VLR-3/17/81 NRHP-10/29/82

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United *States* Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable se			
1. Name			
historic Newtown Historic Distric	et .		
and/or common . N/A			
2. Location			
street & number VA Routes 721 and	1 625	Ŋ	/A not for publication
city, town Newtown	N/A vicinity of	congressional district	First (Paul S. Trible, Jr.)
state Virginia code	51 county	King and Queen	code 097
3. Classification			
Category Ownership X district public building(s) private structure X both site Public Acquisition object in process being considered N/A	Status X occupied X unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use X agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner of Proper	ty	(See	Continuation Sheet #7)
name Multiple Ownership			
street & number N/A			
city, town N/A	N/A vicinity of	N/A state	
5. Location of Lega		on .	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. King	and Queen County C	ourthouse	
street & number	N/A		
city, town King and Queen Court	: House	state	Virginia
6. Representation i	n Existing \$	Surveys (2)	(See continuation Sheet
(1) Historic American Build Survey Inventory	lings		#1) legible?yes _X no
date 1958		X federal sta	te county local
depository for survey records Library o	of Congress		
city, town Washington		state	D. C.

7. Desc	ription	·			 	 -
Conditionexcellent _X goodfair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one X original site moved date	N/A	 	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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Located in King and Queen County, approximately forty-five miles northeast of Richmond, Newtown is a small, mid-19th-century crossroads settlement containing approximately ten dwellings and an equal number of outbuildings. The linear town marks the intersection of State Route 721 (running east/west) and State Route 625 (running north/south). The district boundaries were drawn to include all structures within the town.

As land use within Newtown is primarily agricultural, land density is very low. Topographically, the area is flat but rises slightly to the southwest. Buildings are located on large lots and tend to cluster near the street, fronting or siding large fields of planted crops. Because these farmlands and open spaces are vital to the rural character of Newtown, they have been included within the district boundaries.

Most dwellings line the north side of Route 721, west of Route 625. Accenting the center of town are a frame grocery store (1922), located on the northwest corner of routes 721 and 625, and a cinder block, one-story fire station (ca. 1970) located on the northeast corner.

All residences are detached, single-family farmhouses of frame construction and range from 1½ to 2 stories in height. Each possesses a gable roof and, with minor exceptions, dates from the 19th century. A unique feature to many houses along Route 721 is their placement on raised brick basements (see inventory numbers 1, 9, 13, and 18).

A small family cemetery dating from the second quarter of the 19th century is located just east of building 18 (east of the southeast corner of routes 721 and 625). Grave markers range from simple, undecorated stones to a late 19th-century obelisk. The cemetery, located in the center of a planted field, is set off by a low chain-link fence.

As a whole, Newtown retains much of its late 19th- and early 20th-century character. With the exception of the firehouse and several outbuildings, structures within the district date prior to 1925. Most dwellings reveal only minor exterior alterations.

(See Continuation Sheet #5 for Inventory)

BNZ

8. Significance

1600-1699 X 1700-1799 _X 1800-1899 _X 1900-	X architecture art commerce communications	education engineering X exploration/settlemen industry invention	music t philosophy politics/government	humanitarian theater transportation other (specify
Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agricultureX architecture	community planning conservation conservation	landscape architectur law literature _X military	re religion science sculpture social/

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Newtown originated in the late colonial period as a crossroads settlement on the Great Post Road that ran from Williamsburg to Philadelphia. Its nucleus was a pre-Revolutionary store and ordinary kept by Captain John Richards, an early settler of upper King and Queen County whose neighboring plantation, Newtown, gave the village its name. During the first half of the 19th century, Newtown prospered as the largest post village in antebellum King and Queen County, supporting a long succession of private academies and schools. The scene of several important movements by both Northern and Southern troops in the Civil War, the village witnessed, in early June 1863, the last tactical action of Confederate General George Pickett's division before it began its long march to Gettysburg. Today Newtown survives in a predominantly rural setting as an example of a Tidewater crossroads retaining its 19th-century flavor. The town consists of ten dwellings and a nearly equal number of outbuildings. The architecture of Newtown's early years is represented by the following historic structures: The Hill, built in the late 18th century; the Lee Boulware House, built ca. 1823; the Richardson Lumpkin House, built ca. 1839; the Samuel S. Gresham House, built ca. 1845; and Walton's Academy, built ca. 1854.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On the eve of English colonization, Newtown was an Indian trail junction situated two miles north of the Mattaponi River in the center of the land mass which dominates the northwestern section of King and Queen County. The Chiskiack Trail, following the ridges from the York River, crossed there, while other trails led northeast and northwest. Colonial roads generally followed the Indian paths, and the Great Post Road, or King's Highway, passed through Newtown when the colonial post was established. By the late colonial period, the junction had become known to travelers as the Great Cross Roads. 1

