

VLR-12/10/98 NRHP-1/27/99

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in , to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A.) Complete each item by mark "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an 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 the categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a) Use a typewriter, word processor or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., House  
other names/site number: DHR File No. 046-300-0054

2. Location

street & number: 304 Church Street  
city, town: Smithfield  
state: Virginia code: VA county: Isle of Wight code: 093 zip code: 23430  
N/A not for publication vicinity

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  nationally  statewide  locally ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official 

Date 12/9/98

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., House

Isle of Wight, Virginia

Name of Property

County and State

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non contributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
Total 1	0	

Name of related multiple property listing Smithfield Historic District Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
 (Enter N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: QUEEN ANNE

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	STONE: GRANITE
walls	WOOD
roof	ASPHALT SHINGLE
other	

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

  X   See continuation sheet

P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., House  
Name of Property

Isle of Wight, Virginia  
County and State

**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.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**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 value, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction

**Period of Significance**

1900,1901

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history

**Criteria Consideration**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

**Significant Dates**

1900,1901

Property is

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation of 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
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: Va. Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Ave., Richmond, VA 23221

P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., House  
Name of Property

Isle of Wight, Virginia  
County and State

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

**Acreage of property:**

Approximately .5 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Lisa Marie Tucker  
organization Frazier Associates  
street and number 213 N. Augusta Street  
city or town Staunton

date June 1998  
telephone (540) 886-6230  
state VA zip code 24401

---

**Additional Information**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:  
**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

**Property Owner**

---

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Henrietta Gwaltney  
street and number 155 West 70th St., 3F  
city or town New York

telephone (212) 595-6510  
state NY zip code 10023

**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 Preservation Act as amended. (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this information is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and manufacturing data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127; and the Office of Management And Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, D.C. 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 7 Page 1**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

**Summary Description**

The P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., house, built between 1900-01, is a Victorian Queen Anne residence located on Church Street in the Town of Smithfield in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. The elaborately detailed wood-frame dwelling is noteworthy as an excellent example of an elaborate, turn-of-the-century Tidewater dwelling. The house is also significant as the primary residence of Pembroke Decauter Gwaltney, Jr., of the Gwaltney meat empire. After partnering with his father in the family business in 1886, P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., took the company to national prominence before his death in 1936.

**Architectural Analysis**

Constructed in the Victorian Queen Anne style based on style no. 45 from page 51 of George F. Barber's Modern Dwellings: A Book of Practical Designs and Plans for Those Who Wish to Build or Beautify Their Homes, the P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., house features an elaborate profile punctuated by a corner turret, projecting bays, and a complex roof form. The plan is roughly rectangular with porches to the north, east, and west sides. The front entry, located along the north elevation facing Church Street provides access to a small entry vestibule known by family members as the "gymnasium" off of which a large open hall leads into the main living spaces of the first

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 7 Page 2**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

floor including the living room, parlor, and dining room. Pairs of pocket doors separate the living room from the parlor and each of these rooms from the main stair hall. The rear of the house, located behind the dining room, is separated by a door and includes the kitchen, a set of stairs leading to the carport, and the laundry area. The stair to the basement is a single-run, enclosed stair leading to the later car port. In addition to the stairs, an elevator installed between the rear bedrooms in the 1950s serves the first and second floors. The gymnasium leads to the front porch and the main stair hall, to the side porch.

Access to the second floor is provided by two sets of stairs. The primary stair, located opposite the main entry door, features turned balusters with large fluted newel posts and is constructed of golden oak and ash woods. White oak raised paneling runs below the chair rail and along the outside wall below the stair balusters. A fluted shell carving projects from the side of the stair into the main hall on the first floor. A second, more utilitarian stair is tucked behind the main stair and connects the service areas at the rear of the house to bedrooms upstairs. This enclosed stair has beaded-board wainscoting and oak treads.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 7 Page 3**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

The second floor consists of a master suite, three additional bedrooms, and two full baths. This floor level is divided into two areas separated by a doorway with the more formal bedrooms above the formal area below and the children's rooms reached by the service stairs. A porch extends from the north elevation at the end of the hall running north-south. Porches located to the east and west of the south elevation were filled in during the 1920s and made into a bedroom at the rear of the house. A single-run enclosed service stair, also with beaded-board wainscoting, extends to the attic of the house.

