

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Richneck Plantation Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 600 feet west of intersection of State Route 168 and State Route 636.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newport News

VICINITY OF

First (Thomas N. Downing)

STATE

Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
(In City)

CODE
700

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME School Board of Newport News, c/o Dr. Don R. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools

STREET & NUMBER

12465 Warwick Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Newport News

VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia 23606

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Newport News City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newport News

STATE
Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Research Center for Archaeology - Archaeological Site Survey

DATE

October 29, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Research Center for Archaeology, P. O. Box 1204

CITY, TOWN

Williamsburg

STATE
Virginia 23185

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Richneck Plantation Site is located at the northwest corner of the junction of Jefferson Avenue and Richneck Road in Newport News. Within 150 feet of extensive brick foundations located during recent construction work on the George J. McIntosh Elementary School and identified by a follow-up archaeological survey, is a graveyard containing two marked graves. One is the grave of Col. Miles Cary (1655-1709), the other that of his first wife Mary Milner. Archaeology and documentation confirm that this is the area of Richneck Plantation, the home of Miles Cary II, constructed during the last quarter of the seventeenth century. Geographic proximity to Stony Run, 300 feet to the west; the graveyard; the extensive brick ruins; and a bottle seal with the name Wilson Cary (Miles Cary II's son), dated 1738 and located adjacent to the ruins, all support the fact that this was the Cary seat.

Extensive damage was done to some of the foundations during clearing operations for the school. The clearing has been halted, and plans are being formulated for protection of the site.

During the survey, walls exposed and probed defined one structure 36 feet by 21 feet, having a brick porch addition 10 feet by 36 feet. What appears to be a corner of either another structure or an extension of this same building is on a line with the portion of the building abutting the porch addition. This would indicate a building 81 feet in length or a flanking outbuilding. A portion of this building does retain some of the brickwork employed in the floor of the basement.

Sixty five feet to the southwest, a modern drainage ditch exposed a seventeenth-century ditch extending to 4 feet below the surface. This may prove to be a boundary ditch and is on a line parallel to the structural remains (short side).

Artifacts found during the survey span the range from the second half of the seventeenth century through the nineteenth century. The exposed section of ditch contained one fragment of seventeenth-century bottle glass (the only artifact found in context).

DH

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATE: Last quarter of the seventeenth century BUILDER/ARCHITECT Miles Cary

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richneck Plantation Site in Newport News, formerly Warwick County, was one of the two major seats of the prominent Cary family in colonial Virginia. Evidence suggests that Richneck was built during the last quarter of the seventeenth century by Miles Cary II (1655-1709), son of immigrant Miles Cary. The younger Cary inherited the Richneck land from his father in 1667 upon the latter's death at the hands of the Dutch in Hampton Roads. The land of the Richneck site was originally patented by Zachariah Cripps in 1628 and later sold to the elder Cary. The seat of the elder Cary was, however, Windmill Point, and although he owned Richneck land, there is no reason to believe that he erected any buildings on that land before his death. Richneck was not only the homestead of Miles Cary II and his descendants, but also the burial site for many of the Carys. The only gravestone remaining is that of Miles Cary II and his first wife, Mary Milner.

Miles Cary II was educated in England and throughout his life held many important offices in the Colony. Among the offices held were that of Clerk of the General Court (1691), Surveyor General of the Colony (1699-1709), Burgess from Warwick County (1683-1706), and Commander in chief of the Warwick County Militia (1699). He also served as trustee and rector of the College of William and Mary. He was defeated by Robert "King" Carter for the position of Speaker of the House of Burgesses in 1699 only after two days of balloting.

Captain Cary also served on the important committee of the House of Burgesses charged with the revision of all the laws of the Colony. The Public Claims Committee of the Burgesses, of which he was also a member, was actually ordered to meet "at Capt. Cary's" (House of Burgesses, (1659-93) p. 419). The Warwick County Court, of which Miles Cary's nephew was clerk, is also supposed to have sat at Richneck under the stately elm tree which is still there. This elm appears with three ships on the official seal of the City of Newport News, adopted in 1958.

