

CC-21

VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS
ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF
CHARLES CITY COUNTY

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APRIL 1989

Charles City County
Survey Methodology

Prior to the most recent windshield survey of Charles City County in early 1989, architectural survey efforts by Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks staff and local volunteers resulted in the creation of seventy-eight separate files on historic properties in the county. Nearly 75% of those buildings surveyed are antebellum dwellings, many of which date to the mid- to late eighteenth century. A bias on the part of the surveyor in recording any dwelling from the eighteenth century, and selected high-style dwellings of wealthy planters from the early to mid-nineteenth century was clearly detected in the evaluation of existing architectural files in the division's archives.

An uneven geographical distribution of surveyed historic resources also confirms that past survey efforts were overwhelmingly focused on the areas bordering the James River and along Route 5, which roughly parallels the river. Not surprisingly, the county's most significant seventeenth- and eighteenth-century archaeological sites and standing structures were found and recorded on plantations bordering the James River and along Route 5, the old river road; however, numerous nineteenth- and early twentieth-century historic resources located along the Chickahominy River and bordering old roads throughout the interior of the county were largely ignored in past surveys until the most recent survey of the county was conducted in early 1989.

During much of January, February, and March of 1989 David A. Edwards of the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks staff conducted a cursory, or windshield, survey of the historic architectural resources of Charles City County. The survey was conducted to provide important data on the county's historic resources to the Richmond Planning District Commission, which wished to include the information in a comprehensive plan for Charles City County. Due to time constraints, the surveyor could only record a minimum amount of information on each surveyed property.

Using the eight United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps that comprise the entire county, the surveyor systematically drove down all county roads and all unrestricted private roads and drives in an effort to discover buildings that he considered

worthy of recording. All previously unknown antebellum structures (mostly dwellings and outbuildings) were recorded as well as most representative late-nineteenth-century building types such as dwellings, domestic and agricultural outbuildings, churches, general stores, etc. Since early-twentieth-century buildings abound in the county, the surveyor was most selective about recording building types from that era. If the architectural integrity of buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was severely compromised, the surveyor tended to record better preserved examples from the same period elsewhere in the county.

Once the building was discovered and deemed worthy of recording, the surveyor took one or several photographs of the building(s) and completed a brief architectural survey form on the property including associated outbuildings and farm buildings. Often photographs of the building in its particular setting were also taken. The surveyor indicated the name of the property, if known, and a file number on the field quad map on which the property was located.

Major Findings

1. The survey identified the location and condition of approximately 157 historic properties never previously recorded by the Division of Historic Landmarks' on-going statewide survey of historic resources. The location and distribution of these properties is indicated on the accompanying maps.

2. The survey revealed two major areas in Charles City County where historic properties of historical and architectural significance are concentrated and preserved with a high degree of integrity of historical setting, feeling, and scenic character:

a. The historic properties along Routes 615 and 623 north of Route 5, the historic high road from Williamsburg to Charles City Court House, together form a significant and distinguishable entity that meets the criteria for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic district. This area, especially along the Chickahominy River, is also significant for its high potential to yield important archaeological information about the prehistory and historic settlement of the Tidewater Peninsula

b. The historic properties concentrated along Route 5, a Virginia byway, from the James City County line to the east to the Henrico County line to the west, and south to the James River, together form a significant and distinguishable entity that meets the criteria for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic district. This area, especially along the James River, is also significant for its high potential to yield important archaeological information about the prehistory and historic settlement of the Tidewater Peninsula.

3. The survey indicated the potential for state and national register designation of a small cluster of historic buildings in the vicinity of Charles City Court House as a Charles City Court House historic district and a potential Ruthville historic district, an important black community in the county.

4. The survey revealed a scattered number of late 18th- or early 19th-century farmsteads never previously recorded. Particularly

notable are the properties called Westgarden, off of Route 609, and Edge Hill (Matahunk) which appear to meet the criteria for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

5. The survey indicated the presence of other historic properties deserving of more intensive architectural study and analysis because of their high potential to qualify as eligible for individual listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places:

(Note: * means the property contributes to the historic, architectural and scenic character of the register-eligible Routes 615 and 623 rural historic district.
** means that the property contributes to the historic, architectural and scenic character of the register-eligible Route 5 rural historic district.)