The finishes and trim work establish the hierarchy of spaces on the interior of the P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., house. Throughout the house, the walls and ceilings are plastered. Raised paneling in the living room, dining room, and main stair hall establish the importance of these spaces. Beaded-board wainscoting decorates the second-floor hallway and the walls of the rear set of stairs from the first floor all the way to the attic. The flooring is made of different woods to further accentuate the hierarchy of the rooms.

As with the flooring and wall finishes, the trim work defines the importance of the rooms throughout the house. The most formal rooms--the dining room and living

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 7 Page 4**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

room-- have full-height paneled walls, base, chair, and crown moldings and 8" X 8" mahogany-bordered oak flooring blocks. The mantels are golden oak with Scamozzi Ionic columns above carved marble hearths. The parlor features a paneled wainscot, crown and base molding. Its mantel, framed by golden oak Scamozzi Ionic columns, is inlaid with mother-of-pearl accents. Like the dining room and living room, the parlor features a carved tile hearth and a combination of mahogany and oak flooring laid in 8" x 8" blocks.

All of the interior woodwork was manufactured in Richmond, Virginia, by the Richmond Woodworking Company. Throughout the house, the door casings are chestnut with yellow pine transoms and the window casings are ash with ash aprons and white pine sash. White oak panels make up the paneled wainscoting found in the house. The doors are mahogany and have copper back plates with crystal knobs procured from the P & F Corbin Company, New Britain, Connecticut.

Like the interior, the exterior of the house is an exceptional example of the Victorian Queen Anne style. Typical of this style are the two-story projecting bays with front-facing gables, the corner turret, a wrap-around porch, and the classical details throughout. Constructed of wood framing, the house is clad on the exterior with a



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 7 Page 5**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

combination of wood shingles and clapboard siding. The gable ends feature half-timbering surrounding tri-partite windows with classical accents. A decorative tile roof with a scalloped ridge crowns the house. Copper finials project from the tops of the conical shaped turret and the porch gazebo. Corbelled chimneys punctuate the combination hipped and gabled roof. The house is elevated on a coursed granite foundation.

The porches found on the east, west, and north elevations feature an abundance of classically inspired details. Scamozzi Ionic columns support the porch roof, which includes pedimented gables on the north elevation above the main entry and on the west elevation at the side entry. A wheat and swag motif in the classical tradition decorates many of the exposed frieze areas and pediment tympanums on the north, east, and west elevations. Turned-baluster railings run between the porch columns on the first floor and between the corner sandstone pedestals on the second-floor balcony.

The fenestration of the house typifies the Victorian Queen Anne style. Tall one-over-one, double-hung wooden windows predominate. Accent windows include Palladian

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 7 Page 6**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

tri-partite compositions in the gables and strategically placed colored leaded-glass windows on the north, east and west elevations.

The south (rear) elevation of the house departs from the vocabulary of the other three elevations in its simplicity. The only decorative elements, the corner boards and the window caps, have been simplified on the rear of the house. The former sleeping porches on the south elevation were filled in during the 1920s to be interior spaces. A small one-story addition was made in the 1950s for a first-floor mud room. It features closed shutters over all openings to the exterior.

A one-story, metal carport with a flat roof has been appended to the east elevation at the south end.

