

June 6/16/99  
NRHP 8/19/99

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Registration Form - Amended for Boundary Relocation and Expansion of Historic Easement

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name OFFICE HALL VDHR File #48-16 (unchanged)  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Route 3 Kings Highway (unchanged)  not for publication  
city or town King George Court House (approx. 1750 ft. east of previous location - see attached  
plat with previous and new locations indicated thereon)  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county King George code 099 zip code 22485  
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET SECTION 2, PAGE 1, ET SEQ.

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  
 request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
 meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
 nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

2

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Secondary Structure

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

See Attached Continuation Sheets Section 7, Page 1, et seq.

Name of Property

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** <sup>to be</sup> removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

Approx. 1805 - 1870

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance** - SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEETS SECTION 8, PAGE 1, ET SEQ.  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 30,000 square feet

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet Section 10, Page 1

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet Section 10, Page 1

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Office Hall, L.P.

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number P. O. Box 370 telephone 804 493-0888

city or town Montross state VA zip code 22520

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

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

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name Office Hall, L.P.

street & number P. O. Box 370 telephone 804 493-0888

city or town Montross state VA zip code 22520

**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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of

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This application requests permission to relocate two brick buildings from a quarter-acre parcel precariously close to Virginia State Highway 3 in King George County, Virginia, to a location approximately 1,750 feet to the southeast of the current location. The buildings will remain on the Office Hall tract but be placed in a rural setting more in keeping with the appearance of the original location (at the time the buildings were in use, circa 1820), prior to the construction of Interstate Highway 301. They will be placed within a larger historic easement and approximately 30 to 50 feet further off Route 3 to prevent any damage, destruction, or condemnation during the proposed expansion of Route 3. They will, however, remain visible and will retain the same orientation to Route 3 and to each other.

Addendum 1 is a plat indicating the current quarter-acre historic easement (held by Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.), as well as the proposed relocation and expansion of the easement to a 150 ft. x 200 ft. tract, located on a grassy knoll on the same property, enabling the buildings to be placed further from Route 3 and further from the commercial development occurring along Interstate Highway 301.

Addendum 2 is the plat showing the historic easement surrounding the two brick buildings to be moved. As indicated on the plat, they are only 87.50 feet from the centerline of Route 3. The effects of the proposed Route 3 expansion, as well as

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commercial development pressure, are discussed in conjunction with the other reasons for the move in Section 7.

The photographs of the proposed new location as well as the current location of the buildings are attached to this application and described as follows:

Photo 1 - the grassy knoll chosen for the new location of the brick buildings on the Office Hall property (photographer looking north).

Photo 2 - same as Photo 1, photographer looking east.

Photo 3 - same, photographer looking west.

Photo 4 - same, photographer looking south towards Route 3.

Photo 5 - the residential Rothrock property to the east of the proposed new location.

Photo 6 - the old school property across Route 3 and to the south of the proposed new location.

Photo 7 - brick buildings, photographer looking north (south elevation).

Photo 8 - brick buildings, photographer looking west (east elevation).

Photo 9 - brick buildings, photographer looking south (north elevation).

Photo 10 - brick buildings, photographer looking east (west elevation).

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Photo 11 - commercial property (7-11) to the southwest of the buildings and diagonally across the intersection from the buildings.

Photo 12 - other commercial development directly across Interstate 301 and to the northwest of the buildings.

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This narrative description will discuss the following:

- 1) Why the Office Hall structures should be relocated and the procedures for the move.
- 2) The effect on archeological or historical resources at the new site.
- 3) A revised description of the historic and current condition of the property, including a summary description and a physical description and analysis.

**WHY THE OFFICE HALL STRUCTURES SHOULD BE RELOCATED**

The two historic brick structures at Office Hall should be relocated to the southeastern corner of the Office Hall property for the following reasons:

1. To protect the integrity of the structures by better shielding them from commercial development.
2. To protect the structures from damage or destruction during the proposed expansion of Virginia State Highway 3 (Route 3);
3. To capture a setting more similar to the original setting of the structures prior to the construction of Interstate Highway 301; and



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4. To assist in the preservation of the buildings through structural improvements pursuant to the move.

For all these reasons Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc., the organization currently holding the historic easement covering these buildings, has indicated its support for the relocation (see Addendum 3).

**1. BETTER PROTECTION FROM COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The relocation of these structures as proposed will better shield them from commercial development. The Rothrock property to the east of the new location is currently farmed and has a brick home located upon it (Photo 5). The property directly across the road was until recently a private school, and is now unoccupied (Photo 6). There will be much less commercial development pressure on these properties than there is along Interstate 301 at its intersection with Route 3 (Photos 11, 12). Furthermore, the larger acreage proposed will allow more of a buffer from any commercial development to the west of the new site.

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**2. PROTECTION FROM FUTURE ROUTE 3 EXPANSION**

The Virginia Department of Transportation has added a project to its Six Year Improvement Plan to initiate preliminary engineering to expand Route 3 from Interstate 301 eastward to Route 205 at Oak Grove (Route 3 is already four-laned on the west of Interstate 301). Although the exact expansion route has not been decided, a logical expansion would bring an additional one or two lanes on the north side of Route 3 where it adjoins the Office Hall property (an additional through lane and a right turn lane). The attached letter of Eric A. Vogel, District Planning Engineer, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation, summarizes a future expansion and notes that moving the structures would "soften" their exposure to the Route 3 expansion (Addendum 4).

In fact, the historic easement plat (Addendum 2) indicates that the buildings are currently only 84.3 feet from the centerline of Route 3. Future expansion would literally bring Route 3 to the door step of these buildings, and the heavy equipment used for expansion would be very dangerous to the structural soundness of the buildings. Also, drainage and utility requirements at such a major intersection would

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be substantial. By moving the buildings to a "deeper" easement (200 feet deep) on the southeast corner of the Office Hall property, they will be placed further off the road. At a new distance of approximately 2,000 feet from the intersection of Route 3 and Interstate 301, there would be no encroachment of a right turn lane which will likely be necessary at the intersection. Also, drainage and utility easement requirements are typically less at such a distance from the intersection.

**3. RESTORING THE CHARACTER OF THE ORIGINAL SETTING**

When the two brick structures were originally constructed circa 1805-1820, they were on a rural stretch of Route 3 that connected the Northern Neck to the urban north. Interstate Highway 301, now four-laned with turning lanes, median strip, and traffic signals, did not exist at the Office Hall property until much later. These brick structures now sit precariously close to a traffic signal of a major King George intersection diagonally across from a 7-11 Store and across Interstate 301 from a produce business currently for sale and to be commercially developed. And

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the highest density of commercial development will logically occur along the Interstate 301 road frontage of the commercially-zoned Office Hall tract.

Relocating the brick buildings to the southeastern corner of the Office Hall property will remove them from a major commercial intersection and place them in a more rural atmosphere better in keeping with their original setting. As noted above, the new setting is much more of a residential setting on two sides, and the larger acreage of the new easement to be dedicated to Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. will allow additional buffer from any commercial development to the west.

**4. STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE MOVE**

An additional advantage of relocating the brick buildings will be the necessary structural masonry repairs which will be made to the buildings in preparation for the move.

The two brick structures are currently in need of some structural masonry repair. In preparation for the move, the buildings will be re-pointed and braced to

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preserve them during the move. The wooden structures connecting the buildings, of no historical significance, will be removed and the two brick buildings will be relocated on new foundations on a knoll at the southeastern corner of the Office Hall tract with the same orientation to each other and Route 3. However, they will be placed approximately 30 to 50 feet further from Route 3 than in their existing location so as to provide additional buffer and protection from future Route 3 expansion. These repair and moving costs will be substantial and will be paid for by the owner. No other funding source is available to protect these buildings.

Although obviously no contractor has been awarded a contract to move the buildings, the owners have spoken with Jim Matyiko of Expert House Movers, Inc. Mr. Matyiko has stated that the buildings can feasibly and safely be moved to the southeastern corner of the property. The move will be coordinated with Historical Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc., and the move will be conducted by a qualified moving professional.

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**EFFECT ON ARCHEOLOGICAL OR OTHER HISTORIC RESOURCES AT  
THE NEW LOCATION**

The moving of the two brick structures will have no impact on archeological or historic resources at the new site, as confirmed by the attached letter from Dr. Michael J. Klein, Principal Investigator for the Center for Historic Preservation, Mary Washington College (Addendum 5).

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION** (identical to original nomination)

Office Hall is a former eighteenth-century plantation in southeastern King George County. The site is marked today by two largely unaltered early-nineteenth-century brick outbuildings: a two-story detached kitchen and a large, pyramidal-roofed smokehouse. These structures stand side-by-side facing the highway a few yards north of State Route 3 near its intersection with U. S. Route 301. Built circa 1805-20, the kitchen is one of the very few one-room-plan, two-story brick plantation kitchens recorded in the state. It exhibits several unusual features, including formal Federal detailing, an odd hierarchy of brickwork patterns, and a second-story room

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originally accessible only by an exterior stair. The coeval smokehouse, which is connected to the kitchen by an early-twentieth-century frame storage shed and garage, features an unusual roof structure. In order to create unencumbered roof space for hanging meat, its builders dispensed with tie beams, instead using false joists fastened to outriggers that rest atop all four walls.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS** (modified from original nomination to reflect changes since nomination)

The Office Hall property is a level, open tract on the north side of Route 3, a major corridor running along the spine of the Northern Neck. The property's western boundary is defined by Route 301, a heavily traveled north-south highway linking Baltimore and Richmond. This major rural intersection is marked today by roadside businesses on two of its four corners, the 7-11 diagonally across from the Office Hall property and a produce market (now for sale for commercial development) across Interstate 301 from the property. The other, northeast corner, is occupied by the Office Hall tract, which is currently scheduled for large-scale mixed-use development

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that will include retail, office and dwelling units. The area previously listed on the National Register includes a quarter-acre lot immediately surrounding the two early-nineteenth-century outbuildings; this is coterminous with the historic easement that the owners granted Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. in 1989.