An advertisement in the <u>Virginia Gazette</u> of August 10, 1769, shows how Newtown received its name: "FOR SALE Newtown, a Plantation in the upper end of King and Queen upon the Great Cross Roads, formerly a store and ordinary kept by Capt. John Richards. It consists of very good houses and 163 acres of land and seems well situated for an ordinary..."

The purchaser of the plantation may have been James Gardner; ten years later the tavern was identified in a soldier's diary as "Gardner's Tavern at Newtown."

Several prominent Tidewater estates stood near the settlement in this early period: Beverly Park, the home of Robert Beverly, a colonial leader and Virginia's first native-born historian; Spring Farm, the home of Captain James Pendleton of the Continental Army and Governor of Virginia; and Dewsville, the birthplace of Thomas R. Dew, noted author and thirteenth president of the College of William and Mary.

A number of men prominent in the American Revolution came from the Newtown neighborhood. James Innes, son of the rector of Newtown's Park Church (abandoned in 1801 and no

9. M	ajor Bib	liographical F	Referen	ces	
1790 350t	O. Williamsb th Anniversar ginia D. and	urg: King and Queen (y at Jamestown, 1957. Weathers, Willie T. (County Commit	tee for Celek	_
10. (Geograp	hical Data	ı		
Acreage of Quadrangle UMT Refere	nominated prope name <u>Sparta</u> ences	rty <u>46 acres</u> , Va.		Quadrang	ie scale1:24000
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name/title	Virginia H	istoric Landmarks Comm	nission Staff	=	
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street & nur	mber 221 Gov	ernor Street	tele	ephone (804)	786-3144
city or town	Richmon	đ	sta	te Virginia	23219
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The evaluat	ed significance o	this property within the state	is: local		
665), I herek according to	by nominate this	oric Preservation Officer for the property for inclusion in the National Procedures set forth by the Health of the	ational Register a	nd certify that it h	as been evaluated
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For HCRS	use only	The control of the co	and which	date	

Chief of Registration

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Newtown Historic District, King and Queen County, Virginia Continuation sheet #1 Item number 6,8



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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1980 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

longer standing), commanded one of the Virginia brigades in the Yorktown campaign and later became Attorney General of Virginia. The first company of regular Continental troops from King and Queen County, and one of the first in the state, was organized by a "Captain Segar of Newton." James Pendleton, before serving briefly as Governor of Virginia, fought in the Revolution as a major of artillery. Thomas Dew, the father of Thomas R. Dew and builder of Dewsville, enlisted in the Revolution as a drummer boy and later served as a captain of militia in the War of 1812.

Although the Confederation period saw the exodus from Newtown of many who had fought in the Revolution, the settlement continued to grow slowly through the early national period. Identified only as a post town in Jedidiah Morse's <u>Universal Gazetteer</u> in 1821, by 1836, the crossroads of 1769 had become the largest village in King and Queen County and served as an important social and commercial center for this agrarian area. Newtown provided institutions and economic services for neighboring farmers through its stores, churches, schools, taverns, and places of business. According to Joseph Martin's <u>New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia</u>, the village in 1836 contained twenty dwelling houses, a reformed Baptist church, one male seminary averaging thirty pupils, two mercantile stores, a tailor, boot and shoemaker, and a blacksmith. A more detailed directory of the Newtown neighborhood of this time can be compiled from the receipted bills of Richardson Lumpkin, one of Newtown's most prominent early citizens:

Carpenter and painter: John Wangton, James T. Bates

Coffin makers: James T. Bates and bro.