There are no other buildings located on the property. Large granite steps bridge the distance between the edge of the front porch and the sidewalk at the front (north) of the house. Mature ginkgo trees planted shortly after the construction of the house shade the house from the street. To the east of the house, there is a Victorian reproduction garden featuring flowers and carefully shaped topiaries separated by a combination of brick and sand paths. Behind the garden is a large parking area and a carport which

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 7 Page 7**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

is attached to the south end of the east elevation. The back yard of the house has large magnolia trees and grass which lead to the edge of a small stream. A brick alley to the west of the house meets a parking area at the south between the back of the house and the stream.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 8 Page 8**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

**Statement of Significance**

The P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., House is architecturally significant for its elaborate Victorian detailing and as the main residence of P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., the executive who made the P.D. Gwaltney Jr. and Company meat company the leader in the United State's pork industry in the early-twentieth century through the promotion of the "Smithfield ham."

The P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., house is an excellent example of a Victorian Queen Anne residence as found in Virginia and provides a wealth of information about suppliers of the day. The house retains its original fixtures and finishes, all of which were meticulously documented by its original owner, P.D. Gwaltney, Jr. Gwaltney kept a detailed letter book of all correspondence to every supplier associated with the house and his granddaughter, Henrietta Gwaltney, is using the information to carefully restore the house to its original grandeur.

**Historical Background**

In 1899, P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., obtained lot number 45 in the Town of Smithfield upon which the house now sits. Gwaltney razed the "opera house," formerly the Odd Fellows Hall, which sat on the property and constructed the current house

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 8 Page 9**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

for his new bride, Estelle Darden. Constructed over the period of two years, the Gwaltney house was based on house plan No. 45, page 51 which Gwaltney obtained in December 1899 from a plan book by George F. Barber.<sup>8</sup> By early 1900, Gwaltney had begun ordering materials for the house including the granite foundation stones from Mount Airy, North Carolina; bricks from Norfolk, Virginia; and columns of Indiana limestone. Gwaltney continued his involvement with the ordering of materials throughout the entire construction of the house and personally corresponded with all suppliers, often playing one against the other to obtain the best price. Quality was Gwaltney's primary concern, however, and he found it necessary to return materials--the turret roofing tiles and doors--until he was satisfied that this was the best he could obtain. Gwaltney procured materials from all over the United States, and had them shipped into Norfolk and brought by boat to Smithfield. Quarter-inch-thick, beveled plate-glass windows for the house were obtained from the American Plate Glass Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; custom woodwork was from Richmond Woodworking in Virginia; flooring was from J.M. Adams in Baltimore, Maryland; mantels were made by Broadbent and Davis in Baltimore; lighting

---

<sup>8</sup>P.D. Gwaltney, Letter Book 12/1/99-1/6/01, 12/28/99, Isle of Wight County Museum, Smithfield, Virginia.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 8 Page 10**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

was purchased from Kern Incandescent Gas Light Company in New York City; and door knobs and locks were bought from P & F Corbin, New Britain, Connecticut. All transactions are documented in P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., Company books of correspondence.

Contemporaneously with the construction of his Victorian masterpiece, Gwaltney ran the P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., Company which he had formed with his father P.D. Gwaltney, Sr., in 1882. (Prior to the formation of this company, Mr. Gwaltney, Sr. had been involved in the peanut industry in Tidewater Virginia.) With the formation of the new company, the processing and sale of pork products, for which the Gwaltney name would become famous, began to increase. By 1906, it was necessary for P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., to have the smokehouses and meat plants enlarged and in 1907 federal inspection of Smithfield's meat products began. In 1915, P.D. Gwaltney, Sr., died and left the entire business to his son.

In 1926, P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., worked with delegate A.S. Johnson to have Smithfield ham recognized by the Virginia General Assembly. Page 1001 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1926 distinguishes Smithfield hams as a

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 8 Page 11**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

distinct product raised in a specific region of Virginia and North Carolina and makes it illegal for anyone to knowingly offer products not meeting this description for sale in Virginia. Violators can be fined anywhere from \$25 to \$300. When the law was originally passed, the hogs had to be peanut-fed. With the modification in the peanut industry over the subsequent decades, the law was revised in 1966 to eliminate all references to peanut-fed hogs. The fines remain the same today as when originally established.<sup>9</sup>

