

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration FormDEC 17 1990  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name EAGLE'S NESTother names/site number DHR 48-44

## 2. Location

street & number Va. Rt. 647 E. of intersection of Rts. 218 & 682 N/A not for publicationcity, town Ambar ☒ vicinitystate Virginia code VA county King George code 099 zip code 22401

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☐ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>4</u>	<u>6</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CSA Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director, Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Funerary: cemetery

Domestic: secondary structures

Agriculture: animal facility

Agriculture: storage

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Late Victorian

Early Republic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Metal

other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The dwelling at Eagle's Nest, a farm one mile south of the Potomac River in rural King George County, Virginia, is a two-story, clapboard, seven-bay, braced-frame house. To the east of the structure is a family cemetery dating to 1679. Garden areas of boxwood remain to the east and along the south side as does terracing to the north of the house. The first house on the site is believed to have burned down about 1793 while Benjamin Grymes (1741-1809) and his family were living there. A second house probably was built at that time. The present house was constructed sometime in the mid-nineteenth century on old foundations and may incorporate a portion of the earlier dwelling. Visual evidence indicates that the present house underwent four nineteenth-century building campaigns and several alterations. There are two contributing sites and another contributing building, a frame, three-bay, single-pile, late-eighteenth-century dwelling called Indian Town House, that was moved to this location in 1989 to save it from demolition. Five noncontributing outbuildings and one noncontributing structure have been built by the present owner for agricultural and family use.

**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

Eagle's Nest, which was built in several stages during the mid- to late nineteenth century, is a two-story, rectangular, seven-bay house of timber-frame construction that measures eighty feet long and thirty-six feet deep. The foundation of the structure is brick and employs three types of brick courses that reflect different periods of construction. The oldest part of the foundation, which includes a basement room, has a veneer of Flemish bond and appears to have been built in the late eighteenth century. The walls of the house are clad in lapped wood clapboards, and the roof is covered in standing-seam metal. Four different building campaigns have resulted in somewhat lopsided elevations. The house was probably built mid-century on older foundations as a single-pile, three-bay, hall-parlor-plan structure with a second floor and a gable-end chimney. Later it was deepened to become a double-pile house with two chimneys at the west end. The next phase added a pair of rooms and a lateral hall on the other side of the

☒ See continuation sheet

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c1850-1890

c1790-1820

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eagle's Nest, which is located in King George County, is a complex building that evolved over approximately one hundred years into its present rectangular configuration. The present dwelling, which stands on the foundation of an eighteenth-century house, is a timber-frame building of braced frame construction. The specific dates for its phases of construction have not been determined; however, it is known that the house suffered fire damage at least once and that the present structure was built in four phases beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. Its significance is derived from its interesting evolution, usual resulting plan and fine interior detailing. Eagle's Nest illustrates the pervasive mid-nineteenth century desire for symmetry and uniformity, for although it resulted from four building campaigns, the house, because of its regular composition and consistency of materials, appears at first glance to be a typical house of the mid-nineteenth century. The exterior disguises the unusual interior plan, which features two end stair halls connected by a central, transverse hall. With the notable exception of a circa 1890 addition at the east end, Eagle's Nest has had few alterations since achieving its present form approximately forty years earlier. It still stands in a picturesque, rural setting overlooking the Potomac River.

### JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

Eagle's Nest is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It is an architecturally complex house that has evolved from its initial construction in the late eighteenth century as a relatively simple building into its present complex and symmetrical configuration. The house is complemented by several outbuildings, as well as an earlier house, Indian Town House, that stands near the main house. It was probably constructed between 1790 and 1820 and was moved in 1989 to save it from demolition. It is significant as a rare survival for its period.

☒ See continuation sheet

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

## Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

## Specify repository:

Va. Historical Society, Richmond, Va.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 45 acres

## UTM References

A | 18 | 306780 | 4244480 |  
Zone Easting Northing

C | 18 | 306510 | 4243750 |

B | 18 | 306780 | 41241371410 |  
Zone Easting Northing

D | 18 | 306510 | 41241401410 |

☒ See continuation sheet

## Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

## Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Spicer Hubbert

organization Mary Washington College date April 1989

street & number Center for Historic Preservation telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Fredericksburg state VA zip code 22401

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chimneys, both downstairs and up. The last campaign, which occurred before 1890, added hipped-roof additions with staircases at both ends of the house.