Col. Wilson Cary (1703-1772) inherited the Richneck plantation from his father. Like his father, he was also a leader in colonial affairs, serving as Naval Officer for the Lower James River from 1726-1760. According to one of his descendants writing in 1868, Col. Wilson Cary owned one of the most extensive libraries in eighteenth-century Virginia.

Col. Wilson Miles Cary (1734-1817) was born at Richneck and inherited the plantation from his father. He succeeded his father as Naval Officer for the Lower James, an office he resigned as a result of his desire to espouse the patriotic cause. His name appears on the monument to those who met at the Raleigh Tavern in 1774 and signed the "Association of 1774". He and his son continued to live at Richneck at sporadic intervals with the latest date being 1799. In that year Col. Wilson Miles Cary posted a letter to his daughter informing her of her mother's death at Richneck and her subsequent burial there. By the early nineteenth century, Richneck had passed out of the Cary family, and although the house stood until 1865 when it was burned, the plantation was used only for agriculture and lumbering.

(See continuation sheet #1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson Miles Cary, a direct descendant of this Cary line, visited the Richneck Plantation site in 1868 and described the house site thusly: "When I visited it in 1868 the mansion was a pile of ruins, though from the remains of the walls still standing, I could estimate its former extent. It was a long-fronted, two storied brick building with the usual adjacent outhouses and must have been very commodious." (Virginia Magazine, p. 106, Vol. 9).

The significance of Richneck lies in its close historical ties with a leading Virginia family, as well as its archaeological potential for revealing information on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century life. The site is particularly important since its occupancy can be documented to have begun in the last quarter of the seventeenth century and ended at the end of the eighteenth century. With the exception of the school building nearby, the immediate area of the house site has not been disturbed by subsequent building since its occupancy.

MTP

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cary, Wilson Miles, "Wilson Cary of Ceeleys and His Family" in Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 9, pp. 104-109.
Calendar of Virginia Papers, Vol. I (1652-1781), p. 402.
 Harrison, Fairfax. The Virginia Carys, An Essay in Genealogy. New York: DeVinne Press, 1919, pp. 96-111
 Hiden, Martha Woodroff. Adventurers of Purse and Person, First Families of Virginia 1607-1625. 1964, pp. 326-329. (See continuation sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	3, 6, 4, 0, 9, 0	4, 1, 1, 2, 2, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(2) See continuation sheet # 3

NAME / TITLE

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

January 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

Virginia Landmarks Register

FEB 17 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jester, Annie Lash. Newport News 1607-1960. Newport News, 1961, pp. 38-47.

McIlwaine, H. R. (ed.) Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia. Vols. I, II, Richmond, 1925.

_____. Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia (1659/60-1693). Richmond, 1914.

Nugent, Nell Marion. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants 1623-1666. Baltimore, 1936.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

