

VLR-7/21/87 NRHP-12/14/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Windsor Castle (Preferred) (DHL File No. 47-21)

and/or common Windsor

2. Location

street & number 1812 Forge Road N/A not for publication

city, town Toano X vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county James City County code 095

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name David W. Ware

street & number P. O. Box 202

city, town Toano N/A vicinity of state Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. James City County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Williamsburg state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Survey File No. 47-21
title Division of Historic Landmarks has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970, 1973, 1987 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor St.

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Windsor Castle, also called Windsor, is an 18th-century farmstead in James City County, Virginia, approximately three miles west of the town of Toano. The property, a fifty-acre tract for at least 175 years, has been expanded, improved, and maintained since the mid-18th century by a succession of related owners, preserving its integrity as a vernacular farmstead. The property includes one contributing building, the residence; three noncontributing buildings; and one noncontributing structure. The history of the property indicates strong potential for significant archaeological resources. The farmstead is maintained in excellent condition by its owners. Windsor Castle, as originally built in the third quarter of the 18th century, had a double-pile, side-passage floor plan. The house was expanded in the late 18th or early 19th century with a two-room-deep frame addition to the west, creating a roughly symmetrical dwelling with five-bay front and central-passage floor plan. Factors such as a break in the foundation bonding, lack of basement to the west, wider dormers, narrower muntins, and lower pitch in the roof's north elevation all differentiate the later construction from the original building. Later additions were made to the west and north, but the 18th-century massing is dominant. Windsor Castle displays features characterizing many medium-sized tidewater Virginia plantation houses of the period. These include its side-passage (later central-passage) floor plan, 1½-story height, brick exterior end chimneys, and interior detailing including original closed-string stair and built-in corner cupboard.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The main facade (south elevation) of the residence at Windsor has an asymmetrical five-bay configuration, with a central entrance and five dormers piercing the gable roof. Two exterior brick chimneys stand at each end of the house. The house has a 16"-thick brick foundation with an irregular bonding pattern. The roof, probably wood-shingle originally, was later covered with standing-seam metal; the present roofing is composition shingle. The frame walls are sheathed in 8" beaded modern redwood siding, replacing original 6" weatherboard.

The three bays on the right side of the facade represent the original house. A full basement spans this section and contains some original structural undressed oak logs. The windows of the first floor have modern nine-over-nine sash and paneled shutters, while the dormers have four-over-four sash. The two bays on the left, which date from ca. 1800-30 addition, have original nine-over-nine thin-muntin sash on the main floor and six-over-six sash in the dormers. A photograph of Windsor from the Ware family papers, taken perhaps in the late 19th century, shows a small frame porch sheltering the entrance. This three-bay porch has six turned posts with jigsaw brackets in sunburst patterns. The posts and brackets were delineated with contrasting paint patterns. A simple balustrade with turned balusters enclosed the porch, and a medium-pitched hip roof rose above. A later postcard, circa 1900, suggests that this porch had been removed by that time. The existing single-bay gable-roofed porch was built in the 1966 alterations.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1760-1780
Ca. 1800-1830