There are doorways on all elevations, and all of them appear to have been reworked during the late nineteenth century. All doors but the west entrance are paired, two-panel doors framed by pilasters. Sidelights and a transom frame the north and south entrances. The north entrance has a triangular pediment. A stairway and cast iron railing remain on the north side.

The window bays on the first and second floors display four-over-four double-hung sash windows with narrow wooden frames. The windows on the first floor are taller and narrower than those on the second floor. These measured 3' 2" X 7' 4". The two basement windows on the north side and one on the south are horizontal double-pane windows with modern metal frames.

The entrances on the north and south facades had porches, and a photograph taken about 1890 shows a balustrade above the porch on the north. These porches were removed due to deterioration; in 1986 the present owner demolished the one on the south side of the house. A balustrade also ran around the eaves of the main block of the structure, with a parapet concealing the roofline of the hipped-roof addition at the east end. The balustrade was in poor condition in the old photograph, so if there had once been a parapet at the western end it may have already collapsed. A boxed cornice remains on all but the south elevation. Centered on the roof ridge is a widow's walk that no longer possesses its balustrade.

There is a chimney on either side of the roof ridge in the center of the house. The south chimney, which has glazed headers, may have been built as a gable end chimney for the eighteenth-century, southern section of the house, which was a single-pile, two-story, hall-parlor-plan structure built on a Flemish bond foundation. Later, an addition was made to the north side, extending the hall and adding the north parlor and the north bedroom on the second floor. The second chimney was added at this time on the north side. The third building stage added the western section of the main block on the other side of the chimneys, and included a first-floor dining room, a lateral hall, and another room, as well as two upstairs bedrooms. The final building stage created the hipped-roofed additions on the east and west ends. The west addition includes a kitchen, pantry, and staircase. The main stairway was moved

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from the hall to the east addition, and a small southeast corner room also was added.

The first floor has nine rooms. There are two staircases, one at the east entrance and one at the west entrance. The woodwork is varied throughout the house, ranging from elaborate in the public spaces, to very plain in the later additions and utilitarian spaces. The main stair has scrolled trim and turned balusters. Door frames in the main hall have crossettes and superimposed crossetted lintels. The doors there have six raised panels. The mantel in the original parlor has boldly stylized Ionic pilasters. In the dining room simple chamfered pilasters support the mantel, which is flanked by closets with vertical two-panel doors. There are cast plaster medallions in all the rooms but the kitchen on the first floor, and three medallions in rooms on the second floor. In 1950 plaster-of-Paris cornices were installed in all the downstairs rooms.

The second floor was not constructed on the same plan as the first floor and because there is no central hallway, all the rooms are interconnected. The second floor is composed of seven bedrooms, two of which are located in the stair hall end additions and have been converted to bathrooms. A wide hall above that on the first hall has an enclosed attic stair in the southeast corner. In the closet of an upstairs bedroom on the north side is a small ink drawing, on paper glued to the plaster, of a Gothic Revival house and dock. This house in the drawing overlooks a river, as does Eagle's Nest. According to local tradition, the sketch is of one of the earlier houses the stood on the site, though this seems unlikely.

Electrical heating and plumbing were installed in 1950. During the period from 1969 to 1973 the Eagle's Nest farm was composed of 121.7541 acres. In 1973 forty-five acres, including this historic house and its cemetery, were purchased by the present owners, who later acquired additional land. The present owners have repaired the plaster work and floors and replaced the kitchen. The rotting balusters in the west end staircase were replaced with matching wood found in the barn. In 1986 the framework, sills, and some brickwork were repaired along the south facade, especially around the entrance.

In 1989 the present owners moved Indian Town House, a late-eighteenth or early nineteenth century dwelling, from its original location several miles away to a site just west of the main house, in order to save it from demolition. It had been restored in the 1970s by the King George County Woman's Club. Indian Town House was constructed with a hall-

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parlor plan flanked by exterior end chimneys of brick. The roof is a clipped gable covered with wooden shingles. The house has a symmetrical three-bay facade, and three dormer windows have been added to the roof. Inside, a narrow stair leads to a two-room loft. The chimneys and foundations were rebuilt when the house was moved, but otherwise Indian Town House retains a remarkable degree of integrity. It is a rare survival for the period and it stands in a compatible setting.

