

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Mattapony

other names/site number Ryefield Archaeological Sites, 44KQ07

2. Location

street & number

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally x statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David C. Miller, RAC
Signature of certifying official

4/29/94
Date

Director, Virginia 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 objects
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **DEFENSE** Sub: **Military facility**
DOMESTIC **Single dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **AGRICULTURE** Sub: **Agricultural field**

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other _____

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHAEOLOGY: historic, non-aboriginal
MILITARY
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance ca. 1679 - ca. 1762

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation Euro-American

Architect/Builder unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

[illegible]

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

name/title Staff, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date August 19, 1993
street & number 221 Governor Street telephone 804-786-3143
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.

Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Fort Mattapony/Ryefield
name of property
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county and State

Narrative Description

The Fort Mattapony/Ryefield archaeological sites, which has been dated archaeologically to the fourth quarter of the 17th century, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Collectively designated 44KQ7 in the state's official inventory of archaeological sites, the site consists of two closely associated components, the Fort Mattapony storehouse and a domestic structure called Ryefield. After abandonment of the fort at the close of the 17th century and the domestic structure by the mid-18th century, a later colonial plantation, Locust Grove, developed in the surrounding area, which continues to be occupied by descendants into the 20th century. 1981 archaeological investigations by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources documented the presence of intact cultural deposits associated with both the Fort Mattapony storehouse as well as Ryefield, despite gravel exploration in adjacent areas in the 1960s. In 1993 a field inspection of the Fort Mattapony/Ryefield site and the general vicinity confirmed the continued integrity of the archaeological deposits.

Background

In 1981 the Virginia Department of Historic Resources conducted an archaeological survey [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

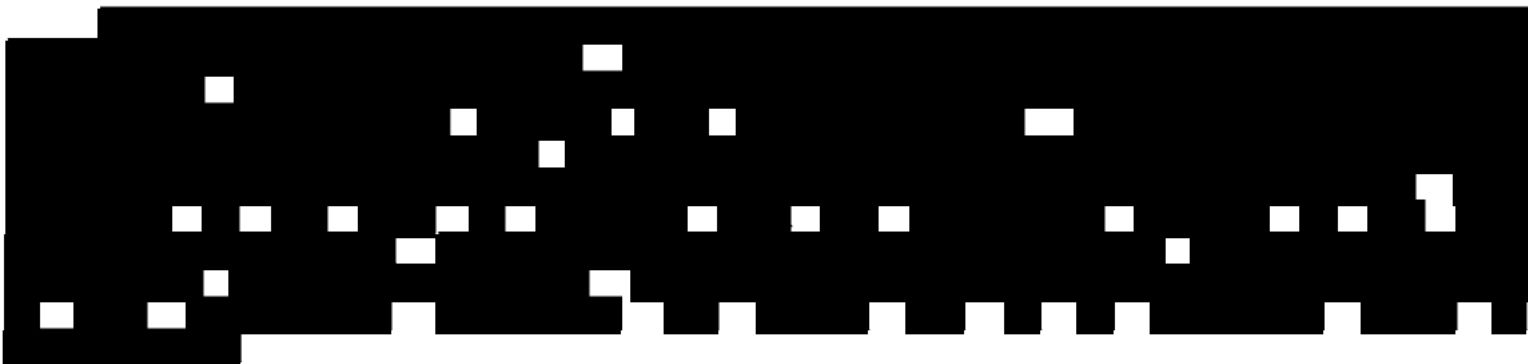
[REDACTED]

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Fort Mattapony/Ryefield archaeological site, which dates to the fourth quarter of the 17th century [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Within the one acre tract nominated, archaeological investigations have located intact cultural deposits associated with Fort Mattapony, a small military complex built by the Virginia government in 1679, and Ryefield, the late 17th-century home of patentee Lt. Colonel Thomas Walker. Situated in what was an outlying, sparsely settled area during the 17th century, both Fort Mattapony and Ryefield contain otherwise unavailable research data which are pertinent to understanding the colonists' military and domestic adaptive responses to settlement in a frontier environment. It is for these reasons that the Fort Mattapony storehouse and Ryefield are considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register under both Criteria A and D.

Fort Mattapony was constructed and manned during the final quarter of the 17th century, amidst the social, political, and economic upheavals of the period. The fort illustrates the early formation of cyclic European policies of settlement, encroachment, and treaties adopted toward the Native American populations. The well-preserved archaeological deposits at the fort could address important research concerns, such as documenting living conditions in a frontier fort, as well as design, construction, and defense of a military facility in the 17th century wilderness.

