³ Despite their advantages in Virginia, the Perrys chose a course taken by many other Virginians who grew rich in the first half of the seventeenth century, returning to live in England. In 1680 their daughters Elizabeth and Mary sold the land “between

⁹ Through this office Menefie was entitled to a twelve percent commission on all transactions. Martha W. McCartney, *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007), 489-490. As a member of the Council of State, Menefie secured a position of prestige among other rich Virginians by defying Governor John Harvey in a decision unfavorable to Virginia’s tobacco economy. For his impertinence, the governor gave him a severe whack during an assembly of the Council, and the gathering of appointed officials subsequently sent Harvey packing. Edward D. Neill, *Virginia Carolorum: The Colony Under the Rule of Charles the First and Second, 1625-1685* (New York: 1886), 116-118; J. M. Thornton III, “The Thrusting Out of Governor Harvey: A Seventeenth-Century Rebellion,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 76 (January 1968), 11-26; Richard L. Morton, *Colonial Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1960), 72-80, 152-158.

¹⁰ The document was recorded on March 9, 1639/40 in Virginia Patent Book 1, v. 2, p. 704. A transcription appears in “Genealogical Notes and Queries,” *William and Mary Quarterly* Series 2, 11 (January 1931), 69-70.

¹¹ The nameless creek appears as Claybank Creek in Augustine Herrman’s 1670 map of Virginia and Maryland, which later became Aberdeen Creek. See Richard W. Stephenson and Marianne M. McKee, editors, *Virginia in Maps: Four Centuries of Settlement, Growth, and Development* (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2000), 35. Two other major creeks within the patent bounds are Carter Creek and Cedarbush Creek.

¹² In his will George Menefie confirmed that he and his wife were settled at Buckland when he directed that he be buried at Westover Church. Will of George Menefie, written 31 December 1645 in Charles City County and proved in London on 25 February 1645/6. “Virginia Gleanings,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 14 (January 1907), 421-422. See also John Frederick Dorman, editor, *Adventurers of Purse and Person: Virginia 1607-1624* (Edition 4; Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2005), v. 2, 650-651.

¹³ For the marital history of Isabell Menefie, see John Frederick Dorman, editor, *Adventurers of Purse and Person: Virginia 1607-1624*, v. 2, 650-651. Henry Perry secured by patent his right through a bequest from his father William Perry to land adjacent to Menefie’s in Charles City County. Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1992) v. 1, 78, 120, 128.

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Clay Bank and Timber Neck Creeks called Rosewell" to John Mann, who had leased the tract a year earlier.¹⁴

John Mann was in Virginia by 1653, when he was twenty-two years old.¹⁵ In that year Thomas Todd assigned to him the right to patent six hundred acres in Gloucester County, which had been partitioned from York County just two years before. The land lay on the shore of the East River near its confluence with Mobjack Bay: an ideal location for a commercial landing, warehouse, and store.¹⁶ After he patented his six hundred acres on the East River, Mann's only substantial acquisition of land was his purchase, in 1680, of the Rosewell tract. Page family tradition maintains that John and Mary Berkeley Mann moved to this property soon after they bought it, building their house and appropriate dependencies on a site near its eastern border along Timberneck Creek. Archaeological evidence of an early farmstead as well as the Mann/Page family cemetery on the property corroborate this tradition.

In 1689 John and Mary Berkeley Mann's only child, their eighteen-year-old daughter Mary, became the wife of Matthew Page. The young couple likely lived initially at Timberneck with the Manns, or nearby, as their first child, three-year-old Elizabeth Page, was buried there in 1693.¹⁷ John Mann died and was buried at Timberneck in January of 1694/5, leaving all of his property, after the death of his wife, to his daughter Mary Mann Page.¹⁸ Though Mary Mann continued to live at Timberneck, her daughter and son-in-law, Mathew and Mary Page, had set up a new household at Rosewell.¹⁹ In January of 1703/4 Matthew Page himself died at the age of forty-five and was buried at Rosewell. Two months later on March 18th, Mary Mann Page's mother died, and was buried in the cemetery at Timberneck, where she had likely continued living since the death of her husband nearly a decade earlier.²⁰ In 1704 a rare inclusive quit rent roll recorded the extent of young Mrs. Page's wealth in landholding, and at least one of the

¹⁴ Deed of John and Elizabeth Perry Coggs and Mary Perry to Mann Page, 24 September 1680, abstracted in "Genealogical Notes and Queries," *William and Mary Quarterly*, Series 2, 11 (January 1931), 70.

¹⁵ John Mann's age in 1653 is derived from the inscription on his tombstone, which noted that he was sixty-three years old when he died in 1694/5. Richard Channing Moore Page, *Genealogy of the Page Family in Virginia* (New York: 1883), 54.

¹⁶ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, v. 1, 417. During the seventeenth century a number of merchants established commercial ventures on peninsulas and even islands that reached out into the bay, far to the east of Jamestown and its regulations. Perhaps the most prominent of these was John Custis. See James B. Lynch, Jr., *The Custis Chronicles: The Virginia Generations* (Camden, Maine, 1997).

¹⁷ Page, *Genealogy*, pp. 53-57.

¹⁸ John Mann apparently had warm relationships with the son and daughter of his wife's first marriage. He left a bequest of cash to Edmund Berkeley. He also made the children of his stepdaughter Sarah Berkeley Ring contingent heirs of Rosewell, should his daughter Mary die without issue. Will of John Mann, written 6 January 1694/5 and proved in Gloucester County Court 18 February 1694/5. "Berkeley Manuscripts," pp. 136-138.

¹⁹ The strongest evidence that the Pages set up a new household near the future site of the Rosewell mansion is the presence there, beginning in 1702, of all the Page family tombstones. It is likely that Mathew and Mary Mann Page began building a substantial manor house and associated buildings at Rosewell between the death of their first child, Elizabeth, who was buried at Timberneck in 1693, and the deaths of two subsequent children, Mathew Page and Mary Page, who were both buried at Rosewell in 1702/3. Archaeological evidence points to multiple structures at the Rosewell site from this time.

²⁰ Will of Mary Berkeley Mann, written 1 March 1701/2 and proved in Gloucester County Court 16 June 1704. "Berkeley Manuscripts," 138-140.

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reasons why she was an attractive widow, the “rich heiress of Timberneck Bay.”²¹ In addition to her 3,000-acre Rosewell tract, she owned 550 acres in Gloucester County’s Petworth Parish, 3,450 acres across the York River in New Kent County, and 900 acres in James City County.²²

Early in March of 1711, Mary Mann Page’s son Mann Page returned from England after completing his education and assumed his inheritance. After his house burned in 1721, he began planning and building an enormous dwelling rivalling the Governor’s Palace. It is not clear what happened to the Mann home at Timberneck after Mary Berkeley Mann died there in 1704, but the area continued to be a productive part of the plantation and likely continued to be the residence for numerous enslaved Africans as well as overseers throughout the 18th century. Mann Page “of Rosewell” died on January 24, 1730/1, at the age of forty.²³

Seemingly as part of this personal retrenchment plan, Page sold six hundred acres to John Catlett, an “eminent lawyer of King William and Gloucester Counties,” between 1792 and 1793.²⁴ Between 1796 and 1797, Catlett purchased an additional 109 acres, which became the location for the Catletts’ new dwelling.²⁵ Dates indicated by a recent dendrochronology study of timbers from the original house, suggest the house was likely built between 1793 and 1797, coinciding with Catlett’s purchase of the property.²⁶ A framing timber in the basement yielded a cutting date of 1792/3 and may indicate initial construction of the house. Samples taken from attic studs yielded dates of 1783/4 and 1797. These studs appear to have been added as part of an effort to finish the attic into a livable space, a task which was never completed. The latter date could indicate initial construction, but the two different dates, and the attic studs that were sampled, suggest that this work may have done shortly after the house was already completed, using a combination of new and used timbers. Upon his death in 1808, to his son John W. C. Catlett, Catlett bequeathed “the plantation on which I now live, which was purchased of John Page.”²⁷ It was his “further will and desire that all my children should live with my son, or sons, in my said mansion house plantation so long as they remain single.”²⁸ The Catletts’ move to the Timberneck tract may have been precipitated by the needs of their growing family. John W. C. Catlett, born 23 December 1803, was the ninth and last child of John and Ann Walker Carter Catlett.²⁹ At the time Catlett wrote his will, only his second eldest daughter Sarah had left the

²¹ This was the phrase of Bishop William Meade, penned in the midst of a condemnation of Mann Page for having lived so lavishly. Bishop William Meade, *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1857), v. 1, 331.

²² Annie Laurie Wright Smith, editor, *The Quitrents of Virginia, 1704* (Richmond, 1957; reprinted in Baltimore, 2004) 67.

²³ This is how Page identified himself in his will. It is the first surviving association of the family with the name “Rosewell.” Will of Mann Page, Lanciano, Rosewell, pp. 228-230.

²⁴ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1792-1793; Dr. William Carter Stubbs and Mrs. William Carter Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families, Transplanted from County Kent, England* (New Orleans: 1918), 37, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

²⁵ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1796-1797.

