

DELISTED 3/17/01

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

LOSS OF INTEGRITY

**1. Name**

historic Westover

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number North of Route 630, E of Old Town Neck \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Eastville \_X\_ vicinity of congressional district First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)  
state Virginia code 51 county Northampton code 131

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Benjamin Mears Estate  
street & number c/o Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Turner, Kendall Grove  
city, town Eastville \_\_\_ vicinity of state Virginia 23347

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northampton County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Eastville state Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys** (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

(1) Historic American Buildings  
title Survey Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
date 1969  federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records Library of Congress  
city, town Washington state D.C.

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Westover, an unoccupied Northampton County residence, is located off Route 630, .4 of a mile southwest of Mattawoman Creek. The gambrel-roof structure was first erected as a single-pile, three-bay house around 1750. A two-bay extension was added to the west in the third quarter of the 18th century. A rear (north) kitchen wing constitutes a late 19th-century addition. The Flemish-bond brick east elevation has an English-bond chimney with steep sloping haunches and a corbeled brick cap. The west end, believed to have been executed in brick, is now weatherboarded with a later exterior chimney in Flemish bond.

The front (south) elevation is covered with weatherboarding and contains the main entrance. The entrance consists of a replaced-glass and wood-paneled door within a simple, one-part architrave. The entry is sheltered by a shed-roof porch that was added in the late 19th or early 20th century. Rear entrances are located off the kitchen wing. Fenestration consists of replacement 1/1 hung sash on the north and south elevations. The east and west elevations have 4/4 hung sash. The windows have been boarded up with plywood. The roof is covered by wood shingles.

The plan of Westover consists of two unequal-sized rooms, separated by a central passage that leads to the ell. The passage contains the main stair. The open-well, closed-string stair has a square newel, a molded handrail, square balusters, and a paneled spandrel. The hall also has a molded chair rail and baseboard.

The east parlor is the earliest of the two principal rooms. The east wall is fully paneled and consists of paired vertical panels over a chair rail and smaller panels. The panels flank a large horizontal panel over the fireplace. The wall has been vandalized, and one vertical panel has been removed. At one time the large horizontal panel was cut and fitted with a stove pipe. The remaining walls are plastered and have a finely molded chair rail and baseboard. The end wall of the west parlor also is fully paneled. The panels are smaller than those found in the east parlor with two elongated horizontal panels over the fireplace architrave flanked by a cupboard. A finely molded chair rail divides the wall and ornaments the remaining plastered walls.

The second floor is divided into three chambers, less elaborate than those on the first. A rare surviving feature in the middle chamber is a wood tester for a bed. The tester is nailed to the plastered ceiling. The second-floor rooms have molded chair rails and architraves.

Westover sits in the middle of open fields which suggest its 18th-century setting. The house is somewhat dilapidated, but the current owner has made some effort to protect it by boarding up the openings.

RCC

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property of approximately 50 acres is a fraction of the 18th-century Westover parcel of 200 acres. The nominated tract preserves the house's rural setting in the midst of farmlands which are bordered on the east by the waters of Mattawoman Creek.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 2nd & 3rd quarters, 18th century      **Builder/Architect** unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Westover survives as a rare and important example of 18th-century vernacular architecture indigenous to Virginia's Eastern Shore. Like other fine Northampton County residences of the period, the house has handsome interior paneling, a brick end, and an original exterior end chimney with steep sloping haunches. An unusual feature of the structure is the execution of the end chimney in English bond with a Flemish bond end wall. Westover's original section, covered by a gambrel roof, is thought by some authorities to date from the first quarter of the 18th century. Examined in light of gambrel-roof houses on Maryland's Eastern Shore and Tidewater Virginia, however, Westover more likely dates ca. 1750, the period when the roof form gained widespread popularity. It would have been erected at this time by Michael Christian, Jr. who is believed to have added the western parlor shortly thereafter. Although the house has been unoccupied for a number of years, it is stabilized.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the Westover tract may be traced to ca. 1620 when Governor George Yeardley completed negotiations with the Indian King Bebedeavon for a neck of land on Mattawoman Creek now called Old Town Neck. The land remained in the Yeardley family, despite the division of the original patent by succeeding generations. In 1722 Michael Christian married Rose Powell, daughter of John and Sarah Yeardley Powell, who had inherited the 350-acre Westover tract at the death of her father.