- a. *Bush Hill, distinguished early-19th-century side-hall-plan frame house with a remarkably complete collection of domestic outbuildings.
- b. Westgarden, an early-19th-century brick house with an unusual gambrel roof
- c. **Burlington, 1 1/2-story late-18th-century frame house typical of period in area
- d. Wood Park, an unusual late-19th-century frame house and store
- e. *Sunny Side, a well-preserved mid-19th-century I house with early office
- f. **Colesville, a well-preserved late-18th-century frame I house
- g. **River Edge, a well-preserved 18th-century 1 1/2-story frame house with Colonial Revival additions
- h. Edge Hill (Matahunk), an unusually well-preserved 1 1/2-story hall-parlor-plan frame house of the early 19th century
- i. *Poplar Spring, a typical 1 1/2-story, three-bay facade frame house of the early 19th century
- j. Edna's Mill and Miller's House, an unusual surviving 18th-century miller's house and late-19th-century frame mill
- k. **Tettington Tombs, a rare surviving 18th-century cemetery of sophisticatedly carved tombs of the Lightfoot family
- l. **Dogham, a good example of a small planter's Greek Revival farmhouse of the mid-19th century

- m. *Wilson's General Store at Holdcroft, one of the best preserved general stores of the period in Charles City County
- n. Green Oak Farm, a good example of a typical 1 1/2-story frame farmhouse of the early 19th century and a good collection of frame farm buildings and outbuildings
- o. *Moss Side, a typical mid-19th-century frame I house with some Greek Revival details
- p. Mt. Stirling, an excellent example of a sophisticated Greek Revival plantation house and outbuildings
- q. Bethany Presbyterian Church, an excellent example of a Greek Revival frame church
- r. Portabella (Montez House), an early-19th-century frame house typical of its period with later additions.

6. While properties illustrating important developments in domestic architecture and agricultural history are well represented by the new additions to the state inventory for Charles City County, the survey discovered that historic buildings associated with the industrial, religious, educational, governmental, and commercial history of the County are relatively rare survivors.

7. Limitations of the survey methodology suggest that there is a need to undertake further comparative study of the condition and significance of historic properties related to the black and native American experience of life in Charles City County. The recently inventoried historic church buildings need similar comparative study. Further field investigation of Civil War-related sites is warranted before confident evaluation of their register eligibility can be made. Surviving school buildings in the county mostly appear to date from the early 20th century. Based on current information, none of these now appear to meet the criteria for listing on the state and national register.

Major Recommendations:

1. **Historic Districts:** The recent architectural survey conducted by the DHL indicated the presence of two potentially eligible rural historic districts in the County: one along Route 5, and the other along Routes 615 and 623. It is recommended that the County in cooperation with interested local groups and the DHL undertake the necessary fieldwork to nominate both districts to the state and national registers. In addition, there are potential small historic districts in the village of Charles City Court House and at Ruthville; however, both of these small districts are contained within the larger rural historic districts recommended above.

2. **Need for a Comprehensive Architectural Survey and Inventory:** The results of the recent survey indicate that there is a high probability of the presence of significant historic buildings, structures, and sites in areas of the county that have not been well surveyed. Therefore, it is recommended that the County, in cooperation with interested local groups and the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks, undertake a comprehensive survey of historic buildings, sites and districts in Charles City County. Such a survey should include a more intensive survey of historic resources in the County. It should lead to the production of a final survey report interpreting the findings of the survey in light of the superb historic contexts developed as chapters in Four Centuries of the Southern Experience: Charles City County, Virginia. From the Age of Discovery to the Modern Civil Rights Struggle edited by James P. Whittenburg and John M. Coski (1988). It should include an evaluation of all surveyed properties according to the National Register eligibility criteria as well as recommendations to further the goals of historic preservation in the County. This survey should be initiated and completed within the next five years, certainly before the next revision of the County's comprehensive plan.