²⁶ Worthington and Seiter, “The Tree Ring Dating of Timberneck,” 2021:10

²⁷ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 39, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

²⁸ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 39, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

²⁹ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 40, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

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household, following her marriage to Bartholomew Yates. Catlett's will allowed the Yates to live at Timberneck until John the younger came of age, or until his older brother Charles did if John predeceased him.³⁰ The remainder of his eight children were either minors or unmarried women still resident within the household.³¹

Whether under the management of Yates, executor William Jones, or another unknown executor, it seems that Timberneck was well managed and the land consistently retained its value.³² A shift in Gloucester County's land tax structure added a new category in 1820: sum added for the value of buildings. In that year, the 600-acre property included no buildings, while the 109-acre tract included \$1772.50 of improvements, likely the house and outbuildings.³³ This value remains stable between 1820 and 1828, when the land is first taxed under John W. C. Catlett's name, rather than under his father's estate.³⁴

John W. C. Catlett made few readily apparent changes during the first three decades he was master of Timberneck. In 1830, he sold 53.5 acres of the 109-acre tract to James Williams, and four years later Catlett's two tracts were combined into a single 653.5-acre holding.³⁵ The value of the buildings remained consistent until 1851, when it rose slightly to \$1,850.³⁶ This relatively slight increase of \$77.50 may represent additional improvements made to the house, a new assessment method, or the addition of new outbuildings. During the 1850s, Catlett built a substantial addition to his dwelling, which increased its value approximately \$503 to \$2353.20 in 1856.³⁷ The value of improvements increased again the following year, to \$4250, indicating continued construction on the property.³⁸ The value of the buildings remained stable through 1870.³⁹ An 1857 coastal chart recorded several buildings on the property, including the house and four outbuildings that all appear to be enclosed by a fence, two more buildings on the downslope closer to Timberneck Creek, and approximately half a dozen buildings scattered across the Catlett Islands.⁴⁰ According to the 1860 Federal Census Slave Schedule, Catlett owned

³⁰ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 40, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

³¹ Charles received the Wilson Creek Plantation from his father John Catlett. Each of Catlett's daughters received an enslaved girl to serve as a maid. All enslaved individuals then owned by Catlett, as well as the ones he expected to inherit from his father's estate upon his mother's death were to be divided amongst his surviving children. The remainder of his estate was also to be evenly divided amongst all his surviving children at the time of his death. Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 40, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

³² Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1808-1826.

³³ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1820.

³⁴ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1828.

³⁵ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1830, 1834.

³⁶ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1851.

³⁷ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1856.

³⁸ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1857.17

³⁹ Gloucester County Land Taxes, 1858-1870.

⁴⁰ John Seib, "York River, from Wormley's Creek to Clay Bank," Coastal Topographic Sheet, 1:20000, *Alabama Maps*, <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/Coastal%20Survey%20Maps/virginia.htm>.

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45 enslaved individuals, housed in eight dwellings; some of these dwellings may be depicted on the coastal map.⁴¹

In 1883, John W. C. Catlett bequeathed the Timberneck property to his son Charles.⁴² Born at Timberneck in 1845, Charles served in Company D of the 24th Virginia Cavalry during the Civil War, and later as a judge and member of the Board of Supervisors in Gloucester County.⁴³ Timberneck remained in Charles' ownership until his death in 1917 when it passed to Mary R. Catlett, his daughter.⁴⁴ At the time, Mary was but 20 years old and a student at Longwood College.⁴⁵ The larger Timberneck tract seems to have been subdivided among Charles' surviving children. In 1919, his son, a second John W. C. Catlett, purchased parcels from his siblings to reunify the property.⁴⁶

Much of the 20th century at Timberneck was defined by the second John W. C. Catlett's (1888-1976) agricultural focus. The second John W. C. Catlett attended Virginia Tech and used "his scientific skill in developing a prosperous agriculture on Timberneck,"⁴⁷ In 1910, Catlett made the papers for raising two of the biggest melons in Virginia. One weighed ninety pounds with a fifty-inch girth and was "longitudinally 58 inches around."⁴⁸ Catlett also served as a demonstrator for the early incarnations of the Boys' Corn Club in Virginia, which would evolve into the Future Farmers of Virginia and later the Future Farmers of America, the first nationwide vocational education program in the United States.⁴⁹ In 1934, Timberneck watermelons again made news when Catlett grew 6,000 melons for market in a single season. Despite the bumper crop, a blight kept some of the melons "that [weighed] 60 to 70 pounds from weighing 10 to 20 pounds more."⁵⁰ Though the melons did "not look of unusual size," when picked up a

⁴¹ The National Archives in Washington DC; Washington DC, USA; *Eighth Census of the United States 1860*; Series Number: M653; Record Group: *Records of the Bureau of the Census*; Record Group Number: 29; Ancestry.com. 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2010.

⁴² Gloucester County, Will Book A, 1862-1884, 135, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

⁴³ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 43, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

⁴⁴ Gloucester County, Will Book B, 1866-1920, 280, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

⁴⁵ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 43, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>; Michelle Oals, "Obituaries" *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va, 5 May 1998, <https://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-xpm-19980505-1998-05-05-9805050055-story.html>.

⁴⁶ Gloucester County, Deed Book 42, 555, Gloucester County Clerk's Office, Gloucester, Va. The reason for this redivision of property is unclear, as Mary Randolph Catlett was as of yet unmarried, and access to archival materials are limited due to COVID 19 restrictions. Mary Catlett married Kemper Kellogg of Newport News in 1923 and resided there until her death in 1998.

⁴⁷ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 43, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

⁴⁸ "Biggest Melon on Record," *The Free Lance*, Fredericksburg, VA, vol. 25, no. 106, 13 October 1910, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/70931543>.

⁴⁹ "Corn Club Organized," *The Times Dispatch*, Richmond, Va., 15 March 1911, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/146305993/>.

⁵⁰ "6,000 Melons at Timberneck Nearly Ready For Sale," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va, 15 August 1934, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231066714/>.

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man's shoulder sank under the weight.⁵¹ Catlett's reputation for agricultural science was so well known that he was elected president of the Gloucester-Mathews' Farmers' Cooperative in 1938.⁵²

Successive architectural surveys, beginning with a 1959 Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory Form (HABS) and including work by the VDHR, resulted in Timberneck's successful nomination to the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Archaeological investigations in the 1990s and early 2000s by the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) and Circa~ uncovered archaeological evidence of previous occupation ranging from the Woodland period to the modern day. In 2007, the Timberneck property was purchased by Timberneck LLC with the purpose of subdividing the property into residential and other lots. Though the developers built a new road around the property and demolished the agricultural buildings, the development never came to fruition. Instead, the Conservation Fund purchased the property with the goal of creating a new state park. Development of the first phase of the park was completed, and the property was transferred to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2020 as Machicomoco State Park. The Timberneck house is currently being renovated by the Fairfield Foundation, and the Foundation is also studying the broad range of Timberneck's history.

Criterion B: John W. C. Catlett (1803-1883)

The year 1826 proved to be a banner year for John W. C. Catlett. He not only came into full ownership of Timberneck, but he also married Agnes Janes Thruston.⁵³ Catlett seems to have spent his early years as master of Timberneck focusing on the farm and on his growing family, which included three daughters by 1831.⁵⁴ Catlett entered the political sphere in 1832, serving on the Gloucester County Committee for the re-election of Andrew Jackson.⁵⁵ Catlett continued his work for the burgeoning Democratic party throughout the remainder of the decade, nominating and promoting Robert Yates as the Democratic representative to the General Assembly for Gloucester in 1835, serving as a delegate to the Democrat presidential nomination convention the same year, sitting on the Gloucester County Corresponding Committee for the Van Buren Convention in 1836, and serving as a trustee for the Gloucester Charity School.⁵⁶ One

⁵¹ "6,000 Melons at Timberneck Nearly Ready For Sale," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va, 15 August 1934, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231066714/>.

⁵² "Bi-County Co-Op Names Directors," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 20 February 1938, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/230930792/>.

⁵³ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 41, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

⁵⁴ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 41, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

⁵⁵ "County Committees," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 28, no. 106, 30 March 1832, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18320330.1.3&srpos=1&e=-----en-20--1-byDA-txt-txIN-%22John+W.+C.+Catlett%22----->.

⁵⁶ "Gloucester County," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 31, no 106, 24 March 1835, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18350324.1.3&srpos=2&e=----->; "Gloucester Democratic Meeting," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 32, no. 3, 15 May 1835, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18350515.1.3&srpos=3&e=----->; "County Corresponding Committees," *Richmond Enquirer* vol 32, no. 91, 16 February 1836, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18360216.1.3&srpos=4&e=----->; "In Chancery," *Richmond Enquirer*

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of Catlett's early roles that reveals his political leanings, and continued investment in the institution of slavery, involved presenting a petition in January 1836 to the General Assembly on behalf of 86 individuals of Gloucester County to authorize the raising of tax funds in order to remove free Black persons from the county. The petition blamed free Black persons and northern abolitionists for making it more difficult for landowners to control the enslaved population.⁵⁷

Catlett's political committee work in favor of Jacksonian Democracy continued through the 1840s and gained him local acclaim. He was again appointed to serve as a delegate to the Democratic Convention of 1840 with the object of the "formation of a ticket favorable to the re-election of Martin Van Buren."⁵⁸ Catlett garnered his first nomination as a candidate for the Virginia Legislature that year, though he would ultimately decline in order to avoid splitting the Democratic vote, which would have allowed a Whig to win.⁵⁹ In 1845, he was again proposed as a nominee who "has long possessed the confidence of the Democrats of his own county" and "whose services to the party, and unwavering adherence to Republican principles, point him out as one in whom the trust may be placed with safety."⁶⁰ It seems that Catlett declined the nomination a second time, as at a party meeting in March 1845 he put forward Richard P. Jones as a nominee, with which the committee unanimously concurred.⁶¹ The following year, the term of Representative Dr. John R. Taylor expired and inspired another round of support for Catlett to be elected to a seat in the Legislature.⁶² His support apparently did not yet extend beyond Gloucester County, as he did not make it past the first round of ballots cast at the district senatorial convention.⁶³ John Seawell, also of Gloucester, received the nomination, though he declined for personal reasons and Colin Clarke of Warner Hall was unanimously approved as a

vol. 36, no. 83, 28 January 1840, *Virginia Chronicle*,
<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18400128.1.3&srpos=6&e=----->.