Two contributing sites are located near the main house. To the northwest are the remains of an old icehouse where shards of whiteware and porcelain have been found. East of the house is the cemetery, which holds the graves of several descendants of William Fitzhugh (1651-1701).

The present owners have constructed five noncontributing outbuildings. To the west stand a hipped-roof carriage house, smokehouse, and modern children's tree house on stilts. To the southwest of the main house are a barn and a hay structure. A trap house stands to the south of the house for trapshooting.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Eagle's Nest, a two-story, seven-bay, gabled, timber building of braced-frame construction, is located in King George County on a ridge overlooking the Potomac River. The existing structure may incorporate a portion of the earlier structure and was probably built by Thomas Jefferson Fitzhugh Grymes and enlarged by his son Marshall Grymes after 1865.

Visual observation and inspection indicates that at least one fire took place in the middle of the nineteenth century and that the house was rebuilt after that time. Final additions and alterations to the structure were completed during the late nineteenth century. In 1950, Charles William Lewis added plumbing and heating to the interior and each of the downstairs rooms received plaster-of-Paris cornices. The present owners have removed the porches, repaired flooring, and repaired the south entrance.

The Eagle's Nest tract was first acquired William Fitzhugh I (1651-1701), a prominent Virginia merchant, member of the House of Burgesses, and land owner. He willed it to his son William Fitzhugh II (1679-1713). At the death of William Fitzhugh II the tract passed to his son Henry. Henry Fitzhugh and his wife Lucy Carter had two children, William IV and Elizabeth. Elizabeth Fitzhugh married Benjamin Grymes (1725-1776). Their son, Benjamin Grymes, Jr. (1756-1804), was a lieutenant in Grayson's Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line in 1777, and also served with General George Washington's Life Guards. William Fitzhugh IV loaned the tract to his nephew Benjamin Grymes, Jr., who lived there with his family until his death. William Fitzhugh IV then deeded the property to Benjamin Grymes's son, William Fitzhugh Grymes (1780-1830), who fought in the War of 1812 and was a member of the General Assembly.

The next owner of the tract was Grymes's son Thomas Jefferson Fitzhugh Grymes, who lived there until his death in 1866 and who probably built the existing structure. His widow, Frances Irwin Grymes, lived at Eagle's Nest with her children and grandchildren until 1900. Her son Marshall Grymes was the last family member to live in the house. In 1949, Charles William Lewis bought the property from Johnson Grymes, a cousin of Marshall Grymes, as a summer home, and used it until 1953. Elizabeth Carr Lawrence Dow bought the home in 1953 and lived there until she sold it in 1973 to Jon and Maxine Yagla, the present owners.



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In 1989 the Yaglas moved Indian Town House, a three-bay frame dwelling probably constructed between 1790 and 1820, onto the property because it was threatened with demolition at its original location. Indian Town House is independently significant as a rare survival for the period and stands in a compatible setting near the main dwelling at Eagle's Nest.

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Architectural Survey File 31-22. Department of Historic Resources.  
Richmond, Va.

Fitzhugh Family Papers. Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.  
(VHS).

King George County. Deed Books. King George County Courthouse,  
King George, Va.

George H. S. King Papers. VHS.

Stafford County. Deed Books. Stafford County Courthouse,  
Stafford, Va.

Yagla, Jon. Interview. 5 January 1989.

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UTM References, continued

E 18/306420/4244040  
F 18/306440/4244340  
G 18/306510/4244520

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point delineated by UTM reference A 18/306780/4244480, proceed south approximately 2400' to a point delineated by UTM reference B 18/306780/4243740, then proceed west approximately 1000' to a point delineated by UTM reference C 18/306510/4243750, then proceed north approximately 100' to a point delineated by UTM reference D 18/306510/4244040, then proceed west approximately 200' to a point delineated by UTM reference E 18/306420/4244040, then proceed north approximately 1000' to point on the eastern right-of-way of county route 682 delineated by UTM reference F 18/306440/4244340, then proceed north along the same right-of-way approximately 600' to a point delineated by UTM reference G 18/306510/4244520, thence east to the point of beginning.

