

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Kenwood

Other names/site number: VDHR File #036-0121

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Listed On	
VLR:	3/19/2015
NRHP:	5/18/2015

### 2. Location

Street & number: 7437 Kenwood Lane

City or town: Gloucester State: Virginia County: Gloucester

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

	<u>3/25/15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD/ Weatherboard; METAL/  
Aluminum

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Kenwood is a significant survival of Greek Revival and Italianate architecture in Gloucester County. It retains architectural integrity and displays ambitious antebellum additions and ornamentation made possible by the successful farming, mercantile, and business endeavors of its early nineteenth-century owners. The property is located a short distance west of the county courthouse, adjacent to a branch of Crany Creek (formerly Craney) and surrounded by fertile farmland. The earliest surviving historical documentation of a residence here dates to the period immediately preceding 1820 when it was acquired by Thomas C. Amory. The house was originally built as a frame one-and-a-half-story dwelling with a raised brick foundation that may have been part of the original plan, or that was completed by 1840. John R. Cary added a substantial south wing and connector by 1860. This later addition was accompanied by distinctive embellishments, including deep decorative Italianate cornices with heavy brackets and cornice returns on the gables. Its modest origins as a frame family dwelling gave way to a more imposing façade that embraced an individual architectural expression and accommodated the social and entertainment needs that suited an upper class member of society, reflecting the professional accomplishments and aspirations of Mr. Cary and his family. Subsequent owners

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made few alterations. The property includes a contributing smokehouse, cook's house, and archaeological site (44GL0476), as well as non-contributing sheds (two), a pool, well houses (two), hot tub, pool pump house, brick entrance pillars and chicken coop.

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## Narrative Description

### **Dwelling, ca. 1820 with major additions by 1840 and by 1860 (contributing)**

The main house at Kenwood is located about two miles west of Gloucester Courthouse on a 7.81-acre parcel lined with mature trees and gardens, with agricultural fields beyond and a branch of Crany Creek to the north. The driveway, accessible from Kenwood Lane, is tree-lined and approaches the house from the south, terminating on the east side of the house, but with visible remnants of a driveway which once encircled the dwelling. Kenwood is a complex brick and frame house with at least two significant periods of major construction. The house is comprised of two prominent sections. The earlier northern section is a frame one-and-a-half-story Greek Revival dwelling with a one-story lean-to section built above a brick ground floor with brick interior end chimneys at the east and west gables. A substantial one-and-a-half-story Italianate frame addition over a raised brick foundation with cellar was built perpendicular to the south side of the main house, creating a T-shaped plan. Deep decorative Italianate cornices with heavy brackets and cornice returns on the gables were probably added to the entire building at the time of the south addition, and this decoration was extended to the dormers on the south part of the original house as well as on the addition. The brackets on the south addition and over the two exterior doorways into the connecting passage are the largest, while the brackets on the north portion of the house are smaller with a slightly different profile, and were not extended across the north side of the house. The brackets on the porch cornices are slightly smaller, with even smaller brackets on the posts, both with a slightly different profile than the others. Finally, the brackets on the dormers are also smaller, and with a different profile. The visual effect is of a unified design at first glance, with elements that get smaller as they get higher on the building, enhancing the verticality of the building, but there is a playfulness to the design which suggests architectural experimentation on the part of the builders and owners. Dormers on the north part of the original house are of simpler design and likely predate the south addition. The house is covered in aluminum siding which hides earlier weatherboarding. The roof is standing seam metal, painted red. The brick foundation walls of the northern portion of the house are laid in 5:1 common bond, while the southern addition is consistently 3:1 common bond.

#### Original (North) house exterior and interior:

The original core of the house is a frame one-and-a-half-story dwelling built over a brick ground floor that is level with the exterior ground surface. The outer form of this building, with a brick ground floor, gabled roof and lean-to section covering a formerly open ground floor porch, very closely matches the plan of the Edge Hill House/Gloucester Woman's Club (NRHP 1974; VDHR File #036-0031), located nearby at the far east end of Main Street, however the interior arrangement is different. The Edge Hill House was constructed in two primary stages to reach its

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current extent – beginning with a likely second-half, eighteenth-century frame portion that was raised above a brick ground floor ca. 1833. In contrast to its “twin,” the north portion of Kenwood appears to have been constructed at one time, prior to 1840, with several interior changes in the ensuing decades by multiple owners, although it is possible that the brick ground floor was added later as at the Edge Hill House. Also, there does not appear to be substantial evidence of substantially earlier architectural elements in Kenwood’s north portion, as there is with the Edge Hill House. At least one building was certainly in existence by the time Thomas C. Amory acquired the property (and the first year of record for building values in county land tax records) in 1820.<sup>1</sup>

*Ground floor:* The original (north) portion of the house was entered through a centered ground level doorway on the south façade of the building, which is now accessed through the enclosed connector space. This doorway is a wide formal entrance with a wood door with three recessed flat panels flanked by a pair of flat pilasters on either side with simple capitals and four-pane sidelights in between. The ground floor of the original house has two principal rooms (currently a large dining room and a library/den) with a long, narrow kitchen and pantry in the lean-to section, part of which began as a covered porch. Moldings, including baseboards and window and door trim, are the same in both principal rooms, consisting of a plain baseboard, and simple Greek Revival door and window trim of plain boards with a two part molded edge, which juts out slightly near the tops of doors/windows to add more definition to the effect. The windows in the two south rooms (dining room and library/den), and in the rooms directly above (currently bedrooms), are large, wide windows with large lights, which match in scale those in the south addition, suggesting they were enlarged at the same time as Cary’s 1848 to 1860 alterations. The dining room has a concealed summer beam running north-south across the room, which supports the west interior wall above. There is evidence in the plaster and in the floor and walls of the room above that a staircase to the first floor used to be in this room, rising along the north wall up to the summer beam, but this was likely removed during one of Cary’s renovations. The ceiling in the dining room was covered in bead board paneling, possibly a hand-planed variety dating to the Cary period. The chimney on the west end was altered in the mid-nineteenth century, likely one of Cary’s changes, to accommodate a wide arched entrance with a double-door leading to the west yard. The archway is decorated with restrained Greek Revival moldings and a curved soffit board with pointed drops. A curved board nailed to the underside of the floor in the south addition cellar may have been one of the boards used to create a framework to build this arched opening, as it measures about the same width and has a very similar profile. A large brick buttress containing a separate flue for a stove was constructed adjacent to the north side of the chimney support, and may also have served to help reinforce the weakened chimney. These renovations may have formalized a more utilitarian basement space into an entertaining area, and it is possible that the original primary entrance was to the floor above, but evidence of changes to the formal entrances is now obscured by the connector.

The kitchen/pantry contains a section on the west half that was fully enclosed within brick walls (now a kitchen room and pantry) and space on the east half that was originally an open porch supported by tall brick pillars (two of these are intact; and one or two more may exist but if so are concealed by aluminum siding and an interior closet). The wood sills and joists supporting

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the floor above are exposed in the west half of the kitchen/pantry. A large summer beam is hand-adzed on all three visible sides and contains three rectangular holes on its east side that likely supported the stringers of a former staircase which rose from the porch into the first floor of the lean-to. The joists were sawn using a rip or pit saw, with some evidence of hand-adzing as well, and support tongue-in-groove floorboards which were planed and then gouged to level them for each joist. The floor of the pantry and western part of the kitchen are wood, some probably the original boards, while the eastern portion of the kitchen has modern wood floors above a late 20<sup>th</sup>-century concrete slab floor which was likely poured over an earlier brick floor. There are numerous modern cabinets, counters, and appliances. The current owners report a crawl space measuring several feet deep beneath the west kitchen room and possibly part of the pantry, which may be evidence of an early storage cellar. The former porch area is now enclosed by windows and glass doors on the north side, a wood and glass door on the east side, with a closet in the northeast corner. The former doorway into the library still exists, but contains a built-in book shelf, while the wide window into that room was converted into a doorway during the early or mid-twentieth century. The doorway from the pantry to the large dining room has an early style door that has been removed and is located in a shed on the property.

*First floor:* The first floor is currently accessed via the staircase in the connector, but earlier may have also been reached by staircases rising into the large ground floor dining room and the former lean-to porch. The current staircase and portico in the connector may have replaced an earlier exterior entrance that was modified when the south wing was added. The first floor has a traditional central hall flanked by two large rooms, with three smaller rooms located in the lower lean-to space, which began as a porch with the western portion enclosed. The hall has the same wide, simple wood trim that matches that of the ground floor dining room, while the west bedroom has plain board trim with a simple molded cap. The three principal rooms have 9'8" ceilings, while those in the lean-to rooms vary. A staircase rises from the southwest corner of the hall. This closed string staircase has simple wide molded trim, but is quite plain and utilitarian in design. In the early twentieth century the staircase and a closet below were enclosed, likely during the ownership of Augusta B. Slingluff, whose improvements to the building were noted with increased building values in the 1916 and 1921 Gloucester County land tax books.<sup>2</sup> The door to the enclosed stair is a wood six-panel form and has some age, but it is unclear whether it was moved from somewhere else in the building, or brought in from another structure.

The west bedroom is a large room with a fireplace on the west wall. The mantel matches the simple door and window trim, with flat columns below simple capitals. The mantel board is a wide board with rounded corners, and it sits on a narrower piece with cut corners that may be the original mantel top. The chimney has a large brick buttress attached to the north side which carries the additional stove flue from the room below and then ties back into the chimney block. It may also have helped to reinforce the modified chimney stack. The doors into the room are wood with six raised panels. The lock on the door to the hall is not original, but marks on the door and the jamb indicate an earlier lock and suggest that this is an early or original door that was not altered during mid-nineteenth-century repairs to the house. However, the doorway was shifted to the south, as the original location would have been closer to the north wall at the top of the former staircase from the room below. Evidence in the floorboards as well as on the north

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and east walls and ceiling indicates that this staircase was boxed in to separate it from the room. The door to the library also appears to be one of the earlier doors.