⁵⁷ Legislative Petitions of the General Assembly, 1776-1865, Accession Number 36121, Box 89, Folder 54, 13 January 1836,
http://digitooll1.lva.lib.va.us:1801/view/action/singleViewer.do?dvs=1636492938514~667&locale=en_US&show_metadata=true&VIEWER_URL=/view/action/singleViewer.do?&DELIVERY_RULE_ID=4&application=DIGITOOL-3&forebear_coll=1505&frameId=1&usePid1=true&usePid2=true.

⁵⁸ "Gloucester" *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 36, no. 92, 18 February 1840, *Virginia Chronicle*,
<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18400218.1.3&srpos=7&e=----->; "List of County Committees," *Richmond Enquirer* vol 36, no. 104, 17 March 1840, *Virginia Chronicle*,
<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18400317.1.4&srpos=8&e=----->;

⁵⁹ "Gloucester County," *Richmond Enquirer* vol 37, no. 20, 17 July 1840, *Virginia Chronicle*,
<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18400717.1.3&srpos=9&e=----->; "To The Voters of the Mathews Senatorial District," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 42, no. 87, 3 March 1846, *Virginia Chronicle*,
<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18460303.1.2&srpos=14&e=----->.

⁶⁰ "To the Democratic Voters of the Senatorial District composed of the counties of Gloucester, Mathews, Middles, King & Queen, and King William," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 41, no. 92, 15 February 1845, *Virginia Chronicle*,
<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18450215.1.5&srpos=11&e=----->; "Gloucester County," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 41, no. 92, 15 February 1845, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/339025323/>.

⁶¹ "Gloucester County," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 41, no. 100, 14 March 1845, *Newspapers.com*,
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/339026156/>.

⁶² "To the Voters of the Mathews Senatorial District." *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 42, no. 87, 3 March 1846, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18460303.1.2&srpos=14&e=----->.

⁶³ "District Senatorial Convention," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 42, no. 92, 20 March 1846, *Virginia Chronicle*,
<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18460320.1.2&srpos=15&e=----->.

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substitute, given the closeness of the election. Catlett was among the committee members who published their names along with this announcement.⁶⁴

The death of Carter Braxton in 1847 reopened conversations about Catlett's viability as a political candidate. His ability to acquiesce cheerfully to the decisions of conventions or the needs of the party was cast as the ability to work toward the greater good. He was a "true Democrat," "not bigoted in his opinions, but is known to be a man of liberal views," who numbered a large list of personal friends within the Whig party. Furthermore, even as the Democratic party shrank to a minority, he never faltered in his support of the party.⁶⁵ Once again, he did not receive the nomination.

Catlett remained active within Gloucester's Democratic party leadership, despite his continual inability to be elected to a public office. He served on the committees of vigilance and correspondence, chaired meetings, and acted as a delegate to the Democratic District Convention that took place in Hampton in 1848.⁶⁶ Catlett's patience was repaid with a seat in the Virginia State Senate in 1850.⁶⁷ Re-election came in 1859.⁶⁸

A review of available Senate journals published during Catlett's career reveals a diligent and parliamentarian minded senator. During his first term in office, Catlett regularly voted, served on the Committee on the Militia, the Committee to Examine the Penitentiary, and the Committee to

⁶⁴ "Gloucester County," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 42, no. 92, 20 March 1846, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18460320.1.2&srpos=15&e=----->.

⁶⁵ "To the Editors of the Enquirer: Gloucester County, 2d August, 1847," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 44, no. 29, 10 August 1847, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18470810.1.2&srpos=16&e=----->.

⁶⁶ "County Committees of Vigilance and Correspondence," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 41, no. 102, 21 March 1845, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18450321.1.4&srpos=13&e=----->; "Public Meeting in Gloucester," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 44, no. 60, 26 November 1847, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18471126.1.4&srpos=17&e=----->; "Gloucester County," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 44, no. 84, 18 February 1848, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18480218.1.4&srpos=18&e=----->; "Gloucester County," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 44, no. 99, 11 April 1848, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18480411.1.1&srpos=19&e=----->. Unfortunately, at the February 1848 meeting Catlett chaired, the resolutions approved focused almost entirely on the continuance of slavery.

⁶⁷ "Virginia Elections," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 46, no. 104, 30 April 1850, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18500430.1.1&srpos=6&e=--1850---1852--en-20--1-byDA-txt-txIN-Catlett+Senate----->.

⁶⁸ "Members of the Senate of Va.," *Alexandria Gazette* vol. 54, no. 232, 30 September 1853, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=AG18530930.1.2&srpos=22&e=----->; "Representatives Elected," *Daily Dispatch* vol. 11, no. 138, 8 June 1857, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=DD18570609.1.1&srpos=29&e=----->; David Richardson, *Richardson's Virginia and North Carolina Almanac* (Richmond: J. Warrock, 1851), 22, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nc01.ark:/13960/t6c31p772>; David Richardson, *Richardson's Virginia and North Carolina Almanac* (Richmond: J. Warrock, 1853), <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nc01.ark:/13960/t6c31p772>; *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Begun and Held at the Capitol, in the City of Richmond, on Monday the Second Day of December, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty* (Richmond, Va: John Warrock, Printer to the Senate, 1850), 57-58, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/emu.010002408050>.

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Examine the Treasurer's Accounts, and occasionally offered amendments to bills.⁶⁹ Catlett took on a slightly larger role during the 1852 legislative session, proposing a bill "authorizing Thomas Ashe, of the county of Gloucester, to search for and recover the guns, and any property which have been sunk with an English Frigate at Yorktown," reporting a bill for amending the Code of Virginia, and offering amendments, while continuing to vote regularly.⁷⁰ This pattern continued much the same during the 1852-1853 legislative session, though Catlett seemed more inclined to make motions to bring forward bills regarding financial matters, such as bill No. 290, "A bill to amend and reduce into one act the laws concerning commissioners and collectors of the revenue," and No. 279, "An act concerning the compensation of jurors and their qualification and manner of selection in certain cases."⁷¹

Catlett increased his committee work and his presence in the Senate journals during the 1853-1854 legislative session, serving on the Committee of Privileges and Elections and on the Committee on Agriculture and Commerce.⁷² For the latter, Catlett consistently presented legislation, including a bill to incorporate the Crescent manufacturing company, a bill to incorporate the Southside Coal Mining and Iron Manufacturing Company in Chesterfield, a resolution to investigate the need to incorporate a company for the purpose of mining in several western Virginia counties, a resolution to investigate the need to incorporate a company to build a wharf on the York River, and a bill to incorporate the Cappahosic wharf company.⁷³ Whether this activity is indicative of a leadership role on the committee, a general interest in commercial development, or another cause remains unknown. Readily apparent though is that he presented several pieces of legislation out of this committee, but only presented a report on electoral certifications from the Privileges and Elections committee.⁷⁴

Catlett also continued to serve the needs of his constituents. He presented the memorial of Alfred Billups, of Mathews County and requested the legislature take action so that he and others could obtain Government indemnity for French spoliations.⁷⁵ The matter was referred to the General

⁶⁹ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Begun and Held at the Capitol, in the City of Richmond, on Monday the Second Day of December, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty* (Richmond, Va: John Warrock, Printer to the Senate, 1850), <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/emu.010002408050>.

⁷⁰ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Begun and Held at the Capitol, in the City of Richmond, on Monday the Twelfth Day of January, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two* (Richmond: John Warrock, 1852), 168, 212, 270, 284, 292 <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921492>.

⁷¹ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Begun and Held at the Capitol, in the City of Richmond, By Adjournment, On Monday the Twenty-Second Day of November in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two* (Richmond: John Warrock, 1852), 352, 384, 406, 408-411, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921500>.

⁷² *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Begun and Held at the Capitol in the City of Richmond, on Monday the Fifth Day of December, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three* (Richmond: John Warrock, 1853), 41, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921518>.

⁷³ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (1853), 153, 161, 192, 244, 280, 311, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921518>.

⁷⁴ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (1853), 328, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921518>.

⁷⁵ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (1853), 46, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921518>.

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Laws Committee, which resolved that it was “inexpedient to legislate on the subject matter of the memorial.”⁷⁶

During the 1855-1856 legislative session, Catlett served on the Committee of Privileges and Elections, as well as on the Committee on Finance and Claims.⁷⁷ The business of the former took up the beginning of the session, as votes for the governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, and state senators had to be certified and a U.S. senator appointed.⁷⁸ Much of Catlett’s attention for the session was occupied by bill No. 248, “To amend and re-enact the fifty-eighth chapter of the Code of Virginia, in reference to Banks of circulation” which required the Senate to resolve itself into a committee of the whole chaired by Catlett.⁷⁹ The Committee of the Whole sat in this way at least half a dozen times, each time reporting progress and requesting to meet again in future.⁸⁰ Bill No. 248 was to be decided on 21 February 1856, but no record remains in the Senate journals regarding its disposition.⁸¹ Though the content of those debates was not recorded, it seems likely the discussions focused on how to revise Virginia statutes to ensure commercial banks were not undercapitalized, overleveraged, or circulating notes they could not pay on demand. With the growth of independent commercial banks backed by gold discoveries in the west, paper currency became both more readily available and carried more risk. As gold shipments slowed, the banking industry slowly unbalanced, culminating in the Panic of 1857. Catlett’s leadership role may speak to the fact that he possessed both the knowledge and the skills necessary to chair the discussions meant to mitigate the approaching financial crisis. It may also only speak to the fact that he achieved seniority on the Committee on Finance and Claims. Unfortunately, Senate journals are not currently available for the remaining years of Catlett’s service as a Virginia state senator.

