National Register of **Historic** Places **Inventory—Nomination Form**

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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register* Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Type all entries—complete applicable ${f s}$	ections		
1. Name			
historic Cherry Walk (Preferred	<u> </u>		
and/or common Cherry Row			
2. Location			
street & number Route 620			N∠A_ not for publication
city, town Dunbrooke	_X_ vicinity of		•
state Virginia code	e 51 county	Essex	code 057
3. Classification			
Category district public building(s) structure site object in process being consfdered	Status occupied _X_ unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner & Proper	rty		
name Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rowl street & number Hercules Tower,			
city, town Wilmington	N/A vicinity of	stat	te Delaware 19899
5. Location of Legi	•		de Delawale 17077
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex	-		
street & number N/A			No.
city, town Tappahannock		stat	_{te} Virgínia
6. Representation	in Existing	Surveys	
Virginia Historic Landmarks title Commission	has this pro	pperty been determined	l eligible?yes _X_no
date 1973, 1975		federalX :	state county local
depository for survey records 221 Ga	overnor Street		
city town Richmond		stat	Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins x fair unexposed	Check one X unaltered altered	Check one original site moved dateN/A	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Cherry Walk is a Tidewater Virginia farm complex begun in the late 18th century consisting of a picturesque gambrel-roof dwelling house, an important collection of domestic outbuildings, and three early farm buildings. The group, located along an Essex County road with virtually no modern intrusions in the vicinity, is surrounded by level fields with wooded ravines behind. Seen from the entrance gate, the group composes an unusually complete picture of a modest plantation of the period. The buildings themselves are in various states of repair but have suffered no significant alterations. The new owner of the property plans a long-term rehabilitation project for the entire group. The domestic outbuildings include two dairies, a smokehouse, a kitchen, and a privy. The farm buildings are a large wooden barn encasing an older barn, a plank construction storage shed, and a ruinous blacksmith shop. Included on the property most likely are the sites of other old outbuildings as well as possibly the sites of two earlier 18th-century dwellings. No archaeological survey has been conducted on the place, however.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Main House:

The 1½-story dwelling house at Cherry Walk is a typical example of a medium-size, late-18th-century plantation house in the Tidewater Virginia vernacular idiom. Its dominant feature is its gambrel roof, a roof-type commonly employed for such houses of the time and place. The house has an asymmetrical five-bay facade on the west side which is partially obscured by an early frame ell on the southernmost bay. The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond both above and below the rather high beveled water table. No jack arches or other types of ornamental brick are employed; however, the two exterior end chimneys have tumbled courses in each set of haunches, a treatment seen only rarely in Virginia. Two other unusual features are the tall brick bulkhead with brick roof on the south end and a round attic window behind the south chimney.

The single-pile house, as noted above, is covered with a steep gambrel roof; the upper slopes of which are sheathed with sheet metal while the lower slopes have early, but not original, rounded wooden shingles. The eaves of the roof have simple box cornices. On each of the lower slopes are three shed dormers none of which align with the openings below. Sheltering the east entrance is a mid-19th-century modified Greek Revival porch with square posts and a shed roof. The porch replaces an earlier one that was probably original to the house. A similar but smaller porch shelters the west entrance. A very interesting early porch, possibly original to the house, survives on the southeast corner. The porch has a shed roof, chamfered posts, and a pantry closet with original shelves and door. On the west side, on the southernmost bay, is the early one-story frame ell. Attached to the end of the ell is a modern shed addition which probably will be removed. The house preserves most of its original sash and glass throughout. The windows, including the dormers, are hung with louvered blinds.

Inside, the house is quite simple but preserves much early trim and flooring. A major alteration was the removal of the original stair which rose between walls

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

separating the south chamber from the center passage. The present open-string stair appears to date from the second or third decade of this century. The main room or parlor occupies the north end of the first floor and is trimmed very simply with a baseboard, chair rail, and paneled mantel. Two windows flanking the mantel on the south wall have been bricked up, probably in the 19th century. The first-floor chamber on the opposite end is similarly treated but has an early-19th-century Federal mantel with fancy reeded ornament. Original raised panel doors of six panels each, all framed with architrave trim, survive on the first floor. The doors show evidence of painted inlay. The second-floor rooms are quite plain but have Federal mantels. The attic is accessible from an original stair ascending between the walls. The roof framing is standard common rafter type. The basement has an original kitchen with a large Federal mantel at the fireplace opening located in the south end. The north end is a storage room but is to be modernized. A root cellar is beneath the flooring of the storage room and is to be preserved.