The east bedroom has the finest woodwork within the building, suggesting an earlier, more public entertaining function, such as a dining room or parlor during the ownership of Thomas C. Amory (ca. 1820-1840). The trim surrounding the doors and windows is unlike other trim within the house, consisting of wide side trim with multiple thin panels. This trim continues above the doors, with raised panels and a separate crown piece above, while the windows have a simpler cap with crown piece, but include raised panels beneath the windows. The main door into the bedroom matches the entrance door to the large dining room on the ground floor (three recessed flat panels), as well as the north hall door into the current bathroom, while the door to the closet in the lean-to section is an older style wood door with six raised panels. The elaborate surrounds to the doorways, while matching in style, are substantially different widths, as well as different heights, suggesting that the workers incorporated the existing door openings into the remodeled woodwork. The window and door surrounds, while containing most of the same elements, are not done in the same fashion. The wide panel with raised beveled device is below the south and southeast window, and above the north doorway, but not present on the southwest doorway, while the large molded crown is above both doors and all three windows, but does not appear to be the same thickness in each instance. This could be due to some damage and repair (which may account for elements missing from around the northeast window), however it may also point to the craftsmanship of the individuals who installed the woodwork, and who probably crafted these elements by hand. The mantel surround matches the one in the east bedroom, but has a narrow top mantel board.

The three rooms within the lean-to section include a small library, bathroom and large closet. The library was enclosed originally, but the bathroom and large closet spaces began as a covered porch that was enclosed during mid-nineteenth-century renovations, and have sloped floors that reflect this early use. The library has a beaded base board and double beaded chair board in portions of the room. Along with the door into this room from the west bedroom, these appear to be early details, likely from the original construction in the early nineteenth century. The windows include a small six-over-six double-hung sash on the north side, with a wider west window containing two side-hinged eight-pane panels. The latter muntins are very wide, suggesting an eighteenth-century style, but this would be an unusual form for that period. An enclosed washer/dryer area on the east side of the room obscures details about the original size and configuration of the room, while a very narrow doorway was installed in the southeast corner to provide access to the bathroom. This door, likely trimmed down, matches the style of doors in the south addition with raised octagonal panels. The bathroom is small and contains wood trim on its northern window matching the wide moldings of the hallway. The large window is a fixed sash containing twelve large panes bordered by six smaller panes. Matching windows are also in the large east closet room. The closet is lined with built-in cabinets surrounding the room and has no other visible period features other than the windows.

*Second floor:* The second floor contains two bedrooms flanking a central hall, reached by the enclosed staircase rising from the hallway below. The ceilings are seven feet high, with angled



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sides pierced by dormers. The floors are wide wood planks of variable width. The west bedroom has two dormers, a fireplace on the west wall with a simple plain board mantel, and an entry door made of three vertical panels with a nineteenth-century English box lock by Ford & Co. The vertical boards and cross pieces are beaded and attached with cut or wrought clinched nails, and may have been made in the nineteenth century from unused or reused wainscoting and other trim boards. The door and dormer surrounds and baseboards are molded boards. The dormers are six-over-six double-hung sash, but the north window appears to have older details than the south dormer, which matches more closely with dormers in the south addition. A closet beside the fireplace was built in the early to mid-twentieth century and has a bead board door. The hallway and east bedroom have the same details as the west bedroom, with the exception of the south dormer in the hall, which was altered into a passage into the south wing of the house. The staircase has rectangular spindles and a molded rail, which is similar to the added stair in the connector, but this stair appears to be older.

#### Connector interior:

The original part of the house and the south addition are joined together by an unusual entrance hall that incorporates the earlier main exterior entrance to the house, with a small portico, along with access to the south addition (and a small access into the south cellar), all of which occur at four different elevations. It is unclear why this unusual space was designed this way, but it appears that it was enclosed at the same time as construction of the south addition. The exterior of this area is distinguished by entrances on the east and west sides featuring doors with two-pane transoms above, capped by small projecting pediments with cornice trim and bracket treatments that match those on the house and porch cornices.

The interior of the room has a very tall arched ceiling and a tan and blue tile floor likely dating to the Slingluffs' ownership in the early twentieth century, covering an earlier brick floor. Flanking the lower entrance to the north part of the house are a pair of substantial fluted wood columns, measuring eight feet tall, that support a small balcony for the doorway above, which is accessed by the staircase that rises along the east wall. The initial run of the stair up to the level of the south addition is contemporary with the south addition, having the same balustrade design and decorative dart and dot brackets along the stringer. This stair originally provided access to the door to the addition, with a small closet and entrance into the south cellar located below, but in the mid-twentieth century the staircase was extended up the east wall, across the east doorway, and up to the second floor balcony of the earlier part of the house. The balusters and handrail are different on this newer portion of the stairs, and other contemporary changes by the Morano family included creating a small bathroom and closet under the modified staircase. The bead board paneling along the walls appears to have been hand-planed and may date to the mid-nineteenth or early twentieth century.

#### South addition exterior and interior:

The south addition, comprising three levels (cellar, first and second floors) with east and west porches, appears to have been built during the ownership of John Cary, specifically between

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1848 and 1860. This is based on the consistency of architectural materials, style and embellishment, as well as substantial records and receipts that match several surviving architectural elements, including windows, columns, and cornices.<sup>3</sup> This wing has exterior entrances on both the east and west elevations, and connects to the older part of the house through passages on the first and second floors in the connector. The east porch, stretching across the length of the addition, is supported by six columns, each located above a brick pier, and enclosed with a cast-iron railing with a repetitive quatrefoil decoration. The wooden columns are an unusual design, with flattened quatrefoil capitals and bases which reference the shape of the iron railing, small decorative brackets at the top which are similar to those on the cornice, with cross-shaped posts, all set at a 45-degree angle from the plane of the building. A former staircase near the north end of the porch was removed in the mid-twentieth century by the Morano family. The west entrance is covered by a smaller but formal portico supported by four wood columns above two substantial brick piers. The columns and cast-iron railing match those on the east porch. The stairs leading to the portico are non-historic replacements. The steep standing-seam metal roof is pierced by three dormers on the east and two on the west, with molded cornices and scaled down brackets that match those on the roof cornice. A single enclosed brick chimney at the south end pierces the roof.

The cellar room is accessed via a modern oak staircase found beneath a trap door in the stair hall of the south wing, and likely replaced an earlier service stair to the cellar. A small closet open between the adjoining connector and the cellar was closed off from the connector in the mid-twentieth century and is now only accessed from the cellar. The cellar is one large room with a chimney and fireplace at the south end, divided only by a central brick pier and partial piers along the side which support a summer beam for the framing above. The brick floor is relatively recent, installed by the Fishburnes (ca. 1994-1998). The foundation walls are brick 3:1 common bond and were constructed all at once. The brick walls rise approximately five feet above the present ground surface and are pierced by four windows (two on the south wall and one each on the east and west walls, matching the positions of windows on the first floor. Some of the sash may have been replaced in the early twentieth century, but the window frames and locations are original. The framing for the floor above is exposed, revealing mortise and tenoned primary timbers (with Roman numerals used to match pieces together), with hand-adzed marks, and pit or rip sawn joists supporting the tongue and groove floors above.

The first and second floors of the addition contain a stair hall and larger room to the south. Ceilings on the first floor are 12' 10" high, while those on the second floor are much lower. The random width tongue and groove pine flooring, plain baseboard, simple crown molding and window moldings are the same in the stair hall and parlor. The stair hall on the first floor contains a broad staircase rising against the north wall, with the east and west doorways aligned at either end of the room. Both doorways have six-paned sidelights containing decorative frosted glass with a geometrical pattern (although one section on the east door has been replaced), with ten-pane transoms containing plain glass. The two entrance doors and the pair of doors leading to the south parlor are matched wood doors, each containing six paired octagonal molded panels of three different sizes. The open string staircase rises thirteen steps along the north wall to a landing, which stretches across to the east wall, then turns west and rises six more steps to the

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second floor. The stringer is decorated with applied wooden brackets featuring a dart and dot pattern. The balustrade includes a thick, circular newel post with an octagonal base, a flared, deeply chamfered midsection, and turned finial, connected to a smooth oval handrail that rises continuously to the second floor. The handrail is supported by two turned balusters per tread, and iron bracing, possibly original, providing additional support to the first run of the staircase. The south parlor is a fairly square room lit by large windows and heated by a fireplace at the south end. The fireplace is surrounded by a wood mantel consisting of round tapered columns on plain square bases capped by simple molded capitals supporting shorter square columns below a flat mantel shelf with molded edge. The central device is a smooth raised oval within a rectangular box. The hearth features red and white mosaic tiles. The windows are tall nine-over-nine double-hung wood sash with wide molded trim on the south side of the room, while the east and west walls feature pairs of these same windows.

The second floor of the south addition contains a narrow stair hall, with a view over the balustrade to the staircase and landing below, as well as a bedroom to the south, and a bathroom to the north. The floors are similar random width pine, with the trim around the baseboard, windows and doors consisting of plain boards. The hall and bedroom have dormer windows on the east and west sides of each room, while the bathroom has one dormer on the east wall. The bathroom contains modern bathroom fixtures, modern trim and recent vertical panel doors that mimic older doors in the north portion of the house. This room connects the south addition to the earlier part of the house, with access via an enlarged former dormer. The wood floors indicate that various modifications have taken place in this space to accommodate a variety of functions.

#### SECONDARY RESOURCES:

1. Cook's house, ca. early twentieth century (**contributing building**)

The cook's house is a one-story, one-room dwelling with a west exterior end chimney built of machine-made brick. The frame building has a concrete foundation, plain wood siding, and a metal roof. There are wood six-over-six double-hung sash windows on the east, north, and south elevations. A door with five horizontal panels situated beneath an open shed roof porch with concrete stoop provides entry on the east elevation. This small cottage was lived in by cooks and possibly other household servants during the twentieth century.

