

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic PINEY GROVE (DHL File No. 18-63)

and or common PINEY GROVE

2. Location

street & number VA Route 615 N/A not for publication

city, town X vicinity of Holdcroft

state Virginia code 51 county Charles City code 036

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes options like district, building(s), structure, site, object, public, private, both, occupied, unoccupied, work in progress, accessible, agriculture, commercial, educational, entertainment, government, industrial, military, museum, park, private residence, religious, scientific, transportation, other.

4. Owner of Property

name (1) Joseph J. Gordineer (See Continuation Sheet 1)

street & number 1 Huntington Drive

city, town Williamsburg N/A vicinity of state Virginia 23185

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles City Court House

street & number N/A

city, town Charles City state Virginia 23030

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None Previously Recorded has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

# 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Piney Grove is a two-story, single-pile, center-passage structure. The frame building has a one and a half story log appendage on the east of the two-story block and a one-story, frame lean-to on the north of the two-story block. Originally, Piney Grove was built c. 1800 as a 20' by 22' one-story log corn crib. In 1820 the log structure was transformed into a one and a half story store with a hall-parlor plan. In 1853 the one and three-quarter story single room addition against the east wall of the log store was constructed. The 10' by 11' lean-to addition was built on the north wall of the 1853 addition shortly thereafter. During the first decade of the twentieth century a two-story block was created which incorporated the two rooms of the 1853 addition. Several minor porch alterations were made during the following decade. Restoration of Piney Grove to its early twentieth century appearance was begun in 1984. In 1984 the rear porch was rebuilt as a kitchen.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The east appendage is the original log portion which was built c. 1800 as a corn crib. The entrance was centered on the north wall and wide random width boards covered the floor. Remnants of both features still exist. The Charles City County Land Books suggest that the one-story log corn crib was transformed into a one and a half story store in 1820. The interior within the four log walls was given a hall-parlor plan, a new floor, plaster walls, grained window and door trim and a chimney that served the first and second floor fireplaces. In c. 1910 the Harwoods replaced the parlor floor and during the 1920s the Hughes removed the hall-parlor partition, the hall-stairs to the second floor and the plaster walls. In 1984 the Gordineers removed the 1920s wallboard.

In 1853 John Stubblefield greatly improved Piney Grove. The east rooms of the two story block are the extent of this one and three-quarter story frame addition. Both the first and second floor rooms had fireplaces served by a new chimney which also served the two 1820 fireplaces in the log portion. The walls of the first floor room were originally covered with a red, yellow and green, block-printed floral wallpaper. The stairs that originally rose from the southwest corner of the first floor room were removed c. 1910. Prior to 1910 the second floor trim remained unpainted.

The one story lean-to on the north side of the 1853 addition was built shortly after 1853: During the early twentieth century this 10' by 11' room was outfitted as a bathroom. The small porch serving the 1853 lean-to addition and north 1853 addition was built at the same time as the lean-to. The porch was enlarged during the 1920s.

The two story, single-pile, frame block, with the exception of the 1853 rooms to the east of the hall, was made by Thomas F. Harwood in 1905. The hall originally had separate stairs that led to the second floor and the English basement. The stairs to the basement were removed during the 1920s by the Hughes. The new rooms to the left of the hall were heated by stoves which were served by the small square interior chimney.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1800, 1820, 1853 and 1905.

Builder Architect N/A

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Piney Grove is a rare survival of log vernacular architecture in Tidewater Virginia and a unique survival of a log agricultural building that was later twice incorporated into a much larger frame structure. As originally built during the early nineteenth century, the Piney Grove corn crib, with its exposed and unchinked logs, was not unlike the many log corn cribs which were once an integral feature of eighteenth and nineteenth century Virginia Tidewater agricultural complexes. In 1820 the corn crib was relocated on the Southall farm just seventy feet north of "the old main road from the ferry to the Court House" and transformed into a "general merchandise" store. For an eighty-five year period from 1820 until 1905, when Piney Grove was enlarged and converted into a residence, Piney Grove Store served the travelers of the "Main Road" and the residents of the Poplar Springs area of Charles City County.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Piney Grove was built c. 1800 as a log corn crib on Furnea Southall's three hundred acre farm in the Poplar Springs area of Charles City County. Fragments of original features and treatments uncovered during the 1984 restoration indicate that the corn crib originally closely resembled the now ruinous log corn crib at Shirley. The addition of an assessment for buildings in the Charles City County Land Books, as well as architectural features, suggest that the corn crib was converted into a store in 1820.

Log construction was a common method of construction utilized in eighteenth and nineteenth century Tidewater vernacular architecture. Log architecture was typically utilized in agricultural buildings where the use of more costly materials and complicated construction was not warranted, or in dwellings constructed by persons unable to afford the quantity of sawn lumber required for a framed structure. Piney Grove, the ruinous Quarter at Mount Stirling (Charles City Co.) and the ruinous corn crib at Shirley (Charles City Co.) are three closely related early nineteenth century log agricultural buildings representative of this once common form of construction. Piney Grove is distinguished in being the only known surviving corn crib - turned - store.

Melville Vaiden acquired the property in 1848. He was not the first in his family to own or operate a store: Leonardus W. Vaiden and Monroe F. Vaiden operated nearby stores during the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s. Vaiden separated a forty acre tract from the three hundred acre parcel just prior to farmer and former tavern keeper John S. Stubblefield's purchase of the property in 1850. In 1853 Stubblefield doubled the size of the store building at Piney Grove.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

N/A

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 5.2 acres

Quadrangle name Brandon, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	8	3	2	4	8	2	4	4	1	3	7	9	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

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D 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on the N side of VA 615 approx. 8300 W of intersection of said route with VA 624; thence extending approx. 400' W along N side of VA 615; thence approx. 300' N; thence approx. 300' NE; thence approx. 300' SE; thence approx. 400' S to point of origin. The bounds have been drawn to encompass the house and lot on which it stands.