Builder/Architect Unknown/N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the site of the first permanent English settlement in North America, James City County has claimed significance for nearly four centuries of American history. Windsor Castle represents one of the few remaining 18th-century vernacular farmsteads in Virginia's Lower Peninsula which have remained in agricultural use and in the same family for more than two centuries. The house with its rural setting serves as a visible lesson in the evolution of traditional culture as expressed by regional builders in Tidewater Virginia. Windsor Castle, which was probably constructed in the third quarter of the 18th century as a side-passage double-pile plan building, developed by the early 19th century into a central-passage, dwelling. The house exhibits adaptation, over successive generations, of classical principles to environmental needs. The inhabitants of Windsor Castle, which have included a planter, a William and Mary College student, a physician, a Civil War soldier, a sheriff, an editor, and a developer, have helped shape the county's history. Remarkably, the house remains on the same fifty-acre tract as it did in 1810.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ownership of Windsor has been traced to 1810 when the property was taxed as a fifty-acre parcel under the ownership of William Browne's estate and assessed at a value of \$600. Beginning in 1832, Windsor was owned by a John R. Pierce and from that time on was described as adjacent to the properties of M. S. Warren to the south, John Cowles to the west, John Cowles to the north and on the east by "Vauxhall". Windsor is still bounded by the Cowles and Vauxhall properties today. The property then passed to Mathew Pierce in 1834 and to William Bush in 1840. The value of buildings on the property increased in assessment from \$700 in 1842 to \$1200 in 1851, suggesting that additional farm structures were erected about that time. The house is identified by the name "BUSH" on an 1863 Gilmer Civil War map. The Bush family living at Windsor included Colonel William Bush (1801-1862), his spouse Malinda Elizabeth Finch Bush (1811-1862) and their ten children. One child, Trittie A. Bush, was the great-grandmother of the current owner, David Warren Ware. Ware's father, William Walker Ware, served as sheriff of James City County and Editor of The Peninsula News, a Toano newspaper.

The original 18th-century portion of Windsor Castle consisted of a 1½-story frame building with a side-passage, double-pile plan and separate chimneys serving the primary rooms. The later addition, changing the house to a central passage, double-pile plan, not only shows the need for additional space but exhibits a change in social habits which required more specific uses for rooms and greater privacy. The original parlor of

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. fifty

Quadrangle name Toano, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References Norge, VA

A

1	8	3	3	6	0	2	0	4	1	3	8	3	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	3	3	6	0	8	0	4	1	3	8	1	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	3	3	6	1	0	0	4	1	3	7	8	2	0
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D

1	8	3	3	5	6	0	0	4	1	3	7	9	1	0
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E

1	8	3	3	5	6	3	0	4	1	3	8	4	3	0
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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roberta Reid/Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Landmarks date 1987

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143

city or town Richmond state Virginia

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell
title Division of Historic Landmarks

date November 6, 1987

For NPS 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
National Park Service

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WINDSOR CASTLE, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VA
Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION -- ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS (Continued)

The east elevation is dominated by two original brick chimneys. The southeast chimney, which serves the original parlor, is the most intact of the chimneys. Its configuration is consistent with Virginia building practices of the late 17th to mid-18th centuries; it has three tiled weatherings, with a T-shaped stack and corbeled cap. The brickwork is irregular, primarily English bond, with scored joints. The northeast chimney has a similar configuration, but its stack above the second weathering has been rebuilt. These chimneys are part of the earliest construction at Windsor, and attest to its 18th-century construction. A small shed-roofed addition, providing a sheltered entrance to the unfinished basement, is located between the chimneys.

The two brick chimneys on the west elevation are of Flemish bond with mixed American bond around the weatherings, both of which having sloping sides. These chimneys have undergone more extensive repairs and reconstruction, although the forward (southwest) chimney retains its plaster necking band. A one-story frame, gabled addition, which appears in the earliest photographs of the house, extends from the west elevation.

A one-story frame addition with a hyphen connector, built in the 1966 renovation, extends from the north (rear) elevation. This addition has lapped siding, a gable roof, and nine-over-nine sash, imitating the details of the historic building. Three gabled dormers line the north roof slope of the original building.

The interior woodwork of the house is its most important feature. The historic wainscot, door and window casings display characteristic 18th-century craftsmanship. The stair, a steep winding closed-stringer stair, shows the wear of over two hundred years with the center of its treads narrowed to 7½". The stair has a simple square-section newel and balusters.

The mantelpieces of the primary parlors are particularly noteworthy. These are Federal in design and appear to date from the early 19th century. The parlor's mantelpiece has fluted pilasters to either side, with three blank tablets on its broad frieze. The mantel cornice is elaborated with a course of H-shaped dentils and a curvilinear mantel shelf. Fine paneled 3'-wide wainscot (which may predate the mantels) is carried through this room. This parlor also features an original built-in walnut corner cupboard, with scalloped shelving and a dentil cornice. The parlor chimney, originally the cooking chimney, was reduced in size in the late 18th century, after the construction of a separate kitchen. A doorway on the left of the chimney, which originally led down to storage, now encloses a display cabinet.