Physicians: Thomas J. Bates; Dr. Cabell; William Dew; H. D.

Faulkner; S. Griffin Fauntleroy, Jr.; Gordon and

Jeffries; J. W. Shepherd; and J. E. Williams

Drugs: D. S. Garnett

Harness, saddle and vehicle repairs: James Baskett, James H.

Colquitt, Philip Slae, L. P. and J. A. Smith

Merchants: A. M. Boulware, Samuel S. Gresham

Shoemaker: Richard Mitchell Surveyor: John D. Hutchison Tailors: Davis and Patterson

Teachers: Kitty Cason; Jane S. Stanard

Lumpkin himself owned the building in which Samuel S. Gresham operated a general store. Typical of such mid-19th-century enterprises, Gresham's store combined the functions of a grocery, hardware, clothing, and feedstore and housed the village post office. 7

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Continuation sheet #2 | Item number 8



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B. SIGNIFICANCE

From the late colonial period until the Civil War, Newtown lent its support to several large schools in the vicinity. The most famous of these was Donald Robertson's school (1758-1773), which was attended by many famous Virginians, including President James Madison, Senator John Taylor of Caroline, and General George Rogers Clark. In 1810 a school was conducted at Spring Farm that continued to operate into the 1860s. C. W. Taliaferro opened a school in Newtown in 1820, which was succeeded in 1826 by the Newtown Academy, under the direction of J. B. Tilden and W. P. Rawles. In 1842 Lee Roy Boulware established a school for girls in his home, Tudor Hall. Several years later, E. Payson Walton, a Congregational minister, opened the Newtown Female Institute in a building he purchased from A. M. Boulware. The structure still stands in good condition in the center of Newtown. (See inventory number 13)

Newtown men fought for the Confederacy from the outbreak of the Civil War to the surrender at Appomattox; however, Newtown itself saw no Federal troops until May 5, 1863, with the brief appearance of a detachment of Kilpatrick's Raiders. The first mention of Newtown in the official records of the war is by General George Pickett on June 3, 1863: "I received a message from General Lee to send eight wagons and a guard to Newton for some corn. I know of no such place." Pickett called his commander's attention to the crossroads, Newtown, and was immediately ordered there to meet an expected attack by Federal columns from both Aylett and Tappahannock. From their deployment at Newtown on June 5, Pickett's Division began the long march that carried it to a tragic end at Gettysburg. Grant's forces moved through Newtown in the Richmond campaign of 1864 and later were followed by Sheridan's Cavalry Corps. 10

The most significant buildings in the Newtown Historic District date from the late 18th century to the Civil War. The oldest remaining dwelling is The Hill, also known as Locust Hill (inventory number 22). The house originally stood at the intersection of the north-south King's Highway (before the road was moved east to its present location as Route 721) with the east-west road to the Rappahannock and Mattaponi. This situation and the evident age of crumbling blocks and architectural details from old brick rooms that collapsed at the beginning of this century make it credible that the structure was the store and ordinary kept by John Richards and advertised for sale in 1769. In 1847 William H. Segar sold the house to Benjamin Franklin Dew, a successful lawyer, farmer, teacher, and land speculator in the county. Dew purchased the house as a home for his wife and family of six children, and it remained in the hands of his heirs until his death in 1903. In 1904 Mrs. Ida R. Pitts bought the house, which then consisted of a dormer-windowed building of part brick and frame construction, connected by a porch to a two-story addition. After the walls and chimney of the brick section of the house collapsed, the remaining brick portion was pulled down, and a smaller weatherboard replacement was built; simultaneously, the dormered roof was raised and the central front door moved to the south. The porch connecting the front and rear buildings recently was enclosed and converted to a one-story room. The Hill now belongs to the heirs of Mrs. Ella Minor, who bought the house from the Pitts family. 11