Aside from the two nominated structures on the quarter-acre lot, several related buildings stood on the larger Office Hall tract at the time of its nomination to the National Register. The most conspicuous of these was a commodious two-story frame farmhouse built circa 1916-18. This dwelling replaced an earlier one-and-a-half-story frame plantation house erected in the second half of the eighteenth century. In December 1998 this farmhouse caught fire during an electrical storm and burned. It was donated for a training burn exercise to the King George County Volunteer Fire Department. After this exercise, the remains were removed to a landfill.

The kitchen and smokehouse face south toward Route 3, the former Ridge Road between King George Court House and Oak Grove. Standing on the north and east



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sides of the nominated buildings are three small twentieth-century structures: a pumphouse, chicken coop, and hog shelter.<sup>1</sup> They have no historical significance.

**The kitchen**

The kitchen is a one-room-plan structure measuring twenty feet wide by eighteen feet deep. It has a two-bay front and a steep gable roof containing an unfinished loft. The first story is built at ground level, and the building has no basement or cellar. Cooking facilities were provided by a large main-floor fireplace feeding into an interior end chimney. Built flush with the wall, the interior chimney lends the building a more refined and formal appearance than would a protruding end chimney.

There is only one entry on the ground floor of the kitchen building; in contrast to contemporary farmhouses, there is no rear or side entry. Another interesting feature is the original lack of interior communication between the first and second floors; instead, the upper floor was reached via an exterior stair leading to a second-floor door in the west gable end. Today this doorway to the second-floor room remains intact, but the exterior stair was removed in the 1940s.<sup>2</sup> The second floor

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of the building, which has no fireplace and which may have been unheated until the present century, no doubt served a variety of functions over the years. It may have been designed to serve as a schoolroom, later being used as quarters for the cook or other servants, or as a storage space for plantation supplies. An early door in the west gable end of the tall attic, immediately above the second-story door, indicates that the unfinished loft, too, was used for storage.

The walls of the kitchen are built of well-fired, slightly larger-than-average bricks. These walls are laid up in an odd combination of Flemish and American bonds. The more attractive and expensive Flemish bond is used at second-floor level, and in the more visible areas of the building, while the cheaper American bond is employed elsewhere. On the south front the brickwork is entirely of Flemish bond. In contrast, on the end and rear walls, Flemish bond is used only on the upper story, with three-course American bond being used on the first-floor walls and in both gables over the eaves line. This hierarchy of decorative effect implies that the room on the second floor was regarded as the more important one (this is also implied by the room's interior trim and its intended, but never executed, plaster walls). It seems

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likely that the masons working at Office Hall may have reflexively treated the grade-level story as they would a basement, according the best brickwork to the upper, or "main" floor, which was reached by an exterior stair analogous to the main exterior stair of a house with tall or grade-level basement.

The walls of the kitchen, which were at one time painted white on the exterior, are thirteen inches thick at main-floor level and ten inches thick at second-floor level. Where Flemish bond is employed, closer bricks define doors, windows and wall corners. Mortar joints have a V profile and display penciling, though most of this penciling has weathered away. All openings are topped with widely-splayed false, plaster jack arches, giving the building a relatively formal appearance. A few putlog holes, now filled with wooden blocks, are visible on the west gable end (where the former exterior stair tied into the wall) and north facade. The corbelled chimney cap appears to be original and unaltered. The threshold of the main-floor door is reached by a single step formed from fragments of one or more recycled millstones of dark purplish hue.

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Windows and doors retain their original simple Federal-period wooden casings (these are very weathered and/or broken). The six-over-six-light sashes in the windows are probably original. The simple boxed wooden eaves boards and bed moldings are original, though decayed in places. The tapering, beaded rakeboards are also original, though badly weathered. The roof of the building is sheathed in standing-seam metal painted red, which replaces the original wooden shingles.

**Kitchen interior**

The interior of the kitchen is completely plain, featuring white-painted, bare brick walls and exposed floor joists. The ground floor originally had wooden flooring, but this was replaced by the present cement slab in the 1940s. Window and door openings lack any decorative finish. The present matching closets on either side of the chimney breast were installed in this century, probably incorporating doors and other materials from the old mansion house next door, which was demolished around 1916.

The fireplace was once the most prominent feature in this room. Originally it measured 5'-10" wide, but it was decreased to about three feet in width in the late

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nineteenth or early twentieth century; today, even that opening is bricked in. The simple wooden mantel shelf dates to the nineteenth century but may be a replacement. It consists of a plain shelf with rounded ends, supported by a single curved-profile bracket at either end.

The ceiling on the main floor is 7'-11" high (measuring to the bottoms of the exposed joists). The joists themselves are hewn rather than sawn. The present rudimentary openstring stair was added by the former owner's father, Thomas Lee Marshall, in the 1940s; originally there was no communication between the two floors. The front door, made of vertical boards, is a twentieth-century replacement.

The second floor of the building is finished in a manner similar to the first floor, but here the brickwork has gap mortar joints. The visual effect is of a wall missing half its mortar, but the mortar has not fallen out; it was like this originally. The mortar joints may represent sloppy workmanship, but more likely they indicate that the walls were meant to be plastered, with the joints being left empty to provide a key for plaster that was never applied.

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The walls in this room have been whitewashed, but the exposed joists have not. On this floor, like the lower one, the joists have been hewn and adzed, not sawn. It appears that there was originally no fireplace opening on this floor, but a stove flue was inserted at some time--possibly not until the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The windows on this floor have simple architrave casings with beaded interior edges and an applied cyma molding at the outer edges. The moldings on this floor--which are absent on the main floor--further suggest that this room was originally intended to be plastered. The railing around the top of the twentieth-century stair is made of early, recycled beaded boards. The door frame at the west gable end (which originally opened onto the exterior stair) is original, but the door itself is a modern replacement.<sup>3</sup>

There is a small opening to the attic at the northeast corner of the room, beside the chimney breast. Since it was made by simply sawing out floorboards, it is hard to determine when it was created. The attic, with its steeply-pitched roof, contains a great deal of storage space, and was no doubt used for storage in the nineteenth century, as is suggested by its west gable-end loading door. Roof framing is typical

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of the period. Rafters--some if not all are of oak--are roughly hewn and waney, being joined at the ridge by a standard mortise-and-tenon joint; the rafter feet rest on a standard board false plate. There is a single set of collar beams, half-lapped over the rafters.

**Historical functions of the kitchen**

Detached kitchens were standard elements of Virginia farmsteads from the colonial era through the antebellum period. That the two-story brick building at Office Hall was erected to serve as a kitchen is indicated by its large cooking fireplace and its location close to the now absent main dwelling and next to the smokehouse.

Local tradition (of uncertain vintage) holds that the two-story brick structure at Office Hall served as a slave quarters, but this claim remains unsupported.<sup>4</sup> It is quite possible, however, that the second floor of the building was used as lodging for a cook or other servant at some period in time. The loft in antebellum kitchens--even when unheated--was often used as a cook's quarters, and several other surviving Virginia kitchens have exterior stairways--or interior stairways that are entered from the outside. (An example of the former is the one-and-a-half-story kitchen at Point

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of Honor in Lynchburg.)<sup>5</sup> Indeed, a building quite similar to the one at Office Hall (a two-story, one-room-plan brick kitchen with exterior gable-end stair--albeit a somewhat smaller, plainer building) once stood behind the Elizabeth Galt House in Richmond. In this century, if not before, the second floor of this kitchen was used as servants' quarters.<sup>6</sup>

It seems clear that the main floor of the two-story building at Office Hall was originally intended (and used) as a kitchen, but it may also have housed other domestic functions, such as laundering. While it is quite likely that the second floor of the kitchen sheltered servants at some point in its history, it served other functions as well. For a time it was used as a schoolroom, according to the testimony of Mrs. Thomas Lee Marshall, who lived at Office Hall in the 1910s or earlier.<sup>7</sup> The presence of decorative window trim and gap-jointed masonry (the latter implying that the second floor was originally intended to be plastered) suggests that it originally might have been designed to serve as either an office, a schoolroom, or as a lodging place for the boys of the family, for overnight guests, or for paying travelers. It should be mentioned that lack of a fireplace would not have precluded most of these



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functions; in the nineteenth century, some bedrooms in even prosperous households were often unheated. Moreover, the room may have been equipped from an early period with a cast-iron stove.

At some point, the second floor--as well as the attic--may have been used for storage. Most large Virginia farms had one or more storehouses in which valuable foodstuffs and general plantation supplies were kept under lock and key. These buildings were usually small but well-built structures located near the main dwelling. Many, like the two-story, one-room-plan frame storehouse at Tower Hill in Sussex County, had an exterior stairway to the second floor or loft.<sup>8</sup> Bolstering the idea that the Office Hall kitchen was used--at least in part--as a storehouse, is the door in the west-gable loft: this configuration was often employed in warehouses and store buildings in nineteenth-century Virginia. The second floor too had certain advantages that may have encouraged its use as a storage space. Being above the kitchen, it would have served well as a pantry. On the other hand, more valuable goods might have been stored there as well. Certainly keeping valuable goods locked in a second-floor room with no access from below would have provided a measure of

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security not available in ground-level rooms. However, the presence of unbarred, unshuttered windows on the second floor argues against it being designed as a storeroom from the beginning.

Whatever its original function, the form and detailing of the Office Hall kitchen is unusual. Its exterior walls, with Flemish-bond walls and plaster jack arches, make it a remarkably handsome outbuilding--an exceptional structure built at a time when few service buildings received any decorative treatment.

Most detached kitchens in early Virginia were of frame rather than brick construction. Though brick kitchens were less subject to fire and rot than frame ones, they were also more expensive, and few planters were willing to expend the money for a brick outbuilding. Those brick kitchens that do exist are usually associated with large, elaborate brick dwellings.

