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CONDITION X_EXCELLENT (main house) ETERIORATED __GOOD __RUINS __FAIR X_UNEXPOSED CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X.ORIGINAL SITE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Weyanoke Plantation is located on a broad, flat, 1,225-acre James River peninsula. This peninsula is roughly triangular in shape and three-quarters of a mile wide. It is bordered on the north by Kittewan Creek, a marshy, meandering tributary of the James, and by a wooded road leading from near the head of the creek westward toward the riverbank. The southern tip of the peninsula, known as Weyanoke Point, is a large marsh.

The entire Weyanoke property may be considered a working plantation. Its fields are used for grazing and crops. The main house is located near the center of the property on the edge of a low ridge which has been terraced toward the south. An axial road bordered by whitewashed fences leads to the house from the north. Modern farm buildings stand to the east of the road. One old outbuilding remains, a smokehouse, located east of the main house. An early barn formerly stood further east; it was dismantled in recent years. From the southern or river front of the house, sweeping views can be obtained of the terraced garden, fields and the distant river.

An archaeological reconnaissance survey was conducted at Weyanoke during which surface collections were made in the plowed fields covering much of the plantation. Forty sites were located, representative of the 10,000 years of human activity. Two extensive prehistoric sites, 44CC45A and 44CC45B, are situated on the western side of the property on the bank of the James (Figure 1). Both sites are approximately the same size, 750 feet on a north-south axis by 150 feet, east-west. A rectangular area, littered with stone debitage and finished tools, defines each site. Although the bulk of the materials collected from these sites dates to the Middle and Late Archaic periods, there is also evidence of Early Archaic occupation. These sites have also yielded Woodland period ceramics and projectile points.

There are at least four small Woodland sites on the property. Surface materials found at each of these sites were widely dispersed.

At Weyanoke, evidence of English settlement dating to the early seventeenth century was found in two areas. A cluster of small sites containing materials from the first half of the seventeenth century were found in two areas. A cluster of small sites containing materials from the first half of the seventeenth century are situated 2,400 feet to the south and southwest of the main mansion. The pattern of these sites suggests that several structures were located in close proximity to each other, perhaps surrounded by some type of fortification. Early seventeenth-century settlement also occurred in the easternmost field at site 44CC88.

A site of major occupation dating to the second half of the seventeenth century, 44CC55, was found. Seven other seventeenth-century sites are scattered across the plantation's lower fields.

Substantial eighteenth-century occupation is evident at site locations 44CC55 and 44CC53. 44CC53 is "T" shaped, measuring about 350 feet along each axis, and it contains heavy concentrations of bricks and brickbats. Three smaller eighteenth-century sites have been found elsewhere on the property.

Numerous nineteenth-century archaeological remains were located well away from the river, near the mansion. Although these sites were not tested extensively, they appear to be the remains of buildings associated with agricultural uses.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH		
<u>X</u> PREHISTOHIC	X_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
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X1500-1599	XAGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
X1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	X_MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Weyanoke, a 1,225-acre James River peninsula situated eighteen miles above Jamestown, has been the site of habitation by man for at least 10,000 years. Archaeological remains dating from 6,000 B. C. and extending throughout the historic period are contained within the acreage nominated. The preservation of the archaeological remains on Weyanoke Plantation provides a unique opportunity to conserve representative components from every significant period of Virginia history through the nineteenth century.

Evidence recovered from the archaeological survey of Weyanoke Plantation indicates that Weyanoke Point was first settled during the Middle Archaic period, which began around 6,500 B. C. and lasted for 4,500 years. The Atlantic tidewater region, which includes Weyanoke Point, has been suggested as the center of an Archaic tradition called the Coastal Archaic, cultures which placed great emphasis on the gathering of fish and shellfish.

The Archaic archaeological component of Weyanoke Plantation has significant research potential because no rigorous scientific investigation has been previously conducted on Virginia sites of that period. Artifacts surface-collected in these locations date from the Middle and Late Archaic periods; there is also evidence of Early Archaic occupation.

Weyanoke Plantation also contains significant evidence of occupation during the Woodland period, a more sophisticated tradition which included the making of pottery and utilized horticultural practices. Due to the presence of archaeological remains of both the Archaic and Woodland periods at Weyanoke, it is likely that occupational evidence exists which spans the transitional period between the Archaic and Woodland cultures. Scientific archaeological investigation would likely define this evolutionary process.