The mantel in the southwest room (the hall) has a crossetted fire surround, enclosed by fluted colonnettes carrying a tableted frieze. The H-motif is repeated on a larger scale in this mantel's cornice. A curvilinear mantel shelf with a reeded edge crowns this mantel. Wainscoting in this room has distinctive wide paneling, comprised of single planks, and a chair rail enriched with dentil molding. The six-over-six sash in this room appear to be original.

(See Continuation Sheet 2)

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Continuation sheet #2

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7. DESCRIPTION -- ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS (Continued)

The chair rail in the stairhall (passage) has a distinctive symmetrical profile, with a central ovolo molding. A locking crossbar, some 44" long, is preserved by the owners, and testifies to the original width of the front door. The original double-leaf front door, now in storage, has been replaced with a similar, but wider single-leaf door and transom.

The two rear rooms of Windsor Castle have been adapted for use as a kitchen and a library. The crosstetted mantelpiece in the library may be original, but the paneling in this room is 20th-century.

Interior walls and ceilings are finished in plaster. Wooden cornices were added to most rooms in the 20th century. Several doors and door casings were rebuilt in this period as well. Some of the doors are original, and retain H-L hinges. Other than a closet door under the stair, the smallest opening leads from the parlor (southeast room) to the kitchen (northeast room).

The second floor has three bedrooms flanking the stair hall. A bathroom has been built at the rear of the hall. Original 6" to 8" pine flooring can be seen in the northeast bedroom. Original flooring remains under later pine flooring on the rest of the second story.

The house was renovated and enlarged in 1966 for David W. Ware, according to designs provided by the Richmond architectural firm of Rawlings and Wilson. A new frame porch and a one-story rear wing were built at this time. An ongoing program of repair and renovation has reinforced the foundation walls and the floor joists, and replaced the deteriorated siding with beaded redwood siding. A contemporary HVAC system has been installed with minimal imposition on the building's historic features and spaces. Exterior storm windows have been installed on all windows.

The four outbuildings at Windsor Castle are considered to be noncontributing. A modern frame garage with four bays and a gable roof is located directly north of the house. To the north of the garage is a contemporary open shed with a gable roof, which provides shelter for farm machinery. A mid-20th-century frame tool shed is located just west of the garage. This shed, which was formerly attached to the north elevation of the house, was moved in the 1966 rehabilitation. To the south of the house, located over an 18th-century well, is a modern frame wellhouse with a pyramidal roof.

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Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Continued)

Windsor (southeast room) was probably used for cooking and entertaining. Later, the southwest room probably served for receiving guests and the southeast room for dining. The addition of stylish Federal mantels in the early 19th century testifies both to the prosperity of the owners and their desire to display their wealth.

Several historical developments indicate excellent potential for the archaeological study of 18th- and 19th- century agricultural outbuildings. These include family oral history, which described a separate kitchen, and a 1937 HABS photograph showing scattered outbuildings including detail of a log smokehouse.

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WINDSOR CASTLE, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VA
Continuation sheet #4

Item number 9, 10

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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Comprehensive Planning Team, James City County, Virginia. Heritage and Historic Site. March 17, 1975.