2. Kenwood archaeological site and cemetery (44GL0476), late eighteenth century to early twentieth century (**contributing site**)

The archaeological site encompasses much of the nominated acreage and includes a clay borrow pit once used for the extraction of clay to make bricks on site, a brick kiln/clamp, a nineteenth-century cemetery for the Cary family, the foundations for a substantial ca. 1848 brick barn, a brick foundation for an unidentified building, an early twentieth-century silo, and the general late eighteenth-century through early twentieth-century domestic debris associated with the lives of the plantation's everyday residents. The nineteenth-century kitchen was located just northeast of the house, but was torn down by the mid-twentieth century, and its remains are likely beneath the

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present gravel parking area. The markers for the cemetery were removed in the early twentieth century and their current location is unknown. The brick barn foundation is visible at the ground surface and its measurements closely match those found for a 60' by 30' barn floor plan drawing in John R. Cary's papers. The brick kiln/clamp remnants may be associated with the construction of Kenwood (ca. 1800) but are more likely connected with a period of renovations including the south wing addition (ca. 1840 to 1860).

3. Smoke House, early to mid-nineteenth century (**contributing building**)

The smoke house is a tall, square frame building set on brick piers with a pyramidal, wood-shingled roof capped by a wood finial. The interior is lit by one six-pane fixed window on the west side (not original). Access is gained to the interior through a door constructed of vertical planks with large interior iron strap hinges. A single-pane window has been cut into the door.

4. Shed, ca. 2000 (**non-contributing building**)

Located south of the chicken coop, the frame building with metal shed roof, cinderblock foundation, and plain wood siding contains primarily gardening supplies and other yard equipment. Access to the interior is gained through two frame doors on the west side.

5. Chicken Coop, ca. 2010 (**non-contributing building**)

This small frame resource has a metal roof and its wood support posts rest directly on the ground. The interior is lit through multiple fixed 4-pane windows.

6. Shed, ca. 2010 (**non-contributing building**)

Located north of the chicken coop, this is a large frame gable roof shed with metal roof and plain wood siding set on round concrete piers.

7. Hot Tub, late twentieth century (**non-contributing building**)

This is a late twentieth-century commercially-available hot tub constructed on a wooden deck with an adjacent frame electrical control box with gabled, wood shingle roof.

8. Well House, late twentieth century (**non-contributing building**)

This is a simple wood frame cover above an earlier dug well with brick casing. The age of the well is undetermined.

9. Pool, late twentieth century (**non-contributing building**)

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The concrete in-ground pool is surrounded by stone paving and further divided from its surroundings by a wooden fence with a Japanese style wood gateway with shingled roof.

10. Small Well House, late twentieth century (**non-contributing building**)

This is a low square wood frame structure with metal roof covering a late twentieth-century concrete well.

11. Pool Pump House, late twentieth century (**non-contributing building**)

The pool pump house is a small frame building with a pyramidal shingle roof, with posts set in the ground and plastic windows.

12. Brick Entrance Pillars, ca. 1970s (**non-contributing structure**)

The brick entrance pillars flank the driveway entrance, south of the primary dwelling, and consist of machine-made brick bonded with concrete mortar.

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## 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- ARCHITECTURE
- ARCHAEOLOGY/ HISTORIC – NON-ABORIGINAL
- AGRICULTURE
- ETHNIC HERITAGE/ AFRICAN AMERICAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1820 – 1951

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1820: period of earliest construction

1840: first major additions to the house by Thomas C. Amory

1848-1860: renovations and construction of new house wing and outbuildings by John Reade Cary, Jr.

1922-1927: renovations by Augusta B. Slingluff and daughter Maretta Slingluff Chism

1950-1951: farm subdivision; renovations/additions by Norman J. & Mary J. Cooke

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

Euro-American

African American

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Amory, Thomas C. (addition)

Cary, John Reade Jr. (addition)

Fletcher, James B. (carpenter)

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Kenwood is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C and D in the areas of Architecture and Archaeology/Historic – Non-Aboriginal, both with local levels of significance. Kenwood preserves two important stages of construction that represent the evolution of the house from an improved example of simplified Greek Revival architecture from ca. 1820 to an elegant mid-19th-century Italianate house completed by 1860 for John R. Cary, which included expanded entertaining space, formal entrances and porches, and a complex connecting space which encapsulated the earlier building’s original entrances. These dramatic changes are matched by agricultural improvements to the property, including the construction of a large barn, known primarily through the property’s archaeological remains. These remains also include a likely brick kiln/clamp and clay extraction area within the northern third of the property, which may date to either of the two primary renovation/expansion periods. Both periods match not only the economic success of some farmers in Gloucester during the mid- and late Antebellum period, but also the continued investment in inland estates located closer to “the Greate Road” (U.S. Rt. 17) and Gloucester Court House. Kenwood further preserves the design and workmanship of enslaved African American craftsmen who manufactured and installed construction materials such as brick for the walls and wood elements such as doors, brackets, railings, stairs, and interior trim. The house sits on a secluded, tree-edged lot surrounded by agricultural fields that continue to evoke its agricultural past. The property’s period of significance is ca. 1820-1951, and begins with the construction of the earliest portion of the dwelling. The end of the period of significance is based on the subdivision of the property and the introduction of modern utilities and other minor cosmetic changes that occurred in the 1950s and allowed the property to remain a viable dwelling. Prior to this, the building and surroundings appear to have remained without major changes since the completion of the south wing by 1860.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**CRITERION C: Architecture**

Kenwood is significant as an intact and distinctive example of an evolved domestic building with multiple periods and styles of architecture represented in different sections of the house. The architectural design and details represent the growth of the house from its construction around 1820 through the addition of a substantial south wing and connecting passage by 1860. This evolution includes the transition from a one-and-a-half-story Greek Revival frame central-passage dwelling over a raised brick ground floor, to an asymmetrical Italianate residence consisting of north and south wings connected with a passage, and featuring multiple formal entrances and entertaining spaces. The building sequence has given the house several exterior entrances on the south, west, and north elevations, primarily reflecting the shift from a north-south orientation to an east-west one with the addition of the south wing and perhaps



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highlighting the building's strategic and commanding location along the road leading directly to Gloucester Court House, an increasingly important economic and political thoroughfare at the heart of the county. Much like its contemporary "twin," the Edge Hill House/Gloucester Woman's Club (NRHP 1974; DHR #036-0031), on the east end of Main Street, this house embodies the economic and social development of Gloucester Court House as the semi-urban governmental center of rural Gloucester County from the late eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth century when automobile traffic along U.S. Rt. 17 (to the east) led to a reconfiguring of the western boundary of Main Street and altered development patterns within the county. Kenwood stands out amongst Gloucester County's architectural resources for its unusual floor plan and Antebellum-period improvements, including the Greek Revival and Italianate details, and the overall integrity of these elements which convey the distinctive evolution of this building.

The earliest documented owner of the Kenwood property was Williams E. Davis in 1806. He lived at nearby Oaklawn. It is difficult to determine precisely who built the house or when, but some of the house's architectural details, including several doors, wood trim, flooring and windows in the one-and-a-half-story frame north section, have been found in rural areas that date from about 1800 into the first quarter of the nineteenth century. While not retaining as fine or intact early elements as those found at the Edge Hill House, the earliest architectural evidence at Kenwood, particularly its comparable size and arrangement, give credence to its construction around 1820. When Thomas C. Amory acquired the property from Davis in 1820, Virginia's land tax records began consistently recording improvements to properties, most often houses, including \$138.75 for this property. The improvement value is roughly comparable to the contemporaneous Edge Hill House, although the most intriguing similarity coincides with improvements to both buildings in the 1830s. The core eighteenth-century, one-and-a-half-story, frame Edge Hill House was raised by merchant John Field above a new brick ground floor between 1833 and 1839. During this period its improvement value increased by \$2118.75. For Kenwood, the building value increased by \$1861.25 in 1840. This suggests that Kenwood as well may have been raised up over a brick ground floor at this time. Amory purchased Kenwood in 1820 and, while these improvements may have been made any time between 1820 and 1840, his changes are roughly contemporary with the Field family's additions. The similarities between the two buildings are most apparent at this point in their evolution as both incorporate 5:1 common bond brickwork in their ground floor foundations, and both had covered porches on their ground floor and first floor levels. The primary difference was that Edge Hill had a side-hall interior first floor plan, while Kenwood had a central hall flanked by two primary rooms. Thomas Amory, like his contemporaries at the Edge Hill House, was heavily invested in the success of Gloucester County, including holding positions in the local militia, the county court, and in several business ventures which made his residence near the courthouse and the growing economic center of Gloucester all the more logical and beneficial. These efforts, his growing estate, and investment in enslaved African Americans, also firmly place Amory among the county's growing middle class with aspirations to higher status.

Its age aside, Kenwood is functionally and stylistically distinct from two mid-to-late-eighteenth-century buildings along Main Street, the classic Georgian-style Gloucester Courthouse (VDHR

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#036-0021-0005), built in 1766, and the late Georgian-style Botetourt Hotel (VDHR #036-0009), built ca. 1774. Regarding floor plan, Kenwood does not match its “twin” Edge Hill House with its side passage arrangement, but it does parallel symmetrically designed, center-passage examples, like Dragon Ordinary (VDHR #036-00 15), Little England (VDHR #036-0030), and Cappahosic House (VDHR #036-0011), although those houses have full brick exteriors.