3. **The Need for Further Archaeological Survey and Inventory:** Evaluation of existing information on known archaeological sites in the County indicates that certain areas in the County should be regarded as archaeologically sensitive. In order to develop a useful predictive model and sensitivity maps showing where such sites are most likely to be found or not likely to be found, it is recommended that an archaeological survey be undertaken by the County, in cooperation with the Landmarks Division and other

interested groups. Should a comprehensive approach not be feasible, then the County and the DHL should maintain a regular correspondence in order to keep the County apprised of the results and implications of ongoing archaeological research. The County should also require preliminary archaeological surveys in areas of the Routes 5 and 615 & 623 rural historic districts when developers apply to develop in the area.

4. Route 5 Preservation Zone: It is recommended that the County adopt appropriate local legislation to protect the historic, architectural, and scenic value of what we have identified as the Route 5 Rural Historic District. The area recommended for protection would encompass the entire length of Route 5 from Henrico to James City including a continuous buffer area of 1000 feet on either side of the road.

5. Potentially eligible historic buildings and structures: The survey revealed the presence of a number of historic buildings and structures that appear to meet the criteria for listing on the state and national registers. Their nomination should be pursued, provided that their respective owners do not object. The nomination reports of properties found eligible for the National Register based on their state significance will be prepared by the DHL staff. The nomination reports of eligible properties of local significance should be prepared by qualified professionals hired by the property owners themselves. The county should consider the historic and architectural value of these properties worthy of protection and sensitive treatment.

6. Charles City County, DHL, the College of William and Mary, and Colonial Williamsburg should be encouraged to develop a resource protection plan for each historic context identified in the soon to be published manuscript, Four Centuries of the Southern Experience: Charles City County, Virginia. From the Age of Discovery to the Modern Civil Rights Struggle edited by James P. Whittenburg and John M. Coski. The preservation plan should be modeled after a similar plan devised by Colonial Williamsburg for James City County, York County, Williamsburg, and Poquoson.

7. Protection of Historic Resources:

a. Owners of historic properties should be encouraged to follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation.

b. County should take the necessary steps to achieve Certified Local Government status.

c. Owners of significant properties should consider the donation of easements to the DHL.

8. Public Education: Charles City County and DHL should develop a slide tape program on historic architectural and archaeological resources for use in the public school system and by other interested parties. The development of the program could follow the completion of an intensive survey, or could be done based on existing information.

VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS
CHARLES CITY COUNTY SURVEY

SURVEYED PROPERTIES BY PERIOD

18th CENTURY (1700-1799)

18-1	Berkeley
18-4	Colesville
18-5	Charles City County Courthouse
18-6	Edna's Mill House
18-8	Farmington
18-9	Glebe of Westover Parish
18-10	Greenway
18-11	Burlington
18-13	Kittewan
18-16	Mt. Stirling Outbuildings
18-19	River Edge
18-20	The Rowe
18-21	Sherwood Forest
18-22 & 23	Shirley
18-24	Tettington Tombs
18-25	Toma Hund
18-27	Westover
18-28	Westover Church
18-29	Weyanoke
18-33	Eppes Island (house)
18-36	Belle Air
18-37	Eagles Lodge (Claybancke; Margots)
18-38	Cary Hill
18-61	Lott Cary Birth Site
18-67	Meadow Spring

EARLY 19th CENTURY (1800-1840)

18-14	Upper Weyanoke (brick cottage)
18-17	Oak Hill
18-18	Poplar Springs
18-48	Green Oak Farm
18-49	Bush Hill
18-52	Woodburn (Woodbourne)
18-58	Harrison's Mill

18-63 Piney Grove
18-92 George Black House
18-103 Harold Cotman House (Mill Quarter)
18-107 Westgarden
18-131 Portabella (Montez House)
18-189 Edge Hill (Matahunk)

MID-19th CENTURY (1841-1860)

18-14 Upper Weyanoke (1859 house)
18-15 Mount Stirling
18-21 Sherwood Forest (1840s remodeling)
18-45 Hardens
18-51 Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
18-54 Walker House
18-55 Sandy Point Slave Quarters
18-57 George Allen House
18-58 Edgewood
18-59 Dogham
18-65 North Bend
18-71 Peach Hill Run
18-121 Bethany Presbyterian Church
18-150 Ruby Jones House
18-162 Barbour House
18-170 Marston House
18-183 Sunnyside
18-191 River Hill
18-199 Hideaway
18-204 Mount Airy
18-209 Walker House
18-223 R. G. Dodson House
18-233 Milton
18-235 Riverview