The farm and house (inventory number 18) that were formerly the property of Lee Boulware (1777-1839) originally consisted of 650 acres. The west part of the two-story house was built in 1823 by Boulware, a prominent county planter and lawyer. The east side of the house is believed to have been built ca. 1855 by Lee Boulware's heirs. Dr. Thomas J. Bates (1821-1895), a Boulware descendant, acquired the property after the Civil War, and it has remained in the hands of the Bates family for three generations. In a field to the east of the house is a private cemetery for the Boulware, Kidd, Taliaferro, and Bates families. 12

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Continuation sheet #3 Item number 8



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Richardson Lumpkin House, also known as the Old Town House (inventory number 20) stands on what was a corner of the Newtown crossroads when Lumpkin built it ca. 1839. A citizen of Essex County who married Priscilla Pendleton of Newtown in 1828, Lumpkin built the dwelling next to a store which he had just purchased as rental property from Samuel S. Gresham and John N. Ryland. A man of considerable property and business ability, Lumpkin died in 1868, and his recently discovered private papers are an important source of information on Newtown in the two decades before the Civil War. For many years the house was unoccupied and belonged to Lumpkin descendants. During the mid-20th century it served as the residence of Dr. Robley Bates, a prominent local physician. 13

Samuel S. Gresham was manager of a general store and postmaster of Newtown when he built his house in 1845 (inventory number 9). Seven years later he enlarged the house by adding the section on the east and raising the roof from 1½ to two full stories. Upon his retirement as postmaster in 1858, he sold the dwelling to Margaret B. Harris in 1860 only to buy it back from her in 1868. Gresham was bankrupt by 1875, and the house passed into the hands of C. H. Martin, whose heirs sold it to J. L. Rouzie in the early 1900s. Rouzie increased the length of the structure by adding a one-story wing to the west side of the house. John O. Turpin purchased the property in 1941. A successful farmer and businessman, Turpin served as chairman of the King and Queen Board of Supervisors from 1956 until his death in 1972. The house is known locally as the Turpin House. 14

Walton's Academy (inventory number 13) is an important reminder of Newtown's former prominence as a center of learning for both men and women in King and Queen County. Opened as early as 1852 by Rev. E. Payson Walton, A.M., a Congregational minister from Philadelphia, the Newtown Female Seminary acquired this house as its quarters in 1854. The two-story frame house with its high brick foundation was built for Walton in 1853-54 by Andrew Moore Boulware, the leading merchant of Newtown. It served as Walton's home as well as his school. An advertisement which appeared in the Richmond Whig and Public Advertiser in 1855 listed among the Seminary's many advantages the claim that, "the well-known healthfulness and salubrity of the climate of Newtown, its remoteness from city influences...and its refined and intelligent society, render it one of the most desireable locations for a literary institution in Virginia." 15 Walton prudently closed the school at the outbreak of the Civil War, and the house served for the next several years as the residence of Dr. Thomas Jefferson Bates, who devoted much of his time to the care of the Confederate sick and wounded. Near the end of the war, Bates married Rosalie Lumpkin and later acquired the Lee Boulware House across the road as their home. During the remainder of the 19th century, the Academy was rented to various tenants, including Dr. Whiting, who took over Dr. Bates's practice and whose wife had earlier boarded in the house as a pupil of Mr. Walton. In 1902 Mrs. Nora Bates Madison bought the Academy for her daughter, Mrs. Ryland Turpin, and it remains in the possession of Mrs. Turpin's heirs. 16

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^{1&}quot;Newtown Notes," in The Bulletin of the King and Queen County Historical Society, Number 13, July 1962, p. 1.

²Ibid., p. 3.

³Ibid.

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Continuation sheet #4 Item number 8.0



Page 4,1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

4Ibid.

⁵Jedidiah Morse, Universal Gazetteer (Boston, 1821).

6Joseph Martin, New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia (Charlottesville, Va., 1836).

Virginia D. Cox and Willie T. Weathers, Old Houses of King and Queen County, Virginia (Richmond, 1973), p. 338.

8"Newtown Notes...", op.cit., pp. 3-4.

⁹Quoted in Ibid., p. $\overline{4}$.

10 Ibid.

11Cox and Weathers, op.cit., pp. 301-303.