When home in Gloucester, Catlett continued to chair local meetings regarding the new state constitution, signing his name to censures of representatives who reneged on their campaign platforms, and chairing meetings to select delegates for the next Democratic nominating Convention.⁸² The 1850s seemed to be an active decade for both family business and his law practice with the two occasionally overlapping.

⁷⁶ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (1853), 87, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921518>.

⁷⁷ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Begun and Held at the Capitol in the City of Richmond, on Monday the Third Day of December, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Five* (Richmond, John Warrock, 1855) 37, 45, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921526>.

⁷⁸ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (1855), 49-50, 57, 85, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921526>.

⁷⁹ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (1855), 239, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921526>.

⁸⁰ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (1855), 233, 245, 254, 257, 261, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921526>.

⁸¹ *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (1855), 285, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433014921526>.

⁸² “A Public Meeting in Gloucester,” *Virginia Enquirer* vol. 48, no. 8, 27 May 1851, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18510527.1.1&srpos=20&e=----->; “Public Meeting in Gloucester,” *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 48, no. 14, 17 June 1851, *Virginia Chronicle*,

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Agnes Jane Thruston Catlett, Catlett's first wife, died 15 April 1838, leaving behind four surviving children, including William Thruston Catlett who was only a week old.⁸³ Catlett likely relied on enslaved individuals in domestic roles, guided by input from his mother and several sisters, until his marriage to Frances King Burwell in 1844. The demands of managing a household with four children and no wife may have been a determining factor for Catlett's continued willingness to forgo public office when other viable candidates ran. By 1850, however, the two eldest of Catlett's daughters by his first marriage had married and his surviving son, John Robert Catlett, was approximately 15 years old. With Frances, Catlett fathered an additional six children, all of whom survived into early adulthood.⁸⁴ With a wife to manage the household, Catlett seemed more than willing to grow both his family and his political career.

Throughout the 1850s, Catlett was involved in several chancery cases that reveal some of the inner workings of his legal career and family obligations, though the preceding circumstances are not clear. In 1853, Catlett represented Jabez K. Parker in a suit brought by Thomas Stubblefield regarding a judgment for \$150 plus interest.⁸⁵ The most notable case that appeared in the press was a chancery suit brought by Silas G. Levering and Ebenezer Nutz against John T. Catlett's estate in 1854. Levering and Nutz lived outside Virginia and so could not or did not collect their conveyance of some of John T. Catlett's property. Ann B. Catlett was ordered to join in the conveyance "so as to pass the plaintiffs her estate in dower, in the premises, which said conveyance is approved by Commissioner Warner T. Jones." Once the conveyance was prepared, approved, and certified, it was to be deposited with the clerk of the court, "to be delivered to the plaintiffs should they pay the several sums of money required by the said decree to be paid by them."⁸⁶

In the lead up to the 1859 election, Catlett's name was put forward as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor, to run on the same ticket with Judge Brockenbrough. Catlett had been "frequently called to preside over the Senate temporarily, and there [was] no member of that distinguished body who presided with more dignity, impartiality and fairness than he."⁸⁷ "Firm in his purposes, conservative in his views, and uncompromising in his devotion to the interest of Virginia," Catlett was not only eminently qualified, but also gained the approbation of the western parts of

<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18510617.1.1&srpos=21&e=----->; "Democratic Meeting in Gloucester," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 55, no. 53, 16 November 1858, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18581116.1.2&srpos=31&e=----->

⁸³ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 42, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

⁸⁴ Stubbs, *A History of Two Virginia Families*, 44, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x006136300>.

⁸⁵ "Virginia – In Chancery," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 50, no. 67, 23 December 1853, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18531223.1.3&srpos=23&e=----->.

⁸⁶ "In Chancery – Virginia," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 51, no. 19, 11 July 1854, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18540711.1.3&srpos=25&e=----->.

⁸⁷ "For Lieutenant Governor," *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 55, no. 34, 10 September 1858, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18580910.1.2&srpos=30&e=----->.

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the state, as declared in a letter signed “Trans-Allegany” from Wheeling.⁸⁸ Ultimately, however, John Letcher would win the governorship with Robert Latane Montague as his lieutenant.

A decade in the Virginia Senate seems to have been enough for Catlett, as he slowed his political activities after 1860 and seems to have instead refocused on more local causes. In 1860, he was appointed by Governor Letcher as a Director of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum in Williamsburg, where he served for eighteen months.⁸⁹ During the Civil War, he served as an agent for the county, purchasing, receiving, and distributing the salt allotted to Gloucester County by act of the General Assembly and borrowing money via county bonds.⁹⁰ Despite Catlett’s established reputation, the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors made no attempt to pay him for his services, as was allowed under the act, leading him to file claims against the county for services rendered in 1871 and 1881.⁹¹ His estate filed an additional claim in 1887, though it decided that the claim could not be paid due to the statute of limitations being exceeded.⁹²

Following the Civil War, Catlett continued to slow his public work, and only two items appeared in the press. He liquidated bankrupt properties in 1873 and chaired local political meetings in 1877.⁹³ The following year, Catlett wrote his will, bequeathing Timberneck to his son Charles, though it would not be until 1883 that he died, having spent much of his life and career in service to the residents of Gloucester and the Middle Peninsula.

Criterion C: Architecture

Timberneck is a largely intact version of a frame two-story, double pile, side passage Federal style house. It was constructed c. 1793 over a raised brick cellar with Flemish bond construction. The original house is three bays wide with a stair hall on the western portion of each floor, and two larger rooms heated by enclosed end chimneys on the east side of the original house. In the 1850s, a two-story single-pile wing was added to the east side, with a separate hallway and stair, one large bedroom on each floor, and an exterior chimney. The 1850s wing is built on a raised brick foundation laid in 1:4 common bond, and a small one-story closet over a brick foundation

⁸⁸ “For Lieutenant Governor,” *Richmond Enquirer* vol. 55, no. 34, 10 September 1858, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=RE18580910.1.2&srpos=30&e=----->.

⁸⁹ “Virginia News,” *Alexandria Gazette* vol. 61, no. 263, 3 November 1860, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=AG18601103.1.2&srpos=32&e=----->; Patricia A. Gibbs, “Petyon Randolph House Historical Report, Block 28, Building 6, Lot 207 & 237,” *Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Research Report Series*, Report #1534 (Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1990), 62-63, <https://research.colonialwilliamsburg.org/DigitalLibrary/view/index.cfm?doc=ResearchReports%5CRR1534.xml>

⁹⁰ George W. Hansbrough, *Reports of Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia* vol. 86, (Richmond: J. H. O’ Bannon, 1890), 160, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.35112103131035>

⁹¹ Hansbrough, *Reports of Cases*, 160, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.35112103131035>.

⁹² Hansbrough, *Reports of Cases*, 164, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.35112103131035>.

⁹³ *Daily State Journal* vol. 5, no. 165, 21 May 1873, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=DSJ18730521.1.2&srpos=34&e=----->; *Daily State Journal* vol. 5, no. 273, 26 September 1873, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=DSJ18730926.1.4&srpos=37&e=----->; “Gloucester Gives Her Son a Good Send-Off,” *Daily Dispatch*, vol. 52, no. 3, 4 July 1877, *Virginia Chronicle*, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=DD18770704.1.2&srpos=41&e=----->;

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was added to the northeast corner. In the early 20th century a chimney was added to the northwest corner, providing heat to the small rooms in that part of the house. A kitchen was added to the northeast corner of the house by 1943, replacing a detached kitchen to the north that was accessed via a breezeway or hyphen. A long porch previously extended across most of the south elevation. After sustaining some damage in 1943, it was replaced by a pair of small Colonial Revival porches. The majority of the windows are either original or date to the 19th century, while a number of the second-story windows were repaired or replaced following the 1943 damage. The tops of the three early chimneys were rebuilt above the roofline with machine-made brick and are covered with metal caps. The modern top on the east chimney fell off in 2019, but the remaining 19th-chimney is intact. In addition, two pairs of early exterior shutters survived completely intact when the east wing was added. Most of the exterior siding appears to date to the 20th century, with a few sections of earlier beaded siding present on the south elevation. The sawn cypress shingle roof was added in 2021, replacing asphalt shingles, while the kitchen still retains its original standing seam metal roof. The modillioned cornice is an original Federal feature, which was extended to the wing when it was added in the 1850s. The interior contains many intact original details, including flooring, Federal period chair rails and baseboards, plaster walls on split lath, the dramatic Federal style staircase in the west entry hall, and the staircase in the added east entry hall. An early Federal style mantle and wainscoting survive in the dining room, while other mantles were added along with the mid-19th century addition and in the early 20th century. Most of the doors appear to date to the early and mid-19th century, while the door hardware is a mix of 19th- and early 20th-century material. The attic was never a fully finished room, but is a large intact space with wood flooring, a partially plastered and framed in staircase, and early windows in each gable. Two bathrooms were added to the house in the 1960s, one on each floor.

Timberneck is one of several surveyed Federal style buildings in Gloucester County, and there are more than thirty known and surveyed resources from the Early Republic period (1790-1829) or shortly thereafter. Four properties of this period are listed on the National Register: Lands End (NRHP 1974; DHR ID# 036-0028), Kenwood (NRHP 2015; DHR ID# 036-0121), the Walter Reed Birthplace (NRHP 1973, 2015; DHR ID# 036-0080), and White Hall (NRHP 1984; DHR ID# 036-0051). Collectively, these four dwellings and Timberneck capture the range of architectural expression present in Gloucester County during this period. The Walter Reed Birthplace (c. 1821) represents the mode of architectural expression most commonly available in the Early Republic, namely a two-room frame building that housed all aspects of familial life. Lands End (DHR ID# 036-0028), built c. 1796, relied on brick construction to create a one-and-a-half story, single pile, central passage dwelling with a gambrel roof. This offers a counterpoint to Timberneck's frame construction and side passage plan and highlights the variety of architectural decisions each property owner made according to their tastes and resources. White Hall (DHR ID# 036-0051) is an important example of the pedimented, temple-form dwelling type popular for more sophisticated early 19th-century Virginia houses. It was built c. 1836 of brick and is two-and-a-half stories tall over a raised cellar, with broad proportions and a prominent arched window in the gable. Lastly, Kenwood (DHR ID# 036-0121) mirrors Timberneck's architectural evolution, though with a different end point. While Timberneck

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retained much of the Federal style adherence to balance in its mid-19th century addition, Kenwood was reshaped with the addition of a rear ell. At this time, distinctive embellishments, including deep decorative Italianate cornices with heavy brackets and cornice returns on the gables, were added to suit the social and entertainment needs of an upper-class member of society. In contrast, Timberneck, which was larger with more commodious rooms for entertaining, retained its Federal simplicity and subtlety of design as it was renovated to serve the changing needs of the Catlett family.