In 1929, P.D. Gwaltney Jr. and Company became a corporation, with P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., as president and chairman and three of his sons--Howard, P.D. and Julius--as vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and assistant treasurer, accordingly. In 1932, the Gwaltney family's "pet ham" was profiled for its large size in Ripley's Believe It or Not. P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., died in 1936, leaving the Smithfield ham empire and his Victorian mansion to his sons. The company was reorganized with Howard as president, Julius as vice-president, and P.D. Gwaltney III as chairman. In 1957, the sons changed the family business name

---

<sup>9</sup>Helen H. King, Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, (Isle of Wight: Isle of Wight Board of Supervisors, 1993), pp. 401-402.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  
Section 8 Page 12**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

to Gwaltney Inc. and proceeded to make it public in 1967. In 1970, Gwaltney Inc. merged with ITT to become ITT Gwaltney Inc.<sup>10</sup>

The P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., house has remained in the Gwaltney family since its original construction. P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., and his wife, Estelle, had five children, Pembroke Decauter III, Lucy (died age 16), Chester (died age 20), Howard and Julius. With Estelle's death in 1954, Julius, his wife, Henrietta and their two children, Henrietta and Florelle, moved into the house. Julius's wife, Henrietta, still resides in the house and their daughter, also Henrietta, is overseeing the current restoration project.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup>W.A. Gwaltney, "Gwaltney History," 5/3/81, updated 7/15/91, Isle of Wight County Museum.

<sup>11</sup>Henrietta Gwaltney, interview held June 18 and 19, 1998 in Smithfield, Virginia.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**  
**Section 9 Page 13**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Barber, George F. Modern Dwellings: A Book of Practical Designs and Plans for Those Wishing to Build or Beautify Their Homes. Knoxville, Tennessee: Bean, Waters and Company, Printers, fourth edition, 1903.

Dashiell, Segar Cofer. Smithfield: A Pictorial History. Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Publishers, 1977.

Isle of Wight County Museum. "Gwaltney History," May 3, 1981, updated July 15, 1991.

Isle of Wight County Museum. "P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., House." Letter book December 1, 1899-January 6, 1901.

King, Helen Haverty. Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County. Isle of Wight, Virginia: Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993.

"Town Landmark Being Meticulously Restored." The Smithfield Times, 31 December 1997, vol. 78, no. 53, p. 1.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources. P.D. Gwaltney Jr. House, File Number 300-0054.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**  
**Section 10 Page 14**

**P. D Gwaltney, Jr., House**

**Isle of Wight County,  
Virginia**

---

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**UTM References**

Quadrangle: Smithfield

Scale: 1:24,000

UTM Reference: 355075 Easting 4093850 Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