Michael Christian came to the Eastern Shore from Scotland, after immigrating first to Northern Ireland. From 1729-35 he served on the County Court of Northampton and was nominated a county sheriff in 1729. He was allowed to operate a ferry from Hungars to Hampton in 1731 indicating his wealth and position at this time. Christian died in 1736 and, according to the inventory of his estate, had "a few books in physick, surgery and divinity...several beds, tables, chests, cloth, brandy and medicine..." The presence of medicine as well as books on surgery suggest that he practiced medicine. His son, Michael, inherited the Westover tract.

Michael Christian, Jr. married Patience Michael in 1747. Three years later he was appointed tobacco inspector for Northampton County. In 1773 he was among the trustees appointed to care for Indian interests and lands in Northampton County. In 1781 he was appointed a member of the House of Delegates from Northampton County. He died in 1783.

As indicated by its rather spacious rooms, Westover was the home of a prosperous citizen. The well executed paneling further attests to its builder's social status. An unusual surviving feature is a wood tester in the middle chamber nailed to the plaster ceiling. The tester originally was used for holding bed hangings, an important and valuable commodity in 18th-century inventories.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Forman, H. Chandlee. The Virginia Eastern Shore and Its British Origins. Easton, MD: Eastern Shore Publishers' Associates, 1975.  
 Northampton County Deed Book 28.  
Land Tax Books 1782-1850. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 50 acres  
 Quadrangle name Franktown & Cheriton, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 8	4 1 6 0 0 0	4 1 3 6 9 1 0	B	1 8	4 1 6 5 3 0	4 1 3 6 8 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 8	4 1 6 5 6 0	4 1 3 6 5 4 0	D	1 8	4 1 6 0 4 0	4 1 3 6 5 6 0
E	1 8	4 1 5 8 1 0	4 1 3 6 7 9 0	F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point 1400' W of Mattawoman Creek, 3200' NNE of State Route 630; thence extending 1400' E to W bank of said creek; thence curving and following shoreline of said creek SW, then E, then NE, then S for approximately 2700'; thence extending almost 1700' W to private drive; thence extending about 1100' NW to E side of access road; thence following said side of said road 800' NE to point of origin.

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff  
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date November 1980  
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144  
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *H. Bryan Mitchell* Resubmitted 5/10/82: H. Bryan Mitchell, Exec. Director  
Tucker Hill, Executive Director Va. Historic Landmarks Commission  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date NOV 18 1980

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Westover, Northampton County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6,8,9

Page 1

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- 2). Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968, 1969, 1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Westover property passed to Christian's daughter, Susannah, who married Elison Armistead. It continued to be owned by Christian descendants until 1826 when it was sold to E. J. Poulson on a 26-acre tract for \$650. It is owned presently by the Benjamin Mears Estate, the owners of Kendall Grove, an adjoining property.

MTP/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Northampton County Order Books 19, 20.

Personal Property Tax Books 1800-1820.