Outbuildings:

Immediately to the west of the house are three early wood-frame outbuildings: two dairies and a smokehouse. The detailed description of these outbuildings is quoted from a Colonial Williamsburg Foundation survey conducted on the structures in the summer of 1982.

South Dairy:

Of the three buildings nearest the house, the south dairy and the smokehouse appear to be contemporary with one another, the north dairy is slightly later. The larger south dairy was extensively altered early in the 20th century for use as a kitchen and cook's house, but much of its exterior remains intact.

The $12'-1" \times 10'-3"$ building is covered with $5\frac{1}{2}"$ beaded weather-boards and has boxed cornices. An original plain beveled crown mold survives on the rear, but it is unclear whether or not there previously were endboards. As in the north dairy, there are vents with sawn slats in the front and rear walls. Here the slats are set into a slightly more elaborate frame, with symas rather than beads surrounding the openings. Like other doors in the three buildings, the beaded board-and-batten door here is hung on strap hinges with heavy rat-tail pintles. This door has an original diagonal batten on the rear side, a bracing feature that is unusual on Chesapeake doors before the late 19th century. In the north gable, there is a $2'-9\frac{1}{2}" \times 2'-11"$ opening similar to that on the north dairy. It too had a shutter hung on strap hinges with rat-tail pintles.

Twentieth-century sheathing prevents a full analysis of the interior. However, ceiling framing and flooring was exposed and whitewashed, and the fact that first-floor study were not whitewashed may indicate that the walls were plastered.

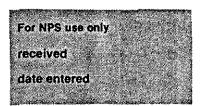
The interior sheathing was part of a general rehabilitation in the early 20th century when the dairy was converted to a kitchen and the space between it and the

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

smokehouse was enclosed to form a bedroom for the cook. (Walter Rowland, the present owner, says that the narrow space was used for that function within the memory of his neighbors. According to them, the building was once used as a summer kitchen, and an iron cooking stove was moved from the cellar of the house to this building when the season arrived. An electric stove and an associated 220-volt socket indicate that its function continued at least into the 1950s.) At that time, small four-pane windows, a front porch, and interior and exterior cupboards and shelves were added. A sink was included at the south end of the porch, and there were interior and exterior doorways to the bedroom.

Date: circa 1810

Evidence: wrought, hand-headed cut, and cut nails

hewn and pit-sawn framing

Smokehouse:

The Smokehouse has the same plan dimensions, although it is slightly taller than the contemporary dairy to the south. Its details provide evidence for the processes the building housed, as well as its relative level of finish within the outbuilding group.

The exterior is covered with bevel-edge beading siding and has an original unbeaded board-and-batten door. The original cornice survives, with a beaded fascia and a crown mold that consists of a large cyma recta above a small cyma reversa. Here, the end boards were definitely omitted, as was not the case in the north dairy.

Specialized framing includes close-set studs in the walls and gables, two levels of collars, and joists that are pegged into the plates. Other than the two levels of collars, however, there is no special framing allowance for hanging hams. Meat seems to have been hung directly from long pegs driven through the collars, as well as from wrought and cut nails in the joists. Wrought hooks and cut nails in the studs apparently carried additional meat.

Thick flooring rests on two joists that are mortised into the front and rear sills. The joists and two headers form a frame into which is set a brick-lined fire box. Twentieth-century shelves used for salting meat extend around two sides.

Date: circa 1800

Evidence: wrought, hand headed cut, and cut nails

hewn and pit-sawn framing

North Dairy:

The early fabric of the smaller and slightly later north dairy is more intact and accessible than that of the south dairy, so it is somewhat difficult to make comparisons.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

However, the original form of the north dairy is entirely evident. It is covered with beaded weatherboards and has vents with decorative sawn slats on the front and rear walls. The cornice is 20th century, but a square endboard and a tapered bargeboard survive. Like the two buildings to the south, the north dairy has a board-and-batten door hung on strap hinges with heavy rat-tail pintles. A 1'-3" x 2'-3" opening in the south gable was previously closed with a shutter hung on the same type of hinges. The latter provides the only access to the attic, which has bird holes in its opposite gable.

The interior has baseboard, plastered walls and ceiling, and two rows of original shelves. The upper shelf projects slightly further than the lower, and it is supported by diagonal struts as well as ledgers. While the baseboard has received a coat of green paint (of unknown date), the shelves and the interior sides of the vent slats have never been painted. A ledger attached over the front weatherboards to the left of the front door (with cut nails) is probably a remnant of an exterior shelf.

There are two unusual ommissions in the framing, in addition to the original absence of rafter collars: there have never been joists under the 2"-thick floor, and there is a single corner brace in each wall.