Ryefield is a rare example of the late 17th-century domestic occupations that closely followed the forts into the remote frontier area of Virginia. Ryefield contains intact archaeological deposits which date to the final quarter of the 17th century, during a period of social and economic changes, which would undoubtedly be reflected in the cultural materials contained within the site. This archaeological data would provide information about an individual family's adaptive responses to a harsh frontier environment.

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Together both Fort Mattapony and Ryefield offer glimpses of the early period of frontier defense and colonization efforts in Virginia. The Virginia military responses to the Native American populations would come to set the tone on a national level for treatment of indigenous peoples would be carried across North America for the next two centuries. Thus, both archaeological components of 44KQ7 provide graphic illustrations of the broader national patterns of defense and expansionism into the North American frontier.

Background

The land on which the Fort Mattapony/Ryefield archaeological sites are located was first patented by Edward Diggs in 1653. Diggs, who shortly thereafter became Governor of Virginia, deserted his patent, and in 1665 it was granted to Lt. Colonel Thomas Walker, in whose family it has remained ever since.

Both Diggs' and Walker's patents refer to the 2,300 acre grant as the Mattapony Fort tract, strongly suggesting that by 1653 a fortification of some sort was, or had been, located within the confines of the property. Documentary research, however, does not indicate that an officially sanctioned fort was ever built on the tract during the first half of the 17th century.

Some historians have speculated that the early fort at Mattapony may have been Fort Royall, constructed by the Virginia government ca. 1645 in reaction to the Powhatan/English Conflict of 1644. However, recent documentary and archaeological research have determined that Fort Royall was located on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] not the Mattaponi River (Hening 1809-1823:I:319). Instead, the Diggs-Walker tract may have been called Fort Mattapony because earlier settlers built a palisaded house, or fort, somewhere on the property. This was the type of fortified home colonists were encouraged to construct for their own defense, and with good reason. The Treaty of 1646 stated that the land on the north side of the York River was reserved for the Indians, and yet by 1653 settlement had spread both north and westward into that territory. Consequently, the Fort Mattapony tract lay within

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the frontier interface between the Indians and the English, a likely location for a fortified house.

Indeed, fortification and defense of the frontier had long been on the minds of English colonists. The need to segregate themselves from the Native American groups was first officially proposed by Governor Sir Thomas Dale in 1611 (Dale 1860:508). The land expansion policy set forth during Dale's tenure as Governor of Virginia set the pattern for pushing the English frontier into Indian lands, until the Indians were forced to resist. The resistance necessitated a line of English fortifications designed to regulate, and eventually subjugate, the Native American population in Virginia. Fortified dwelling houses and a succession of forts, beginning in 1645, followed the slowly expanding English frontier, but not without conflicts.

In April 1679, the Grand Assembly "took into sad and serious consideration the sundry murthers, rapins, and many depredations lately committed and done by the Indians on the inhabitants of the country" and passed an act ordering the establishment of a fort at the head of each of the colony's four major rivers, the Potomac, the Rappahannock, the York, and the James. These forts were to be built above the Indian towns "for the defense of the County against the incursions of the Indian enemy" and were perhaps an official response to the conditions which had preceded Bacon's Rebellion. According to the 1679 Act of Assembly, each fort was to consist of a 22 foot by 60 foot sturdily constructed frame storehouse, built for the use of the men to be garrisoned there and a 10 foot square building to house their ammunition (Hening 1809-1823:II:433). [REDACTED]

Fort Mattapony was ordered constructed and outfitted by Captain Richard Johnson, whose home plantation lay between the Mastacock and Pesticoek Swamps to the south of Thomas Walker's land. The fact he was charged with that responsibility suggests that the Walkers were not yet occupying the tract and that Johnson was the nearest militia officer.

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Johnson, like his counterparts at the three other 1679 fort sites, was to assemble:

"eight thousand eight penny nails, ffive thousand tenn penny nails, fflower thousand twenty penny nails, fflower iron potts of about veight gallons each with pott hooks, fflower iron pestles, two harie sifters coarse, twelve milke atreys, six spades, two crosscut saws, six wedges, two broad axes, six falling axes, six hilling hoes, two drawing knives, two band saws, one grindstone, one ffrow, two hammers, sic gimletts, two augers, one of an inch and one of an inch and a halfe, two ffiles, one adze, two ffrying pans, two stocklocks, ten bushels of salt and fflower washing tubbs" (Hening 1809-1823:II:433).

According to the Act of Assembly, Richard Johnson was to be reimbursed by the public in tobacco, at the rate of ten shillings per hundred pounds with cask (Hening 1809-1823:II:434).