Kenwood diverged architecturally from the Edge Hill House with Amory’s sale of the property to John R. Cary, Jr. in 1848. Kenwood also continued exclusively as a personal residence, rather than accommodating mercantile and blacksmithing businesses as the Edge Hill House did. The building takes its current floorplan and overall appearance from Cary’s 1848-1860 improvements, which included renovations of the existing house, the addition of a new wing, and the construction of several farm outbuildings. Cary’s improvements are recorded in the Land Tax Books as an increase of \$500 in 1851 and a \$2500 increase in 1860, the substantial nature of these improvements summarized by him as “Expenses of building New House and Repairing & remodelling [sic] Old One.”<sup>4</sup>

Cary’s improvements are recoverable through the greatly detailed account books that document his purchases and payments to laborers during this period. Starting work in January of 1848 he bought “old house” bricks and had them cleaned; purchased both raw materials (lime, glass, etc.) and specific crafted pieces (weatherboards, shingles, and nails) for repairs to the house he purchased as well as carpenter James B. Fletcher’s construction of several outbuildings, including a kitchen and likely the smokehouse which still stands today.<sup>5</sup> Laborers, including Peyton West, Johnson, Marcus, and George, assisted Fletcher who likely stayed on to incorporate the recently purchased goods from Baltimore, whether helping make/lay bricks, “stone for porches,” or install a “crook for curtains.” Many of the measurements for window panes match those in the building, particularly for the south wing, while those for the stone porches do not, suggesting the stones could survive beneath the tiled floor in the connector, or were removed by later owners. Most remarkable, though, are the matching measurements from the account book to the columns which survive in the connector, suggesting these elements, installed as Cary’s new southern entrance, were deemed valuable enough to remain part of the building even when completely enclosed within the changes that took place only a few years later.

Cary’s 1860 Memorandum Book includes the most detailed and attributable references to the building’s architecture. It also directly connects the building to the craftsmanship of hired enslaved African Americans, specifically George, a bricklayer. Cary’s accounts highlight the integrity of the building, including reference to the extant plaster and trim for the portico and the porch, the former with 3-inch-by-3-inch trim and the latter with 2-inch-by-3-inch trim. Cary included room measurements, such as the size of the parlor, including the spacing of the chimney, as well as window measurements (as units and with individual lights). His details extended to the smallest elements, such as the portico railings and the new stairway, which had 18 steps, 3 feet 3 inches wide.<sup>6</sup> While this was not the only house to retain such detailed records of its substantial changes (Airville [036-0003], located to the east along the a western branch of the Ware River, retains detailed records for changes ca. 1828-1840), Kenwood is remarkable as

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both a significant example of this period, and for its inclusion of Greek Revival and Italianate features such as deep cornices with heavy brackets and cornice returns on the gables that define its character to this day.

Cary's bold re-imagining of even his own earlier ideas for what best suited a county clerk's estate gave the house such a unique identity that few risked changing the outward appearance or arrangement to this day. His reorientation of the house to an east-west focus may have been an effort to visually enhance the connection between the courthouse, Main Street, and his own estate, while also creating an unusual arrangement of formal entrances and entertainment spaces. While these changes required him to subvert the decorated porch he had recently installed on the original building's south façade, it gave him new opportunity to demonstrate his sense of taste and style, including decorative iron railings along the east and west porches, and making his house stand out from other buildings in the courthouse area.

The death of John R. Cary and the property's passing to his widow, Betty, in 1867 coincided with the general economic depression and difficulties most residents of Gloucester felt after the Civil War. Throughout her ownership and into the Slingluff's ownership during the early twentieth century any changes or investments in the property appear to be related to maintenance rather than introductions of any new additions, stylistic details, or the like. The relative absence of late nineteenth-century/early twentieth-century modifications or additions to the building, by these and later owners, including the Chism, Bunting, and Buswell families, makes Kenwood a significant architectural landmark for these two periods, particularly the 1830s to 1860s. The lack of changes or improvements also resulted in a steady decline in the assessed value of the building through 1915, and it did not eclipse the earlier recorded improvement value of \$2,500 again until the significant infrastructure improvements of the Cooke family in the 1950s. These improvements included introduction of modern electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems, which allowed the dwelling to remain a viable residence up to the present day.

#### **CRITERION D: Archaeology**

The Kenwood property is locally significant for the intact cultural features it contains, and the potential those resources have for illuminating a broader understanding of the evolution of this site, from late eighteenth-century residential (possibly tenant farmer), through primary residence of the county clerk prior to the Civil War, and into the early twentieth century as a small agricultural complex near the county's political and economic center, Gloucester Court House. Designated Site 44GL0476, the archaeological resources add to the significance of the property in the areas of Ethnic Heritage (African American), agriculture, and architecture (clay extraction and brick manufacture). No formal excavation has taken place on the property to date. However, observations by the authors and property owners, and artifacts collected by the property owners, relate to events and buildings known through historical documentation and strongly suggest a high level of significance and substantial integrity.

While artifacts predominantly from the nineteenth century continue to be found across the property, both in gardening and occasional utility installations, the most prominent archaeological feature at the site is a large clay extraction pit and nearby brick clamp/kiln on the northern third of the property. Downslope from the main house and close to a branch of Crany

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Creek, the property's historic (and current) northern boundary, these features are evidence of industrial manufacture of brick associated with either the brick ground floor of the original house, or the construction of the south wing and connector (ca. 1860). The clay extraction pit measures no less than twenty feet wide and thirty feet long, with a maximum depth of five feet, clearly retaining its man-made features of steep sidewalls and a relatively flat bottom. A short distance to the south are several surface deposits of in-course hand-made brick without mortar and significant quantities of brick fragments, immediately beneath the leaf cover. These exposed deposits show a range of brick colors as well as some evidence for ash and charcoal. The location of these features in a low area near the periphery of the property has spared them from agricultural production or other destructive uses up to the present day.

Brick kiln/clamps are severely under-documented archaeological resources in Gloucester County and the surrounding region. Finding associated landscape features, even ones considered relatively mundane, such as an un-filled clay extraction pit, is even rarer. While there are twenty-seven kilns recorded as architecture features in Virginia, none are inventoried in the state's V-CRIS system within the six counties of the Middle Peninsula. Archaeological evidence of kilns in Virginia is slightly more substantial, with sixty-seven identified, but there are still relatively few (4) documented in the Middle Peninsula. Two of these are located in Gloucester County, including the post-bellum pug mill and brick kiln complex at Owl Trap Farm (44GL0395) and an undated example from Purton Plantation along the York River (44GL0436), while one each survive in Essex County at the mid-nineteenth century Spring Hill (028-0289 and 44EX0056) and in King and Queen County at the undated and unnamed Site 44KQ0060. There is no known direct connection between these resources and African-American laborers, whether enslaved or free. At Kenwood, however, the association within John R. Cary Jr.'s accounts, specifically the hiring of George, a brick layer, argues for the potential of these resources to contribute towards our understanding of this significant area of our rural community's history.

The archaeological evidence extends to the surface remnants of agricultural buildings and those built during John R. Cary Jr.'s expansion of the plantation ca. 1860. His records include reference to the construction, most likely by hired carpenter James B. Fletcher, of several outbuildings, including a laundry, kitchen, smokehouse (which is likely the extant example), bee house, and garden.<sup>7</sup> The opportunity to study an agricultural complex tied specifically to this late Antebellum period is rare and would provide significant information regarding the attitudes and general approach of agricultural enterprises in the region immediately preceding the Civil War. In addition to these buildings, Cary's 1860 account book includes a detailed plan for a substantial barn, measuring sixty by thirty feet, including eight stalls, a feed room, and three other rooms. This building appears to match the remnant brick foundations exposed on the surface about 250 feet north of the house. A brick foundation to another unidentified building was noted by the owners west of the cook's house, and remains of the former exterior kitchen are likely beneath the driveway parking area. Further archaeological evidence of agricultural operations include a concrete silo foundation to the east of the barn foundation, demonstrating the evolving farming techniques in the early twentieth century, as well as possible evidence of other buildings from this period seen in early twentieth-century aerial photographs.

Finally, southwest of the main house is the Cary family cemetery. The tombstones were removed earlier in the twentieth century, although their whereabouts are unknown. Additional evidence for this move may be found in the archives of the Joseph Bryan Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (now Preservation Virginia). While this branch was dissolved recently, the archives remain in the hands of the Gloucester Preservation

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Foundation and reference several other cemetery projects in Gloucester County which included removing tombstones and other markers (although not burials), and relocating them to churches and community cemeteries.

## Historical Background

In 1806, 26-year-old Williams Edwards Davis was first recorded as owning 171.5 acres that include the land that would become the Kenwood property. The title cannot be traced back prior to 1806 due to gaps in the Gloucester Land Tax Books and the absence of County Deed Books that pre-date 1865.<sup>8</sup> Williams E. Davis was the son of John Davis, a saddler and preacher from Isle of Wight County who moved his family to Gloucester shortly after Williams's birth in 1780. John Davis hosted itinerant Methodist preachers in his house and became a preacher himself. Following his father's example, Williams E. Davis later became a Methodist Episcopal minister in Gloucester County, where he lived nearly his entire life.<sup>9</sup> Between 1807 and 1818, Williams Davis acquired several other properties in the vicinity of Kenwood, and during this time he also served as a Private in Catesby Jones' Company of the 21st Regiment Virginia Militia during the War of 1812.<sup>10</sup> By 1818, Davis's lands were divided into two tracts: 111 acres incorporating what is now Kenwood; and 186 acres at a nearby property called Oaklawn, where his home was located and where his children were born.<sup>11</sup> In 1820, Williams E. Davis sold 94.5 acres of the 111-acre "Forest Land" property to Thomas C. Amory. The assessed building value was \$138.75, indicating that there was already a tenant house or farm buildings on the Kenwood property.<sup>12</sup>