Even rarer than brick kitchens were two-story kitchens. Most antebellum outbuildings, as well as rural dwellings, were a single story; fewer than a score of two-story antebellum kitchens are known in Virginia. Most of these are exceptionally

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large, multi-room structures like the kitchen-cum-laundry buildings at Chippokes in Surry County and at Upper Brandon in Prince George County.

One-room-plan, two-story kitchens are even rarer. Only two other extant examples were known to Jeff M. O'Dell, the author of the original nomination for the Office Hall property: one stands at Much Haddam, a Federal-period farmstead in Loudoun County, and another at Rose Hill Farm (1834) in Hanover County. In both cases, the kitchen served a large, impressive, two-story brick dwelling. Nevertheless, at least one case is known of a two-story brick kitchen serving a relatively modest, one-story frame dwelling. The antebellum kitchen at Glencairn, in nearby Essex County--demolished in the early 1970s--was similar in general form to that at Office Hall, but like the examples at Much Haddam and Rose Hill lacked an exterior stair or interior chimney. The main dwelling at Glencairn, which still stands, is a one-and-a-half-story, eighteenth-century dwelling like the former house at Office Hall. Apparently the owner of Glencairn, like Colonel Smith at Office Hall, chose to spend more money than was strictly necessary in order to build a handsome, fire-resistant kitchen. At Office Hall, Smith went one step further, providing such refinements as

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plaster jack arches and Flemish-bond brickwork, and directing this his kitchen be built in a prominent location facing the well-traveled Ridge Road between Oak Grove and King George Court House, the present Virginia State Highway 3.

**The Smokehouse**

The smokehouse at Office Hall stands seventeen feet east of the kitchen, in exact alignment with it. (A frame shed added in the early part of this century connects the two buildings.) Measuring roughly sixteen feet square, the smokehouse has a single opening: the front door. Like many better-built antebellum smokehouses, it is covered with a pyramidal roof sheathed with wooden shingles.<sup>9</sup> An unadorned boxed cornice carries around the projecting eaves. The building is constructed of the same brick as the kitchen, indicating the two structures were erected at the same time, as an ensemble.

Like the brickwork of the kitchen, that of the smokehouse exhibits curious variations in bonding. While most of the front wall is laid in Flemish bond, part of the upper wall on the right side of the door is laid in three-course American bond.

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Similarly, as in the case of the kitchen, the less conspicuous side and rear elevations are laid in three-course American bond.

Inside, the smokehouse has a dirt floor and unplastered, unpainted brick walls. To enter, one steps up and over the ten-inch-high threshold. The present batten door and door frame are twentieth-century replacements of the originals. Inside, the room was furnished with three tables for salting meat; a broken barrel stood in one corner. There is no masonry hearth on the floor, though there may have been at one time.

Ryland Marshall, who grew up on the farm, recalls that his father, Thomas Lee Marshall, used the smokehouse for curing pork until the 1930s or later. He emphasized that while most King George County farmers in the early twentieth century had meathouses (for salt-curing meat and hanging it for storage), relatively few had smokehouses, where meat was smoked as well as salt-cured. He noted that "If you wanted to **smoke** your meat, you might have to travel a long way [to use the nearest smokehouse]."<sup>10</sup>

The most interesting architectural feature of the Office Hall smokehouse is its roof framing. In order to create a maximum amount of unencumbered roof space for

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hanging slabs of meat--and to make reaching it easier--the builder used an interesting construction feature to eliminate the tie beams that would normally have spanned the tops of the brick walls. Instead, there is only a single cross-member (6" x 8"), which in turn supports a central kingpost. The seven-inch-square kingpost rises toward the apex of the roof, where it is capped by a foot-tall, buoy- or cone-shaped block that is designed to receive the tops of the rafters.

The base of this roof structure--the part that supports the rafter feet--consists of false plates tenoned into "outriggers," or headers measuring 7" x 3". These outrigger assemblages rest atop all four brick walls, extending both inward and outward from the wall plane about eight inches. This peculiar roof framing, which is a variation on a type of construction often used in more costly antebellum buildings with hipped or pedimented roofs, provides the necessary armature to create the projecting eaves preferred by Virginia builders since the mid-colonial period. In this smokehouse, the rafter feet rest directly on a false plate, which in turn rests on short false joists that are stabilized by the outriggers. On the exterior of the building, fascia and soffit boards are nailed onto the outriggers and to the undersides of the

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false joists to create a typical Virginia boxed cornice. At Office Hall, the use of four, rather than the usual two sets of outriggers, is a noteworthy framing feature.

Thanks to Jeff M. O'Dell for his original nomination

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**ENDNOTES**

1. For photos and descriptions of the twentieth-century buildings on the property, see VDHR file # 48-16.
2. The shadow of the former exterior stair can still be seen. A Marshall family member has a twentieth-century oil painting of the kitchen showing this stairway in place; in 1971 Ralph Fall took a photo of the painting, which is now in VDHR file # 48-16.
3. The floor of the upstairs room was littered with refuse on inspection in March 1989. An interesting feature, however, was two bundles of papers--mostly receipts for farm supplies--skewered on wires and hung from the ceiling to protect them from insects and rodents. The papers dated from the 1930s through the 1950s.
4. Ralph Fall calls it a slave quarters in his 1971 survey report (see VDHR file file # 48-16). Nevertheless, the distinctive form and detailing of the two-story building at Office Hall indicates that could not have been intended solely as slave quarters. Virginia slave quarters follow standard forms (the most common surviving type features a two-room plan with central chimney and single-story elevations with a loft); never do they have one-room-plan, two-story configurations. The fine exterior detailing on the Office Hall building also argues strongly against such a primary function.
5. I am indebted to Edward Chappell, Director of Architectural Research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, for providing the Point of Honor example and for sharing his knowledge of antebellum kitchens.
6. This kitchen, destroyed in the 1950s or '60s, is illustrated in Mary Wingfield Scott's Old Richmond Neighborhoods, fig. 267.
7. Ralph Fall, 1971 interview with Mrs. Thomas Lee Marshall (see VDHR file # 48-16). Unfortunately, no further details are given in Fall's report. For example, it is not noted whether the school functioned there in the antebellum or the postbellum period.
8. For an illustration of the antebellum Tower Hill plantation complex, including the storehouse with exterior stair to the second floor, see Kocher and Dearstyne's Shadows in Silver, pp. 108-10.



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9. According to Ralph Fall's 1971 interview with the former owner of Office Hall, the present wood-shingle roof was replaced twice within memory.
10. Interview with Ryland Thomas, 15 March 1989, at Office Hall.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (substantially similar to the original nomination)

Office Hall is the remaining core of an eighteenth-century farmstead in southeastern King George County. The farm was the birthplace and childhood home of William "Extra Billy" Smith (1797-1887), U.S. congressman, Confederate general, and twice governor of Virginia. The once-extensive plantation is represented today by two early-nineteenth-century brick outbuildings: a smokehouse and a two-story kitchen. The kitchen served, at various points in history, as servants' lodgings and as the meeting place of a private school. Both these buildings, which remain remarkably unaltered, possess rare architectural features illustrating the broad repertoire of the vernacular Virginia builder. Their distinctive architectural forms have been visible from the former Ridge Road, now Route 3, since their construction in the early 1800s.

**JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA**

Office Hall was originally nominated to the register under Criterion C. The nominated acreage includes the two surviving antebellum buildings on the property. Both exhibit rare architectural features that shed light on the broad range of vernacular building forms and practices in early-nineteenth-century Virginia.

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Although Governor William Smith was born and raised on the property, one cannot make a strong case for eligibility under Criterion B. First, definite association between Smith and the standing buildings cannot be proven; second, Smith's political, business and military careers are better illustrated by properties in other parts of the state. However, the nexus between the Smith family and the Office Hall property certainly enhances its standing historically.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Office Hall plantation was the ancestral home of Colonel Caleb Smith (1761-1814), father of Virginia governor William Smith (1797-1887). Caleb Smith was a man of wealth and influence in his community; he held a number of local offices and served several terms in the state legislature.<sup>1</sup>

His son William was born at the Smith plantation (not known as Office Hall until three decades later) in 1797. The boy grew up on the farm with three brothers and four sisters, and at age seven he began attending an old-field school six miles from home. At ten he traveled to Fredericksburg for private tutoring, and at fourteen he briefly attended Plainfield Academy in Connecticut. Returning to Virginia, he acquired the rest of his education at a private school at his father's plantation and at the celebrated classical academy of Thomas Nelson in Hanover County. (The exact

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location of the Smith plantation school is not know, but oral tradition states that the two-story kitchen building once housed a private school. It is possible, therefore, that William "Extra Billy" Smith attended school in this structure.)<sup>2</sup>

Having exhibited a keen intellect and an aptitude for study, William was packed off to Fredericksburg at age sixteen or seventeen to study law in the office of Green and Williams. After his apprenticeship there, he worked in the offices of attorneys in Warrenton and Baltimore. In 1818, at the age of twenty-one, Smith opened his own law practice in the town of Culpeper.

William Smith's ambition and exuberance propelled him into business ventures. In 1827 he established a mail-coach service between Fairfax Court House and Culpeper. Smith's mail service expanded dramatically, and he soon earned his lifelong nickname "Extra Billy" from the array of "extra" contracts and payments he received from U. S. postal authorities.