LATE 19th CENTURY (1861-1900)

18-3 Charles City County Jail
18-7 Edna's Mill
18-26 Upper Shirley
18-46 Ladds
18-47 Ladds Store
18-68 Stephen Fletcher House

18-69	M. T. Hall House			
18-70	Orange House			
18-78	Nance-Major House & Store			
18-79	William Ferguson House			
18-82	Herbert Haupt House			
18-84	House, Route 622			
18-87	Dorothy Marston House			
18-90	J. K. Wynne Farm			
18-95	High Hills			
18-96	J. Hannabass House			
18-105	G. E. Atkins House			
18-108	House, Route 609			
18-109	House, Route 609			
18-110	House, Route 609			
18-117	Indian Fields Tavern			
18-118	Level Oak Farm			
18-119	Woodburn School Farm			
18-126	House, Route 618			
18-127	House, Route 602			
18-129	House, Route 602			
18-130	William Jones House			
18-137	Green Yard			
18-149	Wood Park			
18-151	C. H. Jones House			
18-153	Edgar Davis House			
18-154	James Bowman House			
18-156	House, Route 614			
18-157	House, Route 614			
18-158	Hazel Lampkin House			
18-166	Millbrook			
18-168	Major house			
18-169	Little Glebe			
18-171		Earl	Scott	Hous
18-176	Anthony Green House			
18-177	S. T. Brown House			
18-180	House, Route 615			
18-184	Wilcox House			
18-185	Lemon House			
18-186	Ballardsville			
18-190	Chickahominy Farms			
18-192	Orange Log House			
18-193	Graves Barn			
18-194	Pleasant Hill			
18-195	Parsons House			

18-196 Saunders House
18-198 Florence McCall House
18-201 Erd House
18-202 Bailey House
18-207 Walker House (abandoned)
18-208 Haynes House
18-221 Louise Crump House
18-224 House, Route 613 (abandoned)
18-230 Mason Washington House
18-234 House

EARLY 20th CENTURY (1901-1940)

18-62 Elam Baptist Church
18-64 Evelynnton
18-72 Sidlands
18-73 Wilson's General Store
18-74 Binns Hall
18-75 Store at Binns Hall
18-76 Albert Copland House
18-77 Liberty Baptist Church
18-80 St. John's Baptist Church
18-81 Store, Route 603
18-83 Hughes Store
18-86 Wiant House
18-88 Willie Jones House (Cool Hill)
18-91 Meredith Holmes House (Westwood)
18-93 House, Route 609
18-94 Marion Green House
18-97 Store, Route 5
18-98 New Vine Baptist Church
18-99 House at Rolands Mill
18-100 Vanessa Taylor House
18-101 Ruth Simms House
18-102 Sarah Lomax House
18-104 Neston
18-106 James Page House
18-111 Store, Route 609
18-112 House, Route 607
18-113 Wayside School
18-114 Kimages School
18-115 Store at Kimages
18-116 Glen Cove

18-120 Wright House
18-122 House, Route 618
18-123 James Stallings House
18-124 Oliver Jones House
18-125 Sarah Bradby House
18-128 House, Route 602
18-132 Ella Mae Jones House and Store
18-133 Cedar Grove Church
18-135 House, Route 618
18-136 Squirrel Park Farm
18-138 House, Route 602
18-139 House, Route 602
18-140 Cannaday House
18-141 Niceview Farm
18-142 James Christian House
18-143 Charles City County Middle School
18-144 E. F. Jones House
18-145 House, Route 155
18-146 Christian House
18-147 Robert Crump House
18-148 Boulevard Hunt Club
18-152 Store, Route 155
18-155 David Adams House
18-160 Allen Brown House
18-161 House, Route 5
18-163 Parrish Hill Church
18-164 House
18-165 Parrish Hill School
18-167 School, Route 615
18-172 Carter House
18-173 Lois Jones House
18-174 Vaiden's Store
18-175 House, Route 615
18-178 Juanita Carter House
18-181 C. B. Byrant House
18-182 Cobb House
18-187 Gill's House and Store
18-188 Harwood's Store
18-200 Willow Lane
18-203 Zimmerman House
18-205 Fellowship Hunting Lodge
18-206 Duke House
18-210 Coles House
18-211 Home Mission School