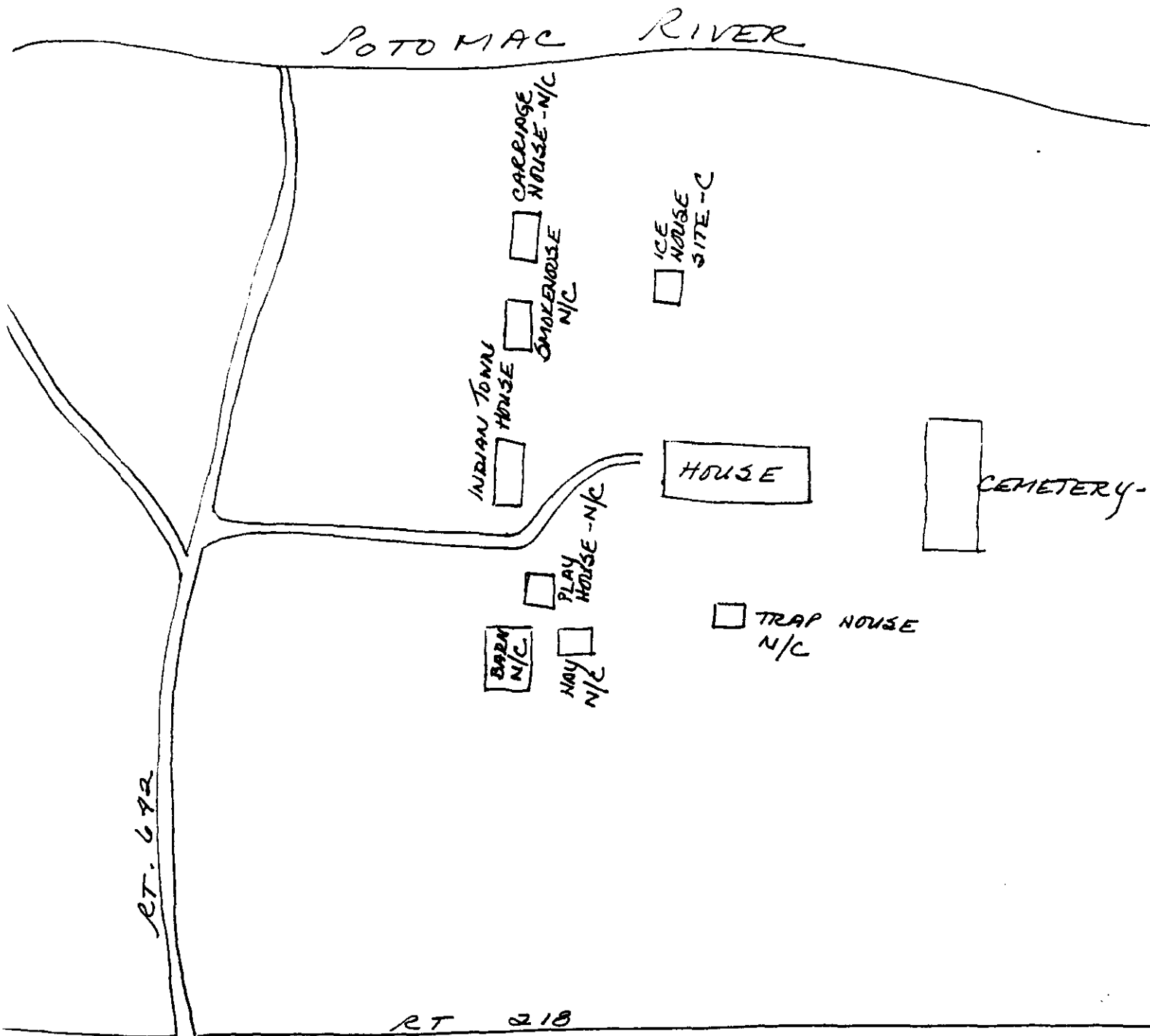
Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the main house, contributing resources, and land historically associated with the property.