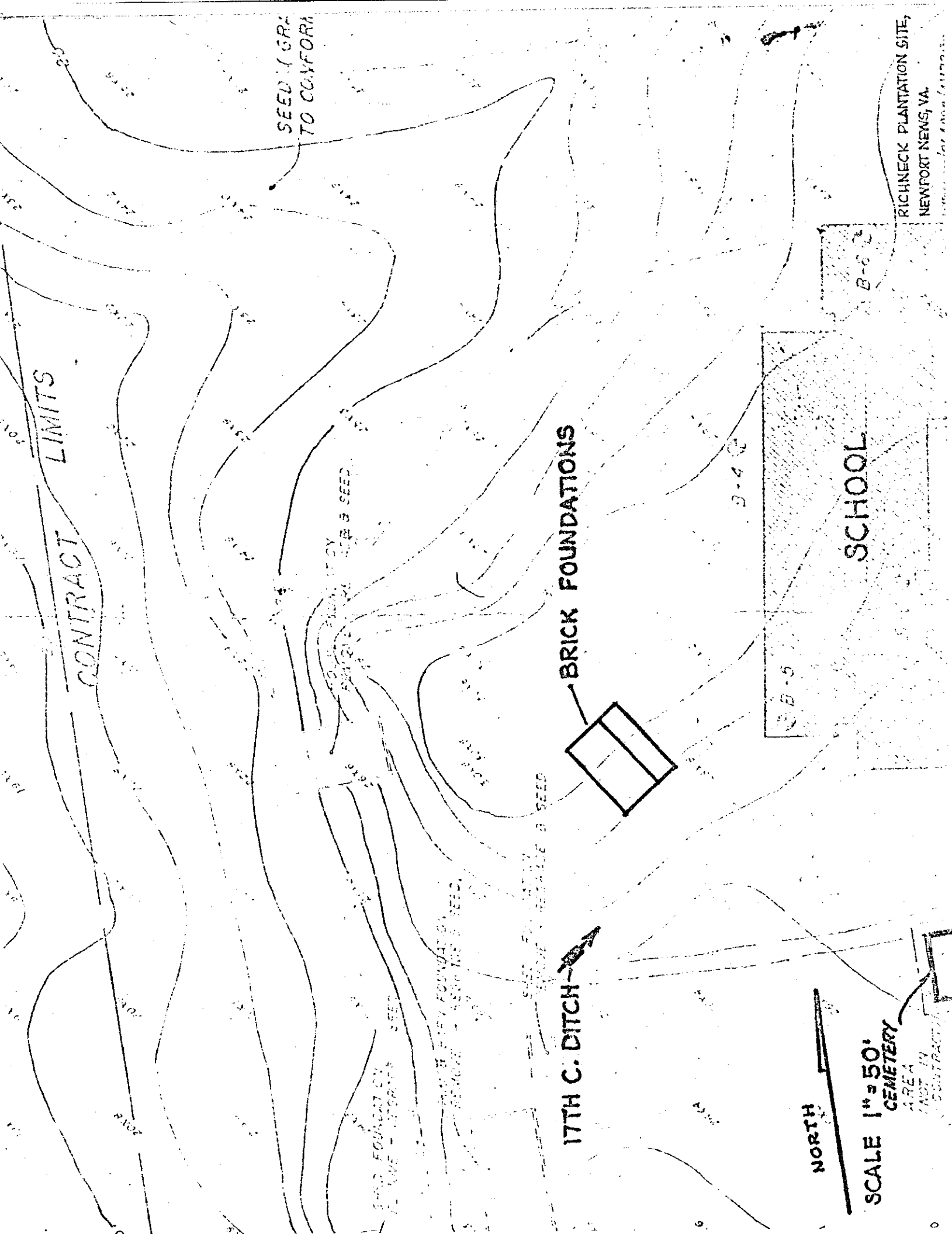
#3

ITEM NUMBER 11

PAGE 1

FORM PREPARED BY

(2) Virginia Research Center for Archaeology
P. O. Box 1204 Phone: (804) 220-2773
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185



SEEDING GRASS TO CONFORM

CONTRACT LIMITS

BRICK FOUNDATIONS

SCHOOL

17TH C. DITCH

SCALE 1" = 50'