Date: circa 1810-1830

Evidence: cut nails

wrought nails in door hewn and pit-sawn framing

North of these three buildings is an interesting wood-frame privy sheathed with beaded weatherboards and covered with a wood-shingle roof. The facade has a single small door and small windows are in each end. The holes of the seating platform preserve their original round wooden tops with wooden handles -- a most unusual survival.

The gable-roof outbuilding to the southwest of the house is covered with board-and-batten siding and dates to the mid-19th century or later. It probably stands on the site of an earlier building that was served by the collapsed brick chimney on the south end of the present building. The building was erected as a kitchen with a servant's room above. Currently, the building is deteriorated but is to be restored, probably as a guest cottage.

Farm Buildings:

The farm buildings along the lane leading to the west of the domestic complex include a ruinous 19th-century blacksmith shop and a plank-construction storage shed. The shed likely dates no earlier than the mid-19th century and employs the traditional construction of many farm buildings in the region. The large wooden barn farther west encases what appears to be a smaller barn structure dating from the early 19th century.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
				

Specific dates ca. 1795, ca. 1800; Builder/Architect Carter Croxton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The outbuildings, farm buildings, and residence at Cherry Walk form an unusually complete eastern Virginia plantation complex of modest size, providing a rare, essentially undisturbed picture of a vanished life style. The dwelling house was built ca. 1795 for Carter Croxton whose family had owned the property since 1739. With its steep gambrel roof, plain interior, and unadorned brick walls, the house is a characteristic example of late-18th-century Tidewater vernacular architecture. The domestic outbuildings, which unexpectedly include two dairies besides the smokehouse, privy, and kitchen, are of particular interest both-as a group and individually as they have suffered so little modification. The outbuildings, as well as the three surviving farm buildings, were put up at various times and thus illustrate rural building techniques extending over a long time-span. Further information on life at Cherry Walk could be recovered through archaeological investigation of vanished farm structures and outbuildings as well as from the sites of the mid-18th-century Croxton house and the earlier Fargusson dwelling, which are both believed to be somewhere on the grounds.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land on which Cherry Walk now stands was first mentioned in a colonial patent dated 1714 to a John Fargusson for one hundred acres in South Farnham Parish, Essex County. This one hundred acres was possibly the same tract later deeded by James Fargusson to John Croxton in 1739 and described as being part of that tract where James Fargusson now dwells. Reference in the 1739 deed was made to "all buildings, houses and orchards ..." and particularly noted was the exception of the "burial place" from what was otherwise deeded. This evidence thus suggests that the tract was the home place of the Fargusson family whose name appeared often in Essex County records of the 18th century. In a deed of the same year, Fargusson mortgaged 150 additional acres to Croxton for a debt of 20,000 pounds of tobacco. John Croxton probably occupied the property he purchased from Fargusson, for his will dated 1750 and recorded in 1757 bequeathed this parcel of land to his eldest son, John, and did not mention any other property on which he might have dwelled. John Croxton's inventory was a modest one including twelve slaves and the standard household furnishings, livestock, and farming equipment. John Croxton, Jr. died in 1775 and his will directed that all his lands and houses descend to his eldest son, Carter Croxton. Because neither Carter nor his two brothers were of age at that time, the management of their property was assigned to Richard Thomas Haile. The inventory and account of John Groxton Jr.'s estate was a standard one with shoemaker tools the only item of particular interest.

Although Carter Croxton appears in the first land tax books for Essex County in 1782 charged with 177 acres, he may not have reached the age of twenty-one years until several years later.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The house and its outbuildings are set in a park-like yard informally planted with a variety of shade trees. The farm buildings are surrounded by open fields. In the field to the north of the farm buildings is the Croxton family burying ground which retains only one marker. The whole complex is scheduled by the present owner for rehabilitation over a long term period beginning with the main house and most important outbuildings. Guidance in the project is being provided by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Later census data indicate that his birth date would have been several years after 1765. It is certain that he was "of age" by the 1790 census, which named him as a head of household. The several other white tithables listed in his household for that year were probably younger brothers. The corresponding land tax records indicate that Croxton's property was taxed at a moderately high rate, indicating improvements on the property. In 1795, Carter Croxton married his first wife, Nancy Dunn and was prosperous enough to purchase another two hundred tract of land in Essex County. Architectural evidence and Croxton's provable solvency together suggest the building date for the present structure of ca. 1795. During the next twenty-five years, Croxton continued to increase his land holdings. The very complete personal property records for 1815 show he had twenty-two slaves and forty-eight head of cattle as well as a carriage, a mill valued at two hundred dollars and a dwelling house valued at one thousand dollars. Several of the dependencies, including the north and south dairy and the smokehouse, date from this same period. The tax inventory of Croxton's personal property, which included several pieces of substantial furniture and looking glasses, described a well-appointed house.

