

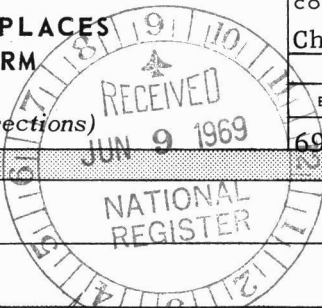
Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Charles City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-10-45-0039	DATE 10/1/69

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Shirley

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Shirley

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: .4 mi. SW of Rt. 608, 1.5 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 608 and Rt. 5.

CITY OR TOWN: ~~Charles City~~ Hopewell vic

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Charles City CODE: 039

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP			STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:	
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>			
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
C. Hill Carter, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Shirley Plantation

CITY OR TOWN: Charles City STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Charles City Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charles City STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 800 acres

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 03

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Charles City  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>			Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
			Moved <input type="checkbox"/>			Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The plantation house at Shirley is a large, almost square, two and-a-half story brick building with a mansard roof, dormers, and two interior chimneys. On both the land and river fronts of the house are nearly identical tetrastyle, two-story pedimented porticoes. It is thought that these porticoes are part of the original design of the house, but that they have either been altered or rebuilt in the early 19th century. The portion of the facades covered by the porticoes is stuccoed. Shirley's brickwork is of the finest quality, being laid in Flemish bond with rubbed brick dressings around the windows. Other architectural features on the exterior include a water table, belt course, and fine modillion cornice.

The outstanding feature of Shirley's notable interior is the superb three-story staircase with its walnut balustrade and scrolled soffits. All the first-floor rooms are fully paneled, the paneling being among the finest surviving from the colonial period. A wealth of rich architectural ornament is found in all the principal rooms, particularly the drawing room.

The complex of buildings making up the forecourt includes two L-shaped stables flanking the north entrance to the courtyard and the kitchen and overseer's house which enclose the south side of the court. The latter two buildings are two-story brick structures with steep gable roofs. An early brick dovecote stands to the north of the courtyard while the main house terminates the court at the south end.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Charles City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #18-22  
1967  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Code: 45



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

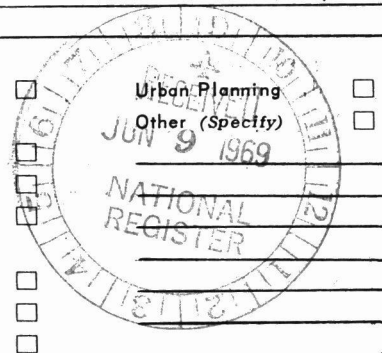
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The present Shirley Plantation is part of a 9,376 acre tract patented by Edward Hill in 1660. The name "Shirley" probably derived from Sir Thomas Sherley, the father-in-law of Lord Delaware who was one of the first owners of this property as early as 1613. The property descended to the heirs of Edward Hill, and finally to his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Hill, who married John Carter of Corotoman in 1723. This marriage established the Hill-Carter line.

The present plantation house stood complete in 1770, and has remained the seat of the Carter family ever since. Anne Hill Carter, mother of Robert E. Lee, was born at Shirley in 1773, and Lee himself was a frequent visitor there.

Besides being one of Virginia's largest and finest colonial mansions, the Shirley plantation house offers a rare insight into the life of a distinguished colonial family. The main fabric of the house has remained virtually unchanged and has held the possessions of the family for over two centuries. Most of these possessions, including fine silver, china, furniture and portraits, are found in the house today.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

X

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Lancaster, Robert A., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1915.  
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker and Company, Inc., 1968.  
 Troubetzkoy, Ulrich, "Welcome to Shirley", Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 9, No. 2, Fall, 1959.  
 Waterman, Thomas Tileston, The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776, New York: Bonanza Books, 1945.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37°	20'	30"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	15'	41"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: April 24, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name: Dr. Edward P. Alexander per form  
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title: Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date: June 2, 1969

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: OCT 1 1969

ATTEST:  
William J. Swartz  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: SEP 29 1969

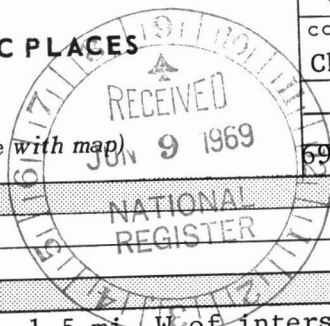
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 (A) 18/303200/4136230  
 (B) 18/303160/41341040  
 (C) 18/299410/4134170  
 (D) 18/299460/4136340  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