Smith entered the state political arena in the late 1820s, and in 1836 was elected to the Virginia senate as a Democrat. Smith was a commanding and charismatic figure who appealed to the common man as well as to his fellow plutocrats. He rose rapidly in politics, becoming a U. S. Congressman in 1841 and governor of Virginia in 1846. During the Civil War he served the Confederacy as a

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general, but he proved more effective behind the desk than in the field. From January 1864 to May 1865 he served an unprecedented second term as governor, presiding over the state during the difficult final years of the Civil War. Smith returned home to Warrenton after the war, and lived there quietly until his death in 1887 at age 89.<sup>3</sup>

Since the exact date of the outbuildings standing today at Office Hall is unknown, it cannot be certain whether William Smith actually knew them as a boy and young man. Architectural evidence points to a probable date of ca. 1805-20, and the land tax books suggest the buildings were standing before 1820. Too, it seems likely they would have been built before the death of Col. Caleb Smith in 1814. On balance, it seems likely that William did know the buildings in his youth; he may even have attended school in the upper room of the brick kitchen.

The Office hall tract--which included 1,583 acres--remained in Caleb Smith's estate until 1836. Throughout this period, the house and outbuildings were valued at \$850, a rather low figure that probably reflects the modest size and venerable age of the main dwelling.<sup>4</sup> In 1837 the tract was conveyed to Thomas Smith. Four years later, another Smith family member sold 100 acres of the tract--including the house and outbuildings--to Richard V. Tiffey.<sup>5</sup>

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Tiffey and his family owned the place for the next three decades, and it was during his tenure that the farm began to be listed in the tax books as "Office Hall."<sup>6</sup> Richard Tiffey (1805-1867), who had been a tavernkeeper at King George Court House in the 1830s, served as sheriff of King George County in the 1850s. His main source of income, however, seems to have been his farming operations at Office Hall; the 1850 census lists him simply as "farmer."

Tiffey married three times. His second wife, whom he wed in 1844 while living at Office Hall, was Mary Riding. In December 1845, a year after her premature death, Tiffey married Sarah A. Washburn, a native of Vermont who had moved to Virginia to work as a schoolteacher. Sarah and Richard Tiffey had four daughters. Richard died in 1867, two years after the close of the Civil War, leaving Sarah, at age fifty, a widow with two teenage daughters to support. Tiffey apparently left his wife in financial straits, because in 1869 she applied for a job at the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, recently formed to preserve George Washington's home in Fairfax County. In her letter of application Sarah Tiffey writes:

I am accustomed to an energetic and systematic mode of life. My circumstances are peculiar in this, that I am thrown entirely upon my own exertions, there being no male members of my family whose duty

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it is to provide for me. So far as I know the duties of the situation [the post of "secretary," actually a resident administrative assistant to the director], I believe that I could satisfactorily discharge them, and do therefore ask you to give me a trial .... Should you grant my request the widow and fatherless will daily ask God to bless you and will thank you for giving me work to do.<sup>7</sup>

Mrs. Tiffey received the appointment and moved to Mount Vernon in April 1869. She remained there for a year and a half, during which time she kept a lively journal recording her daily round of activities. Though these memoirs have not been published, they remain on file in the organization's library. Tiffey served much of her tenure as acting manager of the Mount Vernon restoration, since the regent, Louis Bird Cunningham, was often out of state. In late 1870, after a series of health problems and conflicts with the regent, Tiffey took a job with the Treasury Department in Washington. She remained in Washington until her death in the early 1900s.<sup>8</sup>

In the 1870s Thomas Lee Marshall purchased the Office Hall property; his descendants continued to live there for over a century. The Marshall family increased the Office Hall parcel from 100 to 200 acres, and they continued to farm

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it. In 1916 Thomas Lee Marshall's grandson and namesake demolished the one-and-a-half story colonial dwelling, replacing it with the two-story Colonial Revival house<sup>9</sup>, which burned in 1998.

The owners at the time of the original nomination to the National Register acquired the property in 1989 with the intention of developing the strategic parcel into a mixed-use shopping center and housing complex. That same year they donated an historic easement to Historic Fredericksburg Foundation to ensure the preservation of Office Hall's two early-nineteenth-century brick outbuildings.

Last year the current owners obtained a controlling interest in the property. Office Hall, L.P. is now a family partnership controlled by OH Investments, Inc. Shortly after obtaining a controlling interest, the owners contacted the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. regarding the moving and preservation of the buildings.

After the move, the property will continue to meet the requirements of National Register C. The buildings will retain their distinctive architectural features in a setting more protected from commercial development and from the future expansion of Route 3. The buildings will remain on the Office Hall property and will be set in a prominent location on a knoll along Route 3, more in keeping with their



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original rural setting. And although the property was not originally nominated under National Register Criterion B, the preservation of the brick buildings and their new location will not detract from their historic value.

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ENDNOTES

1. John W. Bell, Memoirs of Governor William Smith of Virginia (New York, 1891), pp. 3-10; Alvin A. Fahrner, "The Public Career of William "Extra Billy" Smith," (Chapel Hill, 1953), pp. 1-6; "Popular Portraits with Pen and Pencil: Governor William Smith," The United States Magazine and Democratic Review, Vol. 22, no. 119 (May 1848), pp. 454-55.

In several of these accounts, Col. Caleb Smith is described as "of Marengo." Marengo was a plantation in northeastern King George County along the Potomac River. Smith acquired this tract in 1811, three years before his death. It is uncertain whether he ever lived there; land tax books suggest that Smith continued to reside at Office Hall until his death.

Caleb Smith was the son of Thomas Smith, Jr. (d. ca. 1799) and grandson of Thomas Smith, Sr. (d. ca. 1759). (The author is grateful to James S. Patton, of Rappahannock Academy, for providing this and other related information.)

2. In his 1971 architectural survey report, Ralph Fall writes: "The upstairs [of the kitchen] was once used also as a school-house, according to Mrs. [Thomas Lee] Marshall." (DHR file # 48-16). The anonymous author of "Popular Portrait" (1848) states simply that William Smith attended "a private school taught in his father's house"; he may, however, have been guessing at the exact physical location of the school. Architectural detailing suggests the brick kitchen was erected some time between 1805 and 1820; if it was erected before 1814, it could indeed have housed the school that William Smith attended.

3. Smith was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. Today his statue stands in Capitol Square, overlooking the park whose landscaping he actively supervised as governor.

4. The 1820 land tax book for King George County is missing, and, as elsewhere in Virginia, buildings are not assessed separately from land before that date. The name Office Hall first appears in the land tax books after 1840; it also appears in a deed of 1837 (King George County DB 15, p. 72). A marginal note in the 1821 land tax listing states that there was a change in the valuation of buildings that year due to the destruction of an overseer's house. This same entry states that Smith's land stood along "the Ridge Road", which is more or less coterminous with the present Rt. 3.

5. King George County Land Tax Books.

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6. A post office named Office Hall stood near this site in the early twentieth century and perhaps earlier. A search of the listings in two compendia of nineteenth-century Virginia place names and post offices, however, failed to show Office Hall. (Virginus Hall, "Virginia Post Offices, 1798-1859," and Ray O. Hummel, A List of Places Included in 19th Century Virginia Directories.)
7. Elswyth Thane, Mount Vernon is Ours (New York, 1969), p. 373.
8. James S. Patton, "Marshall Family at Office Hall," 1989.
9. Ralph Fall, "Office Hall" historical notes, 1971; and author's interview with Ryland Marshall, 1989. There is some debate about the site of the original dwelling. Fall implies that the present house was built on the foundations of the old one, whereas Ryland Marshall claimed that the old house stood some distance west of the present dwelling.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

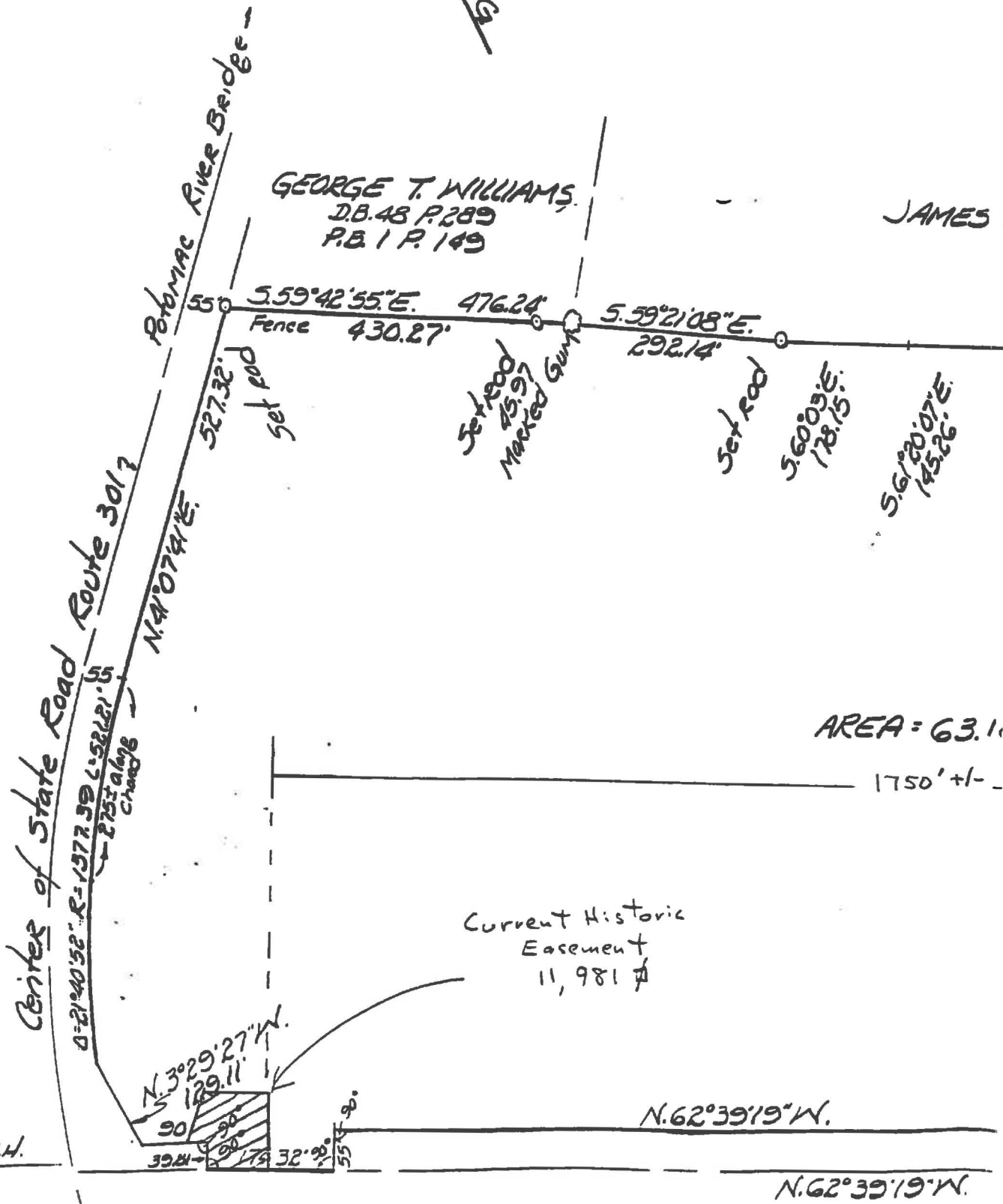
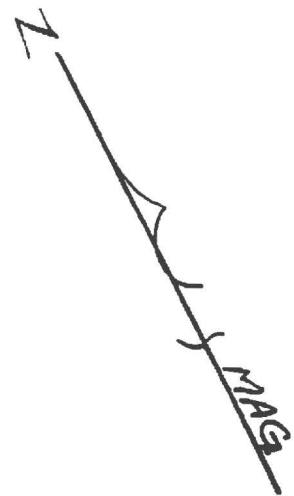
All that part or parcel of land in Shiloh Magisterial District in King George County, Virginia, containing 30,000 square feet, as shown on the attached "Addendum 1," fronting 150 feet on Virginia State Highway Number 3, beginning at Point "A" and proceeding northeasterly 200 feet to Point "B", thence northwesterly 150 feet to Point "C", thence southwesterly 200 feet to Point "D", thence southeasterly 150 feet to Point "A", the point of beginning.