Thomas C. Amory's local civic service and business activities in Gloucester County were extensive. Amory had been an Ensign in three different militia companies during the War of 1812, from early 1813 to late 1814, and contributed kitchen supplies to the 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Virginia Militia.<sup>13</sup> Amory was also a Gloucester County Justice of the Peace from 1814 to 1817; a Licensed Merchant from 1815 to 1816; Deputy Clerk of Court, 1817 to 1826; Census Enumerator, 1830 and 1840; and Trustee for Thomas Smith & Co. (merchants) in the 1820s.<sup>14</sup> Amory joined a 90.75-acre property (purchased at auction from Cary Hall's estate) to his existing 94.5-acre Kenwood property in 1834.<sup>15</sup> In 1840, he became the first individual to make extensive additions or improvements to the Kenwood property. The value of buildings rose from \$138.75 to \$2,000 in 1840, an increase of \$1,861.25, without any notation in the tax books.<sup>16</sup> Thomas C. Amory's household was largest at the time of the 1810 Census, when he was recorded as having nine free residents in his home and fifteen enslaved African American workers. The size of his household remained consistent through 1840, with the exception of fewer enslaved African Americans (six in 1820, three in 1830, and seven in 1840).<sup>17</sup> Amory died in 1844, and in 1847 his estate was conveyed under trust to John Tabb, who sold the 175-acre farm at Kenwood to John R. Cary, Jr.<sup>18</sup>

John Reade Cary, Jr., born 10 April 1780, was one of nine children of John Reade Cary, Sr. and Harry Ann Whiting Beverly Pryor. He married Betty L. Kemp and they had one child, John Reade Cary, who died in infancy. The couple helped raise John's nephew, John S. Cooke. John R. Cary, Jr.'s most significant contribution to his community was serving as the Gloucester Clerk of Court from 1837 to 1867. Cary was the nephew of Arthur Landon Davies, his predecessor as

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Clerk (1818-1835), and Cary's nephew John S. Cooke, who served as his Deputy Clerk, succeeded him as Clerk from 1870 to 1887, maintaining the family's influence over this lucrative county position for 69 years.<sup>19</sup> Land tax records suggest that John R. Cary, Jr., lived in a town lot near the courthouse before purchasing Kenwood from Thomas C. Amory's estate, via John Tabb, in 1848.<sup>20</sup> Cary began making renovations and extensive additions to Kenwood immediately after purchasing it, starting work in January of that year. Cary bought "old house" bricks from John H. Tabb and had them cleaned; purchased lumber, weatherboards, flooring, shingles, glass, lime, and nails; and paid for the construction (by carpenter James B. Fletcher) of the laundry, kitchen, smokehouse, bee house, and garden.<sup>21</sup> In 1850, Cary hired several workers (Peyton West, Johnson, Marcus, and George), and his account books record purchases for goods from Baltimore that included 3,000 pounds of bricks, stone for porches, a lock, stacks for lamps in brass chandelier, 50 panes of 14-inch by 10-inch glass, 25 panes of 14-inch by 5-inch glass, one paint brush, 14 yards of carpet, a crook for curtains, a stonecutter, and a lamp. The stone for the front porch was 7 feet 8 inches wide by 11 feet 2.5 inches long. The back porch curbstone was 19 feet 10 inches and the columns for the back porch were 7 feet 8 inches in length. The work on the porches was nearly completed by November 1851, when tin roofing was put on them.<sup>22</sup>

In 1851, the building assessment increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500, but construction continued through the 1850s. In 1857, the Land Tax Records first note the name of the property as Kenwood. Cary added \$2,500 in building improvements by 1860, doubling the assessment.<sup>23</sup> The heading given by Cary to one of his accounts in 1859 makes clear the nature of his building improvements at Kenwood between 1848 and 1860: "Expenses of building New House and Repairing & remodelling [sic] Old One." His 1860 Memorandum Book includes lists of hired enslaved African Americans, including a bricklayer, George, who worked from April to May of 1860. Cary also paid for plaster and trim for the portico and the porch. Specifically, the account book records 3-inch-long and 3-inch-wide portico trim, as well as 2-inch-long and 3-inch-wide porch trim. The size of the parlor was listed as 18 feet 1 inch by 18 feet, with the note "6-7 in. from hearth to side." Two windows in the parlor were 9 feet 9 inches high and 5 feet 10 inches wide, and two were 9 feet 9 inches high and 3 feet 11 inches wide. The chamber windows were recorded as 8 feet 9 inches high and 4 feet 6 inches wide. The portico railing was comprised of one piece of 7 feet, one piece of 6 feet 10 inches, two pieces of 5 feet 10.75 inches, and two pieces of 2 feet 2.75 inches. The porch was comprised of two pieces of 2 feet 1.75 inches and two pieces of 5 feet 11 inches. The new stairway had 18 steps, 3 feet 3 inches wide.<sup>24</sup>

John R. Cary, Jr. died in 1867, leaving the property to his wife, Betty L. Cary, along with a 9-acre forest tract, the 300-acre Fiddler's Green farm, and 117 acres of forest land.<sup>25</sup> In 1870, the 175-acre Kenwood property was split into one 80-acre tract, "for Betty L. Cary's dower," and one 95-acre tract. In 1871, the building value was reduced to \$1,100 with no explanation, likely due to county-wide reassessments, a standard practice for the years following the Civil War.<sup>26</sup> Cary's nephew and executor, Deputy Clerk John S. Cooke, had to settle debts owed to and by Cary's estate, which led to a chancery suit and the sale of the property at auction to relatives Perrin and Louisa R. Kemp in 1872, but Betty L. Kemp Cary continued to live at Kenwood.<sup>27</sup> Perrin Kemp, a Harvard- and University of Virginia-educated attorney and Confederate Civil War veteran, conveyed all share in the 80-acre Kenwood property to his wife Louisa R. Kemp in

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1878.<sup>28</sup> In 1884, Louisa Kemp sold 80 acres of the land, with the main house, to Augusta B. Slingluff of Baltimore.<sup>29</sup> Between 1902 and 1906, Augusta “Gussie” B. Slingluff reduced the size of Kenwood by deeding small parcels to several individuals: 8 acres to Thomas Lewis in 1902, 5 acres to William H. Holmes in 1903, 8 acres to Willis Lewis in 1905, and 2.5 acres to George W. Sparks in 1906, leaving 56.5 acres, but the building assessment remained stable.<sup>30</sup> The building value rose from \$1,000 to \$1,200 in 1916, and from \$1,200 to \$1,500 in 1922, with no explanation given in the Land Tax Books for either year.<sup>31</sup>

Augusta B. Slingluff transferred Kenwood as a gift to her daughter Maretta S. Chism, and her husband Harry T. Chism of Gloucester, in 1924, and in 1926, the building assessment rose from \$1,500 to \$2,000, with no explanation given.<sup>32</sup> In 1931, the Bank of Gloucester (Trustee for Maretta Chism) sold Kenwood to W.F. Bunting of Gloucester for \$3,050.<sup>33</sup> Mary Agnes Bunting sold Kenwood to Edith White Buswell in 1934.<sup>34</sup> Buswell sold Kenwood to Norman S. Cooke and Mary J. Cooke in 1948.<sup>35</sup> Norman and Mary Cooke made a total of \$2,280 in building improvements in 1950, although only \$1,000 of this amount reflected additions to Kenwood, the remainder representing improvements to other parts of the property.<sup>36</sup> In 1951, the Cookes sold 49 acres to L.F. & Elizabeth K. Rhodes, leaving the house at Kenwood on a 7.5-acre parcel, which they sold to Frank J. & Carrie Bell Morano in 1952.<sup>37</sup> Kenwood's building assessment was \$3,000 in 1952, and the building assessment for the neighboring 49 acres was \$1,000. Kenwood's building assessment rose from \$3,000 to \$3,300 in 1956 and from \$3,300 to \$3,450 in 1962, with no explanation given in either year of Land Tax Books.<sup>38</sup> In 1972, Dolores Wharton Kerns inherited the 7.5-acre Kenwood property from her grandfather Frank J. Morano.<sup>39</sup> Kerns sold the re-surveyed 7.79-acre Kenwood to Cary and Harriette Fishburne in 1994.<sup>40</sup> The Fishburnes sold Kenwood to current owners, Samuel and Catherine Cole, in 1998.<sup>41</sup>

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**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

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\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_ Other State agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 036-0121

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 7.81

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.4171422 | Longitude: -76.5540829 |
| 2. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |
| 3. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |
| 4. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries encompass the entire current tax parcel, recorded on the 2014 Gloucester County Tax Parcel map, Parcel 31-148. The property is bounded on the east and west by open agricultural fields, on the north by a wooded tributary of Crany Creek, and on the south by VA Route 619 (Fiddler's Green Lane). The precise historic boundaries are shown on the attached Location Map and Sketch Map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundaries include the contributing dwelling, secondary dwelling/kitchen, smokehouse, and archaeological site. The nominated acreage is entirely within the historic boundaries associated with the Kenwood plantation/farm owners throughout the period of significance. The nominated acreage, subdivided from the larger historic property in 1951, represents the centerpiece of the historic domestic complex and farm. The contributing resources occupy a gently wooded area in an otherwise open, drained upland ridge. The eastern and western boundaries are established by the historic edges of fields. The southern boundary is established by Fiddler's Green Lane. The northern boundary is established by a tributary of Crany Creek.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Thane H. Harpole, Stephen Fonzo, and Dr. David A. Brown  
organization: DATA Investigations, LLC  
street & number: 1759 Tyndall Point Lane  
city or town: Gloucester Point state: VA zip code: 23062-2334  
e-mail: [fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org](mailto:fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org)  
telephone: 804-815-4467  
date: 12/31/2014

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

*The following information corresponds to all photos:*

Name of Property: Kenwood

City or Vicinity: Gloucester

County: Gloucester County

State: VA

Name of Photographer: Thane Harpole

Date of Photographs: 4 December 2014

Location of Original Digital Files: 1759 Tyndall Point Lane, Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0001

View: Primary dwelling, east elevation, camera facing west

Photo 2 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0002

View: Primary dwelling, west and south elevations, camera facing northeast

Photo 3 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0003

View: Primary dwelling, west elevation, camera facing east

Photo 4 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0004

View: Primary dwelling, north elevation, camera facing south

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Photo 5 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0005

View: Primary dwelling, connector interior, camera facing northwest

Photo 6 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0006

View: Primary dwelling, south addition first floor parlor, camera facing southeast

Photo 7 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0007

View: Primary dwelling, south addition basement, camera facing south

Photo 8 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0008

View: Primary dwelling, south addition second floor bedroom, camera facing south

Photo 9 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0009

View: Cook's house and smokehouse, camera facing north

Photo 10 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0010

View: Brick kiln site, with coursed brick and brick rubble, camera facing the ground

Photo 11 of 11: VA\_Gloucester County\_Kenwood\_0011

View: Artifacts collected on property, in display case, photo taken inside the primary dwelling

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## ENDNOTES

1 Thomas C. Amory acquired the property in 1820 with a value of buildings on the property listed at \$138.75. This value remained constant until 1840 when it increased to \$2000. This increase likely reflects Amory's raising the house on the 5:1 common bond ground floor prior to 1840. In comparison, the Edge Hill House grew in value from \$381.25 to \$2500 after being raised on a brick ground floor ca. 1833. The noticeable differences in style between earlier and later woodwork elements in the north wing, and the awkward treatment of the connecting space after the construction of the south wing, suggests that the north portion of Kenwood was in existence long enough to justify its updating (rather than demolition) and may have continued as the primary private space for the family as they added a substantial entertainment wing to the south.