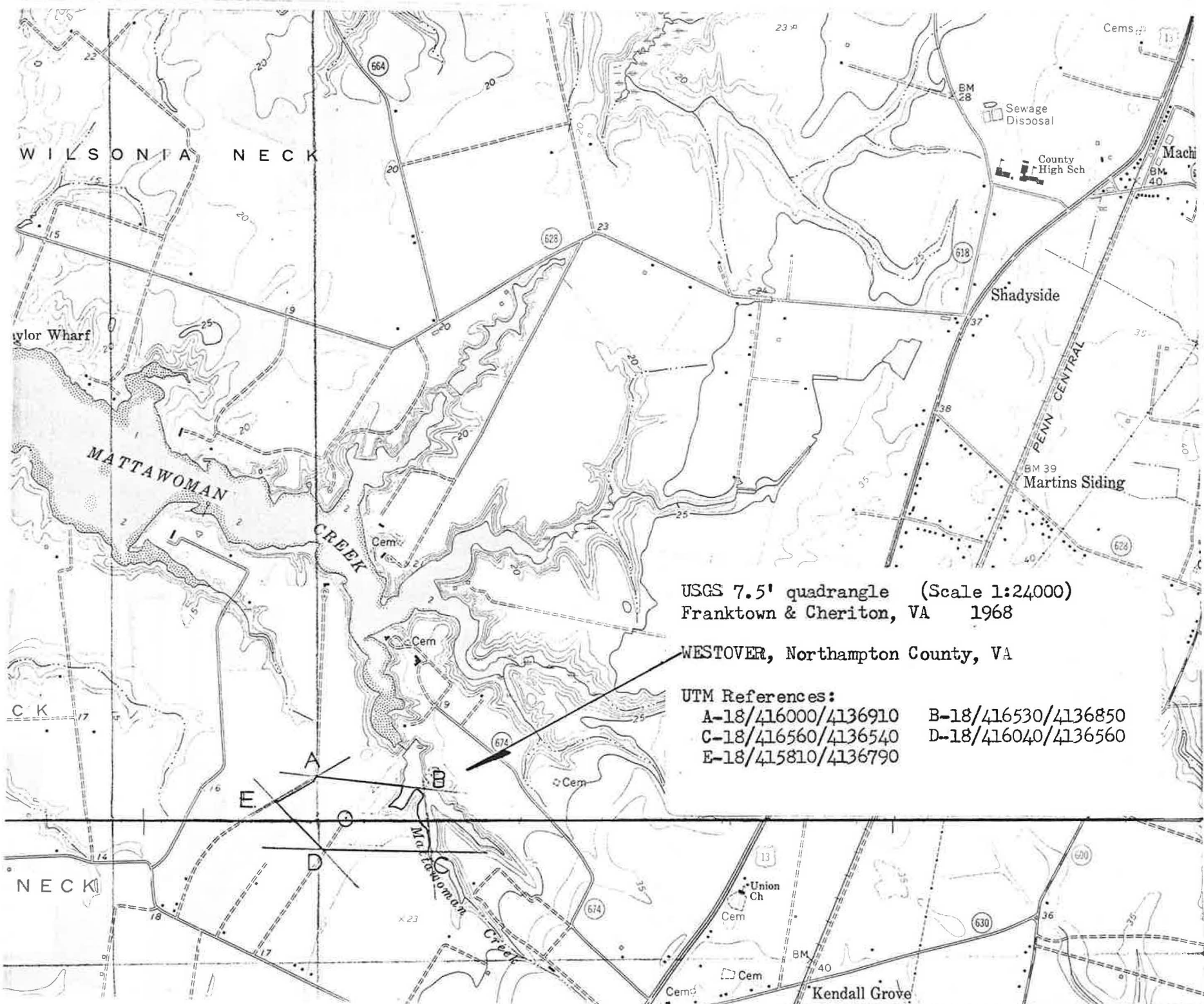
Will Books 14, 18, 27.

Turman, Nora M. The Eastern Shore of Virginia, 1603-1964. Onancock: The Eastern Shore News, Inc., 1964.

Upshur, Thomas T. "Sir George Yeardley...and Some of (his) Descendants." American Historical Magazine. Nashville, 1896.

Whitelaw, Ralph T. Virginia's Eastern Shore. Gloucester, MASS: Peter Smith, 1968.





WILSONIA NECK

Taylor Wharf

MATTAWOMAN CREEK

C K

NECK

County High Sch

Shadyside

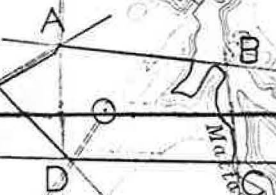
Martins Siding

PENN CENTRAL

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)  
Franktown & Cheriton, VA 1968

WESTOVER, Northampton County, VA

UTM References:  
 A-18/416000/4136910    B-18/416530/4136850  
 C-18/416560/4136540    D-18/416040/4136560  
 E-18/415810/4136790



Union Ch

Kendall Grove