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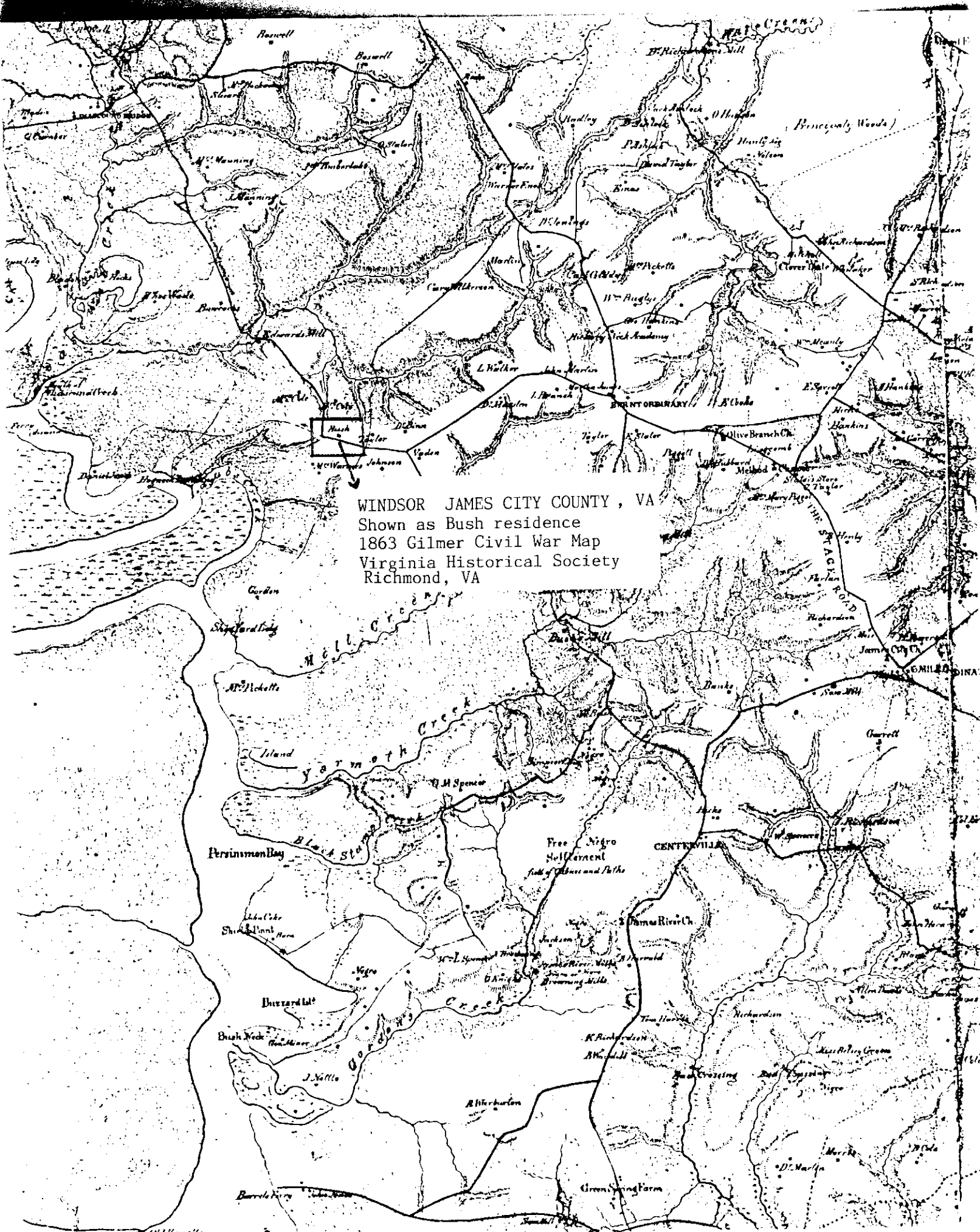
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia. James City County Land Tax Records, 1782-1860.

William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. Volume 17, 1937, 2nd series. "Old Houses in James City County," plate 12.

JUSTIFICATION: Bounds are shown to coincide with the 1934 plat map in owner's possession.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property is located at the NE corner of the junction of VA Routes 610 and 603 in James City County, VA, consisting of approximately fifty acres which extend approximately 1600' E from the intersection of VA Routes 610 and 603, along N side of VA 610; thence approximately 1100' N; thence approximately 600' SW; thence approximately 1000' N; thence approximately 1300' W to point on the E side of VA 603; thence approximately 1700' S following E side of VA 603 to point of origin.



WINDSOR JAMES CITY COUNTY, VA
Shown as Bush residence
1863 Gilmer Civil War Map
Virginia Historical Society
Richmond, VA