Several resources from this period represent large dwellings with symmetrical plans that are less comparable to Timberneck in style and elaboration. Goshen (DHR ID# 036-0022), a heavily evolved c. 1790 dwelling, was determined eligible for the NRHP for its Colonial Revival elements, as well as for the socio-cultural changes captured in the various outbuildings that survive. White Marsh (DHR ID# 036-0052) was built circa 1790 in the Classical Revival style and represents an architectural form designed to impress the visitor rather than function primarily as a family home. The two-and-a-half story brick dwelling includes a two-story portico with Ionic columns and a sweeping spiral stair in the hall, both of which speak to grand architectural pretensions. Airville (NRHP 1990; DHR ID# 036-003) has an 18th-century component, but it is dominated by a well-crafted late Federal style center hall section that dates to the 1830s. With marble mantels and a circular mahogany staircase, this two-story frame dwelling over a raised cellar was built to a high style. Eagle Point (DHR ID# 036-0090) is a large multi-part plantation house, with multiple wings extending in a linear fashion from either side of the central house. Much of the house likely dates to the early to mid-19th century, and it is an elaborate example of a symmetrically designed Federal style plantation house. Built circa 1800, Newstead (DHR ID# 036-0037) is a two-story, double pile frame dwelling, with a grand presence on the landscape, sitting high above the ground surface courtesy of a raised brick foundation, similar to Timberneck. The center passage plan creates a symmetry that characterized many fine houses of this period, and that symmetry is highlighted by the two-story porch. The additions to Newstead appear to be relatively sympathetic and are set back to either side of the central core of the building. The dates of these additions and information about the interior of Newstead are currently unavailable. Hockley (NRHP 2010; DHR ID# 036-0024) is a two-story, double pile, frame dwelling with a hipped roof and extensive additions. The core of the extant building was constructed in the 1840s with significant additions made in the 1850s and 1910s. The later additions obscured the original Federal style exterior, though much of the interior retains original or period elements, including plaster walls, chair rails and ceiling moldings, doors, hardware, and mantelpieces. Timberneck pre-dates Hockley's construction and retains both interior and exterior stylistic details more representative of the Federal period. Belroi (DHR ID# 036-0039) shares the temple form style like White Hall, though it is a frame building of slightly more modest proportions from the 1850s. It is two stories tall over a raised ground floor, with a porch across the façade and a pair of chimneys at the rear. Modifications have included the addition of a rear ell, removal of one chimney and part of the other, as well as some interior renovations. It is probably one of the latest examples of this type in the county. Church Hill (DHR ID# 036-0012), located north of Gloucester Court House, is a two-story frame dwelling, the oldest part of which was constructed circa 1800. After a 1908 fire, the house was expanded into the form it retains

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today. While the interior retains a visual coherence in its spaces and finishes, the exterior does not. The addition of a two-story portico with Doric columns is more reflective of the Classical Revival style. The eastern structural additions did not maintain the fenestration patterns of the older, western block and so did not retain the balanced façade which is one hallmark of the Federal style. Though the oldest part of Church Hill may be contemporary to Timberneck, the fires suffered at the property and subsequent rebuilding episodes have obscured the original Federal-style elements.

Other buildings in the county represent more modest examples of Federal architecture with later changes. The oldest part of Burleigh Farm (DHR ID# 036-0086) was constructed circa 1790, but is largely obscured by a circa 1870 addition, rendering it a poor point of comparison for Early Republic dwellings. Bacon's Hill (DHR ID#036-0104), a pre-1820 two-story, two-room frame dwelling with a gambrel roof, has additions that substantially impacted the integrity of the building and reversed its orientation. Fiddler's Green (DHR ID# 036-0115) was built circa 1810. This two-story, single pile frame dwelling with a central passage captures a sense of modest home life without architectural pretension. The main block of the house was expanded in a sympathetic manner that retained the balance of the façade. A rear ell was also added to Fiddler's Green, and as of the last recorded survey data, the interior had been heavily reworked. Ware House (DHR ID# 036-0071), built in the 1790s, was a frame two-story central passage house, which evolved with additions to the west side and to the second story. It is no longer standing.

Additional examples of dwellings from this period include Summerville (DHR ID# 036-0044), Pleasant Grove (DHR ID# 036-0026), and Baiae (DHR ID# 036-0111), all of which have been determined not eligible for the NRHP. Waverly (DHR ID# 036-0050) is a brick Federal style house that was destroyed in the early 20th century. The following resources lack sufficient digitally available materials to be effectively analyzed at present: Benny Leigh House (DHR ID# 036-0122), Landon Booker House (DHR ID# 036-0097; no longer extant), Church Hill Farm (DHR ID# 036-0087), Clifford (DHR ID# 036-0088), Lansdowne (DHR ID# 036-0099), Camden (DHR ID# 036-112), Circle M Ranch (DHR ID# 036-0114), Hudnall House (DHR ID# 036-0118), Oakwells (DHR ID# 036-0124), Rose Hill (DHR ID# 036-0126), Pierce House (DHR ID# 036-0155), and Pierce House (DHR ID# 036-0156).

Timberneck is one of several dwellings in the county that represent Federal style double pile frame dwellings with side passages, including Purton (DHR ID# 036-0177), Retreat (DHR ID# 036-0137), and Hickory Fork (DHR ID# 036-0023). Purton (DHR ID# 036-0177), dating to the early 19th century, is probably the most elaborate house of this style in the county, and commands a similar landscape upriver from Timberneck. It was built of brick, two-and-a-half stories tall, with a dramatic set of Palladian windows on its west elevation. Though it retains many of its early architectural details, large additions to either side have substantially altered the Federal style of the building. Retreat (DHR ID# 036-0137) began existence as a two-story, double pile frame dwelling with a side passage; however, Retreat expanded in three directions (single story wings to either side of the main block and a two-story ell to the rear). As of the last survey in 1971, the interior of Retreat had been heavily modified and little original material

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remained. Hickory Fork (DHR ID# 036-0123) is a large two-and-a-half story dwelling over a raised cellar with tall end chimneys. It was built in the 1830s and its exterior survives relatively intact. Interior details are unknown at this time. Tippecanoe, The Hermitage, Waverly (DHR ID# 036-0050), Sunnyside and Millwood (DHR ID# 036-0092), are other examples of frame side passage Federal style houses in Gloucester County, most built from the 1830s to 1850s, that are no longer standing. Timberneck is an early and impressive building of this type that survives largely intact. It is representative of a building style that was popular in the county during the 19th century, but few examples remain extant today.

As illustrated by the above comparative analysis, Timberneck retains not only significant material and design integrity as compared to other architectural resources of its period and style, but it is also one of the earliest examples of its type. The Catletts could afford to invest in a large and comfortable dwelling but were more sparing in their use of high style design elements. The siting of the house on an elevated prominence above Timberneck Creek and the York River gave it a grand presence on the landscape, but without the elaborate arrangement of outbuildings seen on large 18th-century plantations. As the needs of the family changed, generations of the Catletts still found ways to accommodate those needs while simultaneously preserving many of the historic elements of the house. Thus, Timberneck stands as a rare and early iteration of early- and mid-19th-century upper middle class professional housing that reflects the popular Federal architectural style of the times, with modest changes that accommodated the changing needs of a family.

Criterion D: Archaeology: Historic – Non-Aboriginal

Timberneck is significant under Criterion D for its demonstrated potential to yield important information about several occupations within the period of significance (and, contingent on further investigation, the potential for contributing to our understanding of the Woodland period occupation by Virginia's indigenous peoples). The greater archaeological survey within the nominated acreage amounted to over 1000 shovel test pits, 18 test units (including 5' squares and 2.5' squares, focused exclusively within the three acres surrounding the Timberneck house), 18 test trenches during the cemetery delineation, and two large open areas where plowed soils were mechanically removed. Evidence from archaeological surveys has revealed Woodland period pottery and lithics at Site 44GL0387 that suggest limited occupation of the peninsula formed by the confluence of Timberneck and Poplar Creeks.⁹⁴ This site may have served as a satellite occupation for the nearby middle-to-late Woodland period village (Site 44GL0037) located adjacent to Cedarbush Creek about one mile to the west at the edge of Machicomoco State Park. While no intact cultural layers or features have yet been identified through testing or open-area

⁹⁴Dennis B. Blanton, Charles M. Downing, Donald W. Linebaugh. "A Cultural Resource Overview and Preservation Plan for the Timberneck Farm Property and Catlett Islands, Gloucester County, Virginia." The William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1993. Victoria Gum, David Brown and Thane Harpole. "Phase I Archaeological Survey at Timberneck Farm (44GL0037, 44GL0365, 44GL0367, 44GL0387, 44GL0456, 44GL0492, 44GL0493), Gloucester County, Virginia." DATA Investigations, Gloucester Point, Virginia, 2019. Aaron M. Levinthal, Dawn M. Frost and Carol D. Tyrer. "Phase I Archaeological Survey of Timberneck at Catlett Island, Gloucester County, VA." Circa~CRM, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2008.