2 It is difficult at this time to definitively assign early-to-mid-twentieth-century changes to specific owners. Land Tax Records note significant increases in building value during the ownership of Augusta B. Slingluff (1916, from \$1000 to \$1200; 1921, from \$1200 to \$1500), Maretta Slingluff Chism and Harry T. Chism (1926, from \$1500 to \$2000), and Norman S. Cooke (1950, from \$2000 to \$4280). We

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are confident in assigning the changes in the staircase, as well as the tiling of the connector, to the Slingluffs (ca. 1916), while the closets and bathroom changes with bead board paneling likely came about with the 1926 or 1950 improvements.

3 Based on John Cary's Memorandum and Account Books, it seems that construction on the property took place in phases, with outbuildings built earliest, in 1848-49, followed by substantive work on porches and windows in 1850-51. There is no clear indication when he started building the south wing, but it is clear that the work was completed by 1860, based on his accounts and Gloucester County Land Tax assessments. One scenario has Cary adding decorative brackets to the north wing first, as these are slightly different in size and craftsmanship than those on the south wing. He may have also bought and installed the 8' tall columns, which are referenced in his receipts and survive in the connector, reworking the main south entrance into the house with a columned portico – only to then build the south wing and encapsulate this feature within the connector.

4 Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

5 John R. Cary, Memorandum and Account Book 1847-1864, in *John R. Cary Records, 1832-1869* (Virginia State Library Archive Annex: Richmond). The John R. Cary Records at the Virginia State Library contain rich detail about the dates, costs, and labor involved in Cary's improvements at Kenwood. Suppliers included C.H. Bland (cypress weather boarding and flooring), John M. Harwood (shingles), John Sinclair (scantling and plank), E.P. Tabb & Co. (windows, blinds, and nails), C.C. & T.W. Field (glass), Ferguson & Milhado [sic] (lime and dwelling house lumber), John T. Lewis (gate posts), James M. Conkey and Co. of Baltimore (pressed bricks), and Schaeffer & Long (hardware). Laborers included Johnston (lathing), George (bricklaying and extra work), who was hired out by Cary from William B. Taliaferro, James B. Fletcher (building the laundry and kitchen, repairing the dairy and corn house, and building fences), Charles (digging holes), and W. Shackelford (sawing and hewing lumber).

6 John R. Cary, Memorandum Book 1860, in *John R. Cary Records, 1832-1869* (Virginia State Library Archive Annex: Richmond).

7 John R. Cary, Memorandum and Account Book 1847-1864, in *John R. Cary Records, 1832-1869* (Virginia State Library Archive Annex: Richmond). See note above.

8 Gloucester County Land Tax Books. Gloucester County lost most of its historic records from the seventeenth through the mid-nineteenth centuries due to a June 3, 1820 fire in the county courthouse and the April 3, 1865 burning of Richmond, where many counties' records were stored for protection during the Civil War.

9 John Bayley, *Pleasant Hours: a present to my Christian friend* (Charles H. Wynne: Richmond, Virginia, 1858), pp. 117-126. Williams E. Davis is also referred to as "William E. Davis" in documents, namely some tax records, but this nomination uses the former designation, in keeping with his biography by Rev. John Bayley. Davis was born on 16 March 1780. According to Bayley, Davis was ordained deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church on February 19, 1826 by Bishop McKendree in Portsmouth, Virginia, and he was ordained elder on February 26, 1832 by Bishop Hedding in Norfolk. After becoming ordained, he preached once a month in the church at Bellamy's, which was near his home.

10 Gloucester County Land Tax Books; *Pay Rolls of Militia Entitled to Land Bounty Under the Act of Congress of Sept. 28, 1850* (Richmond, 1851), p. 275. In 1807, Davis owned three properties: one of 171.5 acres, one of 22 acres, and one of 146 acres. In 1814, Davis owned six properties: the 171- and 22-acre properties along with a tract of 86 acres, one of 106 acres, one of 43.25 acres, and one of 35 acres. According to the War of 1812 Pay Rolls, Davis served in the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Virginia Militia for one month and ten days during either the period 1 May to 28 August 1813 or the period 23 March to 19 December 1814.

11 Gloucester County Land Tax Books; Candace Young-Mayo, "Rev. William Edwards Davis/Mary Hoomes," <http://boards.rootsweb.com/surnames.davis/25969/mb.ashx>, published 25 February 2007, accessed June 2014; US Census Bureau, 1820 Population Schedule. Williams Edwards

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Davis (16 March 1780 – 30 March 1857) married Mary Hoomes (11 September 1785 – 16 February 1858) of Spotsylvania County. At least four of their children were born at Oaklawn, although they may have had as many as thirteen children, as suggested by the 1820 Census, which lists ten free white males, six free white females, six enslaved African-American males, and four enslaved African-American females in the Davis household. Their son Williams Thomas Davis (1817-1888) was the founder of the Southern Female College of Petersburg, Virginia. Williams E. Davis, Mary Hoomes Davis, and Williams Thomas Davis are buried in Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg.

12 Gloucester County Land Tax Books. 1820 is the earliest year for which building value assessments are available in the Land Tax Books. Williams E. Davis' residence on the 186-acre Oaklawn property was valued at \$930 in 1820. Neither the Kenwood nor the Oaklawn property received a building value assessment in the 1815 Personal Property Tax Books, which recorded assessments for houses worth more than \$500.

13 *Pay Rolls of Militia Entitled to Land Bounty Under the Act of Congress of Sept. 28, 1850* (Richmond, 1851), p. 271; *Muster Rolls of the Virginia Militia in the War of 1812* (Richmond, 1852), pp. 412, 492; Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester Papers* (College of William and Mary: Williamsburg, Virginia): "Account of the United States with Thomas C. Amory, September 8, 1814," for "2 potts (sic) and 3 spiders (sic) for the use of the 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Virginia. \$6.50. Received of M. John Dixon, quartermaster, the amount of the above account. Signed Thomas C. Amory." The three companies of the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment in which Amory served during the War of 1812 were Capt. Matthews Gibbs' Company, Capt. Horatio G. Harwood's Company, and Capt. William Harwood's Company.

14 Gloucester County Personal Property Tax Books; Gloucester County Court Minute Books; US Census Bureau, 1830 and 1840 Population Schedules; "Thomas C. Amory v. The Justices of Gloucester (June Term, 1826)," in William Brockenbrough, ed., *Virginia Cases, or Decisions of the General Court of Virginia, Chiefly on the Criminal Law of the Commonwealth, Commencing June Term, 1815, and Ending June Term, 1826, Vol. II* (Peter Cottom: Richmond, 1826), pp. 523-526. In *Thomas C. Amory v. The Justices of Gloucester*, Amory petitioned that the court would not allow him to hold both the Justice and Deputy Clerk position. The case was referred to the State General Court, which decided for the County.

15 Gloucester County Land Tax Books.

16 *Ibid.*

17 US Census Bureau, 1810-1840 Population Schedules.

18 "Death: Thomas C. Amory," *Richmond Enquirer*, 20 April 1844, p. 3; Gloucester County Land Tax Books. John R. Cary, Jr. purchased other properties near the Courthouse from John Tabb, including William Smart's "Retreat," which he sold to John Catlett in 1847. See Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Gloucester Papers*: Deed, John R. Cary and wife to John T. Catlett, 21 October 1847.

19 L. Roane Hunt, "The Gloucester 'Hall of Fame'," *The Family Tree Searcher*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (December 2000), pp. 3-27. Betty L. Kemp was born in 1822 to Matthew W. Kemp.

20 Gloucester County Land Tax Books. There were many town lots owned by Thomas Cary, John R. Cary's uncle, who was a successful merchant, and John R. Cary was the Executor of his uncle's estate. Thomas C. Amory had sold adjacent land to Edward Beverly Samuel Cary, John R. Cary's brother, in 1841.

21 John R. Cary, Memorandum and Account Book 1847-1864, in *John R. Cary Records, 1832-1869* (Virginia State Library Archive Annex: Richmond). See note above.