During the early years of the seventeenth century, Weyanoke Point and its environs were inhabited by the Weyanoke Indians. Numbering approximately 330 individuals, they were one of the largest tribes in the Powhatan Confederacy. The central area of Weyanoke Indian settlement was southern Charles City County and northern Prince George County. Documentary sources indicate that these Indians had one main village and five smaller ones. Although early cartographers dispute the location of the main village, they agree that one of the lesser villages was situated on the Weyanoke peninsula. A contemporary description of the dwellings in a typical Powhatan Indian village states that they lived in little cottages made of canes and reeds, covered with bark, which were situated by the waterside. These villages, consisting of forty to fifty individuals, were usually spaced a mile to a mile and a half apart. Weyanoke was the site of a Weyanoke Indian village when it was first observed by English settlers.

According to the historical record, the Weyanoke peninsula was first sighted by English colonists on May 21, 1607, when Captain Christopher Newport led an exploration party up the James River; they anchored at Weyanoke overnight. Five days later the explorers returned and disembarked on the south side of Weyanoke, where they encountered the Indians and found them to be hospitable. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPH	HCAL REFER	ENCES			
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rincing office, 1900-55.	,		(See Continuat	tion Sheet #	5) .
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> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Weyanoke, Charles City County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 7 PAGE 1

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DATE ENTERED

6. <u>REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</u>

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory 1958 Federal Library of Congress Washington, D. C.
- (3) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey 1967, 1973, 1975 State
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 221 Governor Street
 Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

The mansion at Weyanoke, constructed in the 1790's, is a formal Georgian mansion. Its central section measures approximately fifty-five feet by thirty-two feet. It is a two-story frame house sheathed with molded weatherboards and set on a brick foundation laid in English bond. Covering the house is a shallow hipped roof with a modillion cornice and two interior chimneys at either end. The land and river fronts are nearly identical. Each has five bays with nine-over-nine sash windows on both levels. All the windows are hung with louvered blinds.

Except for the addition of later porches and minor one-story wings, the exterior of the house stood in essentially unchanged condition from the time it was completed until 1938 when it was bought by Lawrence Lewis, Sr. At that time Mr. Lewis hired Richmond architect Foster Townsend to restore the house and enlarge it with the addition of large This was accomplished by adding three-bay, story-and-a-half hyphens connected to wings. two-story, hipped-roof terminal wings set perpendicularly to the main block. The result was an exceedingly grand composition some 130 feet in length. The only notable changes made to the original portion of the house included the addition of a small, colonialtype porch to each of the main entrances as well as the addition of three hipped dormers to each of the main slopes of the roof; the side slopes already had one dormer each, placed between the chimneys. When Lawrence Lewis, Jr., acquired the house in 1972 he reduced its size by removing the terminal wings and leaving the hyphens. The large shedroof porch on one of the wings was retained, replacing the small porch on the river front of the main block. The removed wings themselves were joined together to make a new house elsewhere on the property.

The plan of the house, as it exists today, consists of an L-shaped center hall with the base of the L located on the land side. Weyanoke's noted Chinese lattice stair begins its ascent in the west end of the L base and rises over the land-front door to a landing where it turns and continues to the second-floor hall. The rest of the woodwork in the hall consists of paneled wainscoting and a relatively heavy detailed cornice. Both the land and river entrances have distinctive nine-paneled doors with unusual diagonal bracing. On either side of the hall's north end are relatively small rooms with paneled end walls. The northeast room has been reduced in depth by the addition of a closet and (See Continuation Sheet #2) GPO 892 455

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Weyanoke, Charles City County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 2,1

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(See Continuation Sheet #5)

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DATE ENTERED

7. DESCRIPTION

bathroom in its west end. The woodwork in both rooms shows signs of considerable restoration.

In the southwest corner of the house is a large parlor featuring a handsome chimney piece with crossetted overmantel topped by a bold pediment. Surrounding the room is a Tuscan cornice and pedestal-type chair rail. Most of this architectural trim is old, but it may be the result of early remodeling. The dining room across the hall is noted for its fully paneled chimney wall ornamented with detailed cornice, fluted pilasters and flanking chimney closets. The rest of the room is surrounded by paneled wainscoting.

The second-floor plan corresponds generally to the first-floor plan and the architectural detailing is similar enough, though more simple than that below. All the rooms have paneled end walls; however, it is difficult to tell which sections of woodwork are original and which date from the 1939 restoration. In the rest of the house, modern conveniences such as bathrooms, closets, and heating equipment have been discreetly installed so that the eighteenth-century character of the rooms has not been disturbed. The house is maintained in excellent condition.

MWM/CCL

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Ten years later, Opechancanough, Powhatan's younger brother, gave 2,200 acres of land at Weyanoke to Sir George Yeardley, Governor of Virginia. This grant was firmed by the Virginia Company on November 19, 1618. During that same month, Yeardley acquired the services of 26 indentured servants, who arrived at Weyanoke in April 1619 along with an adventurer, Thomas Stephens, who was placed in charge of the settlement. Historical documentation suggests that in the fall of 1619 part of the first group of Negroes brought to Virginia were placed at Weyanoke. Therefore, the early seventeenth-century archaeological remains at Weyanoke likely include evidence of both the initial contact period between the Indian and English as well as the earliest period of Negro slavery.