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excavation, further research into this site could yield information about the greater landscape surrounding Woodland period villages and resource procurement strategies.

The settlement of the property by the Mann family after they acquired the land in 1680 was likely revealed through archaeological excavations meant to delineate the Mann/Page family cemetery, and more recent archaeology done as part of the development of Machicomoco State Park.⁹⁵ The test trenches and a large open-area excavation around 2008 uncovered over 160 features in addition to the Mann and Page Family cemetery.⁹⁶ At least one Page and two Mann family members were interred in the cemetery and archaeological evidence suggests as many as 62 other individuals (approximately 39 adults and 23 children based on recorded grave shaft size) may be interred there as well.⁹⁷ No markers remained to delineate the area. At least 100 cultural features were identified alongside the likely human internments (none were investigated to confirm human remains) and likely represent 17th- and 19th-century fence lines, refuse disposal pits, and a potential post-in-ground building. These features were mapped and preserved in place, rather than excavated, so detailed information about their age is not known, but artifacts recovered nearby during recent survey work suggest a site that dates from the late 17th through 18th century, and the three Mann/Page tombstones, which were moved from this location in 1980, date between 1693 and 1704, clearly indicating an occupation during this time.

Research at this site could yield important information about the process of plantation settlement, 17th-century post-in-ground architecture, as well as the transition from a primary plantation occupation at the end of the 17th/beginning of the 18th century to one that focused on enslaved African laborers working under the supervision of overseers from the early 18th century through the purchase of the property by the Catlett family at the end of the 18th century. The broader survey of Site 44GL0387 as well as more recent excavations identified a large area containing artifacts from the 18th century, predating the Catlett family ownership of the property, and revealing the footprint of an 18th-century agricultural complex.

The second large area excavation took place prior to the construction of the parking lot, picnic shelters, restrooms, and other amenities, and revealed over 750 cultural features, with the vast majority being purposely buried beneath the c. 2020 parking lot and preserved.⁹⁸ A small sample (68 features) were excavated and the data obtained from these excavations greatly informed

⁹⁵Thane Harpole and Dr. David A. Brown. "Management Summary and Recommendations: Archaeological Mitigation and Monitoring of the Interpretive Peninsula Area (Site 44GL0387), Machicomoco State Park, Gloucester County, Virginia." DATA Investigations, Gloucester Point, Virginia, 2020. Aaron M. Levinthal, Dawn M. Frost and Carol D. Tyrer. "Cemetery Delineation at the Catlett Family and Mann-Page Cemetery at Catlett Island, Gloucester County, VA." Circa~CRM, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2009.

⁹⁶ Aaron M. Levinthal, Dawn M. Frost and Carol D. Tyrer. "Cemetery Delineation at the Catlett Family and Mann-Page Cemetery at Catlett Island, Gloucester County, VA." Circa~CRM, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2009.

⁹⁷ Circa~ Cultural Resource Management, LLC, "Cemetery Delineation at Catlett Island, Gloucester County, Virginia," VDHR#2008-0527, April 2009.

⁹⁸Thane Harpole, and Dr. David A. Brown. "Management Summary and Recommendations: Archaeological Mitigation and Monitoring of the Interpretive Peninsula Area (Site 44GL0387), Machicomoco State Park, Gloucester County, Virginia." DATA Investigations, Gloucester Point, Virginia, 2020.

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understanding about the locations of an 18th-century post-in-ground building and the late 19th-/20th-century agricultural complex that was largely taken down c. 2008.⁹⁹ The distribution of features appears to indicate how agricultural buildings, animal pens, and fence lines were arranged across the landscape, and how they changed through multiple generations of the Catlett family, largely replacing the late 17th- to early 18th-century domestic complex built by the Mann and Page families. Further research into these intact features could provide more details about the composition of a late 17th century gentry household, the types of agricultural buildings and practices used on the farm throughout its history, how those shifted after the Civil War and the emancipation of the enslaved labor force, and how the Catlett family responded to changing market conditions and agricultural improvements.

The test units in proximity to the Timberneck house confirmed the presence of more cultural features beneath layers of plowzone, renovation layers, and/or landscaping fill. These features include midden deposits, cellar builder's trench, and potential porch piers, all of which speak to the ongoing evolution of the house and its surrounding landscape.¹⁰⁰ More importantly, though, these cultural contexts and their associated artifacts provide insight into the everyday lives of the enslaved Africans and African Americans who lived and worked within the bounds of Site 44GL0387 as well as the many members of the Catlett family both before and after the Civil War. The artifacts and features can reveal more about the construction and evolution of the manor house and the surrounding buildings that have since disappeared, such as the earlier detached kitchen. The artifacts can further attest to the types and locations of various activities occurring on the property, from food preparation and consumption, to animal butchery, gardening, and recreation.

The archaeological surveys in 1993 and 2018/9 identified and better delineated the boundaries of Site 44GL0387 as it relates to the ownership by five generations of the Catlett family as well as the residence of numerous enslaved African Americans. This site surrounds the standing Timberneck house and encompasses both the early Mann/Page cemetery and domestic site, the Catlett family cemetery, and a substantial former agricultural complex to the west, indicating the extensive nature of the Catletts' agricultural enterprise. Artifacts from this site suggest a more formal planned domestic space near the house that befit the status and stature of the Catlett house on the landscape, but they also help reveal the transition away from a slave-based labor system post-Civil War, towards a more modern system of agriculture that embraced new farming techniques and technology, as well as distribution to wider internal markets based largely on steamboat networks.

⁹⁹ Aaron Levinthal, Dawn M. Frost, Carol D. Tyrer. "Phase II Architectural Survey of Timberneck and Catlett Island, Gloucester County, Virginia." Circa-CRM, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2008.

¹⁰⁰ Katie Brauckmann, Thane H. Harpole, and Dr. David A. Brown. "An Archaeological Evaluation of Areas Surrounding the Timberneck House (44GL0387, 036-0074), Gloucester County, Virginia." DATA Investigations, Gloucester Point, Virginia, 2021.

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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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #036-0074 & 44GL0387

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 31.88

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.299957 Longitude: -76.537459

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2. Latitude: 37.299536 Longitude: -76.536868
3. Latitude: 37.299425 Longitude: -76.535994
4. Latitude: 37.299667 Longitude: -76.535415
5. Latitude: 37.299257 Longitude: -76.534487
6. Latitude: 37.298666 Longitude: -76.534600
7. Latitude: 37.297580 Longitude: -76.533743
8. Latitude: 37.296248 Longitude: -76.534771
9. Latitude: 37.294856 Longitude: -76.534607
10. Latitude: 37.294499 Longitude: -76.534984
11. Latitude: 37.294571 Longitude: -76.535337
12. Latitude: 37.295534 Longitude: -76.535977
13. Latitude: 37.296418 Longitude: -76.536698
14. Latitude: 37.296424 Longitude: -76.537297
15. Latitude: 37.296601 Longitude: -76.537110
16. Latitude: 37.296954 Longitude: -76.537410
17. Latitude: 37.297015 Longitude: -76.538292
18. Latitude: 37.297588 Longitude: -76.538184
19. Latitude: 37.298701 Longitude: -76.537338
20. Latitude: 37.299183 Longitude: -76.537909

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached scaled Location Map, Sketch Map, and Photo Key. The boundary is coterminous with the extent of Site 44GL0387 as currently delineated (see Sketch Map).

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary increase area coupled with the existing historic boundary encompass the entirety of the resources discussed in this nomination, as well as some of the immediate landscape that reflects the original setting of the property. As the resource is now located within the newly established Machicomoco Virginia State Park, the noncontributing resources include visitor amenities and interpretive features that complement and overlie some of the still-extant archaeological resources. The property's historic setting and all known associated historic resources have been included within the historic boundary. Future archaeological investigations may lead to identification of additional sites associated with Timberneck as well as other human occupations of the area.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. Libby Cook, Thane Harpole, and Dr. David A. Brown

organization: DATA Investigations LLC

street & number: 1759 Tyndall Point Lane

city or town: Gloucester Point state: Virginia zip code: 23062

e-mail: fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org

telephone: 804-815-4467

date: December 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

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Name of Property: Timberneck

City or Vicinity: Hayes

County: Gloucester

State: Virginia

Photographer: Thane H. Harpole

Date Photographed: 7/30/21

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 8. House, south and east elevations, camera facing northwest.
- 2 of 8. House, north elevation, camera facing southeast.
- 3 of 8. House, interior, parlor, camera facing east.
- 4 of 8. House, interior, dining room, camera facing east.
- 5 of 8. House, interior, attic, camera facing east.
- 6 of 8. Cemetery, camera facing northeast.
- 7 of 8. Picnic Structure 1, Restroom, and Shell Sculpture, south and east elevations, camera facing west.
- 8 of 8. House, north elevation, Test Units 3 and 15 North Profile, camera facing south.

Historic Image Log

Historic Image 1 of 3: Timberneck c. 1900, south elevation, camera looking north (Dabney 1973).

Historic Image 2 of 3: Timberneck c. 1940, south and east elevations, camera looking northwest (Farrar 1955).

Historic Image 3 of 3: Timberneck c. 1940, east and north elevations, camera looking southwest (Farrar 1955).

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Timberneck 2022 Update and Boundary
Increase
Name of Property

Gloucester County,
Virginia
County and State

Additional Items – Historic Images



Historic Image 1 of 3: Timberneck c. 1900, south elevation, camera looking north (Dabney 1973).

Timberneck 2022 Update and Boundary
Increase
Name of Property

Gloucester County,
Virginia
County and State



Historic Image 2 of 3: Timberneck c. 1940, south and east elevations, camera looking northwest (Farrar 1955).

