

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-14) VLR - 7/18/78 RHP - 11/17/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN **HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS**
TYPE ALL ENTRIES - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hewick

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER .8 mile NW of Urbanna; N side of State Route 602; .7 mile S of Robinson Creek; .3 mile NNW of intersection of State Routes 615 and 602.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Urbanna

X VICINITY OF

First (Paul S. Trible, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Philip S. Duer

STREET & NUMBER

125 Keyway Drive

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee 37205

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Middlesex County Courthouse

SHEET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Saluda

STATE

Virginia 23149

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (3) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

c. 1935

X FEDERAL STAT: COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
		<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hewick occupies a broad plain northwest of Urbanna in Middlesex County, with a treelined lane leading from the public road to the mid-18th-century dwelling house. The latter is an L-shaped structure consisting of a five-bay front section and an original two-bay ell inset a few inches from the west end of the main block. Both sections are built of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The ell (and probably the main block as well) was originally a story-and-a-half in height, with clipped gables. In the early 19th century, both sections were altered by the addition of gambrel roofs. The ell retains that roof, an addition which is possibly commemorated by the graffito "IRS [I R(obinson) S(teptoe)] 1819" scratched into the brick beside one of its doorways. In the mid-19th century, possibly in 1849 for another set of initials in the same location reads "J C(hristian) 1849", the main section was raised to two full stories with a shallow gable roof and small interior chimney stacks. The original T-shaped chimney survives on the ell.

All of the windows, which have 19th-century stuccoed jack arches, are glazed with 9/9 sash on the first floor and 6/9 sash on the second, except on the gable ends of the main block where 6/6 and 6/4 sash, respectively, are employed. The lower slope of the ell gambrel is covered with shingles, while the upper slope and the main block have standing-seam sheet metal coverings; both sections have box cornices.

The plan of Hewick consists of two rooms flanking a central passage in the main block, with a single room set off from the main block by a passage in the ell. The interior of the main block was considerably altered in the 19th-century renovations. The first-floor ceiling was apparently raised, and the present open-well stair was erected to replace a smaller winder stair. In the process, a central doorway between the passage and the left (west) room was relocated.

The east parlor is decorated with an odd Federal-style mantel consisting of reeded pilasters without entablature blocks supporting a light (possibly later) shelf. A series of recessed panels in the frieze flanks a small central panel with diagonal reeding. The open-string stair has plain sawn brackets, a molded rail, square newel, two rectangular balusters to a tread, and later matchboarding in the spandrel. In the dining (west) room is a mantel combining Federal and Greek Revival elements, with fluted pilasters supporting a horizontal, symmetrically molded frieze and a thin, deeply projecting shelf. The ell passage has an early 19th-century pedestal chair rail as well as an original enclosed winder stair with a beaded newel.

In the kitchen (north room) is an original fireplace surround, a plastered architrave with crossettes, apparently made of sandstone. Adjacent to the chimney breast is a handsome mid-19th-century closet with Greek Revival details. Other early trim throughout the house includes several raised-panel doors, architrave frames, and a raised-panel reveal in the doorway between the main block and the ell.

Although Hewick is popularly believed to have been built in two sections, with the ell dating from the late 17th century, the obvious bonding of the ell to the main section demonstrates that the pre-19th-century portions of the house were all built at once. Furthermore, the character and detailing of the Flemish-bond brickwork, the central-passage plan, and the use of clipped gables all argue for a date in the middle of the 18th century, an attribution supported by the surviving original interior trim.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITIES	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hewick was built in the mid-18th century by the renowned Robinson family, which was prominent in the affairs of late 17th- and 18th-century Virginia. Distinguished for its handsome Flemish-bond brickwork, the house further illuminates the changing concepts of housing needs and fashions among well-to-do planters in 18th- and 19th-century Tidewater Virginia.

Hewick was probably built by Christopher Robinson III (1705-1768), who was the grandson of Christopher Robinson I (1645-1693), a clerk of Middlesex County, Burgess, Councillor (1691) and Secretary of State for the Colony (1693). The house was built on land which had been owned and occupied by the Robinson family since the last quarter of the 17th century. The builder's father was Christopher Robinson II (1681-1727), a Burgess and Naval Officer for the Rappahannock District. This man inherited Hewick, the Robinsons' ancestral home in Yorkshire, from his uncle John Robinson, Bishop of London, in 1723. The third Christopher Robinson built and apparently named his new house in Middlesex County for it. (The first recorded use of the name was in 1810).

The Virginia Hewick was, for its time, a very large and fashionable house. Its fine brickwork, clipped gables, and central-passage plan were all up-to-date features of prosperous planters' houses in mid-18th-century Virginia. The builder's daughter, Elizabeth Robinson Steptoe (d.1832), who inherited the property from her brother, Christopher IV (1738-1784), found it convenient in the early 19th century to enlarge the house slightly. This was done by replacing the gable roof with a more capacious and, at the time, fashionable, gambrel roof, an alteration which was accompanied by extensive redecoration of the dwelling.