Although there is little documentation about the first English settlement at Weyanoke, archaeological evidence suggests that this habitation occurred in the eastern portion of the plantation, known as Weyanoke Neck. This settlement appears to have been fortified. The Weyanoke Indians also continued to live on the peninsula.

In 1622 George Yeardley's settlement at Weyanoke was decimated by the March 22 Indian massacre. Mortality figures indicate the loss of twenty-one lives, among the highest casualty rates listed in the census of the James River plantations.

Weyanoke was subsequently abandoned by the English. In spite of occasional English reprisal, the Weyanoke Indians returned to the peninsula. In July of 1623 when Captain Nathanial West visited Weyanoke, he found them back at their old village. Although he killed a number of them, a small segment of their population remained at the village.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Weyanoke, Charles City County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 8

8. SIGNIFICANCE

In 1624 George Yeardley sold his plantations, Weyanoke and Flowerdew Hundred, to Abraham Piersey. Although Piersey's daughter repatented Flowerdew Hundred in 1635, she allowed the Weyanoke patent to lapse. Patent records are conspicuously absent for this location during the 1630's and early 1640's, possibly because it was still inhabited by the Weyanoke Indians. In 1645 the Weyanoke Indians are known to have left their traditional Virginia home and fled to North Carolina where they settled among the Tuscaroras.

In the early 1650's, shortly after the departure of the Indians, substantial parcels of land at Weyanoke were purchased and patented by Joseph Harwood, a merchant and entrepreneur who operated a ferry and tavern at Charles City County. He rented portions of Weyanoke to tenants who resided there and farmed the land. During the ownership of Joseph Harwood the earliest church in Weyanoke parish was constructed on the property. This small brick church was located close to the river; its foundations were still visible in the 1920's.

Upon the death of Joseph Harwood in 1680 Weyanoke's acreage passed to his son, Joseph, Jr. He, in turn, continued to add to the plantation acreage. When Joseph, Jr., and his son died in 1737, the land was conveyed to Joseph, Jr.'s grandson, Samuel. Samuel built his home at Weyanoke; however, he died at age twenty-eight and his widow moved to Bacon's Castle in Surry County. During this period of absentee ownership, Weyanoke was left to the hands of the overseers.

In 1763, young Samuel Harwood, who was reared at Bacon's Castle, took up his patrimony and attempted to restore it. He constructed a mill and a small shipyard and had Weyanoke farmed in the traditional manner of a slaveowner. Thus, archaeological excavation at Weyanoke could also reveal much about life on a working tenant plantation during the eighteenth century and it could provide valuable information on shipyard construction of that period as well.

Samuel Harwood took a strong patriotic stand in the early days of the Revolution and served on the Charles City County Committee of Safety as well as being a delegate from Charles City County in the Convention of 1776. During the Revolutionary War there were many troop movements in front of Weyanoke Plantation. It was the location of the river crossing for the news express established by Governor Thomas Jefferson for the purpose of apprising himself of the movements of Benedict Arnold's army.

Following Samuel Harwood's death in 1778, his widow married Benjamin Edmundson. They continued to live at Weyanoke until they died in the 1790's. At that time, their daughter and her husband, Fielding Lewis, inherited the plantation.

It was Fielding Lewis, son of Warner Lewis of Warner Hall in Gloucester County, who brought Weyanoke back to prosperity and constructed as his family residence the 1798 frame mansion which standstoday. He retained John Stubbs, a Gloucester housewright, as his builder.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Weyanoke, Charles City County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #4	ITEM NUMBER 8	PAGE 4	

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Unlike many planters of his time, Fielding Lewis was not active in public affairs. Instead he concentrated most of his attention on agriculture and was in fact a pioneer in the practice of scientific farming methods. He worked with crop rotation techniques and made extensive use of fertilizers. Famed agronomist and agricultural reformer Edmund Ruffin was so impressed with Lewis's advanced farming practices that he published several articles in The American Farmer about the methods used at Weyanoke.

At the time of Fielding Lewis's death in 1834, he left an extremely prosperous plantation to his daughter, Eleanor Lewis Douthat, wife of Robert Douthat of Richmond. Although Robert Douthat died at an early age, his widow capably managed and maintained Weyanoke's prosperity for the next thirty years. During that time the plantation was also noted as a social center. Fourteen years before her death in 1862, Eleanor Douthat deeded Weyanoke Plantation to her two sons, with the house and the main part of the plantation going to her son Robert.

