

VLR - 3/18/75
NRHP - 6/5/75

file

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Charles City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Glebe of Westover Parish

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Glebe of Westover Parish

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Between Glebe Creek and Parrish Hill Creek; .2 mile west of Route 615; .7 mile southwest of intersection of Routes 615 and 612.

CITY OR TOWN: (Ruthville vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First (Thomas N. Downing)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Charles City CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Dr. John P. O'Brien

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~5500 Monument Avenue~~ 118 Libbie Ave

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles City County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charles City STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

TITLE OF SURVEY: (1) Historic American Buildings Survey (see continuation sheet #1)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Charles City

ENTRY NUMBER

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DATE

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
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(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal

Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

code: 11

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Westover Parish Glebe house is approached across the flat, open fields of Charles City County along a tree-lined lane that fans out to encircle the dwelling. The house is a five-bay, story-and-a-half building set on a low basement, with a later ell and wing. The original portion is built of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and rubbed-brick corners both above and below the beveled water table. It has exterior end chimneys with a single small weathering on the front of each and brick pent closets abutting their rear surfaces. The south chimney (the north one is partially covered by the later wing) is laid in Flemish bond to the height of the pent's eaves and in English bond from there almost to the top. The caps and top five courses of each chimney have been rebuilt.

An early-nineteenth-century ell projects from the center bay of the rear wall. It consists of a hyphen connecting a square single-cell block with a pyramidal hipped roof and an interior end chimney. Both portions of the ell are laid in Flemish bond and the terminal block has a stepped water table.

The window and door openings of the original house were changed in the early-nineteenth century, possibly at the time that the ell was added. The house now has nine-over-nine sash with architrave frames throughout the first floor. White splayed lintels were painted over the front windows. An elaborate Federal-style front entrance with leaded-glass elliptical fanlight and sidelights was installed, and the present dormers were added or remodeled. These dormers, of which there are three on each roof plane of the original house, are gable-roofed structures with modillion cornices and round-headed windows, flanked by reeded pilasters, breaking into the tympanum.

An early-twentieth-century one-story frame wing formerly supported on brick piers, but now having a continuous brick underpinning, projects from the house's north end.

The interior of the original portion is arranged in a central-passage, single-pile plan. The trim was apparently remodeled at the same time as the exterior. Only the closed-string stair with its turned balusters and molded handrail appears to date from the colonial period. The stair has an unusual configuration; it rises to a landing, turns, rises only two more steps to a second landing, then turns and completes the ascent. Its well is lighted by the barrel-vaulted central rear dormer. The paneling on the side of this stair appears to date from the general remodeling of the house.

The south room, or parlor, is wainscoted all around with applied mold paneling surmounted by a chair rail. This treatment is continued in the passage and the dining room. Symmetrically molded trim with bull's-eye blocks frames the doors in all three rooms as well as the opening into the pent closet in the parlor. The latter is surmounted by a curious segmental "pediment" as well. The window reveals here and in the other first-floor rooms are lined with molded paneling. The parlor mantel consists of a pair of symmetrically molded pilasters supporting entablature blocks with vertical elliptical sunburst paterae. A large horizontal sunburst patera embellishes a central tablet, and the whole is crowned by a dentil cornice and a shelf.

(see continuation sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/XXX | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | XXXXXX | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/XXXXXX | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | XXXX | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Glebe House of Westover Parish is one of a small number of glebe houses still standing in Virginia. It belongs to a group of such dwellings whose curious blend of colonial and Federal architectural features leads to interesting speculation concerning the nature of provision for the clergy of the colony.

A new Westover Parish was created in 1720 from those portions of Westover and Weyanoke parishes lying north of the James River. The first minister of the new parish was Peter Fontaine, a Huguenot educated at Trinity College, Dublin, who had come to Virginia in 1716. Fontaine remained at the post until his death in 1757. During that time, he also served as chaplain to the 1728 expedition to survey the Virginia-North Carolina boundary, made famous by William Byrd II's account.

The house was apparently built sometime between 1732 and 1757. Fontaine noted in a parochial report of 1724 that the parish owned two small glebes with no buildings or improvements on them. The larger of these was farmed by a tenant. The church was empowered by the legislature in 1730 to sell these glebes in order to purchase a new, more convenient glebe. One lying near Charles City Court House was bought from Philip Lightfoot in 1732, and the present house was possibly erected soon thereafter. Subsequent clerical residents included William Davis, James Ogilvie, and John Dunbar, who fought a duel in the parish churchyard. Sewal Chapin was the last minister to live in the house (1793-1805), which was sold to Patrick Hendron in 1807 following an act of the General Assembly requiring the sale of all Virginia glebes.

The woodwork in the Westover glebe house, like that in several other such Virginia dwellings, appears to date from the time of the house's sale into private hands, suggesting that the original decoration of the house was absent or nonexistent in the early-nineteenth century. One possible explanation might be that the houses deteriorated in tenants' hands, but Westover Glebe, with its continuous occupation by clergy throughout its ownership by the Episcopal Church, argues against this. It would seem, rather, that while the vestries felt a responsibility to provide for their parsons--as evidenced by the common assumption by those bodies of maintenance charges legally incumbent upon the clergy themselves--they felt no obligation to provide more than decent, but plain, quarters. It was thus necessary for the private buyer to add any more pretentious type of decoration. Westover Glebe, then, is a potentially important source of information not otherwise available concerning the social standing of the colonial Anglican clergy.