Each group of forty tithables in the colony was obliged to furnish and outfit one able man, fully armed with a case of good pistols, a carbine or shotgun, a sword, two pounds of powder, and ten pounds of lead bullets or high swan shot. Each man was to be provided with a fully equipped horse. As well, each group of forty tithables was to supply five bushels of shelled Indian corn, two bushels of meal, eighty pounds of well-salted pork, 100 pounds of well-salted beef, and four months sustenance for the horse supplied to their soldier. The above levy was to be supplied every four months henceforth. Any man or horse provided by a locality was to be replaced if either became disabled. Each garrison was to be supplied with oars and a boat large enough to transport three or four horses simultaneously. The boat for Fort Mattapony was provided by Colonel John West, whose land lay immediately across the Mattaponi River from the fort.

The 1679 Act of Assembly set forth the rates of pay to be allocated to officers and men. Each garrison commander was instructed to provide a chest of medicines valued at a minimum of five pounds sterling. A compliment of forty men

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was assigned to each garrison. These men were to reconnoitre their area and interrogate any Indians they encountered. Men from New Kent, York, and one-third of Gloucester County were to supply and complete the garrison at Fort Mattapony. Four Indians native to the vicinity of each fort were to be in attendance at each garrison. All military units were to be completed by June 20, 1679, or two months from the time the act was passed authorizing construction of the forts.

One year later, on July 8, 1680, the Executive Council ordered that each garrison be reduced to twenty men, ten of whom would be "country soldiers," or local militia, and ten, "his Majesty's soldiers." On July 22, 1680, Sir Henry Chicheley offered thirty-two of his soldiers, to be divided among the four garrisons. The provincial soldiers they replaced were to be sent home with neither arms nor horses. This reduction of Fort Mattapony may have been in part due to the 1680 peace established between the Iroquois and the English, as well as the poor market price obtained for tobacco. The need for forts and their protection had seemingly lessened, as had the fiscal wherewithal to support them.

Although it remains for the archaeological record to document what daily life was like at Fort Mattapony, the Journals of the House of Burgesses and the Minutes of the Executive Council reveal the names of men associated with the fort, who laid claim to public funds in reimbursement for the goods and services they had provided. Colonel George Lydall, who served as commander of the garrison at Fort Mattapony, was reimbursed for paying the officers, soldiers, and Indians based there. He certified to the Assembly that "William Meridaye was one of the Carpenters that built the houses at mattapony garrison in the year 1679," work for which Meridaye, or Meredith, and Christopher Carlton were due 577 pounds of tobacco. A Major Morris and a Captain Mallory were paid for supplying provisions to the two carpenters while the fort was being constructed (McIlwaine and Kennedy 1905-1915:173).

Captain Jonathan Langhorne, the official commissary for the Mattapony garrison, was paid nearly 106,000 pounds of tobacco for the provisions to be supplied to the men based there. Edmund Bacon furnished provisions for "almost

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one month for forty Supernumerary soldiers att Mattapony garrison," indicating that at one point, eighty soldiers were based at the fort. Colonel Nathaniel Bacon was reimbursed for paying John Babb, who transported his Majesty's soldiers to Fort Mattapony subsequent to Sir Henry Chicheley's proposal to furnish the fort with eight of the King's men in lieu of provincial soldiers (McIlwaine and Kennedy 1905-1915:172).

Cornelius Dabney, the official interpreter to the Pamunkey Indians between 1677 and 1684, whom King Charles II in 1679 had recognized for his services, was employed as an interpreter at Fort Mattapony along with David Wickliffe. In 1682 both men submitted claims for their two years' work as interpreters at Fort Mattapony. Benjamin Birckley and Robert Sorrell, who were paid for dead horses at the Mattapony garrison also may have been employed at the fort. Finally, the Grand Assembly voted in December of 1682, to abolish Fort Mattapony as well as the other forts (McIlwaine and Kennedy 1905-1915:171)

Archaeological remains, dating to the fourth quarter of the 17th century and conforming to the architectural specifications of the Fort Mattapony storehouse, were identified during an archaeological survey [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a 22 foot long by 59 1/2 foot configuration of cellars and postholes, the remains of a frame structure with measurements closely corresponding to the 22 foot by 60 foot dimensions of the Fort Mattapony storehouse. The storehouse probably was constructed in a manner similar to that described by the 1676 Grand Assembly:

"for fecuring the powder,...and that the faid ftore, bee Boarded within and without, and well filled vp with Clay or Morter, and double Couered; That there bee allfo another ftore houfe Built with may bee Capable for the recepcion of the other ftore of goods, and that the fame Bee double Couered And that there Bee allfo Built a gard houfe of fixty foote in length with two outside chimneys, That Carpenters

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Bee forthwith Impreffed, to doe the worke..." (McIlwaine and Kennedy 1905-1915:71).