After the battle of Cold Harbor, General Philip Sheridan's troops occupied Weyanoke. On June 14, 1864, the troops constructed a road through the property to a landing point where they built a pontoon bridge. Under the protection of Union gunboats, 15,000 troops crossed the James River on this bridge and marched toward Petersburg to participate in the final great battle of the war.

Robert Douthat was captured and imprisoned during the Civil War but was subsequently pardoned and allowed to return to Weyanoke. Unable to succeed in farming under the new order, he sold the plantation in 1877 to Robert Alvis, a Richmond builder. Upon Alvis's bankruptcy, Weyanoke was sold in 1896 to Edmund A. Saunders, a Richmond merchant.

The Weyanoke property remained in the Saunders family until 1938 when it was acquired by Lawrence Lewis, Sr. Lewis's daughter Mary Lewis Knowles Pollard received title to the property in 1942; she sold it to John C. Hagen, Sr., in 1955. It was subsequently sold to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Taylor in 1959, who in turn sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Taylor. Upon the death of Alfred Taylor in 1972, his widow sold Weyanoke to Lawrence Lewis, Jr., the son of Lawrence Lewis, Sr., who had purchased the property in 1938.

The house erected by Fielding Lewis at Weyanoke stands as a handsome example of traditional Virginia plantation architecture. It follows a basically Georgian format with its rectilinear outline, symmetrical facades, and hipped roof. Architectural investigation of this structure has established that it was constructed in the late 1790's and was built all at once. Although this structure was extensively renovated in 1939, most of the significant original fabric remains intact. Especially significant is its interior trim, which includes a handsome paneled wall with fluted pilasters and dentil cornice in the dining room and a Chinese lattice stair in the hall. This latter feature, though not devoid of certain provincialisms, is a significant example of an exotic stylistic form seen primarily in finer eighteenth-century houses.

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

GPO 892 455

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Weyanoke, Charles City County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #5

ITEM NUMBER7 . 8.9.10 PAGE 3.5.1

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Weyanoke Plantation is significant not only because it contains a structurallyunique example of Virginia plantation architecture but because within its boundaries are the archaeological remains of man's continuous occupation which spans 10,000 years. In addition to the highly significant prehistoric remains on the property, the nominated acreage contains evidence of earliest colonial settlement. An opportunity exists to trace the evolution of a Virginia plantation system and its social classes from its inception with the early seventeenth-century immigrant settlertenant farmer through its zenith in the eighteenth century. As the working plantation of gentleman-farmer Fielding Lewis, Weyanoke is significant as an area of extensive agricultural experimentation.

MWM/CCL

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

side of the east-west road, then continuing SW to N bank of James River; thence extending approximately 4.5 miles, following N shore of the James River southward then curving around Weyanoke Point and continuing northeastward to the confluence of the James and Kittewan Creek; thence extending along S bank of said creek northwestward then westward to point of origin.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lewis, Fielding, "Memorandum of the general system of cultivation and improvement practiced by Fielding Lewis of Weyanoke." <u>The American Farmer 15:146</u> (1833-34).

Luccketti, Nicholas. "1977 Survey of Weyanoke Plantation, Charles City County, Virginia." n.p.

 Map: U.S. Army of the Potomac Engineer Department. "Weyanoke Plantation, 1864."
 Nugent, Nell M. <u>Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants</u> <u>1623-1666</u>. Genealogical Press. Baltimore, 1963.
 True, Ransom B. Plantation on the James, Weyanoke and her People, <u>1607-1938</u>. n.p., 1977.

7. DESCRIPTION

In the northwest corner of the property, along the river, are located a modern house with outbuildings and farm buildings. Although this immediate area was not included in the 1977 VRCA survey, there could be potential Civil War sites in the vicinity. About 1500' northeast of these structures stand another 20th-century farm building and a caretaker's cottage.

GPO 892 455

FHR-8-300A

(11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Weyanoke, Charles City, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #6

ITEM NUMBER 7

7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is drawn to include that part of the Weyanoke peninsula which today is composed of Sandy Field Farm and Weyanoke Plantation, both under the ownership of Lawrence Lewis, Jr., and collectively constituting a working farm. The westernmost tract was known as Sandy Fields and was incorporated into Weyanoke Plantation by Fielding Lewis Douthat in 1854. The present Sandy Field Farm takes its name from this tract and is included within the register bounds because of its historical associations with Weyanoke Plantation since the mid-19th century and its concentration of 17th-, 18th, and 19thcentury archaeological sites. The boundary follows the property line to the northwest and natural lines otherwise: the south side of Kittewan Creek to the north and the north shore of the James River to the southeast and west. Within these bounds are situated the main house with its smokehouse and modern farm buildings, the cluster of 20th-century structures to the northwest, Weyanoke Point to the south, and the scattered collection of historic and prehistoric archaeological sites.

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PAGE 6







