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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

**Prehistoric through Historic Archaeological Resources and Architectural Resources at Bermuda Hundred
VDHR file #020-5370**

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)


- Protohistoric Period: The Appomattox Indians at Bermuda Hundred, ca. 1600-1611**
- The Virginia Company Period, 1612-1624**
- Early Plantations, Port and Market Center, 1625-1690**
- The Golden Age of Planters and Merchants, 1691-1784**
- The Customhouse Era, 1785-1800**
- Transformation, 1801-1860**
- The Beast and the Bright Hope, 1861-1918**
- A Quiet Decline, 1919-1940**

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Christopher M. Stevenson, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
street & number 2801 Kensington Avenue telephone 804-367-2323, Ext. 132
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221 date June 2006

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

 9/19/06
Signature and title of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

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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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 120 hours per response including the 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

SECTION E: STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Protohistoric Period: The Appomattox at Bermuda Hundred, ca. 1600-1611

Areas of significance: Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Native American Ethnic Heritage, Commerce.

Significant date: 1611, Removal of the Appomattox from Bermuda Hundred

Significance criterion: D

The extensive remains of Appomattox settlement at Bermuda Hundred provide a rich potential for further studies of the development of the Powhatan Chiefdom from early Late Woodland-Period occupants of the upper James Tidewater. Recent developments in our understanding of house patterns and settlement structure can certainly be enhanced by systematic studies of this [REDACTED] settlement. Period documents clearly indicate that Bermuda Hundred was the northern terminus of the Kennecock (or Cunnecock, etc) Trail, the eastern branch of the Occaneechee Trail. The western branch also terminated at a major Appomattox settlement, and documents clearly indicate that the Appomattox played a major role in the commerce between the Powhatan and southern Native American groups, both in protohistoric times and through the early 18th century (Mouer 1985; Briceland 1987). The development of the Powhatan Chiefdom, which is archaeologically characterized by noted changes in settlement patterns, ceramic types, and other material manifestations, may be directly related to political and economic relations largely carried out along the Occaneechee Trail system. [REDACTED]

These may be expected to prove useful for documenting the 16th and 17th century political and economic history of the Appomattox people and, perhaps, to illustrate their special significance in the region.

Certainly, a careful study of archaeological remains at Bermuda Hundred is likely to provide insights into the effects of contact on indigenous populations and social systems. While we cannot stipulate accurately the date at which the development of the nascent Powhatan Chiefdom occurred, or that the first effects of contact were felt along the James River. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The known date (1611) of the "removal" of the Appomattox from this site should permit archaeologists to determine with considerable accuracy the material conditions of life for these native Americans at that time, and to chart with some accuracy further developments through the 17th century by comparing these conditions with those from later sites.

The Virginia Company Period, 1612-1624

Areas of significance: Agriculture, Historic Non-Aboriginal Archaeology, Exploration and Settlement, Military

Significant dates: 1612-13, founding of Bermuda Hundred; 1613, Incorporation of Bermuda Hundred; 1616, Virginia Company ratified the corporate charter; 1619, First private property granted; 1622, Indian attack led by Opechancanough

Significant persons: Pocahontas, John Rolfe, Sir Thomas Dale

Significance criteria: A, B, and D

The Virginia Company Period represents the period of initial exploration and settlement of the first permanent English settlement in continental North America. This period is one which is unique to Virginia and of significance to

the founding and development of the nation as a whole (Opperman and Turner n.d.). According to Ralph Hamor's account, Dale set to work constructing a settlement at Bermuda Hundred almost immediately after removing the Appomattox in December of 1611. However, serious attention was turned to the building of the five hundreds which comprised the Bermuda City Corporation only early in 1613, after completion of the major construction at the sister settlement known as Henrico.

Dale joined the Henrico and "New Bermudas" settlements with approximately 18 miles of trench-and-palisade fortifications. The Bermuda Hundred area considered here contained two of the five "hundreds" which comprised the corporation; namely the Upper Hundred (probably Presquile) and the core settlement known initially as the Nether Hundred, located around the southern terminus of the Bermuda Hundred peninsular palisade [REDACTED]. In 1613 he made the offer to the people of Virginia that those who would settle Bermuda Hundred with him would be members of a corporation, and that after a period of working for the corporation, they would then receive private parcels of land. This offer, the first such offer in the British colonies, led most of the settlers to join the corporation, and by 1614, there were 119 persons living within the settlement. The other Company settlements--James City, Elizabeth City, Keckotan, and Henrico were nearly abandoned, with only token numbers of settlers remaining as garrisons.

That same year John Rolfe, secretary to the colony, married Pocahontas. Rolfe had apparently assisted in the education of Powhatan's daughter who had been living at Henrico or Coxendale under the guardianship of Alexander Whitaker, the colony's clergyman. Thomas Dale, John Rolfe (with Pocahontas) and others of the colony's leadership settled at Bermuda Hundred. Rolfe had produced his first batch of marketable Virginia tobacco in the year 1612, and it is possible that it was produced at Bermuda Hundred. There is a long-standing rivalry between Henrico and Chesterfield Counties for the claim of the ground in which Virginia tobacco was first cultivated. Native Americans had grown *Nicotiana rustica* for hundreds of years before the arrival of English settlers. Rolfe is credited with hybridizing a plant which grew well in Virginia, and sold well in Europe. His first products were shipped to England in 1612. In that year, Rolfe could have been living at Jamestown, Henrico, or Bermuda Hundred. Dale and most of the men in the colony were establishing the town and hundreds at Henrico during that year.

There is a popular legend that Rolfe's farm was named Varina, but there is no documentary record of that. Likewise it has sometimes been stated that Rolfe and Pocahontas lived at the farm presently named Varina, in Henrico County. The place name Varina appears for the first time in colonial records a generation after Rolfe's tobacco experiments (McCartney 1985). McCartney found the earliest reference to Varina as a name for a farm in Henrico County to be in the patent of William Dawkes, dated June 20, 1632. She ascribes to the 19th-century writings of Bishop William Meade the origin of the "romantic legend linking Varina Neck to John Rolfe and Pocahontas, [along] with the claim that Rolfe's famous tobacco experiments had been conducted at Varina and that the couple had spent their early married years there" (McCartney (1985:18-19). Although his whereabouts in 1612 cannot be determined with absolute certainty, Rolfe's land patent was for his tract overlooking the Appomattox Bay at Bermuda Hundred, where he was one of the original founders of the corporation.