(see continuation sheet #3)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mason, George C. Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia. Richmond, 1945.
 Morgan, Marci, "The Glebe in Charles City County," ms., Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM
 A18/317560/4137250 C18/318700/4136340
 B18/318700/4137220 D18/318740/4136360

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 96 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: February 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date MAR 18 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
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7. DESCRIPTION

The front entry reveal is treated with molded panels similar to those of the window reveals and is framed by symmetrically molded trim. The doorway into the ell, however, has architrave trim.

The dining room mantel is similar to that in the parlor, except that the paterae of the frieze and the symmetrical molding of the pilasters are replaced by reeding. The pent closet now serves as the passage into a kitchen in the twentieth-century wing.

A small, frame, central-chimney outbuilding several hundred yards west of the house is the only remaining service building other than modern ones. Despite its early-twentieth-century date, it retains a traditional form and has been attributed to an unnamed local craftsman who reportedly built similar buildings for a number of farms in the vicinity.

DTU

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

(Continuation Sheet) #3

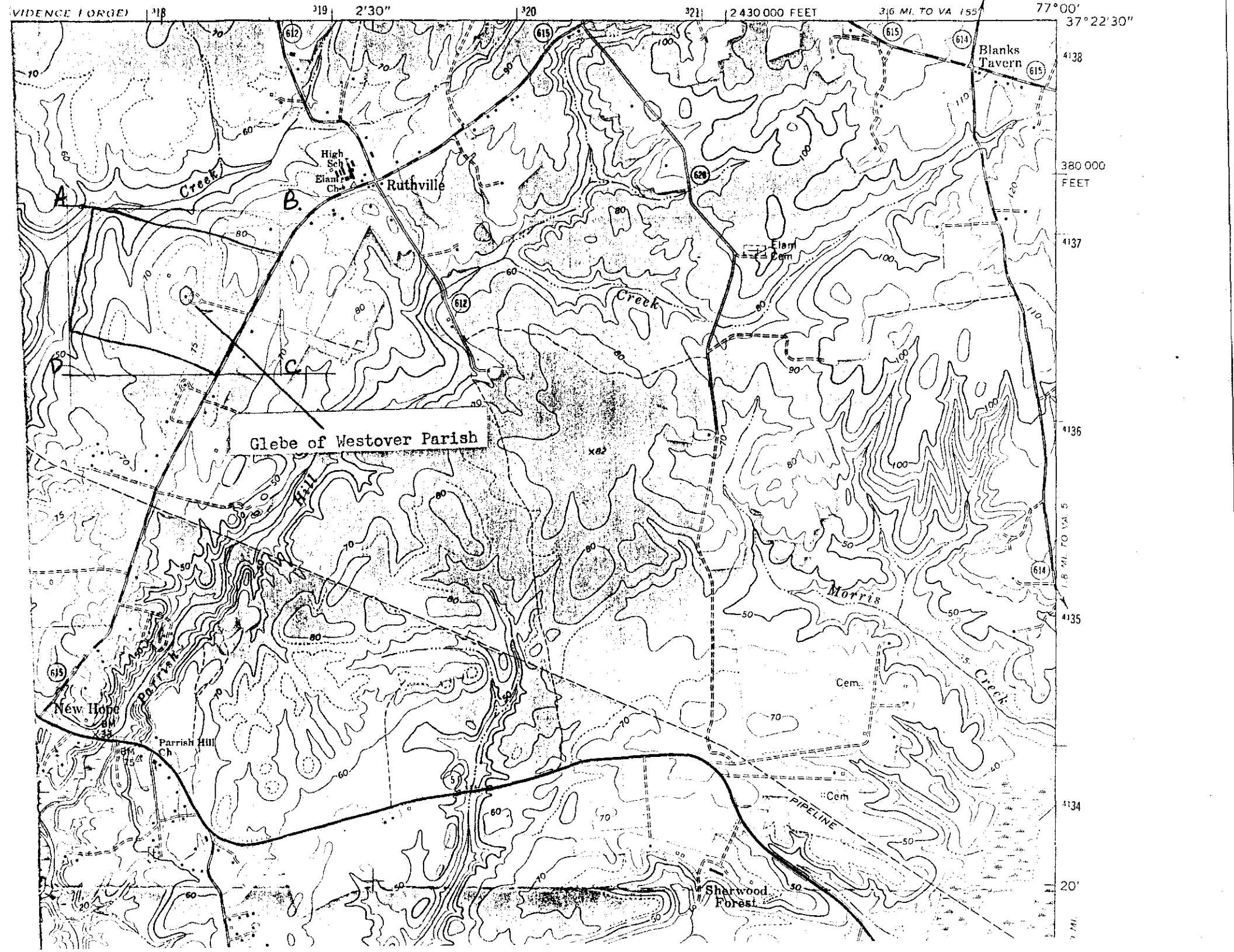
STATE	
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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Mid-nineteenth-century owners of the house included Augustus Pemberton and Ricarda Parker Crenshaw. After many years in other hands, the property was reacquired by their descendants, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Parker Crenshaw, in 1942. It is presently owned by Dr. and Mrs. John P. O'Brien.

DTU & MTP



VIDENCE (ORGE)

118

319

2'30"

320

615

321

2 430 000 FEET

3.6 MI. TO VA 155

77° 00'

37° 22' 30"

Blanks Tavern

4138

High Sch.
Elam Ch.

Ruthville

Elam Cem.

380 000
FEET

4137

Glebe of Westover Parish

4136

1.6 MI. TO VA. 5

4135

Morris

Cem.

New Hope

Parrish Hill
Ch.

4134

PIPELINE

Cem.

Sherwood
Forest

20'

3 MI.