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Edward Gordineer

organization N/A

date March 5, 1985

street & number 1 Huntington Drive

telephone (804) 220-3228

city or town Williamsburg

state Virginia 23185

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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



H. Bryan Mitchell, Director  
title Division of Historic Landmarks

date June 18, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

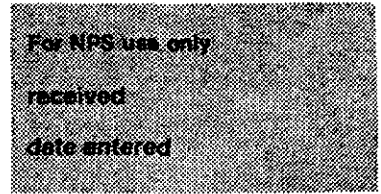
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

PINEY GROVE, CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 4

Page 1

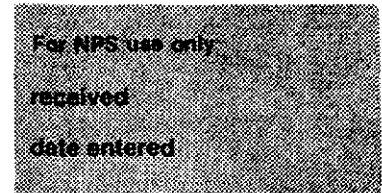


4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

- (2) Joan Gordineer  
1 Huntington Drive  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
  
- (3) Brian Edward Gordineer  
1 Huntington Drive  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

**United States Department of the Interior  
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PINEY GROVE, CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VA  
Continuation sheet 2

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architetur al Analysis

The second floor consisted of a modified center-passage plan: Three bed chambers were located on the second floor. Incorporation of the 1853 addition with eight-foot ceilings into the two-story block with nine-foot resulted in the second floor room of the 1853 addition being a foot lower than the other second floor rooms. In order to create three second floor bed chambers it was necessary to create a center bed chamber that extended from over the hall and into the 1853 second floor room: The partition to separate the center bed chamber from the now smaller bed chamber in the 1853 portion was placed on the hardwood floor without a loadbearing wall beneath it: In 1984 the Gordineers relocated the partition three feet west over a loadbearing wall to insure long-term structural stability. The walls of the center bed chamber were originally covered with a flocked and gilt floral striped wallpaper.

Also part of Harwood's enlargement was the creation of a front porch which stretched across the c. 1800 and 1853 portions and part of the 1905 section of the house: The Hughes replaced that porch with the two existing front porches during the 1920s. The kitchen along the rear of the log section was built in 1984 by the Gordineers along the lines of the rear porch created by the Hughes in the 1920s.

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Continuation sheet 3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

During the nineteenth century, Piney Grove was one of several "general merchandise" stores located along "the old main road" that led from the Chickahominy River ferry, which connected Charles City County with James City County and Williamsburg, to Charles City County Court House, which was the political, as well as geographical center of the county. "The old main road is the predecessor to Virginia Route 5, which was constructed during the 1940s. During the mid-nineteenth century, in addition to Piney Grove, there was Vaiden's Store at "the middle cross roads", Marables Store at Mount Pleasant and Apperson's Store near "Moses Creek. Increased settlement along "the old main road" created additional demand for stores and before the end of the first decade of the twentieth century there existed three additional stores - Binn's Store at Binns Hall, Gill's Store at Poplar Springs and Wilson's Store at Holdcroft.

In 1855, Edmund A. Saunders, formerly of Accomack County and Seldon C. Slater, formerly of New Kent County, purchased the store and three surrounding acres from Stubblefield. Upon his arrival in Charles City, Slater, a former New Kent County merchant, married, became a farmer and served as a silent partner in Piney Grove Store. Saunders operated Piney Grove Store with the assistance of young merchant, James M. Wilson. After only four years in Charles City County, Slater sold Woodpark, his residence and three-hundred acre farm near the Court House, to a former Richmond merchant who also bought a store and lumber yard in the New Hope area of Charles City County. Slater moved to Accomack County after leaving Charles City.

Stores, along with churches, are the two primary elements of traditional urban centers that have traditionally been the focus of Charles City County's many rural centers. Stores, churches, and the Court House were the only places that the residents of rural Charles City County regularly gathered together. Former President Tyler's wife, Julia Gardner, noted in a letter to her mother in New York, that mail distribution was one of the many services that some Charles City County stores provided during the mid-nineteenth century.

In 1867 the young one-legged Confederate veteran Thomas F. Harwood became owner of Piney Grove Store: During the late 1870s and early 1880s H.B. Hopkins was employed as a clerk. The store apparently prospered under Harwood's ownership: In 1879 Harwood purchased the 50 acre Myrtle Hill tract on the north of Piney Grove and in 1905 he purchased a 110 acre tract on the east of Piney Grove. During the first decade of the twentieth century the combination store-residence was greatly enlarged and used solely as a residence. Harwood built a new store house across "the old main road" on the Myrtle Hill tract and a doctor's office, for his son Ashton, on the extreme western edge of his 110 acre tract adjacent to Piney Grove.

John Andrew Hughes purchased the three acre Piney Grove tract, the Myrtle Hill tract and a two acre parcel separated from Harwood's 110 acre tract in 1916. Piney Grove remained the Hughes' homeplace until the death of Mrs. Stella Hughes in 1965. In 1984 John Andrew Hughes, Jr. sold the Piney Grove tract and the adjacent two acre parcel to Joseph J. Gordineer. The Gordineers immediately began restoring Piney Grove to its early twentieth century appearance.

5558 1 NE  
(PROVIDENCE  
FORGE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
Brandon, VA

(scale:1:24000)  
1965 (PR 1980)

PINEY GROVE, Charles City County, VA

ONWEALT  
ON OF MINE

UTM References:

18/324820/4137910

328 5658 1A  
(WALK)