CEMETERY AREA FIRST IN CONTRACT

NORTH

RICHNECK PLANTATION SITE, NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

REMOVE ALL WEEDS & SEEDS

FOUND. FOUNDATION BY PLUM - INCORPORATE SEED

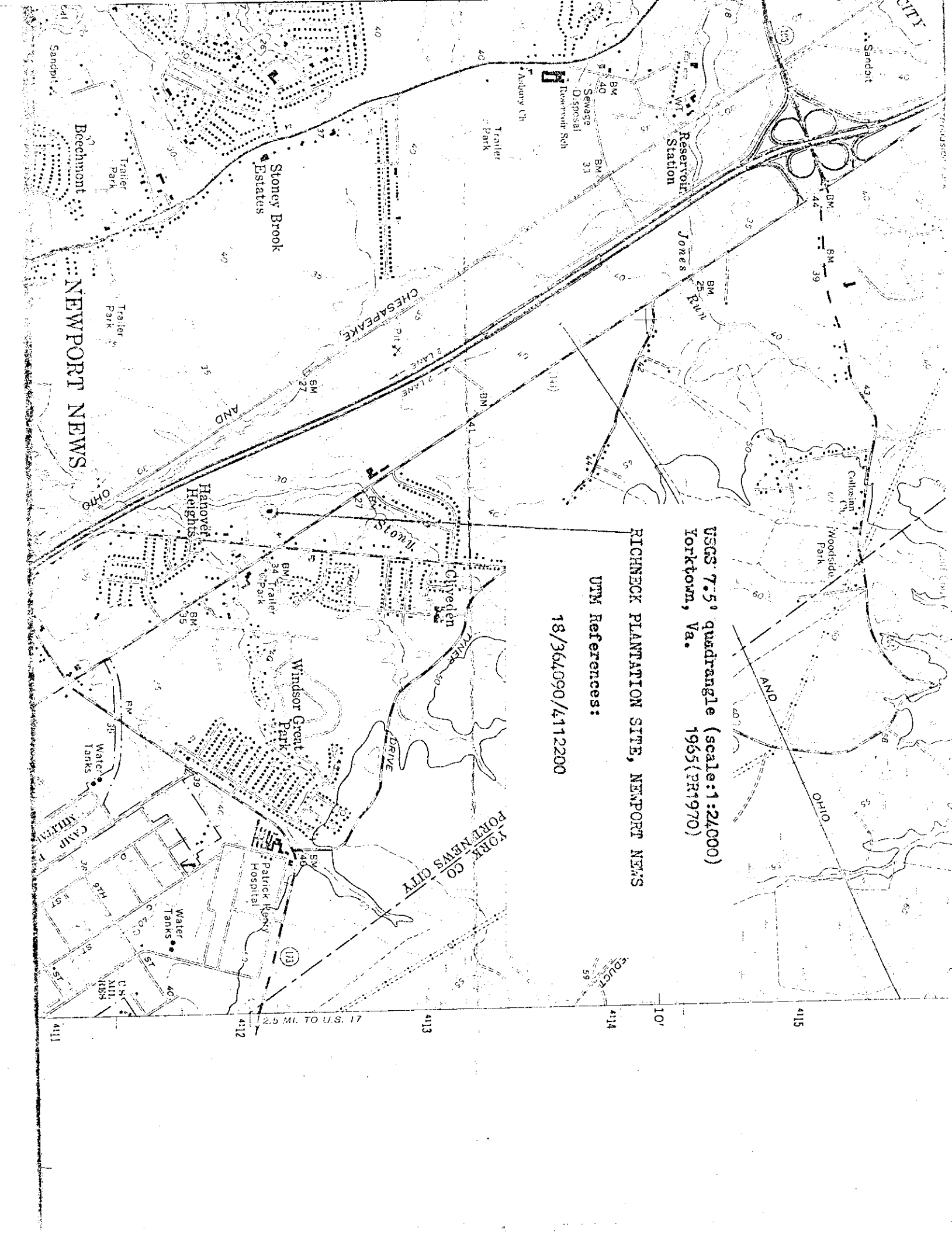
REMOVE ALL WEEDS & SEEDS

REMOVE ALL WEEDS & SEEDS

B-5

B-4

B-3



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Yorktown, Va. 1955 (PR1970)

RICHNECK PLANTATION SITE, NEWPORT NEWS

UTM References:

18/364090/4112200

2.5 MI. TO U.S. 17

4111 4112 4113 4114 4115 107