¹²Ibid., pp. 225-228.

13 Ibid., pp. 336-339.

14 Ibid., pp. 366-368.

 $15\overline{\text{Quoted}}$ in Ibid., p. 373.

¹⁶Ibid., pp. 372-374.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Martin, Joseph. New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia. Charlottesville, Va., 1836. Morse, Jedidiah. Universal Gazetteer. Boston, 1821.

"Newtown Notes," in The Bulletin of the King and Queen County Historical Society, King and Queen Court House, Va., Number 13, July 1962.

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Newtown Historic District, King and Queen County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #5 | Item number 7



Page

7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

Below is a partial inventory of the buildings comprising the Newtown Historic District. The building numbers listed correspond to those indicated on the sketch map included with this nomination.

Route 625

- Building 20: Richardson Lumpkin House (Old Town House); wood frame (beaded weatherboard siding); 2 stories; gable roof (standing-seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with battered, attenuated posts. Farm house. Modified late Federal. Ca. 1839. 9/9 sash on 1st floor, 6/9 sash on 2nd floor. Exterior chimney (American bond) to north, large chimney breast tapers to rear of house. 1-story, 2-bay addition to south. HABSI (1958).
- Building 22: The Hill; wood frame (aluminum siding); 2 stories; gable roof (standing-seam metal); 3 bays. Farm house. Vernacular. Late 18th and mid-19th centuries. Central entrance with 5-light transom. T-plan. Exterior end chimney to south. 9/9 sash on 1st floor, 6/9 sash on 2nd floor. HABSI (1958).

Route 721

- Building 1: The Lot; wood frame (weatherboard siding); 2 stories on raised basement; gable roof (standing-seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch with hipped, standing-seam metal roof, center stair, and simple, late 19th-century brackets. Farm house.

 Vernacular. Mid-19th century. Central entrance with transom. Exterior end chimneys (American bond). Central-hall plan. Mid-19th-century schoolhouse to east of house. HABSI (1958).
- Building 7: wood frame (weatherboard siding); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition shingle); 2 gable dormers; 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch with gable roof. Detached house. Cape Cod. Ca. 1950. Central entrance. 1-bay wing to west. Detached garage. Cinder block smokehouse.
- Building 9: Samuel S. Gresham House (Turpin House); wood frame (aluminum siding); 2 stories on raised basement; gable roof (standing-seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch with central stair and square posts. Farm house. Vernacular. Ca. 1845. Central entrance with 3-light transom. 1-story wing addition to west. 6/6 sash. American bond chimney: rebuilt stack.
- Building 13: Walton's Academy; wood frame (aluminum siding); 2 stories on raised basement; gable roof (standing-seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with shed roof -- not original porch. Farm house. Modified Federal. Ca. 1854. Side entrance to east with 4-light transom. 2 exterior end chimneys to west (American bond). Side-hall plan. 6/6 sash; aluminum storm windows added.
- Building 14: Newtown Post Office; wood frame (weatherboard siding); 2 stories on raised basement; gable roof (composition shingle); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with shed roof. Commercial (store) and Post Office. Vernacular. 1922. Central entrance with 4-light transom and sidelights (double door entrance). 6/6 sash. Grocery store.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (continued)

Route 721 (continued)

Building 17: concrete block; 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays. Fire station. 20th-century Functional. Ca. 1965-70.

Building 18: Lee Boulware House (Thomas Bates House); wood frame (beaded and plain weather-board siding); 2 stories on raised basement; gable roof (standing-seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch with shed roof supported by massive pillars. Farm house. Late Federal. Ca. 1823 with later alterations and additions. Central entrance with 4-light transom. House built in 2 sections; east - 2 bays with beaded siding, west - 3 bays with plain siding. 9/9 sash on 1st floor, 6/6 sash on 2nd floor. 2 exterior end chimneys (American bond). HABSI (1958).

Building 19: wood frame (weatherboard siding); 2 stories; gable roof (standing-seam metal); 4 bays. Barn. Vernacular. Early 20th century. 2 sections, each with 2 bays. Loading doors (vertical boards).