22 John R. Cary, Memorandum Book 1847-1852, in *John R. Cary Records, 1832-1869* (Virginia State Library Archive Annex: Richmond). Cary hired Marcus from Robinson Nelson for six months. He hired Johnson from A.W. Robins for four months and fifteen days. Cary paid Henry P. Taliaferro in February 1850 for plank for the store room and he paid Henry Lewis in July 1850 for hewing sills for the porches. G.W. Palmer turned posts for the stairway in July 1850 and Thomas R. Leigh supplied 100 cedar

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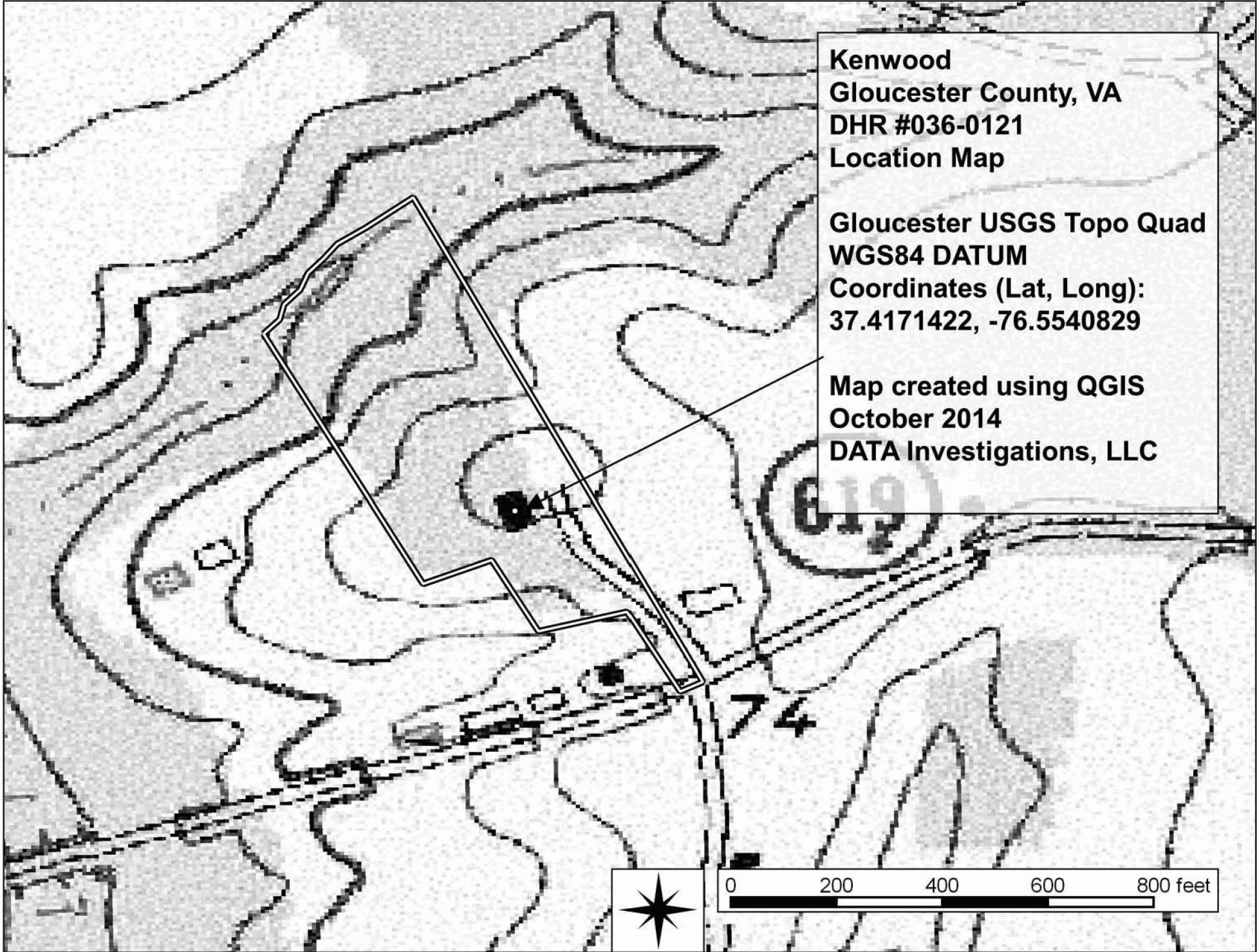
- posts in August 1850. James M. Conkey & Co. supplied 74 panes of glass for the portico in September 1850. Cary paid Peyton G. West for 46.5 days work painting the house in November 1850.
- 23 Gloucester County Land Tax Books.
- 24 John R. Cary, Memorandum Book 1860, in *John R. Cary Records, 1832-1869* (Virginia State Library Archive Annex: Richmond).
- 25 Hunt, "The Gloucester 'Hall of Fame'," p. 22; Gloucester County Land Tax Books.
- 26 Gloucester County Land Tax Books.
- 27 Hunt, "The Gloucester 'Hall of Fame,'" pp. 22-23; Gloucester County Will Book A, p. 43; John R. Cary, Account Book 1868-1869, in *John R. Cary Records, 1832-1869* (Virginia State Library Archive Annex: Richmond); Gloucester County Chancery Records, Virginia Memory Chancery Records Index, Library of Virginia, <http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/>, accessed June 2014; *John S. Cooke, Executor of John R. Cary v. Widow of John R. Cary et al. (1874)*, Gloucester County Court of Chancery File No. 1874-004; Gloucester County Deed Book 4, p. 126; Unknown author, "The Carys of Gloucester," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 16 April 1911. The 2013 Kenwood Preliminary Information Form states that the Cary family had a cemetery on the Kenwood property and that the graves were relocated to Ware Episcopal Church in 1965. See Samuel Cole, *Preliminary Information Form, Kenwood VDHR File #036-0121* (Virginia Department of Historic Resources: Richmond, 2013). John R. Cary made a unique will, in which he specified that his estate be sold without the cost of taking an inventory by the county, to save his heirs time and money. He also directed that his nephew Matthew Kemp Cary and niece Louisa Turner Cary be educated at a school not under the authority of a religious minister. His nephew and executor, Deputy Clerk John S. Cooke, had to settle debts owed to and by Cary's estate and found an estate inventory necessary, which led to a chancery suit between Cooke and the widow and heirs of John R. Cary. Betty L. Kemp Cary continued to live at Kenwood, even after the property was sold at auction to Perrin and Louisa R. Kemp. Her life at Kenwood is documented in several letters she wrote to her aunt, Louisa B. Turner of Orapax, New Kent County. See Earl Gregg Swem Library Special Collections, *Turner Papers, 1778-1908* (College of William and Mary: Williamsburg, Virginia).
- 28 US Census Bureau, 1850 and 1860 Population Schedules; Harvard University, *Quinquennial catalogue of the officers and graduates of Harvard university, 1636-1915* (Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1915) p. 709; Boyd Lee Spahr, Ed., *General Register of the members of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, 1850-1920* (Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity: Philadelphia, 1920), p. 383; Gloucester County Deed Book 7, p. 348.
- 29 Gloucester County Deed Book 11, p. 42. The property sold for \$2,200 and was bounded, "on the North by the lands of George Hughes; on the South and East by the road leading from the residence of John H. Seawell to Gloucester Courthouse; on the West by the lands of Frederick Smith, Jane Frances Field, Braxton Washington, and Charles E. Cary..."
- 30 Gloucester County Land Tax Books.
- 31 *Ibid.*
- 32 Gloucester County Deed Book 48, p. 219; Gloucester County Land Tax Books.
- 33 Gloucester County Deed Book 59, p. 77.
- 34 Gloucester County Deed Book 62, p. 49.
- 35 Gloucester County Deed Book 83, p. 179.
- 36 Gloucester County Land Tax Books.
- 37 Gloucester County Deed Book 90, p. 324; Gloucester County Deed Book 92, p. 445.
- 38 Gloucester County Land Tax Books.
- 39 Gloucester County Will Book 27, p. 118.
- 40 Gloucester County Deed Book 473, p. 831.
- 41 Gloucester County Clerk's Plat Book 23, p. 586.



**Kenwood  
Gloucester County, VA  
DHR #036-0121  
Location Map**

**Gloucester USGS Topo Quad  
WGS84 DATUM  
Coordinates (Lat, Long):  
37.4171422, -76.5540829**

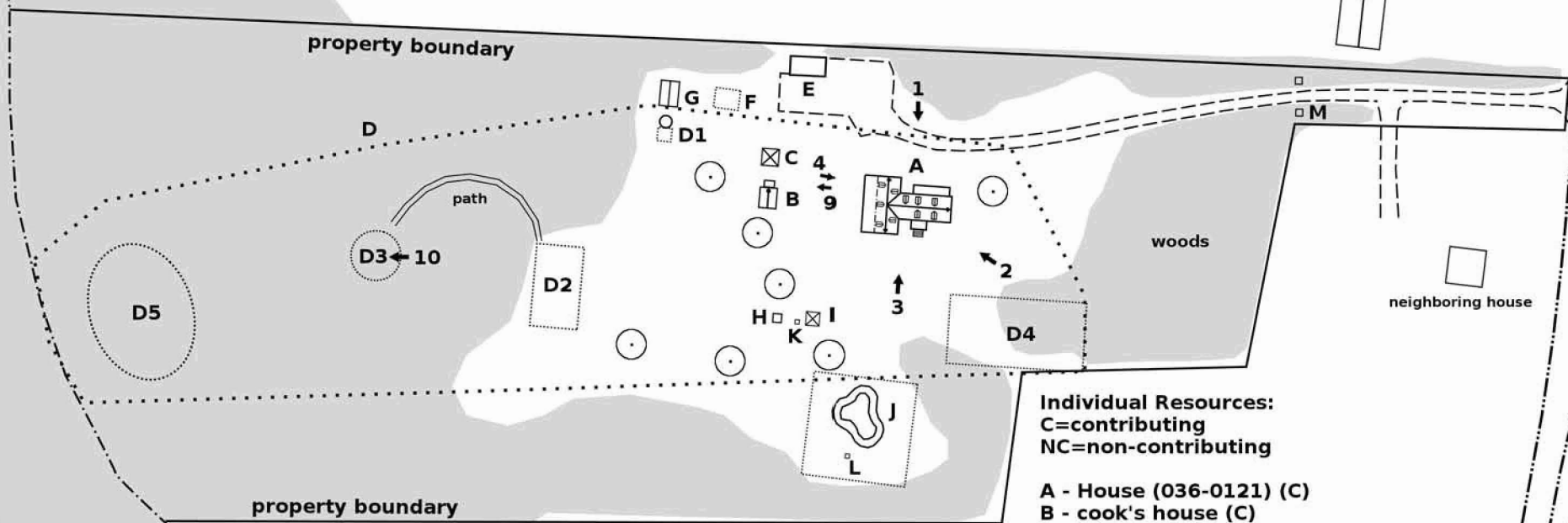
**Map created using QGIS  
October 2014  
DATA Investigations, LLC**