Elizabeth Steptoe's son-in-law, Richard A. Christian, inherited the property in 1832. It was he, judging from the architectural evidence, who added a second story to the front section, creating a two-story, single-pile I-house, a common mid-19th-century vernacular house type in eastern Virginia. Hewick was finally sold out of the family after the death of Elizabeth Steptoe Christian in 1875, but in 1926 P. W. Duer, a relative of the Christians, repurchased the property. It is still in Duer hands.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Long, E. V. R. The Robinson Line. 1468-1948. Austin, Texas 1971.
Middlesex County Deeds 1687-1750.
Deed Books 12, 13.
Land Tax Books 1787-1863.
Will Books B, E, F, #5.
Virginia Gazette, Purdy and Dixon, publishers, 1769-1772.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 24 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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

B	1 8	3 6 0 1 5 0	4 1 6 7 0 8 0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D	1 8	3 5 9 7 0 0	4 1 6 6 7 8 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising Hewick is bounded by a line beginning at a point 900' W of State Route 615 and 1700' N of State Route 602; thence extending 800' SE to State Route 615; thence extending approximately 1600' S along W side of said route; thence extending 900' NW on the N side of State Route 602; thence extending 1500' NE to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION	DATE
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<u>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission</u>	<u>May 1978</u>
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STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
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<u>221 Governor Street</u>	<u>(804)786-3144</u>
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CITY OR TOWN	STATE
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<u>Richmond</u>	<u>Virginia 23219</u>
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12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUL 18 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Hewick, Middlesex County, Virginia

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 7 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1959 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

(3) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1977 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