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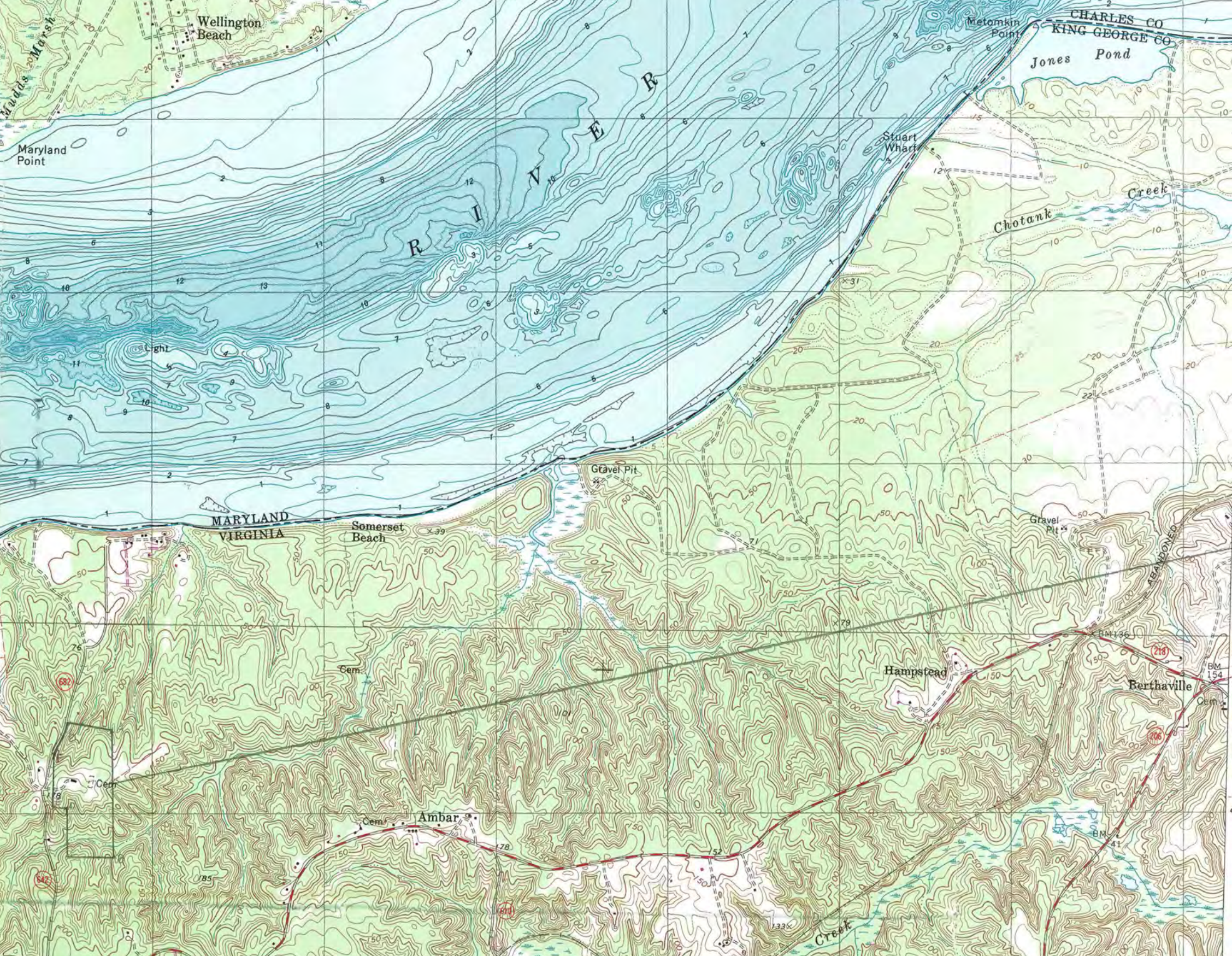
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_



EAGLE'S NEST  
KING GEORGE CO., VIRGINIA

NOT TO SCALE

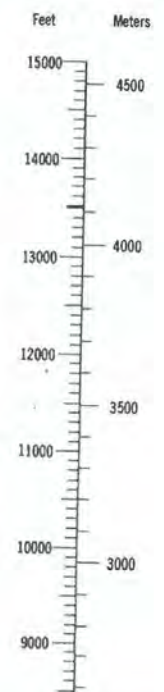




- A 18/306780/4244480
- B 18/306780/4243740
- C 18/306780/4243750
- D 18/306510/4244040
- E 18/306420/4244040
- F 18/306440/4244340
- G 18/306510/4244520

EAGLE'S NEST  
KING GEO. CO.  
VIRGINIA

CONVERSION  
SCALES



2.7 MI. TO U.S. 301