[REDACTED]

The artifactual material recovered from the site suggest that the fort's storehouse stood until the close of the 17th century. Walker family tradition holds that an early house at Fort Mattaponi had served as a refuge for settlers in times of Indian unrest, a belief which is supported by the colony's official records (Calendar of State Papers 1901:I:58).

The Mattaponi garrison and the other three 1679 forts had afforded time for the colonists to more firmly entrench themselves in the Virginia frontier. As the fluid frontier expanded beyond the line of defenses in the late 17th century, a less-expensive and more effective means of controlling the Indian groups had been developed. Mobile bands of horse soldiers who ranged the frontier area were better suited to deal with an enemy who fought with similar tactics, an enemy who "attack once a week but [are seen] once a year" and who "might burn a house or two, and be forty miles away the next day" (Moryson 1662). As the frontier became somewhat more secure at the end of the 17th century, families created homes, such as Ryefield, for themselves.

Lt. Colonel Thomas Walker built the family home, Ryefield, on his Fort Mattaponi land.

This was identified archaeologically as a domestic structure, and dates to the fourth quarter of the 17th century.

[REDACTED]

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According to family tradition, Ryefield stood until the last half of the 18th century, at which time it was destroyed by fire. Baylor Walker, a great-great grandson of patentee Thomas Walker, constructed another house [REDACTED] ca. 1760, in which diarist John Walker was born in 1785. It was John Walker who recorded in his diary that the family's old house had served as a place of refuge for the early colonists during troubles with the Indians. Baylor Walker's new home burned ca. 1800, and his son, Humphrey, constructed the present house known as Locust Grove.

The Fort Mattapony/Ryefield archaeological site, 44KQ7, thus is considered significant under National Register Criterion A because of its direct involvement in the very earliest frontier defense and settlements. Fort Mattapony was an active component not only in frontier security, but it is also representative of the larger more ephemeral European policy of surveillance, regulation, and subjugation of the Native Americans. The expansion of the 17th-century frontier was cyclic in nature, with European settlement expanding until it encroached on Indian land, with subsequent violence resulting on both sides. Treaties punctuated the violence, designed to allow consolidation of forces and supplies, as well as the negotiation of new land ownership which invariably left the Indians with less and less land. Eventually a new wave of settlement would surge forward initiating the endless cycle once again. The domestic site of Ryefield is a remarkably preserved example of the 17th-century that followed the frontier in Virginia.

Indeed, the 17th century afforded both the Europeans and Indians a chance to decide, whether consciously or not, their individual methods of dealing with each other. The cycle of settlement, encroachment, violence, and treaties continued across the entire continent as the frontier left Virginia and its settlements behind. The relative peace left behind became populated with individuals and their families and servants, whether indentured or slave.

Both Fort Mattapony and Ryefield are also considered eligible under National Register Criterion D for their ability to contribute invaluable information about

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the past. Our understanding of both the documented 17th-century forts and domestic sites like Ryefield can be greatly enhanced through archaeological research. The intact archaeological remains of the Fort Mattapony component of 44KQ7 contains varied information concerning the military in 17th-century Virginia. Research questions about military construction techniques, materials used, and design could be answered; information concerning armaments issued and utilized on the frontier could also be addressed. Trash deposits from the fort could provide information about daily life at the Mattapony garrison, with special emphasis on the diet of soldiers stationed there, methods of food preparation, and the variety of foods consumed.

The domestic archaeological component of Ryefield could provide similar answers directed toward understanding 17th-century domestic life on the frontier. Research questions concerning health, diet, social and economic status as reflected in the material culture could be answered through archaeological examination of intact domestic trash deposits at Ryefield. These general questions could also be applied specifically to the issue of social, economic, and cultural differences planter versus indentured servants and slaves. Likewise, the investigation of material culture would provide similar answers about the degree of social interactions between Europeans, African slaves, and Native American tribes. Questions about 17th-century frontier Virginia architecture, spatial arrangement of the dwelling house and dependencies, and the possible transition from medieval architectural and social form to dwellings more suited to the frontier environment could also be answered. The well-preserved archaeological deposits have the potential to contribute greatly to our current understanding of 17th-century defense and settlement in frontier Virginia.

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Major Bibliographical References

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1905-15 Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619-1776. Richmond, Virginia.
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1662 The Laws of Virginia Now in Force. London.
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1919-52 Tyler's Quarterly. Volumes I, IV, VII. Richmond, Virginia.

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Fort Mattapony/Ryefield
King & Queen County, Virginia

Walker, John
1958

"Diary." Excerpts in Bulletin of King and Queen County Historical Society.

Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. Volume XI. Richmond, Virginia.

William and Mary Quarterly. Series 1, X, XXIII and XXV; Series 2, III. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Boundary Justification