In the year 1616 the Virginia Company accepted Dale's private landownership plan and increased the allotments to those who had founded the corporation. Eventually, all Virginia settlers, regardless of gender or age, who had been in the colony at the time of Thomas Dale's government were granted private patents of land, and were given special legal status as "ancient planters." In late 1616, Dale returned to England, and the following year the colony's new governor returned the seat of government to Jamestown. Numerous of the original settlers remained on their Bermuda Hundred lands, and formal patents--the first in English America--were issued. These included patents to leaders of the Bermuda Hundred community such as John Rolfe, Samuel Jordan, John Woodlief, and William Craddock. Following Dale's departure, the name of the settlement was also changed. While the original company settlements had honored the English sovereign by naming James City, and had likewise recognized Prince Henry (Henrico) and Princess Elizabeth (Elizabeth City), the crown prince had not been so honored. This potential *faux-pas* was corrected by renaming Dale's primary settlement Charles City.

In March of 1622 the Pamunkey chief, Opechancanough, coordinated a massive attack on the colony which helped lead directly to the dissolution of the Virginia Company and the founding of Virginia as a crown colony. A muster of the inhabitants of "The Neck of Land in Charles City" showed that there were still 44 persons living at Bermuda Hundred after the attack, which had taken many lives on the peninsula. These 44 persons were divided among 16 households.

The history and archaeology of the Virginia Company Period are clearly significant to furthering our understanding of the foundations of the American nation. There has been substantial archaeological study of Company period settlements in the past two decades; namely at The Maine (Outlaw 1990), Martin's Hundred (Noël Hume 1991), Flowerdew Hundred (Deetz 1993), and Jordan's Journey (Mouer, McLearen et al. 1992; McLearen and Mouer 1993; McLearen, Mouer et al. 1994). All of these excavations are of settlements founded as "particular plantations" near the end of the Company Period, and do not represent the initial Virginia Company settlements.

Recent work under the direction of Dr. William Kelso, sponsored by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, have uncovered highly significant remains of the first fort at Jamestown, but repeated efforts to identify archaeological remnants of Henrico have demonstrated that the settlement has probably been lost. Likewise, it is unlikely that substantial archaeological sites related to Elizabeth City or Kechotan will ever be found intact in the highly urbanized precincts of Norfolk and Hampton. Thus, the archaeology of Bermuda Hundred remains our best hope for recovering data about the initial settlements outside of Jamestown. The discovery of the site of Thomas Dale's palisade (also known as Dale's Pale), and probable related remains on the terraces over the Appomattox Bay, indicates that Bermuda Hundred probably contains uniquely important archaeological resources of national significance.

Because of the use of the palisade and the river as the boundaries in some of the original Bermuda Hundred land patents, it should prove possible to retrace actual holdings of some of the principal "ancient planters," including Rolfe, Jordan, Woodlief, etc. (Mouer 1995).

The organization of the original company settlements, particularly outside of Jamestown, remains poorly known. At Bermuda Hundred we have the opportunity to recover archaeological evidence of fortifications, the company compound and "granary," as it was then called, the common gardens and fields, manufacturing facilities, etc. The martial nature of the early settlement was, according to historical sources, more extensive and severe than that of the later palisaded or fortified compounds, such as Martin's Hundred or Jordan's Journey. Further study will undoubtedly reveal traces of Dale's formal military training and experience. History often credits Dale with saving the Virginia colony from utter failure. If there is anywhere that we can mark the history of Dale's success, and study archaeological remains of his methods, it is at Bermuda Hundred.

Early Plantations, Port and Market Center, 1625-1690

Areas of significance: Agriculture, Historic Non-Aboriginal Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, African-American Ethnic Heritage, Commerce, Social History

Significant dates: 1688 Francis Eppes and William Randolph lay out Bermuda Hundred port town; 1691, town established as a market port by the colonial government.

Significance criteria: A, D

The 17th century, following the establishment of Virginia as a crown colony, witnessed the crystallization of Bermuda Hundred's identity as a plantation port and regional market center (Mouer 1984a; Gleach and Mouer 1984;

Mouer, Wooley and Gleach 1986; Mouer 1987, 1995). Bermuda Hundred can be viewed as Virginia's first internal market, having arisen as the earliest distribution point for imported goods, and the first major collection point for export products, beyond Jamestown. Stores always played an important role at Bermuda Hundred. Even during Dale's tenure, one landmark was the corporation's "store," or "granary" (both terms are found in the early records). The earliest store was probably situated on what was later to be the Marshall plantation, [REDACTED]. This point of land, which was undoubtedly incorporated into Dale's fortified core settlement, was referred to in the 1630s as "Granary Point" (Heite n.d., 1984).

Other "stores" are mentioned in records from the early and mid-17th century. Either Edward Gurgyne (or Gurganey) or Joseph Royall apparently operated some sort of store along the northern shore of the peninsula, possibly in the bend where Presquile joins the mainland. By the 1650s or 1660s, a merchant captain named Samuel Tucker operated a store here. It was Tucker's property that was later condemned and taken by the colonial government for the location of a port town here. Francis Eppes established his store at Bermuda Hundred in the 1660s. The site of this store, and probably an adjoining house, has been identified [REDACTED], and an inventory of the store, made at Eppes's death in 1678, is extant. Eppes's son (also Francis) continued to operate the store, and in 1688, pursuant to the markets and ports act of that year, joined with William Randolph to establish a port town at Bermuda Hundred. The town was officially chartered by a subsequent ports and markets act in 1691.

Historical and archaeological research has already begun to shed light on the importance of the market and port at Bermuda Hundred (Mouer, Gleach and Wooley 1986; Mouer 1987). In particular, archaeological collections from sites occupied by Bermuda Hundred's merchants of the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries has proven useful for developing a regional model of social organization and development of the Virginia elites. Remains of the Francis Eppes house and store also have contributed to our understanding of the development of Virginia architecture and the use of masonry on the frontier in the 17th century (Mouer 1987, 1988a, 1988b).