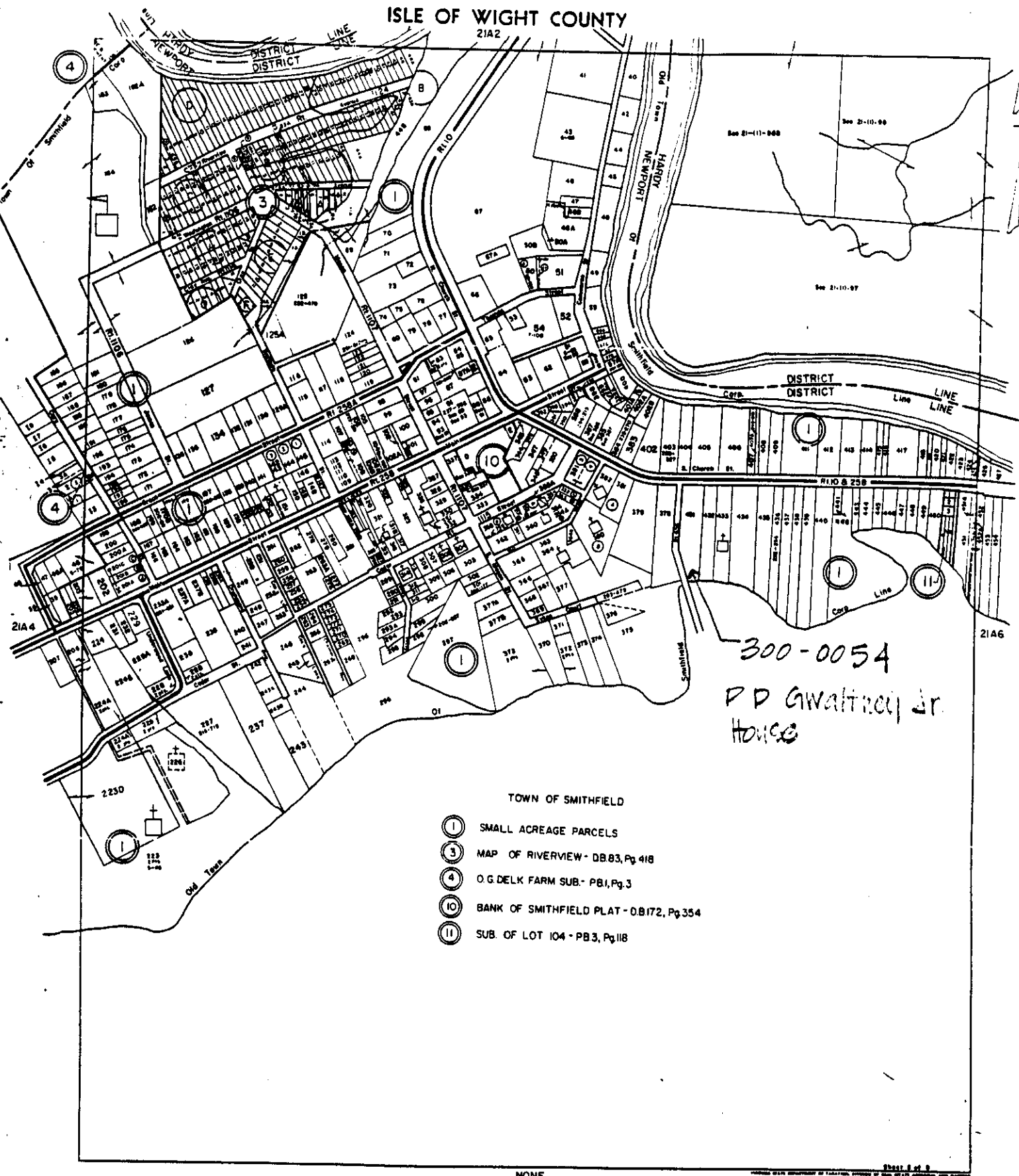
On the north, the P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., House is bounded by Church Street, by an alley to the west, by a stream to the south and by another house to the east.

This nomination includes the P.D. Gwaltney, Jr., House and the surrounding property. The boundaries of the National Register Nomination coincide with those of Parcel 431 on Tax Map 21A-01, Isle of Wight County. The boundary encompasses all property historically associated with the building.

**Boundary Justification**

The P.D Gwaltney House occupies lot 45 of the original plat for the Town of Smithfield, Isle of Wight County, Virginia.

# ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY



-300-0054  
P D Gwaltney Jr.  
House

- TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
- ① SMALL ACREAGE PARCELS
  - ③ MAP OF RIVERVIEW - DB 83, Pg 418
  - ④ O.G. DELK FARM SUB. - PB 1, Pg. 3
  - ⑩ BANK OF SMITHFIELD PLAT - OB 172, Pg 354
  - ⑪ SUB. OF LOT 104 - PB 3, Pg 118

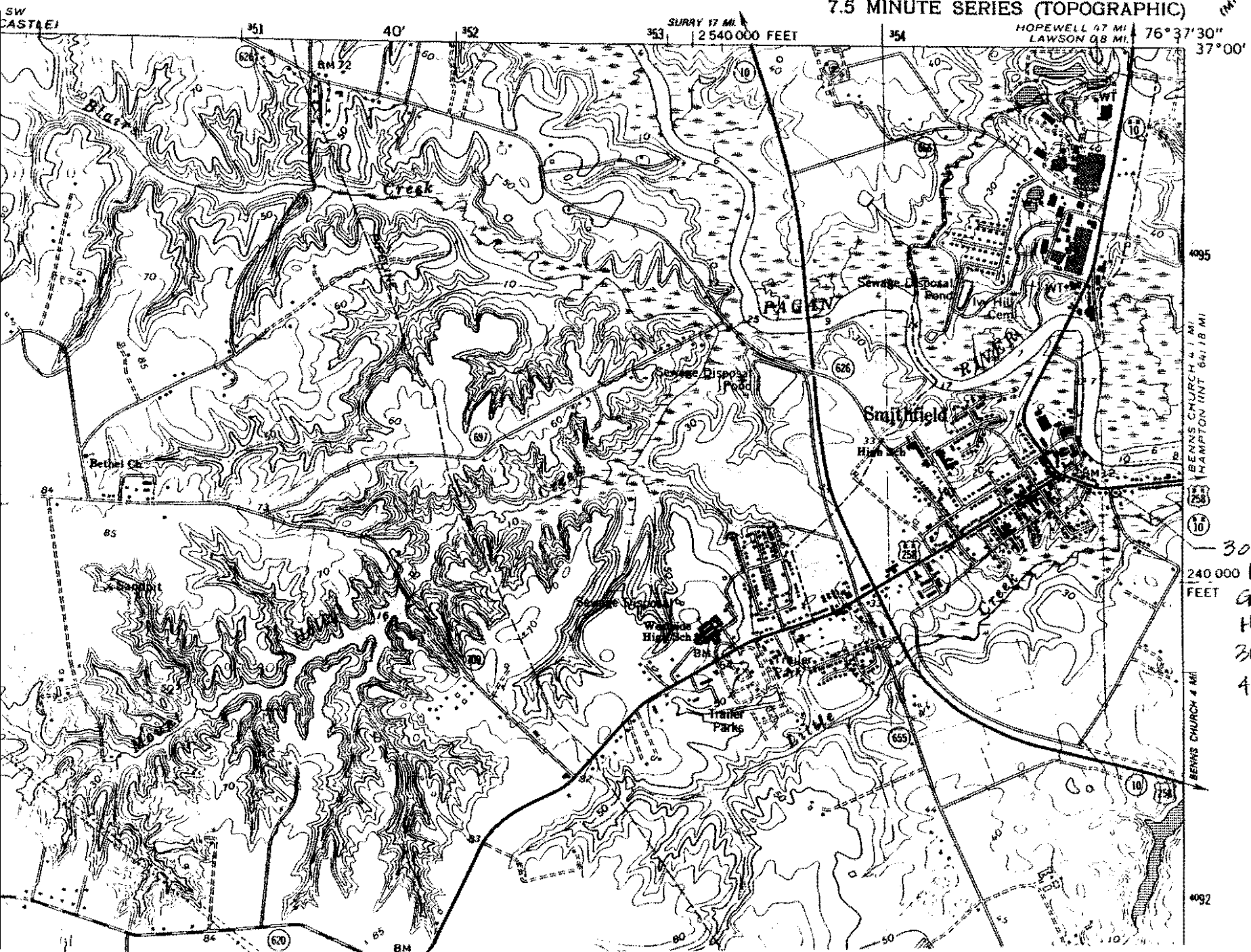
SCALE 1" = 100 FEET

NONE  
NEWPORT DISTRICT  
HARDY DISTRICT  
SMITHFIELD TOWN

SECTION  
INSERT 21A

SMITHFIELD QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA-ISLE OF WIGHT CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

358 11 SE  
11 BERRY ISLAND



HOPEWELL 47 MI  
LAWSON 48 MI  
76° 37' 30"  
37° 00"

4095

BEANS CHURCH 4 MI  
HAMPTON INT 6 1/2 MI

60

300-0054  
240 000 P.D.  
FEET GWALTNEY, JR  
HOUSE  
355075 EASTING  
4093850 NORTHING

BEANS CHURCH 4 MI

4092