Timberneck 2022 Update and Boundary

Increase

Name of Property

Gloucester County,
Virginia
County and State



Historic Image 3 of 3: Timberneck c. 1940, east and north elevations, camera looking southwest (Farrar 1955).

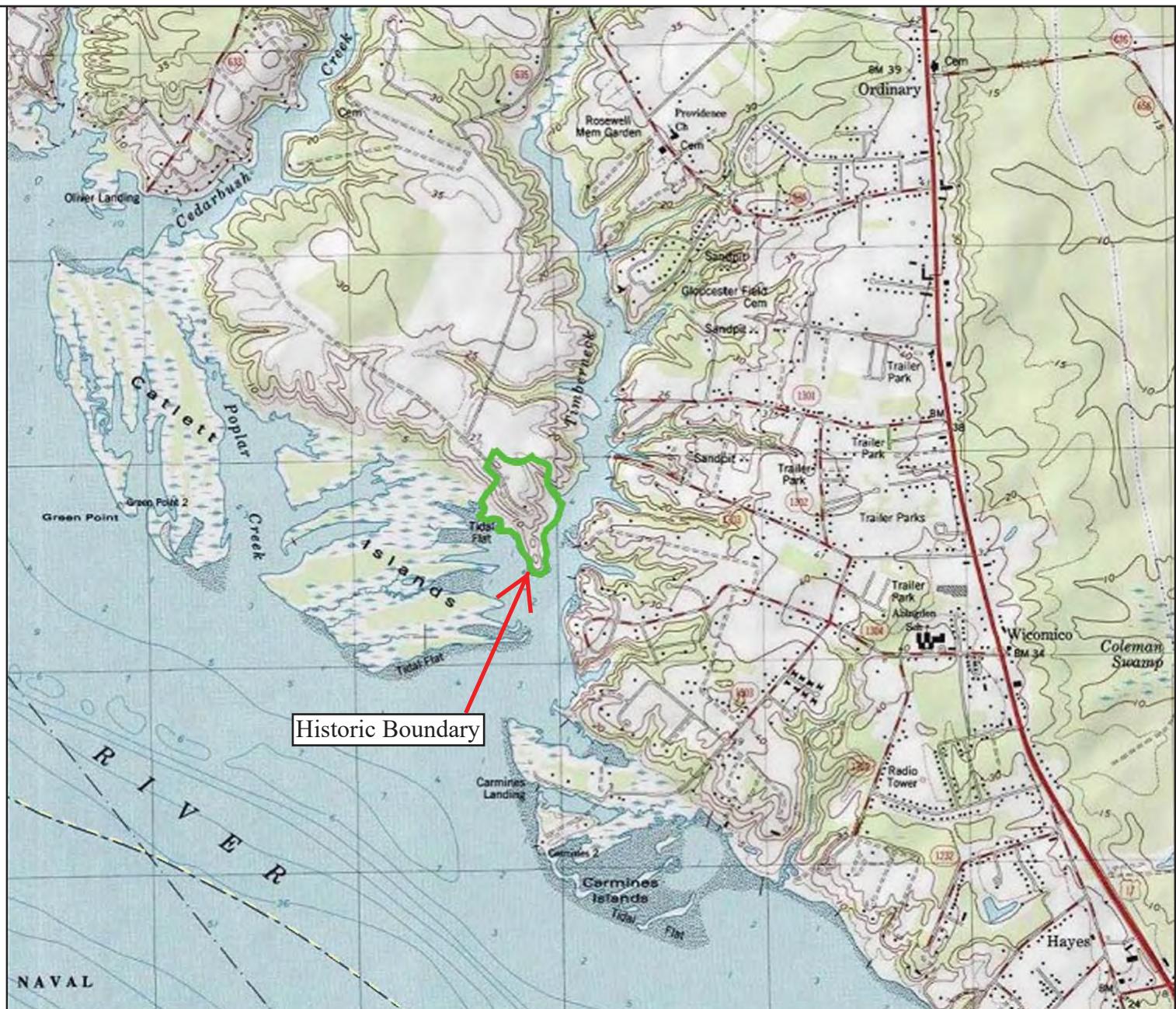
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Timberneck 2022 Boundary Increase
 Gloucester County, VA
 DHR No. 036-0074



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400
 1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



Title:

Date: 3/25/2022

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

Timberneck 2022 Boundary Increase

Gloucester County, VA

DHR No. 036-0074



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



Title:

Date: 3/25/2022

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ROAD MAP - VICINITY

Timberneck 2022 Boundary Increase

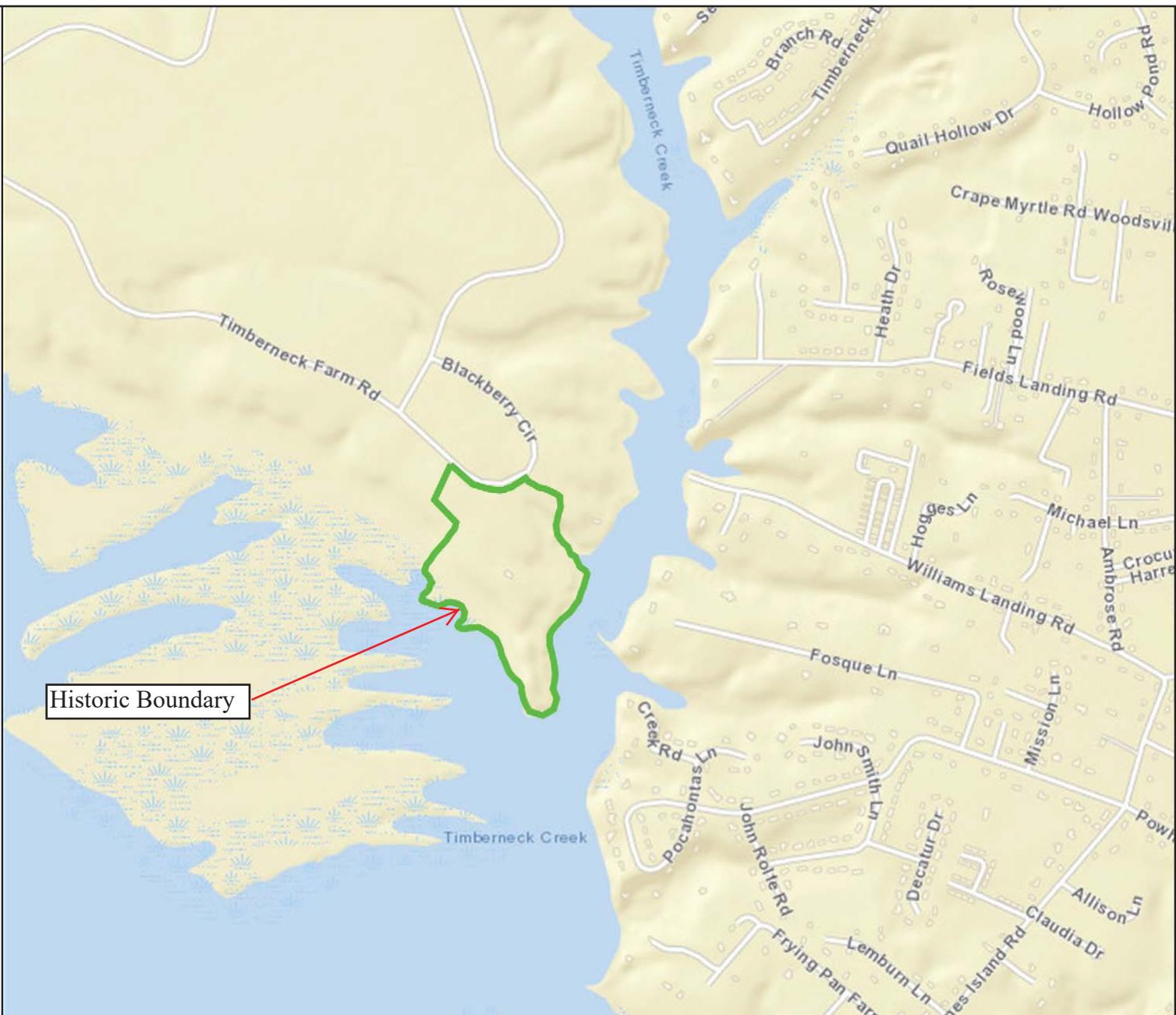
Gloucester County, VA

DHR No. 036-0074



Feet

0 500 1000 1500 2000
1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet



Title:

Date: 3/25/2022

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LOCATION MAP
Timberneck 2022
Boundary Increase
Gloucester County, VA
DHR# 036-0074
ESRI World Topographic Map
NAD83 Datum
Map produced in ArcGIS
DATA Investigations, LLC
May 2021



4

5

6

7

19

18

16

17

13

15

14

12

9

11

10

1

2

3

20

19

29 ft

036-0074 Boundary Update
 036-0074 Existing Boundary

Location of Timberneck dwelling

Coordinates (Lat/Long):

- 1: 37.299957 / -76.537459
- 2: 37.299536 / -76.536868
- 3: 37.299425 / -76.535994
- 4: 37.299667 / -76.535415
- 5: 37.299257 / -76.534487
- 6: 37.298666 / -76.534600
- 7: 37.297580 / -76.533743
- 8: 37.296248 / -76.534771
- 9: 37.294856 / -76.534607
- 10: 37.294499 / -76.534984
- 11: 37.294571 / -76.535337
- 12: 37.295534 / -76.535977
- 13: 37.296418 / -76.536698
- 14: 37.296424 / -76.537297
- 15: 37.296601 / -76.537110
- 16: 37.296954 / -76.537410
- 17: 37.297015 / -76.538292
- 18: 37.297588 / -76.538184
- 19: 37.298701 / -76.537338
- 20: 37.299183 / -76.537909