In 1825, Carter Croxton married his second wife, Frances Faulconer. From this marriage came four daughters, one of whom, Fannie E. Croxton, later occupied Cherry Walk. No will is extant for Carter Croxton; however, tax records indicate that he died ca. 1843. His widow, Frances, died in 1849, and her will left possibly the most revealing record of the Cherry Walk Plantation, then called "Cherry Row." Frances Croxton's will specifically directed that "Cherry Row" be kept together for at least five years after her death. Among the more interesting items in her inventory were a map of the United States, a quilting frame, a lot of brick molds, a lot of planking and scantling, shingles, a still, a large collection of wood and carpentry tools, silverware, furniture, and about twenty slaves. Following a lawsuit among her heirs, the County Commissioner divided the estate, and in 1855 the "Cherry Row" plantation was deeded to Alexander Broaddus and his wife Fannie Croxton, daughter of Carter and Frances Croxton.

Under Alexander Broaddus's ownership, the property came to be known as Cherry Walk. Fannie Croxton died soon after her husband purchased her family's home; in 1859, Alexander

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

Broaddus married his neighbor of Beaver Hill Sallie M. Haile. They raised a large family at Cherry Walk, while Mr. Broaddus served for many years as treasurer of Essex County. Following his death in 1883 and Sallie Broaddus's death some twenty years later, the Cherry Walk Plantation of nearly 530 acres was divided among their many children. Woodley Broaddus ultimately came into possession of the dwelling house, dependencies, and 175 acres. A plat drawn in 1905 to accompany her deed to the property includes a sketch of the house showing the lean-to on the south end, the end chimneys, and the Dutch roof. The property remained in the ownership of the Broaddus heirs until it was sold in 1982 to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rowland of Wilmington, Delaware who are planning a substantial restoration of the dwelling and the dependencies.

MTP

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nugent, Nell Marion. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Volume III, (1695-1732). Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1979.

United States Census, 1790, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850.

Wilkerson, Eva Eubank. Index to Marriages of Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties, Virginia, 1655-1900. Richmond, Virginia: Whittet and Shepperson, 1953.

W.P.A., Photographs of Cherry Walk, 1940. Virginia State Library, Picture Collection.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description (con't.) and Boundary Justification

to point of origin. <u>Boundary Justification</u>: The boundaries of Cherry Walk have been drawn to include the 95 acres currently belonging with the property, a tract which conforms roughly with that belonging to the property in the 18th century. The acreage provides an appropriately scenic rural setting for the house and its outbuildings and farm buildings, providing them with surrounding fields and a backdrop of wooded ravines. The wooded areas are important to include because they probably contain archaeological remains of 18th—century outbuildings, most likely slave houses, since documentation has shown that early owners of Cherry Walk had slaves. The fields to the north and south of the house are appropriately included since good views of the house and its auxiliary buildings are obtained across the fields from the county road. The fields are also likely to contain archaeological remains of early farm buildings as well as the site of the original house on the property. The field to the north of the house contains the family burying ground.

9. Major Bib	liographica	l Refere	nces (See C	ontinuation Sheet #5)
	s 22 (1738-1742); Books, 1782-1906. Property Tax Books 1-A (1906).	50 (1850–185		73 (1924); 147 (1982).
0. Geograp	hical Data	·		
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1. Form Pre	epared By			
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ganization Virginia Hi	storic Landmarks Co	mmission	date November	1982
eet & number 221 Gove	rnor Street		telephone (804)	786-3144
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s the designated State Histo 5), I hereby nominate this p cording to the criteria and ate Historic Preservation O	oric Preservation Officer for property for inclusion in the procedures set forth by the	e National Regis	ter and certify that it	Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- has been evaluated
H. Bryan Mitchell e Virginia Historic	, Executive Directo Landmarks Commiss	,,, ,	date	DEC 1 4 1982
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this	property is included in th	and the second section of the section of the second section of the section of the second section of the section of th		
Keeper of the National Re	egister			
Attest: Chief of Registration			date	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR COMMONWEALTH OF V GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION OF MINERAL RE: JAMES L. CALVER, STATE G 57'30" USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000) Millers Tavern, Va. 1968 (FR 1973) CHERRY WALK, Essex County, Va. UTM References: A 18/328510/4192280 E 18/328340/4191 760 B 18/327610/4191970 F 18/328580/4191 730 C 18/327600/4191890 G 18/328690/4191 800 D 18/328200/4191860