18-212 Mt. Zion Baptist Church
18-213 House, Route 623
18-214 House, Route 623
18-215 House, Route 623
18-216 House, Route 623
18-217 Spruells House
18-218 House, Route 623
18-219 James Armstead House
18-220 A. N. Hofmeyer House
18-222 J. C. Smith House
18-226 Barn, Route 617
18-227 Byrdwood (abandoned)
18-228 James River Hunt Club
18-229 House, Route 613
18-232 Lion's Den

VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

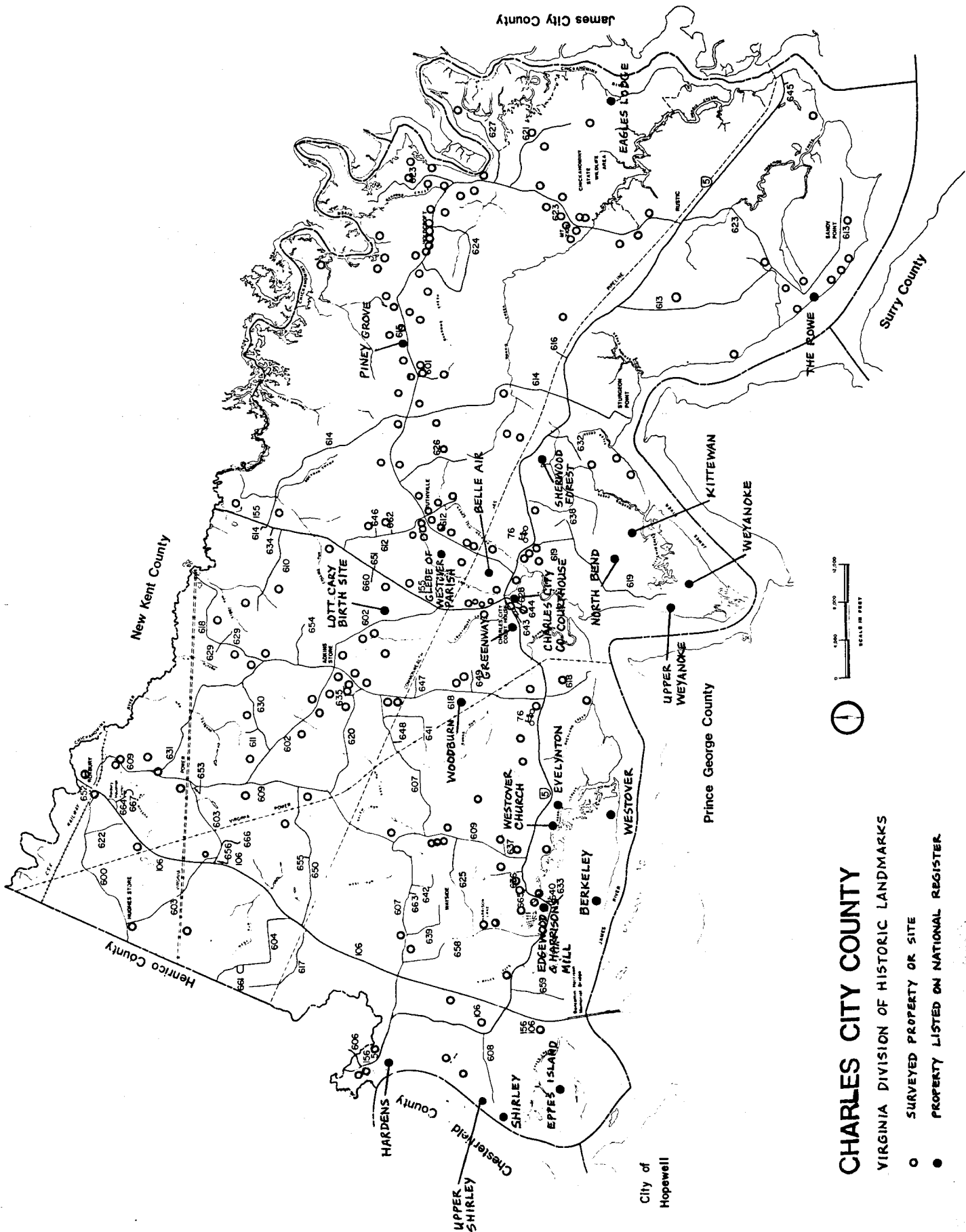
NUMRERICAL LISTING

V/N = listed on Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register
of Historic Places