This parcel will be surveyed in order to grant to Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. a new historic easement.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The size of the new historic easement site was preferred by Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. to allow the buildings to be placed a safe distance off Route 3 and to better shield them from commercial development. The location was mutually chosen by the applicant and the Foundation as the best location on the Office Hall tract to preserve and protect the buildings from commercial development and future Route 3 expansion. The rural nature of the properties to the east and south of the new location were a strong consideration.

Found Pipe



GEORGE T. WILLIAMS,  
D.B. 48 P. 289  
P.B. 1 P. 149

JAMES

55° 5.59° 42' 55" E. 476.24'  
Fence 430.27'

5.59° 21' 08" E. 292.14'

527.32'  
set rod

Set rod  
45.97'  
Marked Gully

Set rod

5.60° 03' E.  
178.15'

5.61° 20' 07" E.  
145.26'

AREA = 63.1

1750' +/-

Current Historic  
Easement  
11,981 sq ft

Center of State Road Route 3017  
S. 21° 40' 52" E. 1377.39'  
275' along change

N. 41° 07' 41" E.

N. 3° 29' 27" W.  
129.11'

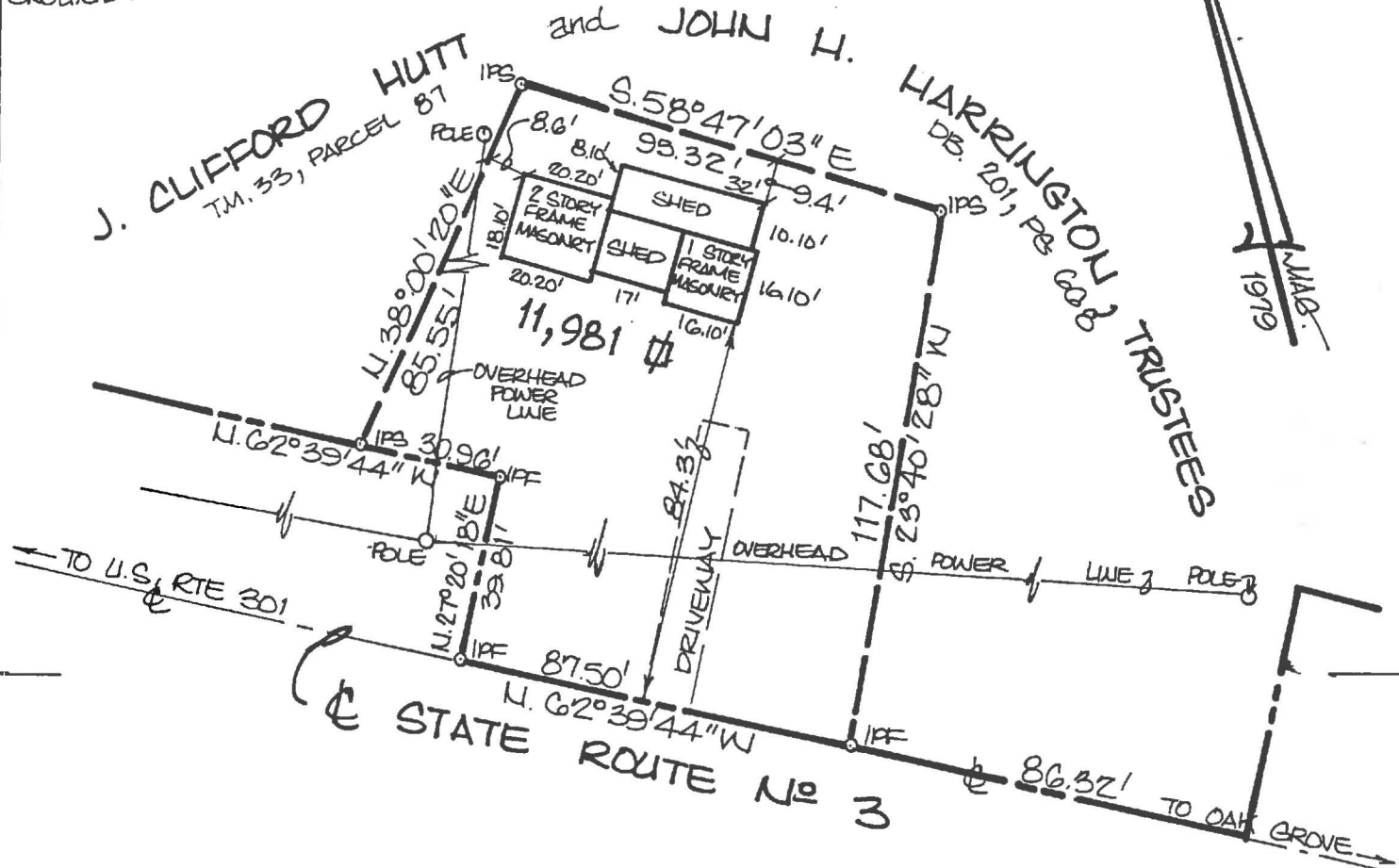
N. 62° 39' 19" W.

N. 62° 39' 19" W.

George C.H.

NOTES:

- FOR EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS NOT SHOWN SEE TITLE REPORT.
- I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE BUILDINGS SHOWN HEREON WERE LOCATED BY TRANSIT AND TAPE.
- POWER LINES TO BUILDING ARE UNDERGROUND.



PLAT SHOWING

FACADE EASEMENT

ON A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY OF  
J. CLIFFORD HUTT & JOHN H. HARRINGTON, TRUSTEES

SHILOH DISTRICT - KING GEORGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

MAY 31, 1989

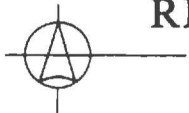
SCALE: 1" = 40'

RICHARD B. ALLISON, JR. and ASSOCIATES

Civil Engineering • Land Surveying • Land Planning

P.O. Box 741, Montross, Virginia 22520, (804) 493-9066

UB. 205, PG. 30



Historic  
**Fredericksburg**  
 Foundation, Inc.

604A William Street ■ Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401  
 (540) 371-4504 ■ Fax (540) 371-4505

June 10, 1999

Mr. Marc C. Wagner  
 National Register Manager  
 Department of Historic Resources  
 2801 Kensington Avenue  
 Richmond, VA 23221

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	5/11	# of pages	2
To	Jackie Morris	From			
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	(804) 993-0999	Fax #			

Re: Office Hall, King George County

Dear Mr. Wagner:

As you are aware, Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. (HFFI) currently holds an easement on the Office Hall property located in King George County, near the intersection of routes 3 and 301. This letter is being submitted in response to the property owner's desire to relocate both the kitchen and smokehouse buildings to another site on the same tract of land.

After being notified of the property owner's intent to move the buildings, three members of the HFFI Executive Committee conducted a site visit on May 14, 1999, accompanied by the property owner, his legal counsel and two representatives of the King George Historical Society. The exterior and interior of both buildings were inspected as well as the proposed relocation site. As a result of these observations as well as subsequent conversations with the property owner, the Board of Directors agrees to support the property owner's plans to relocate the buildings, upon the following conditions:

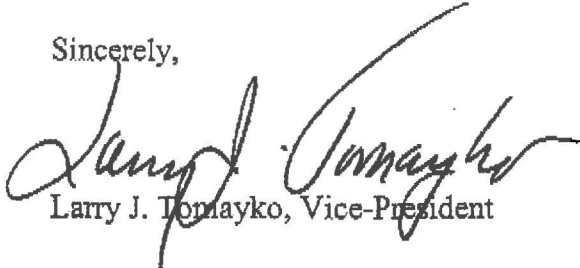
1. The retention of National Register status and completion of all documentation required by the State Review Board and Keeper of the National Register.
2. The agreement by the property owner to perform stabilization and restoration work on both buildings prior to relocation and the hiring of qualified professionals to move the buildings in accordance with established preservation practice.
3. The agreement by the property owner to expand the area of land covered under the easement at the relocation site. (The property owner has agreed to expand the easement from the original 11,981 square feet to 30,000 square feet.)