TIMBERNECK CREEK

AERIAL VIEW

Timberneck 2022 Boundary Increase

Gloucester County, VA

DHR No. 036-0074



Feet

0 100 200 300 400
1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet



Title:

Date: 3/25/2022

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**AERIAL VIEW - DOMESTIC
CORE**

Timberneck 2022 Boundary Increase

Gloucester County, VA

DHR No. 036-0074



Feet

0 20 40 60 80
1:1,128 / 1"=94 Feet

Title:

Date: 3/25/2022

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SKETCH MAP

3 = 44GL0387 (site boundary coterminous with historic boundary)

Blackberry Circle
(Route 1324)

Timberneck 2022 Boundary Increase
Gloucester County, VA
DHR No. 036-0074
(Archaeological Site 44GL0387)
May 2021 [DATA Investigations]

NRHP Resources (C/NC)

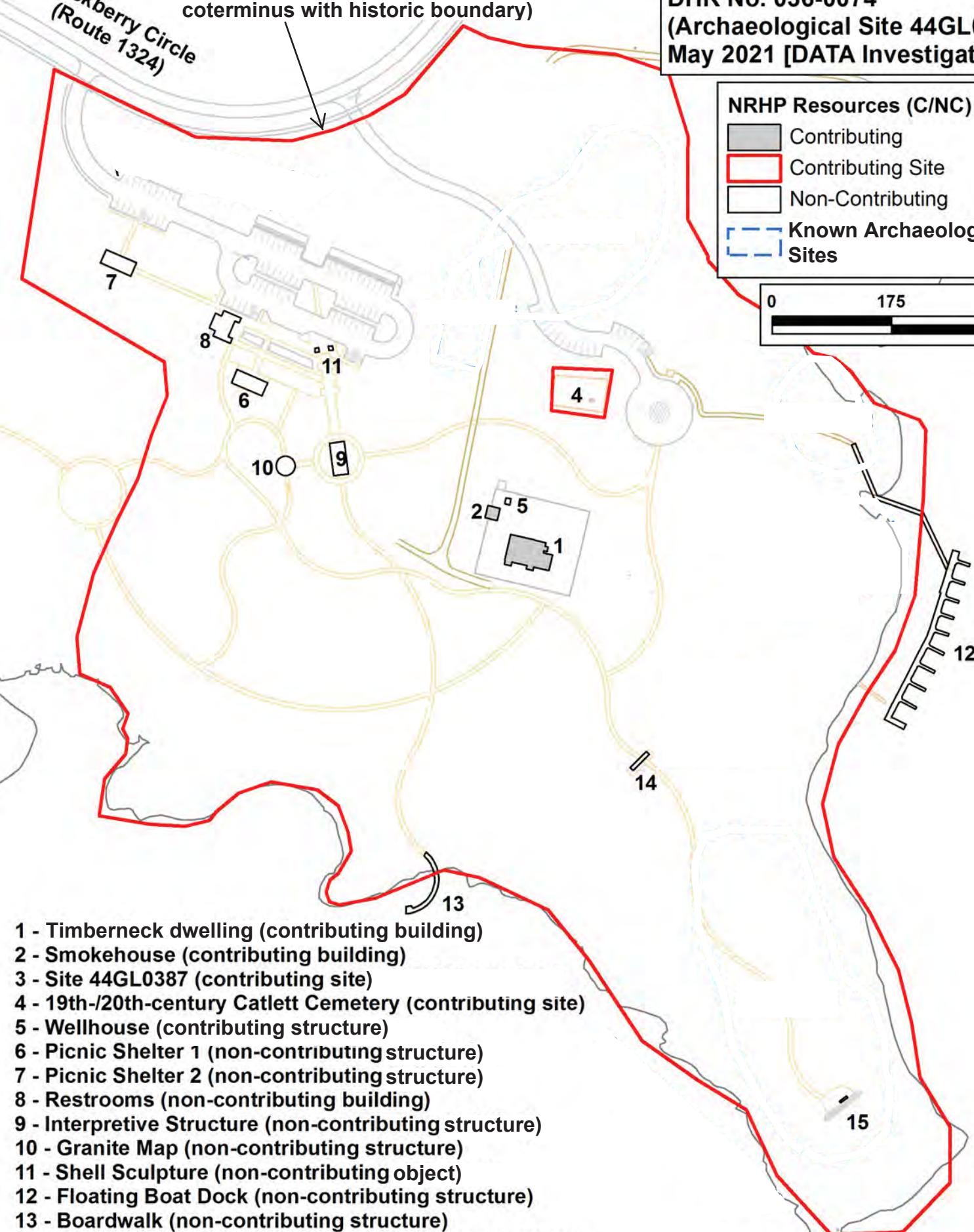
Contributing

Contributing Site

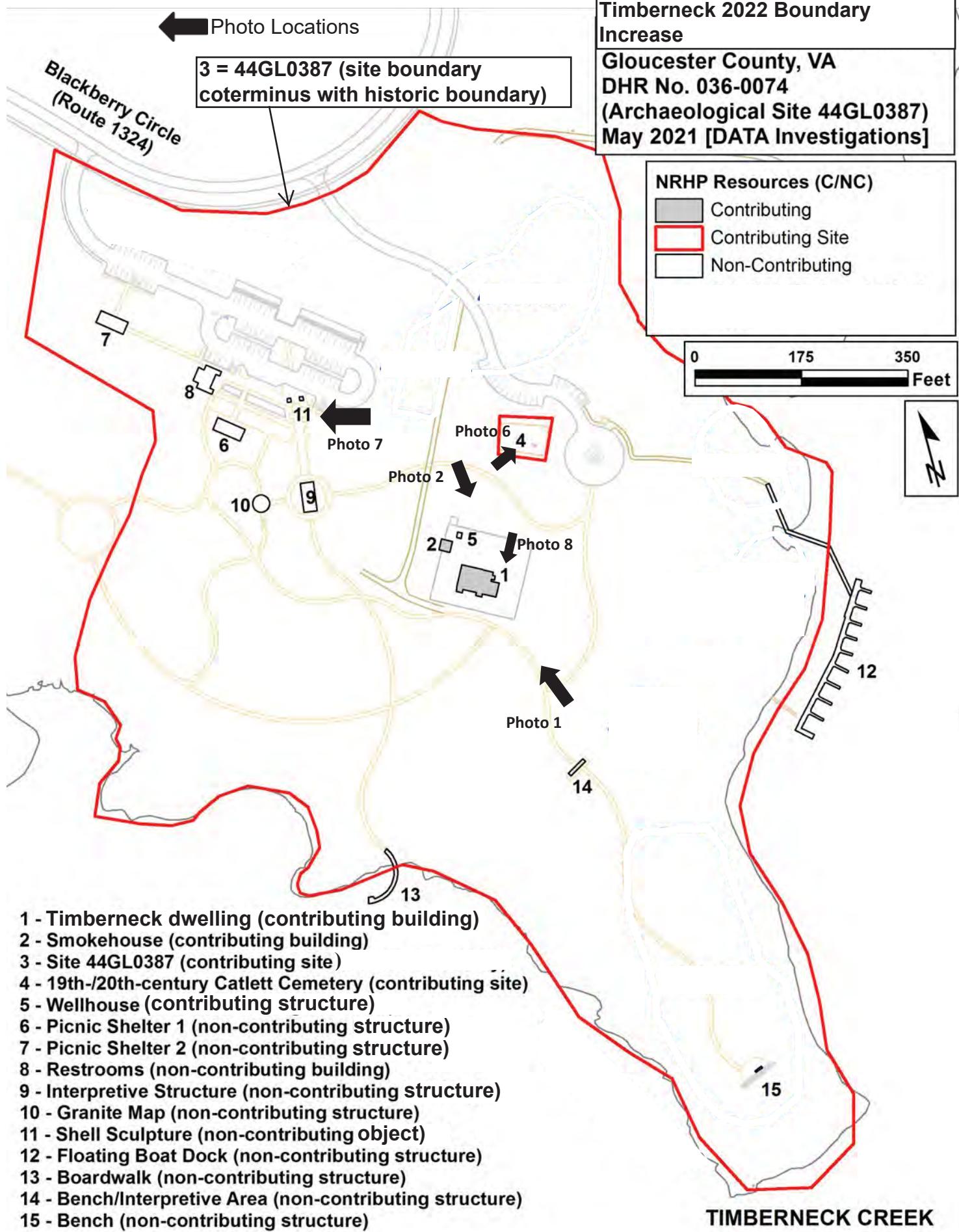
Non-Contributing

Known Archaeological
Sites

0 175 350 Feet



- 1 - Timberneck dwelling (contributing building)
- 2 - Smokehouse (contributing building)
- 3 - Site 44GL0387 (contributing site)
- 4 - 19th-/20th-century Catlett Cemetery (contributing site)
- 5 - Wellhouse (contributing structure)
- 6 - Picnic Shelter 1 (non-contributing structure)
- 7 - Picnic Shelter 2 (non-contributing structure)
- 8 - Restrooms (non-contributing building)
- 9 - Interpretive Structure (non-contributing structure)
- 10 - Granite Map (non-contributing structure)
- 11 - Shell Sculpture (non-contributing object)
- 12 - Floating Boat Dock (non-contributing structure)
- 13 - Boardwalk (non-contributing structure)
- 14 - Bench/Interpretive Area (non-contributing structure)
- 15 - Bench (non-contributing structure)





TAX PARCEL MAP

Timberneck 2022 Boundary Increase

DHR No. 036-0074 (Archaeological Site 44GL0387) July 2021 (DATA Investigations)

<https://gloucestergis.timmons.com/#/>

Gloucester County, VA

Gloucester County, VA
www.glocesterva.info