n/m = not mapped

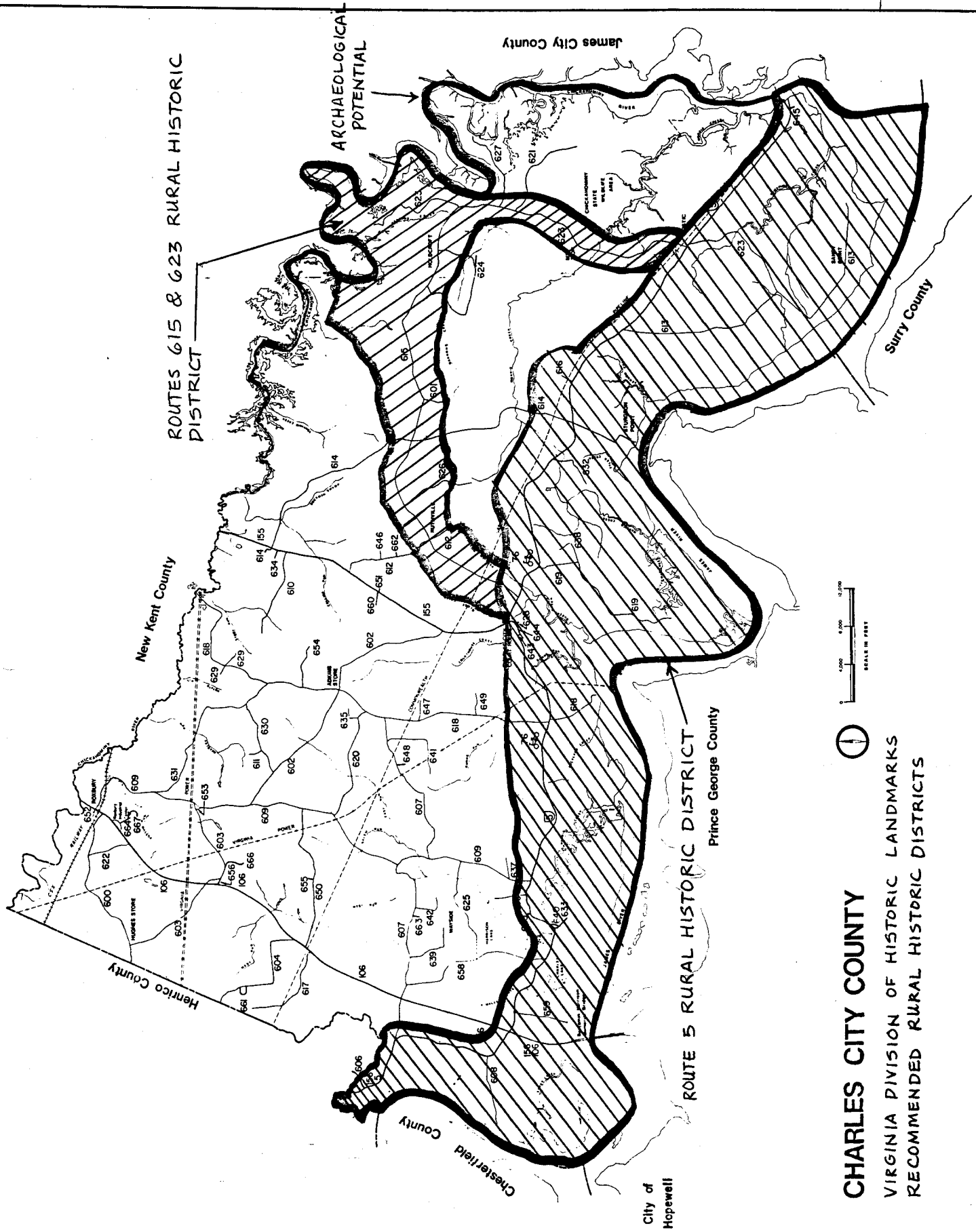
<u>FILE NO.</u>	<u>ENTRY</u>	<u>USGS 7.5' QUAD MAP</u>	
18-1	Berkeley	Westover	V/N
18-2	Brick Kiln (at Sturgeon Point)	Charles City	
18-3	Charles City County Jail (destroyed)	Charles City	
18-4	Colesville	Charles City	
18-5	Charles City County Courthouse	Charles City	V/N
18-6	Edna's Mill House (Soldier's Rest)	Roxbury	
18-7	Edna's Mill	Roxbury	
18-8	Farmington	Brandon	
18-9	Glebe of Westover Parish	Charles City	V/N
18-10	Greenway	Charles City	V/N
18-11	Burlington	Charles City	
18-12	Indian Fields House Site	Westover	
18-13	Kittewan	Charles City	V/N
18-14	Upper Weyanoke (Lower Weyanoke)	Charles City	V/N
18-15	Mount Stirling	Providence Forge	
18-16	Mount Stirling Outbuildings	Providence Forge	
18-17	Oak Hill	Charles City	
18-18	Poplar Springs	Walkers	
18-19	River Edge	Charles City	
18-20	The Rowe	Brandon	V/N
18-21	Sherwood Forest	Charles City	V/N
18-22	Shirley	Hopewell	V/N
18-23	Shirley Dependencies	Hopewell	V/N
18-24	Tettington Tombs	Claremont	
18-25	Toma Hund	Brandon	
18-26	Upper Shirley	Hopewell	V/N
18-27	Westover	Westover	V/N
18-28	Westover Church	Westover	V/N
18-29	Weyanoke	Charles City	V/N
18-30	Mount Stirling Cemetery (see archaeological report)	Providence Forge	
18-31	Shirley Tailor House	Hopewell	