The market and port at Bermuda Hundred served a broad local area, but its immediate beneficiaries and customers were the planters who owned lands at Bermuda Hundred. There were, of course, close ties between the development of the plantation system and of the market and port. Bermuda Hundred was divided into a number of small and medium size plantations through most of the century. Sites associated with these plantations are known, and their systematic and comparative study should provide valuable information concerning the development of the plantation system. By the end of the century, a few larger holdings dominated the social and economic landscape, and the town's port and market facilities became consolidated into the hands of these planters (especially, the Eppes and Randolph families). Nonetheless, there remained a number of smaller farms and commercial operations (taverns, warehouses, and stores) that were important, and these represent an emerging middling class which later became much more important in the region's social history. The period is marked also by Bermuda Hundred's locus of the principal parish church (Bristol Parish, founded 1642), and as the county seat and court of Charles City County and then as the alternate court of Henrico County.¹

Native America is represented at Bermuda Hundred after 1625 primarily through trade items. Excavations at both [REDACTED] recovered [REDACTED] locally-made tobacco pipes, many in a commonly repeated pattern which differs, for instance, from those found just across the river at Curles Plantation. These pipes suggest on-going trade relationships with the Appomattox, and through them, with the Indians of southern Virginia and the Carolinas through the expanding Occaneechee Trail trade. Merchants such as Francis Eppes were participants in this important frontier Indian trade.

Africans and African Americans provided much of the labor of the plantations, particularly towards the end of the period. Some of the merchant captains of Bermuda Hundred were slave traders. Slave-related artifacts, including

¹. The period of coexistence of Bermuda Hundred as the seat of Charles City County and as the seat of Bristol Parish, which was primarily in Henrico, may mark the only non-coincidence of county and parish boundaries in Virginia's colonial history.

cowry shell beads have been recovered from the Francis Eppes Site, and systematic study of Bermuda Hundred's 17th-century mercantile and planter sites would undoubtedly enhance our understanding of the colony's growing reliance on, and reactions to, African and Indian slave labor. Clearly there are numerous sites that should prove valuable to furthering studies of the colonial development of African-American culture, as well.

The Golden Age of Planters and Merchants, 1691-1784


Areas of significance: Agriculture, Historic Non-Aboriginal Archaeology, Commerce, African-American Ethnic Heritage, Military, Maritime History, Social History

Significant dates: 1731, Bermuda Hundred tobacco inspection station established; 1781 Arnold headquarters here during sack of Richmond and Petersburg

Significance criteria: A, D

Significant sites related to the Archer, Royall, Worsham, Marshall, and Eppes plantations, as well as the Bermuda Hundred town, represent this period. Although only minimal archaeological study has been done to date, several of these sites have already contributed substantially to our understanding of the material dimensions of the rise of the "Golden Age" of Virginia's plantation society in the late colonial era (cf. Mouer 1987).

With the establishment of a tobacco inspection at Bermuda Hundred in 1731, the town entered into its first major era of growth. There arose two or three taverns and other commercial facilities to accommodate visitors on market, church and court days. Bermuda Hundred remained the "southside" seat of the county court until the formation of Chesterfield County in 1749. While the tobacco inspection is generally thought of as an attempt by the great planters to keep control over tobacco exports, and thereby to keep control over the local distribution of imported goods, the growth of a town at Bermuda Hundred tended to foster competition. The port towns of the 18th century became the loci in which "Scots merchants," usually younger sons of mercantile families in Glasgow (but also from Ireland, Wales and West of England ports) set up their shops and entered directly into competition with the planters' wharves. At Bermuda Hundred, John Hylton and Daniel Hylton provided the competition for the Eppes and Randolph families, and the story of this competition can be interpreted in some detail with the assistance of archaeological excavation and analysis (Mouer 1987).



Bermuda Hundred was nominated to become the new capital of Virginia, but Richmond won out. In 1780, during the height of the Revolution, the government was moved to Richmond, and the focus of much of James River's upstream commercial activity followed. As development of Richmond and Petersburg "boomed," and other local planters' ports (such as Warwick) developed, Bermuda Hundred lost its place as the primary inland tidal port on the James River. Nonetheless, it remained an important local, if not regional, port, and as a break-of-bulk point for Richmond and Petersburg. The sack of Richmond by Benedict Arnold, in 1781, led to that general's designating Bermuda Hundred as a supply base and collection point. The town's location at the confluence of the James and Appomattox proved to be of critical military and logistical importance.

The Customhouse Era, 1785-1800

Areas of significance: Agriculture, Historic Non-Aboriginal Archaeology, Commerce, African-American Ethnic Heritage, Social History

Significant dates: 1785, State customhouse and post office founded; 1790, Federal customhouse founded, Bermuda Hundred declared official entry point on James. First Baptist Church congregation founded during this period.

Significant persons: Mary Randolph and David Meade Randolph

Significance criteria: A, B, and D

The state of Virginia declared Bermuda Hundred the official port-of-entry on the James River in the year 1785, and the federal government followed suit five years later. A customhouse was constructed on the waterfront, as was one of the earliest post offices in Virginia. Customs searchers were designated for the port. While Bermuda Hundred was no longer the largest regional market, its new-found identity as the break-of-bulk port of entry led to a flourishing growth along the waterfront. How these changes affected the town are not known, but archaeological survey and testing indicates that there was considerable growth along "Water Street" at the docks, while many of the interior town lots were abandoned.

Testing by Heite suggests that there are remains of the federal custom house intact on the custom house lot.

The end of the Revolution also signaled some important changes in the plantation system. Revolutionary idealism led to the manumission of many enslaved African Americans, and a number of freed men and women took up residence in the town. Some of the town lots remain in the possession of descendants of these families today. A few large plantations absorbed smaller ones during this period, although some smaller farms, such as Archer's, remained intact.

The jewel of the Bermuda Hundred plantations during this period was clearly Presquile. Presquile was purchased, in 1773, by Colonel Richard Randolph of Curles Plantation, the colonial treasurer, from the Royall family, which had operated the plantation since the 17th century. Randolph probably built the new plantation house for his son, David Meade ("Davies") Randolph and his wife, Mary Randolph. In the year 1796, the Duc du La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt (1800) visited the site. He wrote:

Bermuda Hundred is the spot where the custom house is established and where the larger vessels discharge their cargoes into lighters and send them to Richmond and Petersburg. At half a mile from the custom house stands the habitation of Mr. D. Randolph, who is fully entitled to the reputation of being the best farmer in the whole country.

Liancourt also published extracts from the Randolphs' account books showing the amazing production of crops and other products for a five-year period at Presquile Plantation. The Randolphs' production was, of course, the work of their eight slaves, two of whom were "little better than children" in 1796. It is worth noting that the farm produced not only wheat and other typical agricultural products, but substantial quantities of salt fish (sturgeon, shad, and herring). David Meade Randolph was not only a successful farmer, but also an investor and partner in industrial development in Richmond. Like all of the post-Revolutionary sons of Richard Randolph, however, he soon approached bankruptcy trying to repay Colonial-era debts called due by the Treaty of Paris. He entered into political service, but crossed his cousin, Jefferson, and lost his job. As bright a star as he was, he was clearly outshone by his wife, Mary. The Randolphs established themselves in a fine house in Richmond after selling the Presquile farm, and Mary largely supported them by running a boarding house. She became famous as a host and a cook, and in 1824 her cookbook was published. The Randolphs' Richmond mansion, known as Moldavia, has long since been destroyed.

Presquile is the most appropriate remaining site for commemorating this couple who were significant in many ways to the state's, and the nation's, history.²

[REDACTED]

Transformation, 1801-1860

Areas of significance: Agriculture, Historic Non-Aboriginal Archaeology, Commerce, Religion, African-American Ethnic Heritage, Social History

Significant date: 1850, First Baptist Church divides along racial lines. African-American congregation retains Bermuda Hundred church.

Significant person: Archibald Batte

Significance criteria: A, B, and D

The turn of the 19th century marked the end of Bermuda Hundred's tenure as the official port of entry on the James. The federal customhouse was closed and the port became an auxiliary office for state customs searchers, ballast masters and quarantine officers of the Port of Rocketts in Richmond. Nonetheless, the activities of the port did not, apparently, decline. Patrick Hendron acquired much of the former waterfront commons and developed extensive new wharf facilities at Bermuda Hundred (Heite 1984). He probably also constructed what is now the first story of the Bishop-Johnson House, as well as the adjacent waterfront store excavated by Virginia Commonwealth University (44CF201).

Apparently, the population of free African Americans in Bermuda Hundred continued to increase. In 1820 the house and store became the property of Mr. Archibald Batte, a freed mulatto son of a slave woman and a white planter of Prince George County. His history has been documented by Schwarz (1987). Batte was extraordinary in many ways. Unlike many, perhaps most, African Americans who kept slaves to protect them from slavery, Batte owned slaves as laborers and artisans for his mercantile operations. Batte was apparently very successful as a merchant; at one time he had as many as 10 or 11 slaves working for him at Bermuda Hundred. Batte also rebuilt and extended the wharf and pier facilities at Bermuda Hundred. Archibald Batte died in the year 1831, and his house and store were inherited by his son Henry. However, that was the year of Nat Turner's Rebellion, and most free African Americans were forced to flee the state. Henry moved north to Pennsylvania.

By the mid-century mark, Batte's former house and store were acquired by William Bishop, a failed "Forty-niner" who found prosperity easier to come by as the principal merchant of Bermuda Hundred. Bishop expanded the house with a second story and renovated the interior extensively.

². Other sites associated with David and Mary Randolph are Tuckahoe Plantation (Mary's childhood home) and the Curles Plantation archaeological site, [REDACTED] (David's childhood home), [REDACTED]

In the year 1850, the Bermuda Hundred church congregation, by now more than 200 years old, divided along racial lines. The Bermuda Hundred Church, which had already become affiliated with the Baptists, was retained by the black members of the congregation. White members founded Enon Baptist Church just a few miles inland along Bermuda Hundred Road.

The 18th-century "Golden Age" of the plantation system in Virginia was severely shaken by the Revolution. Many planters were forced to sell off large tracts of lands. At Bermuda Hundred, the trend towards aggregation of smaller plantations into larger ones, which had characterized the previous century, began to reverse. Bermuda Hundred plantation, south of the town, remained in Eppes family ownership, but it became a secondary farm. Dr. Richard Eppes of Appomattox Manor (City Point) retained copious detailed records of the operations of his plantations, including the Bermuda Hundred farm. Dr. Eppes's plat of his Bermuda Hundred farm, made in 1853, shows that the layout of the roads, field boundaries, and adjoining lot lines of the town have changed very little, even though the farm is now the location of the large Allied plant.

Presquile and the Archer and Worsham farms were sold during this period and, in some cases, they were subdivided into smaller holdings. In other cases, merchants of Bermuda Hundred bought up plantation tracts and operated the farms as extensions of their commercial enterprises. The transformation of the plantation system in the Antebellum period can be traced in the numerous material remains of Bermuda Hundred that date to this period.

The Beast and the Bright Hope, 1861-1918

Areas of significance: Agriculture, Historic Non-Aboriginal Archaeology, Commerce, African-American Ethnic Heritage, Military, Social History, Transportation

Significant dates: 1864, General Butler's army stopped in "the bottle;" 1883, Bright Hope terminal opened

Significance criteria: A and D

In March of 1864, forty thousand federal troops under the command of Major General Benjamin F. "Beast" Butler landed at Bermuda Hundred and seized the peninsula in an attempt to take Richmond. Butler's advance was halted by Confederate defenders, and his army was said to have been "corked in the bottle" of Bermuda Hundred. Butler reinforced and held Bermuda Hundred for the remainder of the Civil War. While City Point became the primary Union supply depot on the James, Bermuda Hundred was an important ancillary station. [REDACTED]

There is an oral tradition that Butler took over the first floor of the Bishop-Johnson House as his headquarters (O'Dell 1983). While documents suggest that Butler was generally headquartered elsewhere on the peninsula, it is very likely that field grade officers occupied the house. The port facilities were turned almost entirely to military ends. While studies remain to be completed, it seems likely that dozens, if not hundreds, of slaves freed by the occupying Union Army moved into Bermuda Hundred town at this time and became employed assisting the Union at the port. By the end of the war Bermuda Hundred was a town with a majority of African-American occupants. The plantations and farms of Bermuda Hundred, as elsewhere in tidewater Virginia, entered a period of decline in the economic and social hard times that followed the Civil War.

While the countryside remained in a period of recession, the port was revitalized as a steamship wharf as the heyday of the steam-powered Atlantic coasting passenger and cargo ships thrived. There was apparently also a sharp rise in the local fishing industry at the time, as well. The town had reached its largest population ever during the Civil War, and war's end led not to decline, but to continued growth. In 1883, the Bright Hope (or Tidewater and Western) narrow-gauge railroad terminal was constructed at Bermuda Hundred. The Bright Hope carried lumber, coal and flower from the Piedmont to be loaded on schooners and freighters for ports throughout the world. [REDACTED]

A plat of the town made in 1881 for the purpose of acquiring the rail right-of-way shows Bermuda Hundred as it appeared at the time, and in considerable detail. While the numerous buildings along the waterfront have subsequently disappeared, the arrangement of the houses, outbuildings and the church along Bermuda Hundred road is relatively unchanged today. It seems very likely that many of the buildings still standing in the town date to this period, or are replacements of similar scale to the buildings which stood here in 1881. The I-house that faces the river is clearly indicated on this plat, as is the church, which was remodeled later in this period. The small school which served the village's African-American children was probably built at this time. Archaeological survey has underscored the extent of the town's expansion during this period.

The Bishop-Johnson House was purchased by Elizabeth Cocke in 1881. She lived in the house until 1919. Further research is needed, but archaeological evidence indicates that the former Batte-Bishop Store continued to flourish during the period of the Bright Hope Railroad, and Ms. Cocke may have been the turn-of-the-century successor to the ancient line of Bermuda Hundred merchants and postmasters.

A Quiet Decline, 1919-1940

Areas of significance: Agriculture, Historic Non-Aboriginal Archaeology, Commerce, African-American Ethnic Heritage, Social History, Landscape Architecture

Significant date: 1940, The last store and post office closed

Significance criteria: C, D

The rails of the Tidewater and Western were taken up during World War I. Bermuda Hundred became effectively cut off by land routes with the remainder of Chesterfield County. However, the daily ferry and mail boats continued to run to City Point and Shirley. Bermuda Hundred slowly began its decline to a backwater river village.

The waterfront store and merchants house were purchased in 1919 by William Johnson, Bermuda Hundred's last merchant and postmaster. When Johnson died in 1940, the post office closed forever. Johnson's daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Johnson Gray, still owns and occupies the Bishop-Johnson House. Virtually all of the other remaining occupants of the village are now, as they were at this period, African-Americans, many of them descended from enslaved and freed peoples who have worked the lands, fished the waters, and built and rebuilt the churches, farm houses, plantations and wharves of Bermuda Hundred for centuries.

There remain in the village, and in surrounding communities, many elders who remember Bermuda Hundred during this period, and whose stories need to be collected. If it were not for surface modifications of some of the town's buildings, one could easily turn one's back, literally, on the large plants standing to the west, see Bermuda Hundred, little changed from the village served by William Johnson. The wharves and piers have mostly rotted away, but this setting still evokes the feel of a small river port. All of Bermuda Hundred's plantation and farm houses are gone, but, standing on the riverfront at the Bishop-Johnson House, a visitor's eyes are drawn directly to Shirley, a reminder of the relationship that has existed for centuries between planters, merchants and workers at Bermuda Hundred.

SECTION F: ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Description of the Bermuda Hundred Localities and Historical Sequence

Bermuda Hundred is both the ancient and present name given [REDACTED]³ A substantial Appomattox Indian settlement stood here until 1611, at which time the peninsula was forcibly overrun by English colonists under Sir Thomas Dale. In the winter of 1612-13, Dale began construction of English America's first corporate community here, a community which was the fourth settlement in Virginia and, between 1613 and 1617, it's largest. Bermuda Hundred was also the location of English America's first private land holdings, and it was probably the location of the development of tobacco cultivation in Virginia. A port town arose here in the late 17th century, and the present-day village still lies along one of that town's main streets. The village of Bermuda Hundred enjoyed alternating periods of growth, decline and rebirth throughout the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. The few remaining buildings and streets of the village memorialize the long and important history of the port, as well as the role of this settlement in a variety of themes of significance to the history of Virginia's African-American peoples. [REDACTED]

The area, encompassing approximately 2000 acres, consists of remnants of a broad, low alluvial terrace, and a rising high ground formed by an ancient marine terrace (Figure 1). The area today is in mixed use. The western fringe of the Bermuda Hundred is in forest, much of which is formed over a poorly-drained upland swamp. The forest in the southwestern corner consists of very old growth trees. The northwestern portion of Bermuda Hundred consists of several hundred acres of woods which have been repeatedly logged, probably since the 19th century, and archaeological remains in this area suggest that the land was farmed in the 18th century. In the middle and western portion, the woodlands are interspersed with old agricultural fields which, with some exception, are no longer in use. The upland zone was the boundary of the earliest colonial settlement at Bermuda Hundred. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sir Thomas Dale constructed a trench-and-palisade between the James and Appomattox Rivers, with "watchtowers or commanders" spaced along its length of two miles (Hamor 1614; Mouer and Gleach 1984; Gleach 1986). [REDACTED]

John Smith's 1612 map depicted an Appomattox Indian settlement at Bermuda Hundred with his symbol for an "ordinary house," although the settlement was also noted to be the residence of the "Queen" of the Appomattox. Recent archaeological studies of two related Powhatan settlements--one of the Pasbeheg (Hodges and Hodges 1993) and one of the Weyanokes (Mouer, McLearn et al. 1992; McLearn and Mouer 1993; McLearn 1994; Turner and Opperman 1993; Opperman and Turner 1990)--have indicated something of the character of these settlements. They appear to consist of broad areas of several hundred acres, with scattered individual houses and clusters of houses, interspersed with fields, and other communal areas of various sorts. The principal occupation areas are typically spread along the edge of a low terrace within a few hundred yards of the river's edge.

Archaeological survey by Virginia Commonwealth University has revealed scattered sites with diagnostic ceramics typical of those in use by the James River Powhatan groups, including the Appomattox, at the time of contact (Mouer, Johnson and Gleach 1985). An important protohistoric component was tested by Heite and Kerby (Heite 1966c) [REDACTED] Here

³ In Medieval times, a "hundred" was a settlement that could muster 100 men for the militia. A hundred included the people in the settlement, as well as the lands needed to support them. The term continued in use, with less precise meaning, into the 17th century, at which time it was roughly equivalent to the term "township."

diagnostic Gaston Simple Stamped ceramics were recovered from the surface and near-surface levels, and were found to overlie an alluvial buried surface with a rich Middle Woodland component. Sites with simple-stamped pottery characteristic of the Protohistoric Period are found [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At the [REDACTED] is the present village of Bermuda Hundred. A large area of low grounds between the upper terrace scarp and the village is presently in a mixture of industrial and agricultural use. Three large manufacturing concerns are located here: Allied Fibers, ICI America, and Phillip Morris's Park 500 plant. Figure 2 shows the location of the three major industrial facilities and their relationships to the upland and village areas. In each case, the plant facilities are surrounded by agricultural fields, or former farmlands now retained in grass. The peninsula is bisected by Allied (or Bermuda Hundred) Road which follows for much of its length the old road to the site of the historic town of Bermuda Hundred. [REDACTED]

Where the road enters the village the industrial landscape stops abruptly. O'Dell (1983:16-17) has described the village and its setting as follows:

The present village of Bermuda Hundred comprises a string of eight or ten houses where Bermuda Hundred Road terminates at the James River. Its once-busy steamboat wharfs have rotted away, and today, rather than a crossroads, the village is a quiet backwater well off the major routes of transportation...Bermuda Hundred's setting is more evocative of the past than that of perhaps any community in the county. The muddy, forest-edged James flows by on the east, while a series of flat cultivated fields spread out in all other directions... Ironically, the Allied Chemical and Phillip Morris factories, two of the largest industrial complexes in the county, stand just a quarter mile west of the village. Erected since World War II, these hive-like manufacturing communities seem strangely disconnected from the surrounding rural landscape. Linked to the world by asphalt rather than water, they form a dramatic counterpoint to the dormant port village of Bermuda Hundred.

The present village of Bermuda Hundred is marked by a row of small houses--mostly dating from the turn of this century--that stands along a single street, formerly the central east-west street of the Bermuda Hundred town. From the late 17th century to the early 20th century, the town had three such streets, including one north, and one south of the present street. In addition, there were two north-south streets, called the upper and lower streets, and a road along the wharfs called Water Street. This latter street also still exists.⁴ The present church (First Baptist of Bermuda Hundred) stands in the midst of what was originally laid out as the town's market square, once one of the larger slave markets on the upper tidal James. The church is that of an African-American congregation which dates its founding as such to 1850 (Anon. n.d.b).⁵ It is likely that a chapel of Henrico Parish (and, later, Bristol Parish) stood very near the present church as early as the 1630s (Heite 1967a, O'Dell 1983).

⁴. The original plat of the town is no longer extant. Heite (1967a) has used metes and bounds of deeds for the original lots to reconstruct the town plan. His reconstructed plan compares well with a late 19th-century survey of the town, reflecting the continuity of the town's layout and through history.

⁵. The anonymous historian of First Baptist traces the church's ancestry to the c. 1614 places of worship ministered by Alexander Whitaker. The Baptist church here probably was formed in the late 18th century or early 19th century. The early congregation included whites and blacks, but the white families separated and formed Enon Baptist Church in 1850.

At the waterfront, south of the main street, stands the Bishop-Johnson House (VDHR #20-484), the house of Bermuda Hundred's principal merchants since the early 19th century.

North of the present village is the Presquile, or Turkey Island, cut-off, a navigation feature constructed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1930s to reduce waterborne travel time, and to preclude the need for continual dredging in the Turkey Island Swamp. Prior to its construction, all river traffic traversed the channel through a large swamp forest and tidal marsh. The peninsula circumscribed by this meander loop is alternately known as Turkey Island or Presquile (French for "peninsula"). Presently Presquile is entirely owned by the U.S. Government and serves as a National Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service also holds easements for a buffer zone along the cut-off channel, and along the dirt road from Bermuda Hundred village to the ferry landing crossing to Presquile.

Archaeological, Architectural, and Historical Research on Bermuda Hundred

Interest in the archaeological remains at Bermuda Hundred can be traced back to at least 1858 when slaves working on the Bermuda Hundred Plantation owned by Dr. Richard Eppes uncovered the cellar of a 17th-century structure. The structure included a brick-lined basement with flagstone floor. A writer for a Petersburg newspaper (O'Dell 1983: 17n) surmised that the site may have been the remains of the old parish chapel known to have stood at Bermuda Hundred throughout much of the 17th century. Dr. Richard Eppes mused in his diary that the site may have been the home of Sir Thomas Dale, himself, or of John Rolfe and Pocahontas. Eppes also recorded taking up many of the flagstones and carrying them to his home at Appomattox Manor (City Point), where they remain, today, in use as paving for the manor house sidewalk. It is now known that the site was actually the home of one of Dr. Eppes's own ancestors, Francis Eppes, who established the Bermuda Hundred Plantation and a waterfront store in the 1660s (Heite 1966a).

Serious archaeological survey and historical research was begun in the early 1960s by Edward F. Heite, then historian and archaeologist for the Virginia State Library and Archives. Heite spent much of his spare time between 1964 and 1967 walking the fields, testing sites, talking with landowners, and surveying archival sources. His archaeological survey was by no means complete, but he recorded a large number of sites and identified many of them. His documentary research was even more extensive. Heite produced numerous articles on the history and archaeology of Bermuda Hundred and he compiled extensive notes, references, and a nearly complete chain of title for most of the properties included within the area (Heite n.d.a, 1984). Even after leaving Virginia, Heite has continued to research

Bermuda Hundred. While compiling information on the Principio Iron Works on the Potomac River, he followed up leads which shed light on important economic relations between the Principio Company and Captain John Hylton, the principal merchant at Bermuda Hundred in the mid-18th century. Earlier, Heite had identified one of the major sites in Bermuda Hundred [REDACTED] as the location of Hylton's house and store. His research on Principio helped explain Hylton's success as a merchant at Bermuda Hundred, as well as the ballast bank, an otherwise enigmatic but prominent archaeological site on the town's waterfront.

Heite, along with members of the Richmond Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia, conducted test excavations at four sites at Bermuda Hundred: the Francis Eppes Site [REDACTED] the Customhouse Lot Site [REDACTED] the American Tobacco Site [REDACTED] and the Martin's Swamp Site on Presquile [REDACTED]. Results from all of these test excavations have been published by Heite or his colleagues (Heite 1965a, 1966a, 1966c; MacCord 1971). Heite (1966d) also recorded, photographically, the dismantling of the 18th-century Presquile Plantation house by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Heite's interest and efforts at Bermuda Hundred led to public awareness of the historic and archaeological resources there. There is a considerable file of correspondence between various state officials, land owners, local government officials and Phillip Morris, Inc. surrounding the decision to re-zone a portion of Bermuda Hundred for the Park 500 plant (VDHR Files 20-370 and 20-64). The Chesterfield County government decided to leave a 200-foot buffer zone around the water's edge on the Park 500 property, precluding development which would detract from the waterfront viewshed or impinge on the present village. By 1969 Chesterfield County planners were advocating construction of an historic park on the waterfront at Bermuda Hundred (Richmond News-Leader, Aug. 15, 1969).

Jeffrey M. O'Dell conducted research into the history and standing buildings at Bermuda Hundred as part of a county-wide architecture and historic sites survey (O'Dell 1983). His work covered various aspects of Bermuda Hundred's history, including Thomas Dale's settlement, the colonial plantations, the site's Civil War history, the Tidewater and Western rail terminus, and the history of the port village. O'Dell devoted special attention to the Presquile Plantation site (VDHR #20-489, [REDACTED] and the Bishop-Johnson House (VDHR #20-484). While his evaluation of the village described it as "more evocative of the past than that of perhaps any community in the county," O'Dell did not provide any detailed analysis or description of the majority of the buildings still standing.

Research on Bermuda Hundred was taken up again in 1983 by Dr. L. Daniel Mouer of the Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center. Mouer was specifically seeking a site for an on-going archaeological project involving excavations of Contact Period Native American and Virginia Company colonial components. Following a review of early-17th-century records concerning Bermuda Hundred, and particularly the nature of fortifications erected there by Dale, Mouer began to search for remains of such fortifications in early aerial photographs. After finding some possible candidates, Mouer undertook an aerial survey by helicopter, which led to the identification of an ancient ditch-and-berm structure [REDACTED]. Ground-truthing survey and testing followed in 1984 and 1985, leading to the conclusion that the site probably represents the two-mile-long palisade constructed between the James and Appomattox Rivers in 1613. During this same time period, Mouer and his students and professional crews revisited sites recorded by Heite, extended survey along both rivers into the wooded western portion of the tract, recorded several new sites, and conducted an extensive excavation at [REDACTED] on two waterfront lots of the Bermuda Hundred town. While a technical report on VCU's survey and excavation has not yet been prepared, there have been a number of reports and papers which present some of the results from this work (Mouer 1984a, 1984b, 1985, 1987, 1995; Mouer and Gleach 1984; Gleach 1986; Mouer, Wooley and Gleach 1986; Mouer, Johnson and Gleach 1985).

There have appeared many articles referring to various elements of the history of Bermuda Hundred. Many of these are referred to throughout this report and are documented in the appended bibliography. Despite the considerable attention given to the physical and documentary remains of Bermuda Hundred, there has been no comprehensive history of the settlement published [REDACTED]

Integrity of the Bermuda Hundred Region and Its Component Resources

Despite the intrusions of three large industrial complexes, most of the Bermuda Hundred area retains a rural feel comprised of large expanses of woodlands and cultivated fields, and extensive riverine vistas that include remarkable views of Shirley Plantation and the vast tidal marshes of the Appomattox Bay. Buildings within the village of Bermuda Hundred are mostly of a scale and type appropriate to a rural, turn-of-the-century waterfront community.

Clearly, there has been some loss of archaeological remains to riverine erosion and to cultivation. The greatest

The architecture of the Bermuda Hundred village consists primarily of early 20th-century houses (some of which may have been constructed around earlier elements), a church, and a schoolhouse. Aside from the spectacular Bishop-Johnson House, only a single structure - a modest I-house - remains in its original 19th-century form. The village buildings represent reasonably well the village in its decline from its heyday as a port, as it existed at the end of its period of significance, ca. 1940. While few of the village's buildings retain architectural design elements of note, and many have been modified over the years, most of the modifications are superficial, and their size, scale, and siting are generally appropriate.

One substantial, and very recent, intrusion into the village area is a large chain-link security fence constructed around the Phillip Morris Park 500 plant. This fence runs along the northern edge of Bermuda Hundred Road through the middle of the village. This structure clearly tends to dwarf the houses of the village, and to cut them off from the open, cultivated field north of the road, which previously served an important role as a visual setting for the village. This intrusion is a reversible one.

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

Bermuda Hundred is significant as the site of a principal town of the Appomattox Indians during the Protohistoric or early Contact Period (circa 1600 - 1611) and as the locus of a continuously occupied community that was originally established, in 1613, as one of the first settlements of the Virginia Company. Bermuda Hundred was the largest Virginia settlement between 1613 and 1617, and home to its Lieutenant Governor, Sir Thomas Dale. Other prominent early denizens included John Rolfe and Pocahontas. It may have been at Bermuda Hundred that Rolfe developed a variety of tobacco which became the basis of Virginia's economy for nearly three centuries. Bermuda Hundred was the first incorporated community in English America, and the site of the first private land ownership by English colonists. Beginning in the mid-17th century, Bermuda Hundred became an important location of local mercantile activity. Waterfront stores operated here continuously from the second quarter of the 17th century until about 1940. After 1688, Bermuda Hundred arose as one of the few settlements in Colonial Virginia to attain the status of a town,

and, in 1691, it became an official port. The port flourished, with periods of greater or lesser activity, until about 1940, when the last store, post office and ferry serving the town shut down.