*The mission of the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. is to preserve, protect and revitalize the distinctive historic environment and cultural resources of the Fredericksburg area. Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. accomplishes this mission through education, advocacy and financial support.*

Please be advised that this expression of support results from a realistic assessment of the development pressures of this intersection as well as the state's plans to widen Route 3. While HFFI is strongly opposed to moving historic buildings and structures, the Board feels that the current location of the Office Hall buildings places them in grave danger of further deterioration and neglect. Because the integrity of the original site has been severely compromised, and the relocation site is on the same parcel of land, the Board has determined that, as long as its conditions are met, the best method of ensuring the continued existence of these valuable resources is to move them to the proposed relocation site.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the HFFI office at (540) 371-4504.

Sincerely,



Larry J. Tomayko, Vice-President

cc: James Mullen,  
King George Historical Society





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

87 DEACON ROAD

FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22405

DAVID R. GEHR  
COMMISSIONER

DAVID E. OGLE  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

February 23, 1999

Mr. Jackie Morris  
Office Hall LP  
P. O. Box 370  
Montross, Virginia 22520

*Transmitted via Fax to (804) 493-0999*

Dear Mr. Morris,

This letter is a follow-up to our telephone conversation last week regarding the property located in the northeast quadrant of the Route 3 / Route 301 intersection in King George County. In our discussion you noted that the 53 acre site is currently held in a family partnership and that the site includes an historic stone house structure on a ¼ acre easement held in historic trust. You had specific questions regarding VDOT's plans for future improvements to Route 3 in the vicinity.

We continue to receive requests from the counties of the Northern Neck to upgrade Route 3 to a four lane facility. Their expressed concerns have been related to safety, travel delay, and the provision of a good transportation route to help them meet their economic development objectives. As you know, we recently completed four lane improvements to Route 3 west of Route 301 in King George. Last year a project was added to the Commonwealth Transportation Board's *Six Year Improvement Program* to initiate preliminary engineering on the section of Route 3 extending from Route 301 to Route 205 at Oak Grove in Westmoreland County. The preliminary engineering will identify design concepts for the future construction of two parallel lanes to the existing road. As of this time, no schedule has been established and no funding has been designated for right-of-way acquisition or construction.

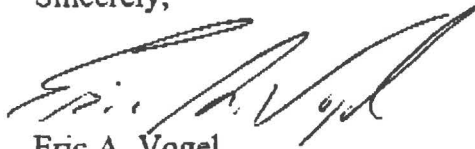
In our conversation you mentioned that you were giving consideration to relocating the stone house. At present, it appears to be within 100 yards of Route 3. The house has been subject to greater exposure since the recent fire and subsequent demolition of the larger white frame house. Because VDOT's preliminary engineering on Route 3 will not be completed for several months, it is not possible to determine any impacts the road

widening may have to the stone house. Relocation of the house would "soften" the exposure it currently has and might continue to have in the future following any road improvements to Route 3.

As you noted in our conversation, the road design at the intersection would try to match the improvements made on the west side of Route 301. For planning purposes, approximately 30 to 50 feet of right-of-way may be necessary on the east side of the intersection. This measurement would be to the north from an imaginary line that reflects an extension of the edge of pavement of the improved westbound lanes on the west side of the intersection. This area could be used to accommodate the additional through lane, a right turn lane, drainage and the relocation of utilities. A more accurate understanding of right-of-way needs will be available after preliminary engineering has been completed.

I very much appreciate your contacting VDOT on this issue. I would be interested in continuing our discussion on this or any other issue regarding this parcel that may influence transportation at this key intersection.

Sincerely,



Eric A. Vogel  
District Planning Engineer  
(540) 899-4280

cc: C. Kilpatrick, Fredericksburg Resident Engineer



## Mary Washington College • Center for Historic Preservation

June 11, 1999

Mark Wagner  
 National Register Coordinator  
 Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
 2801 Kensington Ave.  
 Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Mr. Wagner,

The Office Hall kitchen and smokehouse, at present listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will be moved in response to development of the property adjacent to the intersection of Routes 3 and 301. The Center for Historic Preservation at Mary Washington College conducted Phase I archaeological testing to assess the impact of the proposed move on archaeological resources. Archaeological testing was confined to the area to which the buildings will be relocated (Figures 1 and 2).

The project area was a fallow field, with low secondary growth brushes, grasses, and weeds. Testing was confined to the top and gentle slopes of an upland knoll. Elevation ranged between 180 and 190 feet above sea level, roughly the same as the present location of the structures.

Phase I testing involved the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) across the area impacted by the move. Five 200-foot long transects were spaced at twenty-foot intervals across the area. Each transect consisted of ten (10) STPs spaced at twenty-foot intervals along the transect, for a total of fifty (50) STPs within a 100-x-200 foot area. STPs measured approximately 1-x-1 foot, and were excavated to subsoil or to the practical limits of excavation (generally 12 to 18 inches below ground surface). All soils were screened through 1/4-inch wire mesh.

No artifacts were recovered during the fieldwork at Office Hall. Moreover, STP profiles indicate plowing and erosion has occurred in the project area. Subsoils were generally encountered between ten (10) to twelve (12) inches below ground surface. In general, brown topsoil covered a lighter plow zone which buried a brownish-yellow to strong brown subsoil. The soil in all horizons was a very fine sandy loam. At the eastern and southern edges of the

project area erosion had reduced the plow zone, in some areas leaving only a thin topsoil overlaying the subsoil stratum. Therefore, the complete absence of artifacts in the project area and the evidence for plowing and erosion suggest that relocation of the structures to the knoll at the eastern end of the Office Hall property will not endanger significant archaeological resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Klein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael J. Klein

PORT ROYAL QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

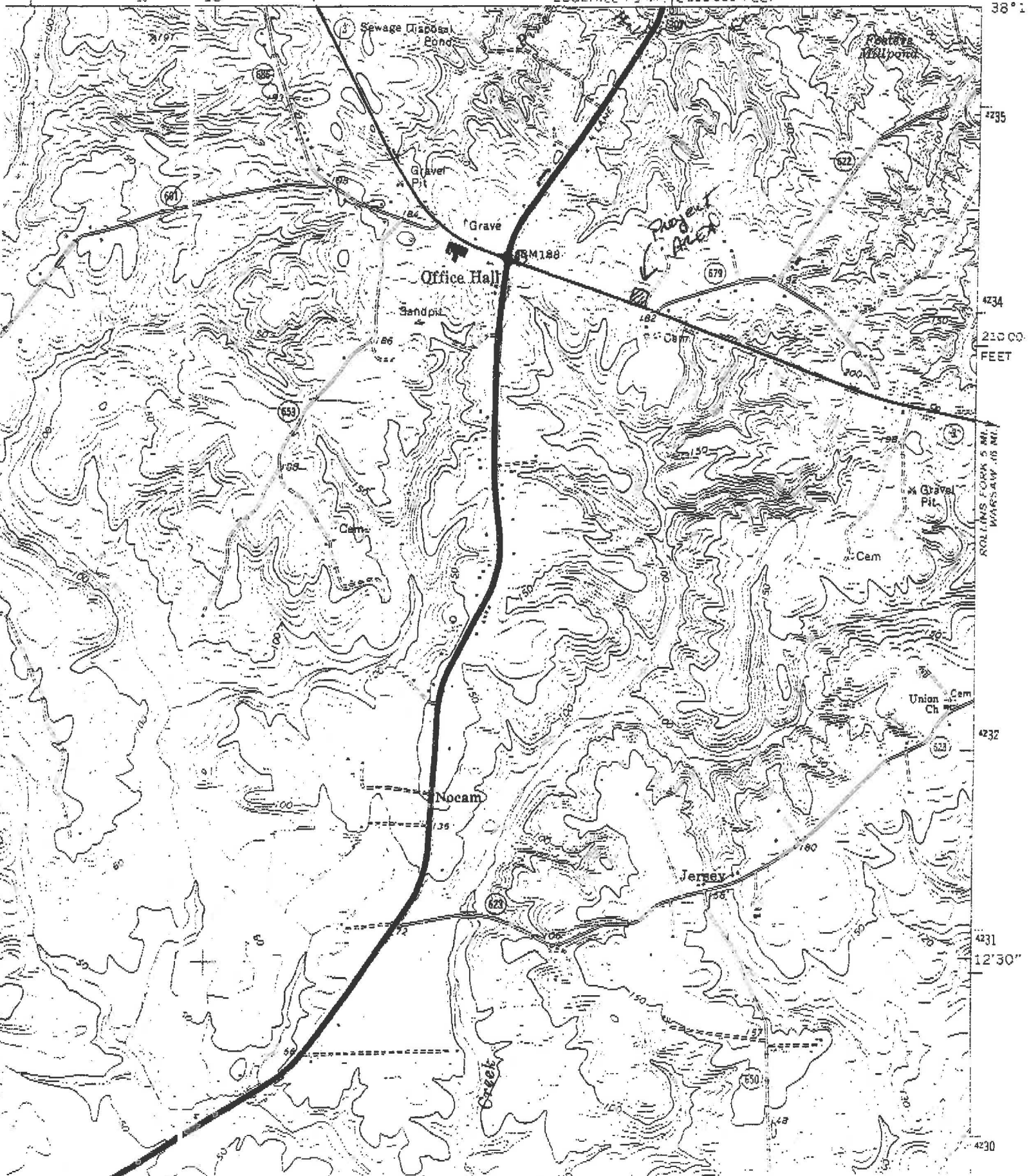
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

77°07'30" 38"

FREDERICKSBURG 21 MI  
KING GEORGE 27 MI

POTOMAC RIVER BRIDGE 1 MI  
EDGEHILL 1 1/2 MI  
2 390 000 FEET

710 10'



4235

4234

2100 FEET

4232

4231  
12'30"

4230

*Project Area*

Office Hall

Sandpit

Nocam

Jersey

Porters Millpond

Sewage Disposal Pond

Gravel Pit

Grave

Cam

Cam

Union Ch

Gravel Pit

ROLLINS FORM 5 MI.  
WARSAW 16 MI.

Tree Line Buffer

Access Road

RT 3

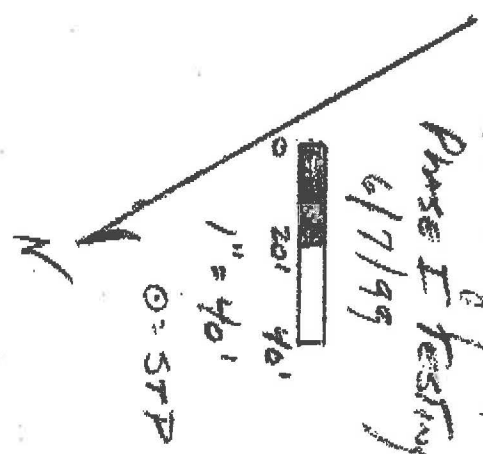
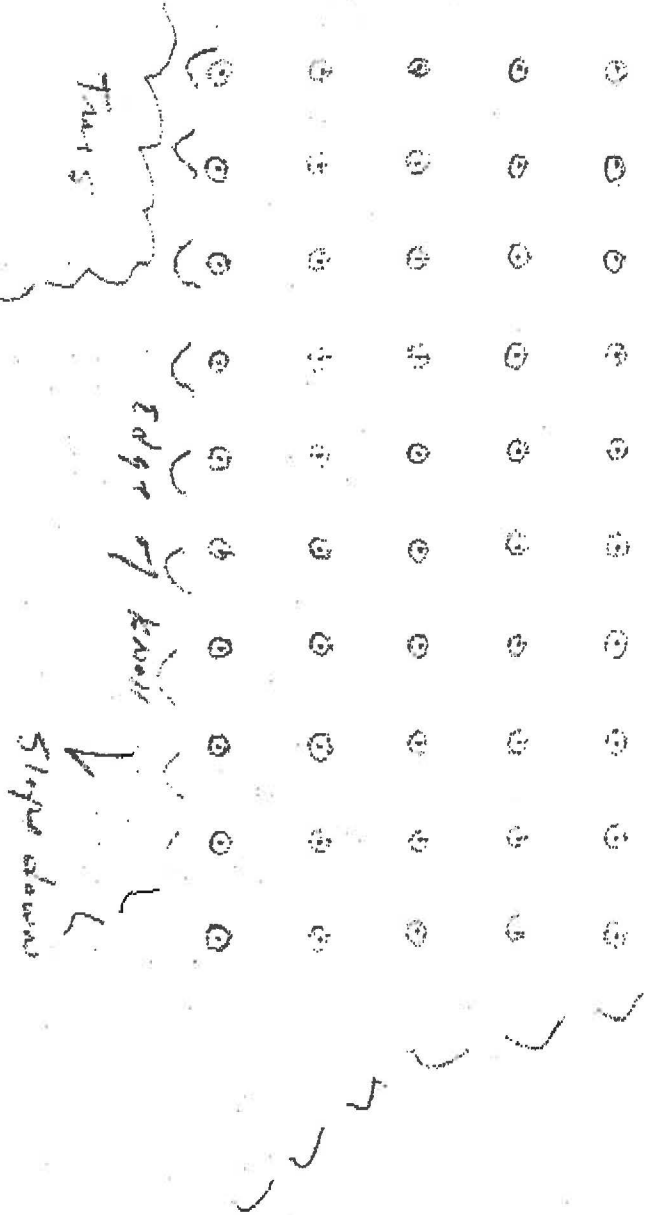
NORTH SIDE OF ROAD

→ TO RT 301

Shoulder

↑ Slope down

→ 300' (w/ downcut adjustment) → 2000' to present location of buildings



Mule Camp  
 Office Hall  
 Archaeology  
 Phase I Testing  
 6/7/99

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

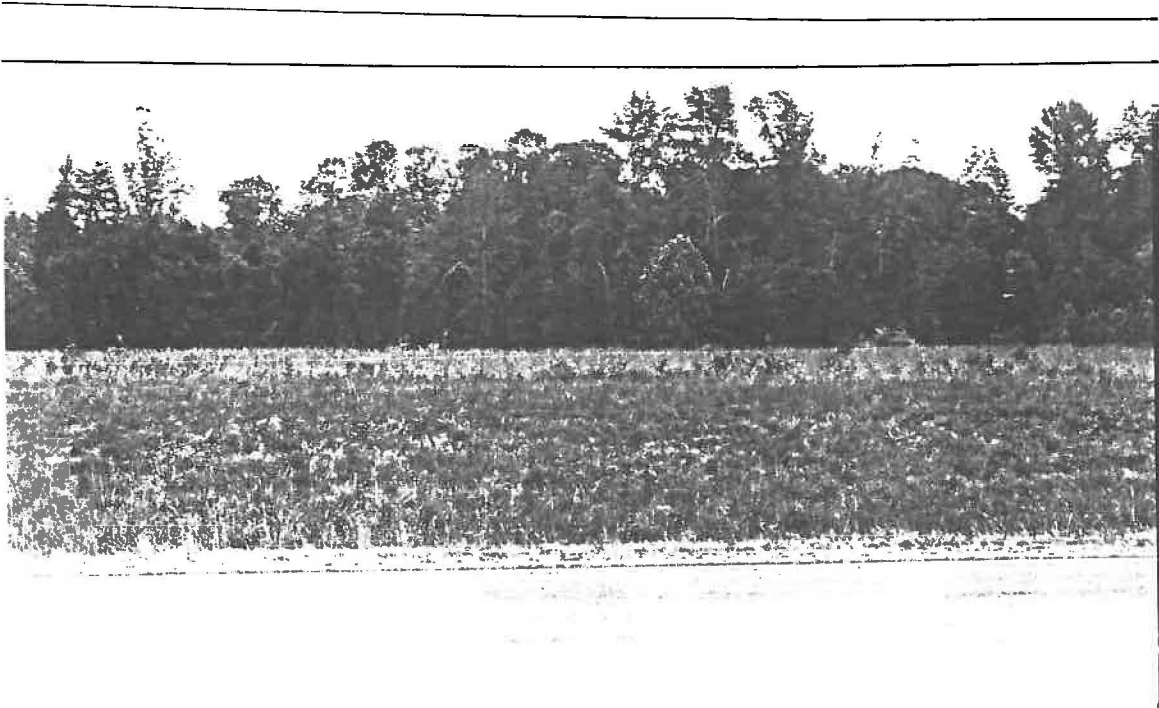
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Office Hall  
King George, Virginia

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Photo 1 - the grassy knoll chosen for the new location of the brick buildings  
on the Office Hall property (photographer looking north).



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

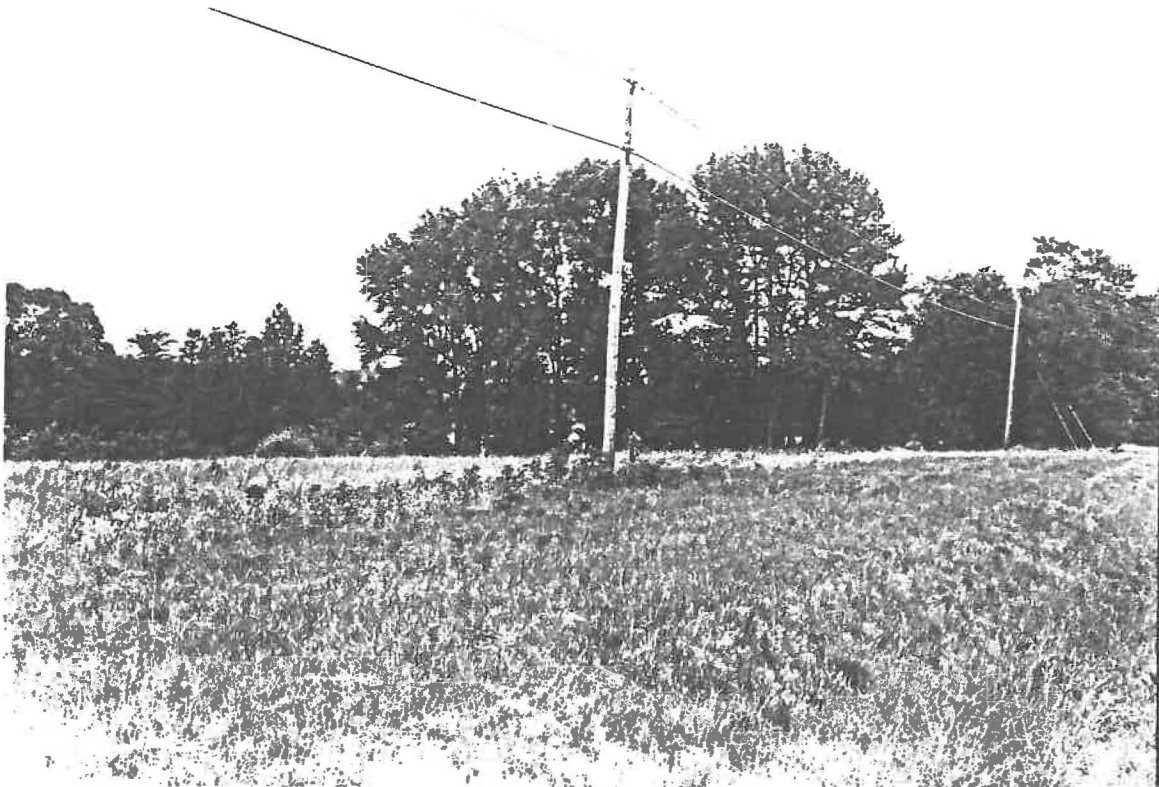
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Photo 2 - same as Photo 1, photographer looking east.