18-32	Field 5 (archaeological site)	Westover
18-33	Eppes Island (Eppes House)	Westover/Hopewell V/N
18-34	Camp Weyanoke (archaeological site)	Westover
18-35	Lower Westover (see arch. report)	Brandon
18-36	Belle Air (Bel Air)	Charles City V/N
18-37	Eagles Lodge (Claybancke, Margots)	Brandon V/N
18-38	Cary Hill	Brandon
18-39	Weyanoke Trash Pit (see arch. report)	Charles City
18-40	Old Westover Church (see arch. report)	Westover
18-41	Shirley Hundred (Eppes Island (see arch. report))	Hopewell
18-42	The Forest (arch. site)	Westover
18-43	Mount Prospect	Westover (n/m)
18-44	Harrison's Mill Pond	Westover (n/m)
18-45	Hardens	Roxbury V/N
18-46	Ladds	Roxbury
18-47	Ladds Store	Roxbury
18-48	Green Oak Farm	Providence Forge
18-49	Bush Hill	Charles City
18-50	Manoah Baptist Church Site	Providence Forge
18-51	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Brandon
18-52	Woodburn (Woodbourne)	Charles City V/N
18-53	Micah Methodist Episcopal Church Site	Brandon (n/m)
18-54	Walker House	Brandon (n/m)
18-55	Sandy Point Slave Quarters	Claremont? (n/m)
18-56	Center Farm Site	Charles City
18-57	George Allen House	Brandon (n/m)
18-58	Edgewood (Harrison's Mill)	Westover V/N
18-59	Dogham	Westover
18-60	Wranglebrough House	Roxbury (n/m)
18-61	Lott Cary Birth Site	Providence Forge V/N
18-62	Elam Baptist Church	Charles City
18-63	Piney Grove	Brandon V/N
18-64	Evelynton	Westover V/N
18-65	North Bend	Charles City V/N
18-66	Moss Side	Brandon
18-67	Meadow Spring	Brandon
18-68	Stephen Fletcher House	Brandon
18-69	M. T. Hall House	Walkers
18-70	Orange House	Brandon
18-71	Peach Hill Run	Brandon
18-72	Sidlands	Brandon
18-73	Wilson's General Store	Brandon
18-74	Binns Hall	Brandon



CHARLES CITY COUNTY
 VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS

- SURVEYED PROPERTY OR SITE
- PROPERTY LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER



CHARLES CITY COUNTY

VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS
 RECOMMENDED RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS