

VLR-10/16/73 NRHP-11/14/73

Form 10 (Rev. 4-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Virginia
COUNTY	Surry
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Warren House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Rolfe-Warren House **SMITH'S FORT PLANTATION**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SR 31

CITY OR TOWN: Surry

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Surry CODE: 181

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER: 2705 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC.: Surry County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Surry

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory
Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934, 1937, 1939, 1940

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: 1958
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Surry

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The one and one-half story house of brick, laid in Flemish bond both above and below the water table, is five bays wide and one room deep. What appears at first to be a symmetrical facade with two windows flanking a central door is actually off center with a central axis slightly west of center. The raised basement is lighted by rectangular wooden grilles with diagonally placed horizontal bars set within segmental arches. The main floor windows have nine-over-nine sash, held by wide muntins. The gauged brick flat arches are partially obscured by the molded box cornice which is terminated by pattern boards at each end. The steeply pitched roof is pierced by three regularly placed flush-sided pedimented dormers containing windows of nine-over-six sash. At either end of the main roof is an interior end chimney with molded brick caps.

The landward entrance, reached by replacement steps, is set within a segmental arch of rubbed and gauged brick, springing from rubbed brick panels. The entrance, possibly widened at an earlier date, had been reworked during the 1930s restoration. The door, composed of six raised panels, is set within a robustly molded architrave.

The north facade, which faces Gray's Creek, is almost identical to the landward elevation, except for the lack of the brick panels flanking the entrance. The gable ends are without openings except for a reconstructed basement entrance containing double doors in the south corner of the west end.

The interior follows a central hall plan one room deep. Along the west wall of the hall the handsome closed-string stair rises to a transverse landing and returns in a shorter reverse flight. The newel is square in plan, and turned balusters carry a molded rail. The walls are plastered above and below a wide heavily molded chair rail.

The east room, the larger of the two first floor rooms, has a flat-paneled wainscot on three walls. The central section of the wide chair rail forms the sill for the windows, which are set within splayed reveals. The focal point of the room is the east fireplace wall which exhibits striking floor-to-ceiling paneling. In the center above a segmental-arched fire opening is a paneled over-mantel. Stop-fluted pilasters set on pedestals flank the central area with the arched cupboards to either side. Two panels fill the arch, beneath which are double doors in two ranges giving access to the cupboards which are semi-circular in plan. The wall treatment is surmounted by a deep cornice articulated with a dentil course, all of which breaks about the pilasters.

In the west room the mantel has a segmental opening beneath two flat panels, the whole contained within an architrave capped with a molded shelf. To the left side of the fireplace is a cupboard similar to those flanking the fireplace in the east room, except that the panels beneath the chair rail are fixed to accommodate the exterior basement entrance below. To the right of the chimney is a six-panel door opening into the closet.

The second floor is similar in plan to the first, but the finish is considerably simpler. The west room mantel is composed of a rectangular architrave with a large flat panel above a segmental-arched opening. Narrow closet doors with four raised panels flank the mantel. The east room has no decoration around the segmental-arched fire opening. Doors to either side of the chimney lead to closets.

The basement is reached from the inside by a stair under the first flight of the main stair. It contains a large room to the west and a smaller one to the east.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Warren House is an early Tidewater Plantation House well known for its traditional association with Thomas Rolfe, son of John Rolfe and Pocahontas, to whom the land descended as a gift from the Indian king Powhatan. The house is situated about one-half mile southeast of a promontory on the banks of Cray's Creek that is the location of Captain John Smith's "New Fort" from which the early plantation took its name.

According to a deposition made March 5, 1677, a fifty-foot brick house was built by Thomas Warren in 1652 at Smith's Fort Plantation. The house on the land previously owned by Thomas Rolfe had been sold to Warren, who resided there until his death in 1669, when the property was willed to his son, William.

Stylistically the age of the existing house with its large regular window openings and superbly crafted woodwork exhibits characteristics more commonly associated with houses of at least one-half a century later. If it is a later house on the same site, it is ironic that it fits the dimensions described in 1652. Architectural evidence has not indicated that it was reconstructed on earlier foundation, but archaeological investigation revealed the presence of other early structures nearby.

The architectural merits of the structure and the degree of early fabric lasting into the twentieth century alone give it superlative significance. When the house was acquired in 1929 by the Williamsburg Holding Corporation established by Nelson A. Rockefeller, Jr., it had fallen into disrepair. Ownership of the property was transferred to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities in 1933, and it was carefully restored by A. Edwin Kendrew and Singleton P. Moorshead, architects of the Williamsburg Restoration, at a cost of approximately \$8,500.

A high degree of early fabric was present allowing most of the restoration to consist of replacement of deteriorated fabric. However, a rear addition was removed and reconstruction occurred where earlier evidence had all but disappeared such as the exterior basement entrance, front entrance, window sash. Archaeology at the site was done by Arthur A. Shurcliff.

The Warren House stands as a remarkably complete vestige of early Virginia Plantation life in the Tidewater. Though its form is compact, it exhibits sophisticated detailing of unusual quality.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Homas and Gardens in Old Virginia, Garden Club of Virginia, Richmond, 1962.

Kimball, Fiske, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and the Early Republic, New York, 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37 ° 10 , 21 "	76 ° 49 , 55 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37 ° 10 , 21 "	76 ° 48 , 57 "				
SE	37 ° 09 , 34 "	76 ° 48 , 57 "				
SW	37 ° 09 , 34 "	76 ° 49 , 53 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 270

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Bruce MacDougal

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: Sept. 11, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
405-B Clover Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Title: _____

Date: OCT 16 1973

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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COUNTY Surry	
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1. NAME			
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Rolfe-Warren House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: SK 31			
CITY OR TOWN: Surry			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Surry	181
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. G. S. 7 1/2' quadrangle Surry, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

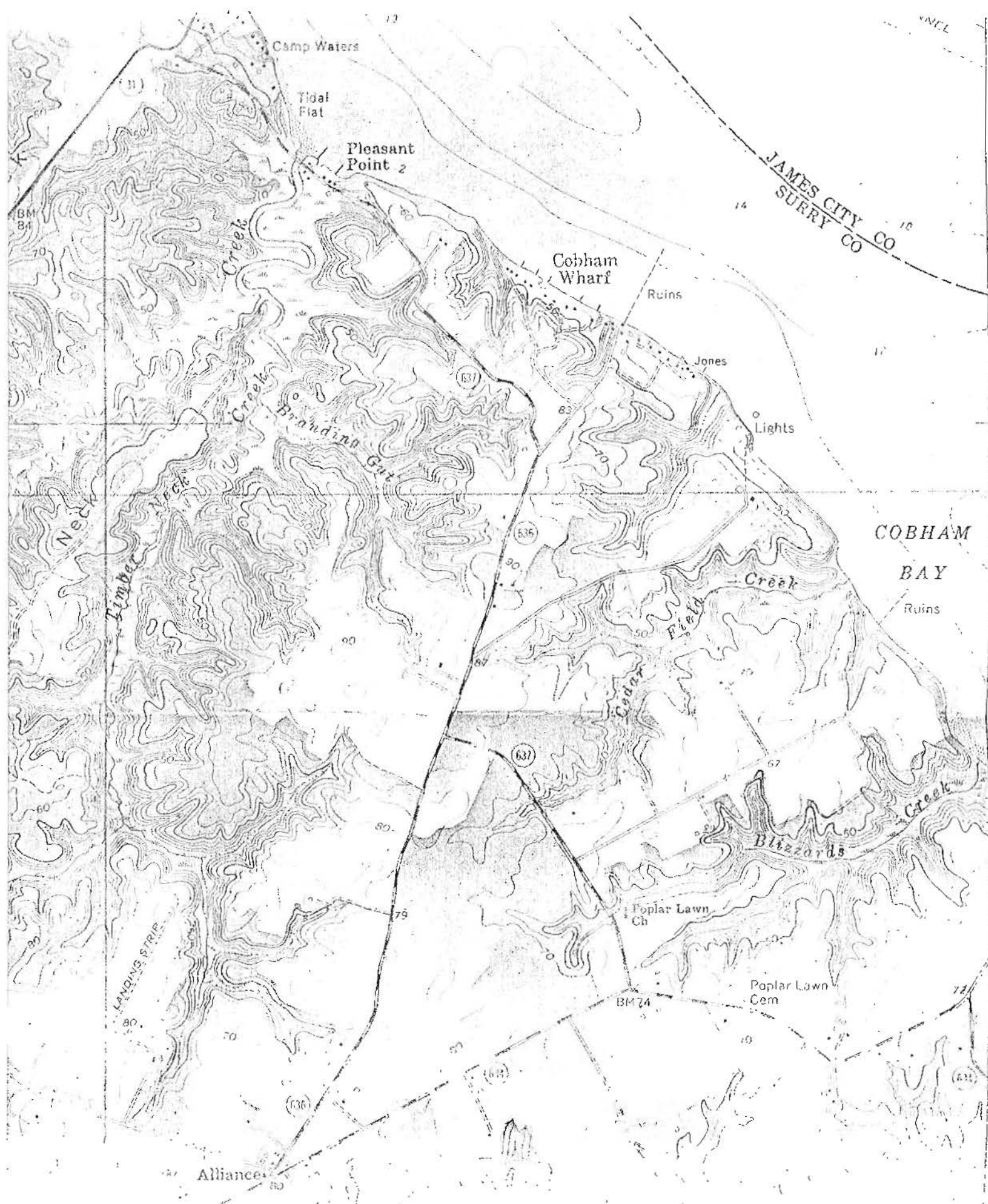
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Virginia	
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2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: SK 31			
CITY OR TOWN: Surry			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Surry	181
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission: Richmond, Va.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View from southeast.			



Rolfe-Warren
House

latitude:
N 37° 10' 21"
S 37° 09' 34"

longitude:
W 76° 49' 53"

~~W 76° 49' 53"~~
Σ 76° 48' 54"