Beginning in the late 18th century, Bermuda Hundred attracted an important free African-American enclave, whereas, during the Colonial Period, the town had been one of the region's principal slave markets. The region includes the lands of several plantations surrounding the town site. These were home to a number of families who also owned lots and businesses within the town. Bermuda Hundred also contains numerous archaeological sites representing a wide variety of time periods, functions, and social groups significant in the history of Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, and the nation. It contains the archaeological remains and standing remnants of the town--now a small backwater village--as well as certain landscape qualities suitable for memorializing and interpreting a rural, riverfront community with a very substantial history.

Because of the lengthy period, and the numerous areas and persons of significance associated with Bermuda Hundred, this statement of significance and historic context is presented by period. The periodization used here has been taken from significant events in the history of the settlement. The significance criterion selected reflects the type of information currently available that can be used to assess the importance of the properties.

Registration Requirements

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Architectural Sites

Ten domestic structures are within the town of Bermuda Hundred and surrounding vicinity. A domestic resource considered under Criterion B is one associated with an individual or individuals that made noteworthy contributions to the town or region's historical development. This significance must be tied to a historical context, and must be the primary residence of the person during the period when he or she achieved significance and for which no other extant property is more closely associated with that person.

A domestic structure considered eligible under Criterion B is most commonly applied to an individual resource, unless the entire historic district can be tied to the work of an individual. A residential district in which a large number of prominent or influential merchants, professionals, or civic leaders lived would be eligible under Criterion B only if the significance of one or more of the specific individuals is explicitly justified. If the significance of the

district rests on the cumulative importance of prominent residents, however, then the district might still be eligible under Criterion A based upon the broad pattern of community development through which the neighborhood evolved into the primary residential area.

Standing domestic properties nominated under Criterion C in the area of architecture must retain a high degree of integrity in order to express the architectural style. Resources eligible under Criterion C must have architectural significance representing notable physical elements, craftsmanship, or design; or as an example of a specific type or method of construction. The property must clearly contain enough of the identifiable characteristics to be considered a true representative of a particular type, period, or method of construction. Typical inappropriate elements include: the replacement of original windows with metal ones, replacement of significant porch elements with inappropriate modern elements such as wrought iron porch supports, the covering of original materials with fabricated siding, the removal of significant architectural details and/or unsympathetic additions to the front or side elevations; the permanent enclosure of the front porch; or enlarging or decreasing the window openings. It is important that the structure be on its original site and foundation.

A property is not eligible, however, simply because it is an example of the only such type of property ever fabricated. It must be demonstrated to be significant as well. Furthermore, for properties that represent the variation, evolution or transition of construction types, it must be demonstrated that the variation or evolution was an important phase of architectural development of the community. Domestic properties can also be nominated under Criterion C as components of a historic district that include a concentration of intact properties within a well defined area. Districts may include buildings that are not necessarily significant on an individual basis but are noteworthy as they convey cohesiveness and evoke a strong sense of the past.

A concentration of individual properties may be eligible under Criterion A and/or C as a historic district if they represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The majority of the resources that contribute to a district's historic character, even if they are individually undistinguished, may possess integrity as a whole. A district must possess a significant concentration, or continuity, of resources united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Furthermore, non-contributing structures should not significantly alter the original plan even if they are non-contributing and numerous. Historic districts should retain the landscaping features and ambient environment historically associated with the area. The installation of modern features such as driveways and sidewalks are minor features that do not affect the overall integrity of the district.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

● The term "James River" here means the old channel of the James which encompasses Presquile Peninsula. The present navigation channel through the Presquile Cutoff is not part of the boundary.

SECTION H: SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

The multiple property documentation of archaeological and architectural resources of Bermuda Hundred was based upon archaeological fieldwork and an architectural resources inventory. Prehistoric and historic archaeological resources within Bermuda Hundred MPD were documented by pedestrian landscape survey. Many portions of Bermuda Hundred are under plow agriculture and cultural materials have been brought to the surface as a result of this activity. This coverage was systematic in the exposed areas but non-systematic for the region as a whole because it was dependent upon bare ground surfaces. Once identified, surface collections of artifacts were made with the objective of retrieving temporally diagnostic artifacts to assess the time and duration of site occupations. In selected instances, small scale test excavations consisting of one or more 3 x 3 foot test units were hand excavated to look at the depositional context and the integrity of the subsurface deposits.

The architectural resources survey of all standing structures built prior to 1990. This did not include any extant structures located within the modern industrial compounds such as Honeywell or Phillip Morris. The survey identified ten houses and additional structures such as a school house, a church, outbuildings, cemeteries, and historical markers erected before 1940. Each feature was located on a topographic map, photographed, and documented by a narrative architectural description. Each evaluation classified the property as to style, representativeness, rarity, age of construction, and integrity. The field work was followed up by an inspection of all property surveys in the tax assessor's office of Chesterfield County.

The properties were assigned to one or more of six historic contexts that were structured as follows:

- Protohistoric Period: The Appomattox Indians at Bermuda Hundred, ca. 1600-1611
- The Virginia Company Period, 1612-1624
- Early Plantations, Port and Market Center, 1625-1690
- The Golden Age of Planters and Merchants, 1691-1784
- The Customhouse Era, 1785-1800
- Transformation, 1801-1860
- The Beast and the Bright Hope, 1861-1918
- A Quiet Decline, 1919-1940

These contexts were defined upon cultural, economic, or demographic events, or trends, that characterized the Bermuda Hundred region for a sustained period. The time frame for the beginning of the historic contexts begins with the Protohistoric period since the emphasis of Bermuda Hundred is on the detailed history of early American life. Cultural resources exist prior to this starting point and new contexts can be developed as conditions dictate.

The significance of cultural resources was based upon several criteria. Archaeological resources are evaluated on the physical integrity of cultural features and artifacts, and degree of preservation. Significance relies upon how the materials may contribute to understanding prehistoric and historic subsistence, consumption, social status, agricultural technology, and ethnic relations. Architectural resources of good integrity are rare within the town of Bermuda Hundred. However, the standing structures have been built adjacent to, or on top of, previous structures, and as such, the form and setting of this earliest town in European America still exists. This preserved landscape is of extreme rarity and worthy of preservation.

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