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National Park Service

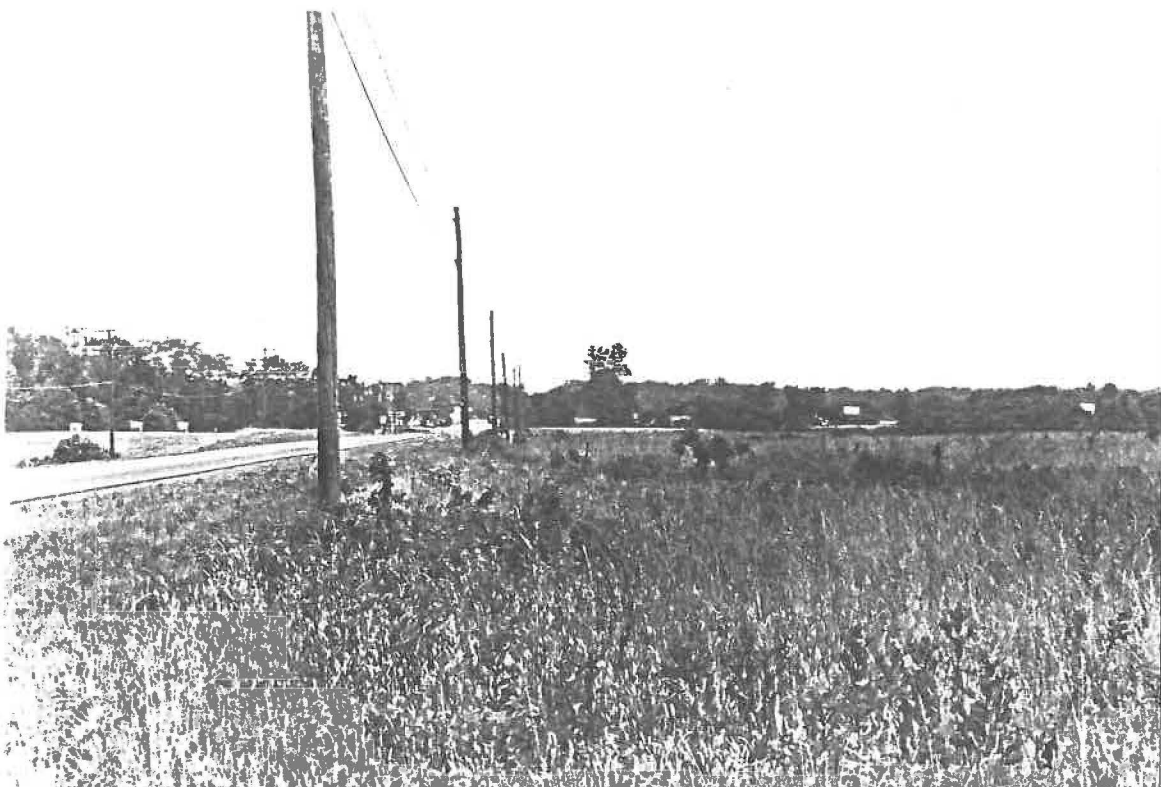
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Photo 3 - same, photographer looking west.



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

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Photo 4 - same, photographer looking south towards Route 3.



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

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Photo 5 - the residential Rothrock property to the east of the proposed new location.



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National Park Service**

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Photo 6 - the old school property across Route 3 and to the south of the proposed new location.



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National Park Service**

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Photo 7 - brick buildings, photographer looking north (south elevation).



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National Park Service

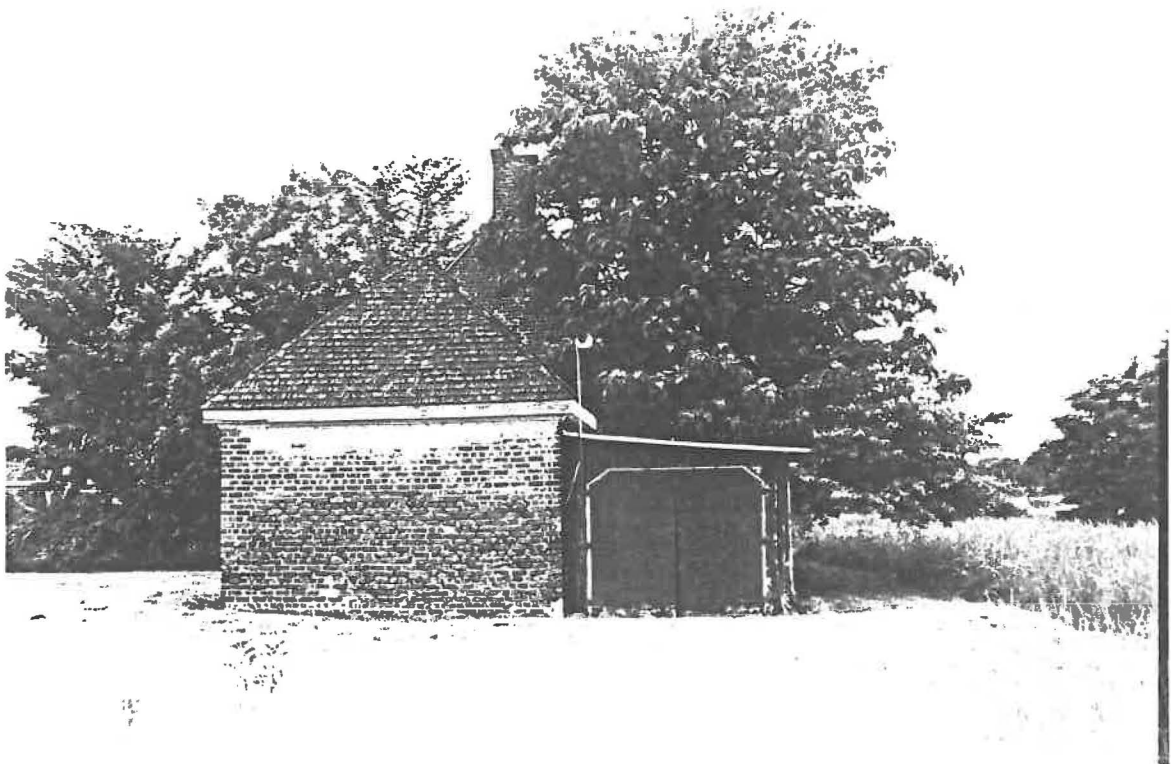
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Photo 8 - brick buildings, photographer looking west (east elevation).



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Photo 9 - brick buildings, photographer looking south (north elevation).



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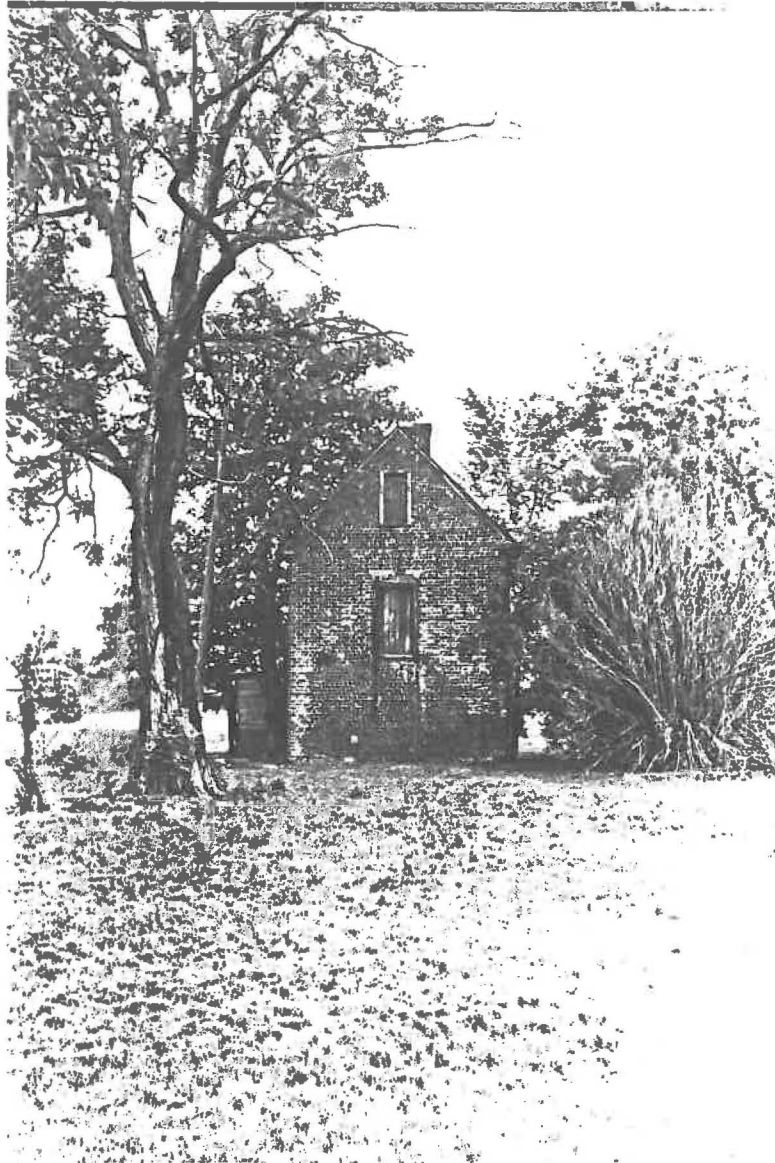
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Photo 10 - brick buildings, photographer looking east (west elevation).





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Photo 11 - commercial property (7-11) to the southwest of the buildings and diagonally across the intersection from the buildings.



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Photo 12 - other commercial development directly across Interstate 301 and  
to the northwest of the buildings.