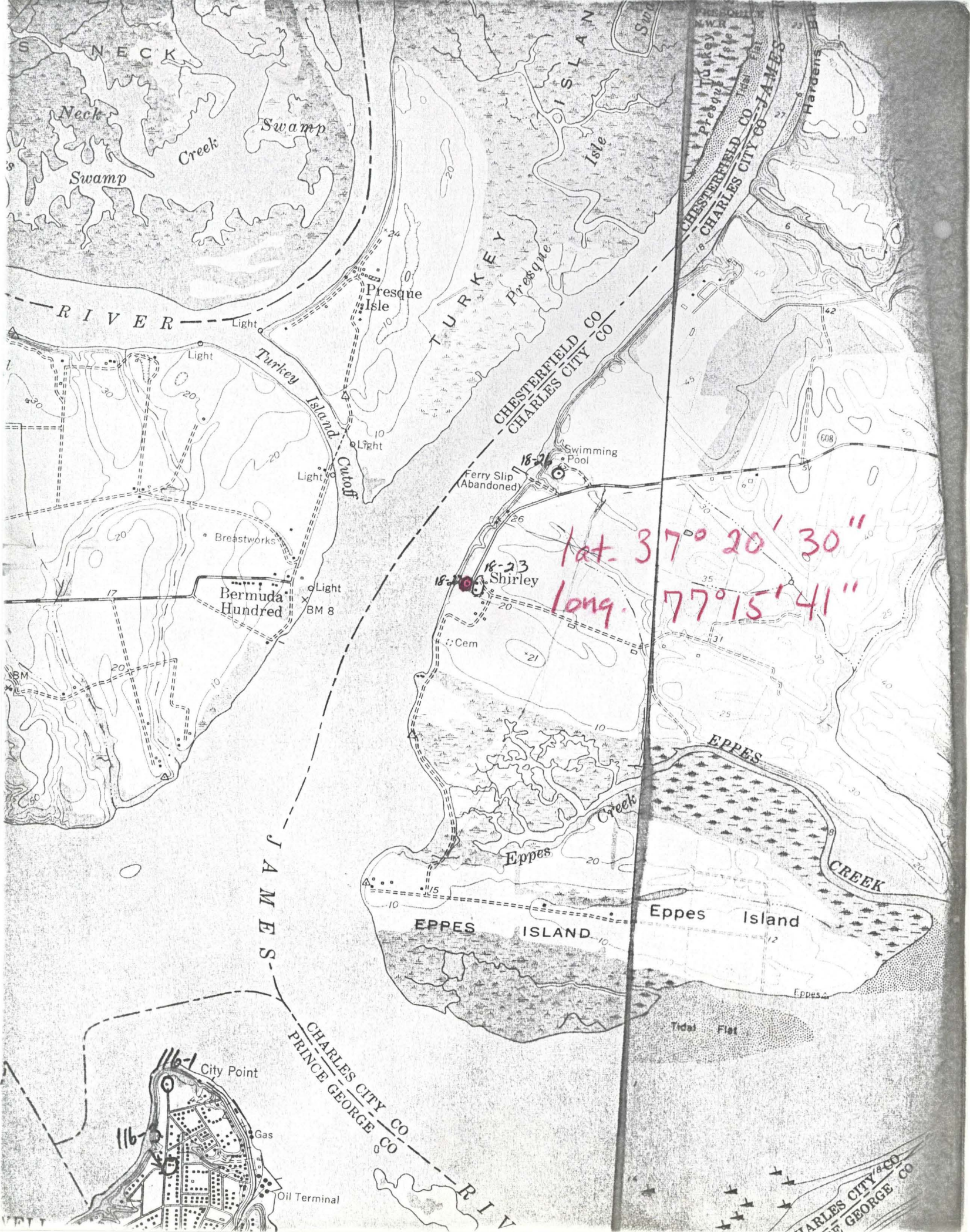
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Charles City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-10-45-0039	10/1/69

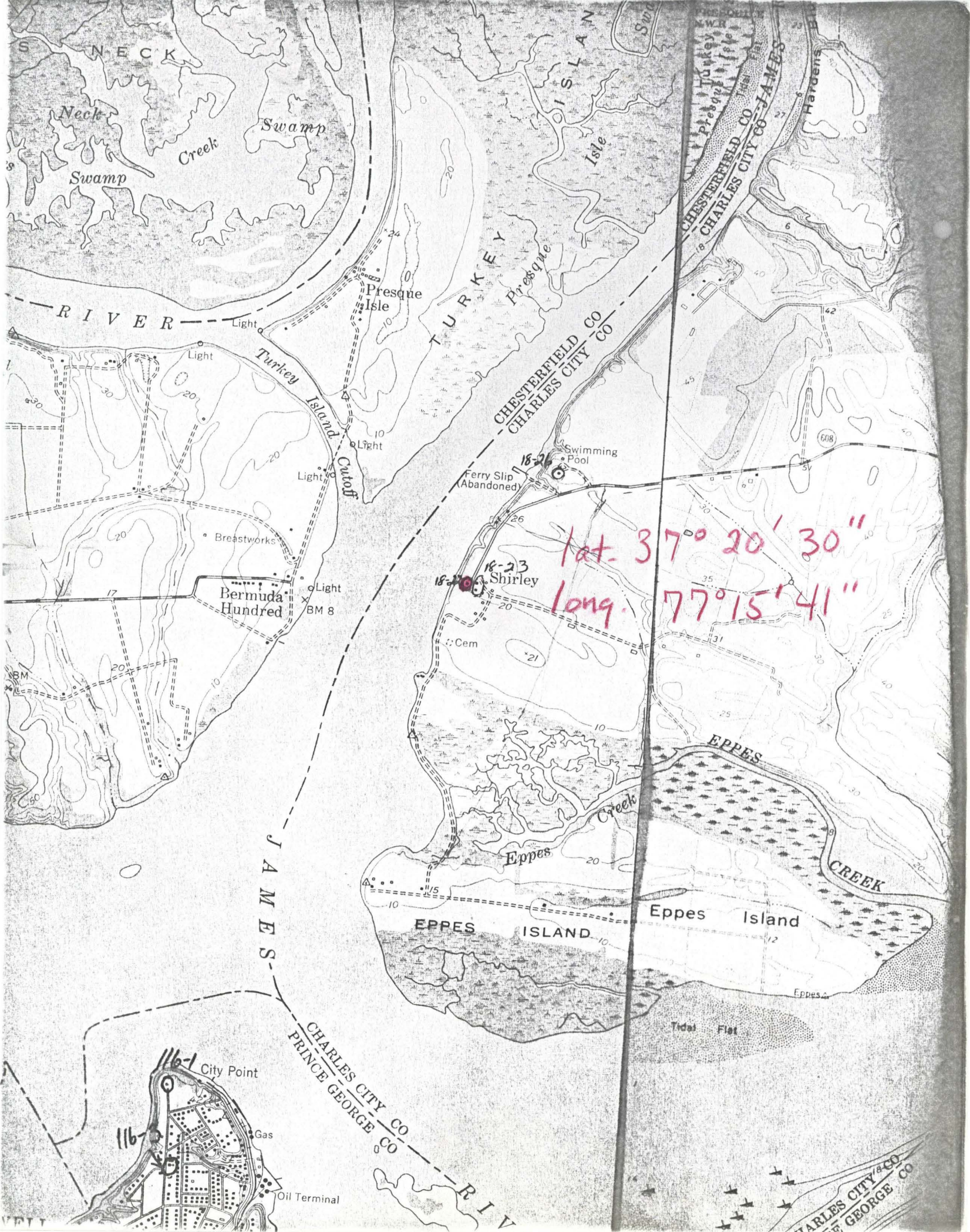


SEE INSTRUCTIONS

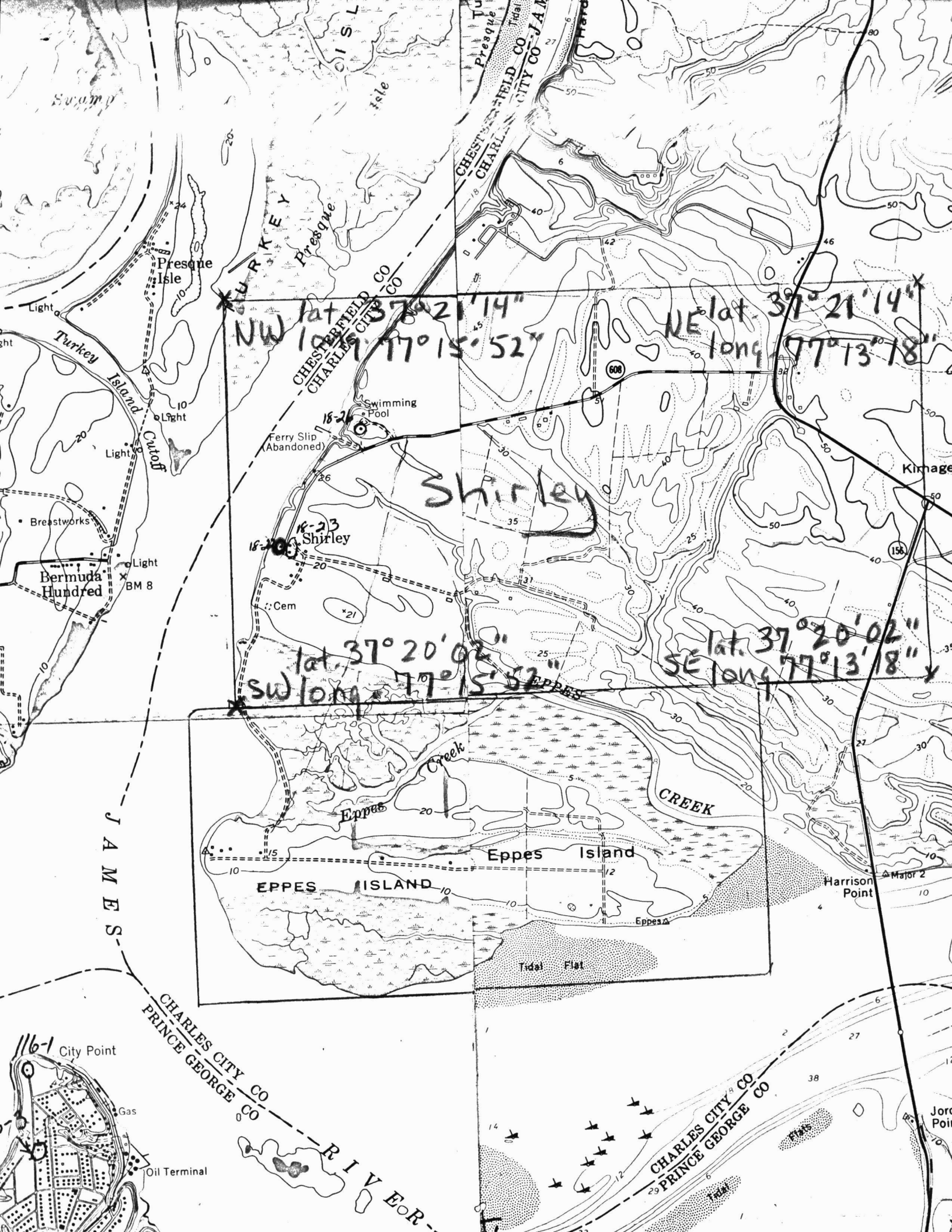
<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Shirley			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Shirley			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: .4 mi. SW of Rt. 608, 1.5 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 608 and Rt. 5.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	Charles City	039
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle Hopewell, Va.; Westover, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1952; 1965			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



Lat. 37° 20' 30"  
Long. 77° 15' 41"



VP 11



NW lat.  $37^{\circ}21'14''$   
long.  $77^{\circ}15'52''$

NE lat.  $37^{\circ}21'14''$   
long.  $77^{\circ}13'18''$

SW lat.  $37^{\circ}20'02''$   
long.  $77^{\circ}15'52''$

SE lat.  $37^{\circ}20'02''$   
long.  $77^{\circ}13'18''$

Shirley

Shirley

EPPES ISLAND

CREEK

JAMES

CHARLES CITY CO  
PRINCE GEORGE CO

RIVER

CHARLES CITY CO  
PRINCE GEORGE CO



JORGE