**Kenwood (VDHR File #036-0121)  
 Gloucester County, VA  
 Resource Sketch Map  
 January 2015  
 DATA Investigations, LLC**

- tree
- driveway
- # → photo and direction \*

**NOT TO SCALE**



**Individual Resources:  
 C=contributing  
 NC=non-contributing**

- A - House (036-0121) (C)
- B - cook's house (C)
- C - smoke house (C)
- D - Kenwood Archaeological Site 44GL0476 (C):
  - D1 - concrete silo foundation
  - D2 - barn foundation
  - D3 - unfired brick deposit / brick kiln remnants
  - D4 - former Cary family graveyard site (graves removed)
  - D5 - clay borrow pit
- E - shed (NC)
- F - chicken coop (NC)
- G - shed (NC)
- H - hot tub (NC)
- I - well house (NC)
- J - pool (NC)
- K - small well house (NC)
- L - pump house (NC)
- M - brick entrance pillars, 1970s (NC)

**\* NOTE ON PHOTOS:**  
 Photo #s 5-8 are interior architectural photos and are not shown on the map.  
 Photo #11 is an artifact photo and is not shown on the map.

**NORTH**

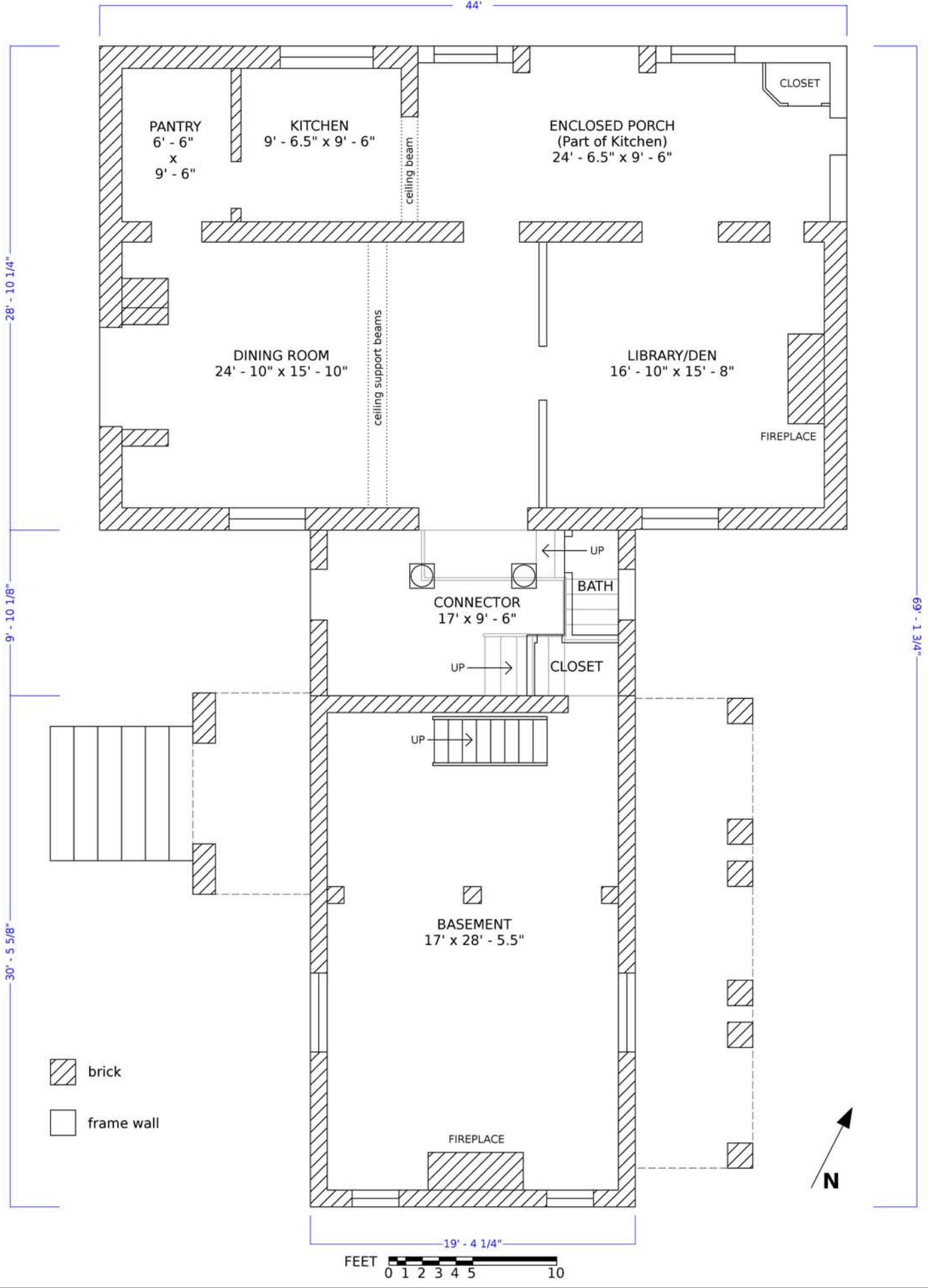
tributary of Crum Creek

VA Route 619 / Fiddler's Green Lane

to Gloucester Courthouse

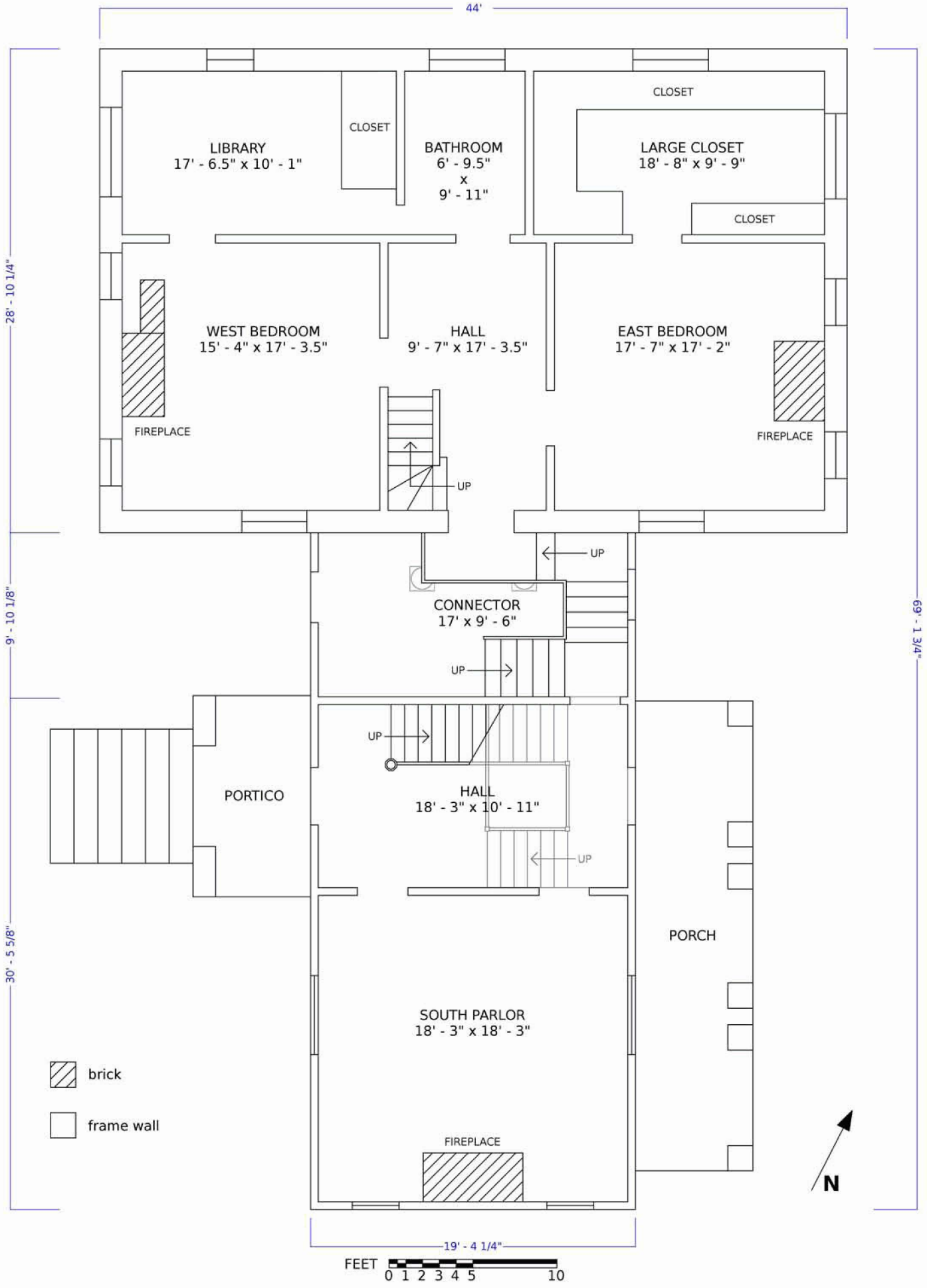
# GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Kenwood (VDHR File #036-0121)  
Gloucester County, VA  
December 2014  
DATA Investigations, LLC



# FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Kenwood (VDHR File #036-0121)  
Gloucester County, VA  
December 2014  
DATA Investigations, LLC



# SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Kenwood (VDHR File #036-0121)  
Gloucester County, VA  
December 2014  
DATA Investigations, LLC