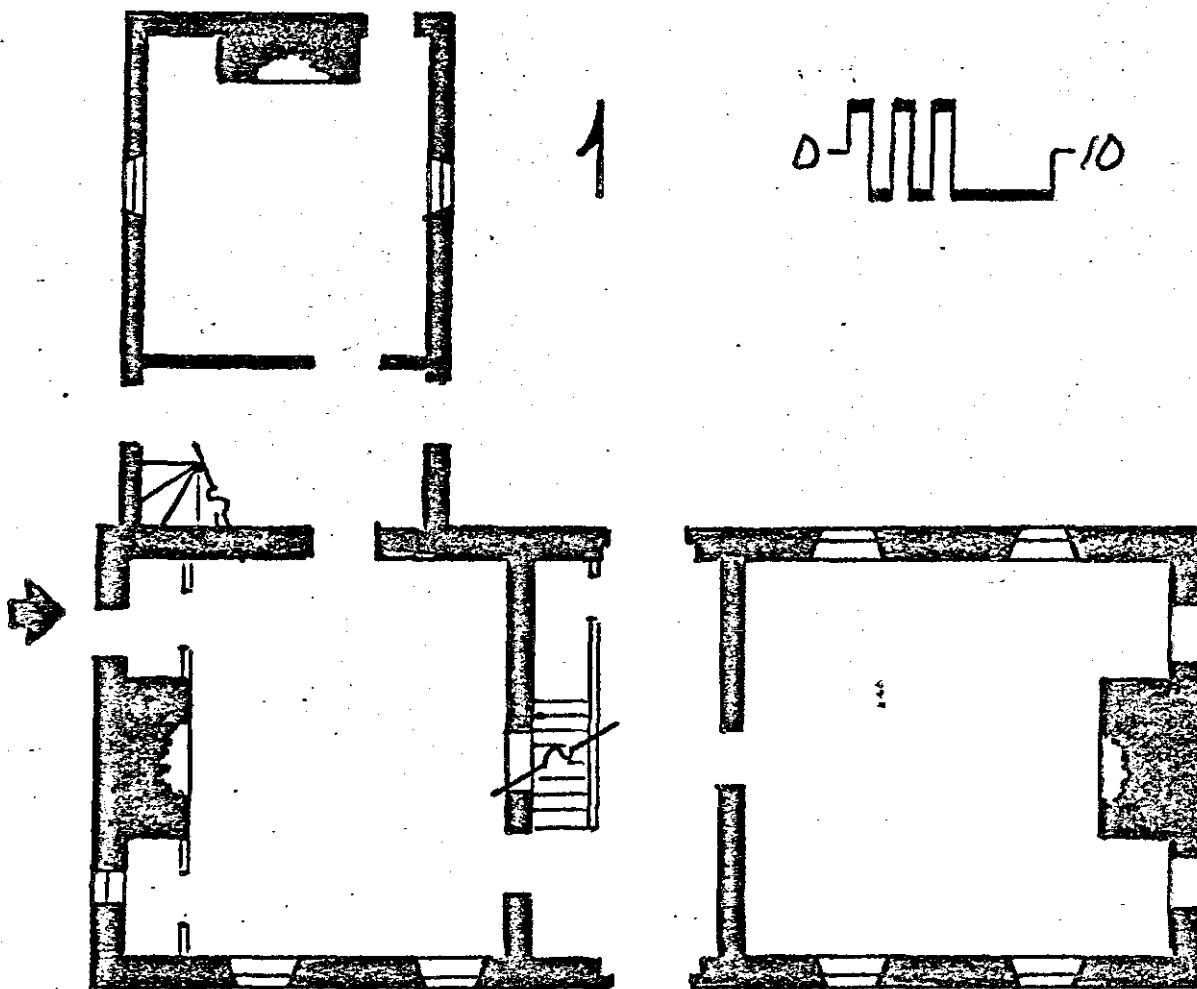
7. DESCRIPTION

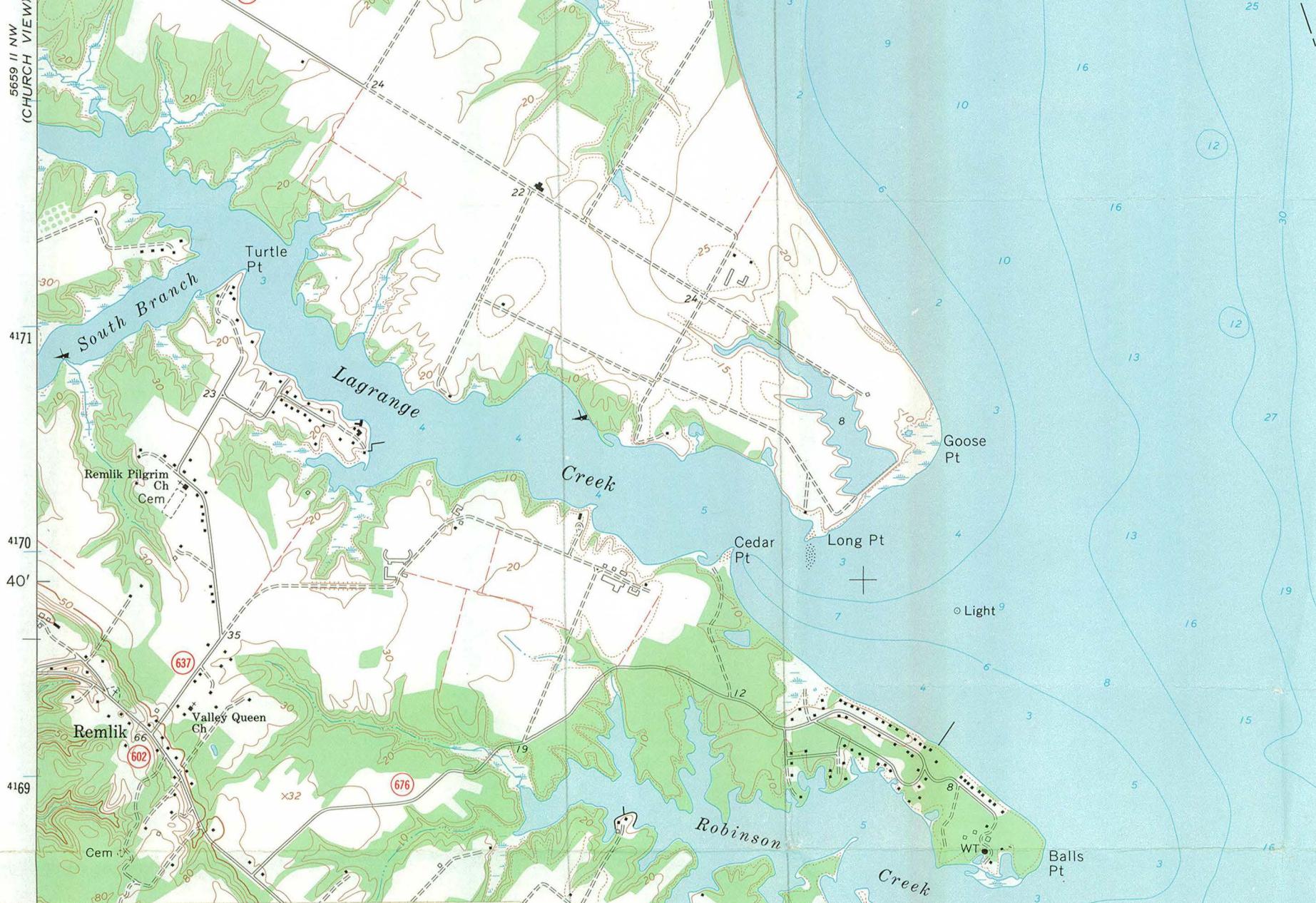
To the northeast of the house is a family cemetery dating to the late 19th and 20th centuries but also containing the unembellished slab marker of Clara Walker (d. 1715).

The register bounds include the land immediately surrounding the house, on which its outbuildings once stood and where the cemetery lies, along with the treelined lane and a portion of the open fields which surround it and contribute to its dramatic effect.

DU

Hewick, Middlesex County, Va.
Floor Plan - Scale: 1" = 10'
Credit: Virginia Historic
Landmarks Commission
1978





U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Urbanna, Va.
1968

HEWICK, Middlesex County, Virginia
UTM References:

A- 18/359920/4167200 B- 18/360150/4167080
C- 18/359940/4166630 D- 18/359700/4166780

