

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Mathews	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 68-1145-0094	DATE 11/12/69

1. NAME

COMMON:

Poplar Grove Mill and House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Tide Mill and Poplar Grove

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .1 mi. NE of East River, .5 mi. SW of intersection of Rt.
14 and Rt. 613, 1.1 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 613 and Rt. 614.

CITY OR TOWN:

Williams vicinity

STATE

Virginia

CODE

45

COUNTY:

Mathews

CODE

115

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District ☐ Building ☒	Public ☐	Public Acquisition: ☐	Occupied ☒	Yes:
Site ☐ Structure ☐	Private ☒	In Process ☐	Unoccupied ☐	Restricted ☐
Object ☐	Both ☐	Being Considered ☐	Preservation work in progress ☐	Unrestricted ☐
				No: ☒

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural ☐	Government ☐	Park ☐	Transportation ☐	Comments ☐
Commercial ☐	Industrial ☐	Private Residence ☒	Other (Specify) ☒	
Educational ☐	Military ☐	Religious ☐	Mill - vacant	
Entertainment ☐	Museum ☐	Scientific ☐		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

Mr. James Morrison Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:

1123 Crest Lane

CITY OR TOWN:

McLean

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Mathews County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Mathews

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 22.50 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959

Federal ☒State ☐County ☐Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D. C.

CODE

08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Mathews
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent ☒	Good ☐	Fair ☐	Deteriorated ☐	Ruins ☐	Unexposed ☐
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered ☐			Unaltered ☒		
				Moved ☐		
				Original Site ☒		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

X The tide mill at Poplar Grove is a two-story frame structure with a gable roof built on a narrow mole which separates a small lagoon or mill pond from the bay. The action of the tide, causing water to flow between the lagoon and the bay, turned the large mill wheel at the side of the building, some of whose original mechanism survives on the interior. Out of operation since 1912, the mill stood in poor condition until a recent thorough restoration. The sluice or race has been dammed up, and the water now flows from the lagoon to the bay through another channel.

Y The earliest portion of the Poplar Grove house, across the lagoon, is a small one-and-a-half story gambrel roof cottage which has been incorporated into the present five-section house as an end wing. The central portion of the house is a late-eighteenth century temple-form building fronted by a later Ionic portico.

The beautiful setting of Poplar Grove, with its broad lawns, large old trees and fine view across Mobjack Bay, has changed little in the past century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Mathews	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
68-11-45-0094	11/12/69

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #57-8, 57-9
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: ~~760~~ 45

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century ☐
 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐	Education ☐	Political ☐	Urban Planning ☐
Prehistoric ☐	Engineering ☐	Religion/Phi- ☐	Other (Specify) ☒
Historic ☐	Industry ☒	losophy ☐	<u>Architecture</u>
Agriculture ☐	Invention ☐	Science ☐	
Art ☒	Landscape ☐	Sculpture ☐	
Commerce ☐	Architecture ☐	Social/Human- ☐	
Communications ☐	Literature ☐	itarian ☐	
Conservation ☐	Military ☒	Theater ☐	
	Music ☐	Transportation ☐	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

A tide operated mill has existed at Poplar Grove since colonial times; however the present structure replaces the original mill which was burned during the Civil War. It is believed that corn was ground at the Poplar Grove mill for General Washington's troops when they camped nearby. At one time these ingenious structures were common throughout the Chesapeake Bay region but the Poplar Grove mill is the only such mill remaining in Virginia, and continued in operation until 1912.

Across the small lagoon from the mill is the Poplar Grove house, residence of the millers. The earliest portion of this rambling structure was probably built for John Patterson before the Revolutionary War. The house derives its name from the many poplar trees which Patterson planted. Patterson's granddaughter, Captain Sally Tompkins, the famous woman Confederate officer, was born at Poplar Grove in 1833.

The central portion of the Poplar Grove house was built in the late-eighteenth century by Richard Billups, a noted local builder known for his individual style.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Houses: The Mobjack Bay Country,
New York: Bonanza Books, 1955.

Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia, Garden Club of Virginia, Richmond:
Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1962.

Lancaster, Robert A., Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Philadelphia:
J. B. Lippincott Company, 1915.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	37°	24'	10"	76°	20'	30"		
NE	37°	24'	10"	76°	19'	14"		
SE	37°	23'	44"	76°	19'	14"		
SW	37°	23'	44"	76°	20'	30"		

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

June 2, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:

Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

CODE

45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Edw. P. Alexander by John

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date

10-7-69

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 12 1969

Date

ATTEST:

William J. Swartz
Keeper of The National Register

Date

OCT 29 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

① 18/383030/4140140

② 18/383030/4139260

③ 18/381180/4139280

④ 18/381190/4140180

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Mathews	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Tide Mill and Poplar Grove

2. LOCATION

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and Rt. 613, 1.1 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 613 and Rt. 614.
CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:
Virginia

CODE
45

COUNTY:
Mathews

CODE
115

3. MAP REFERENCE

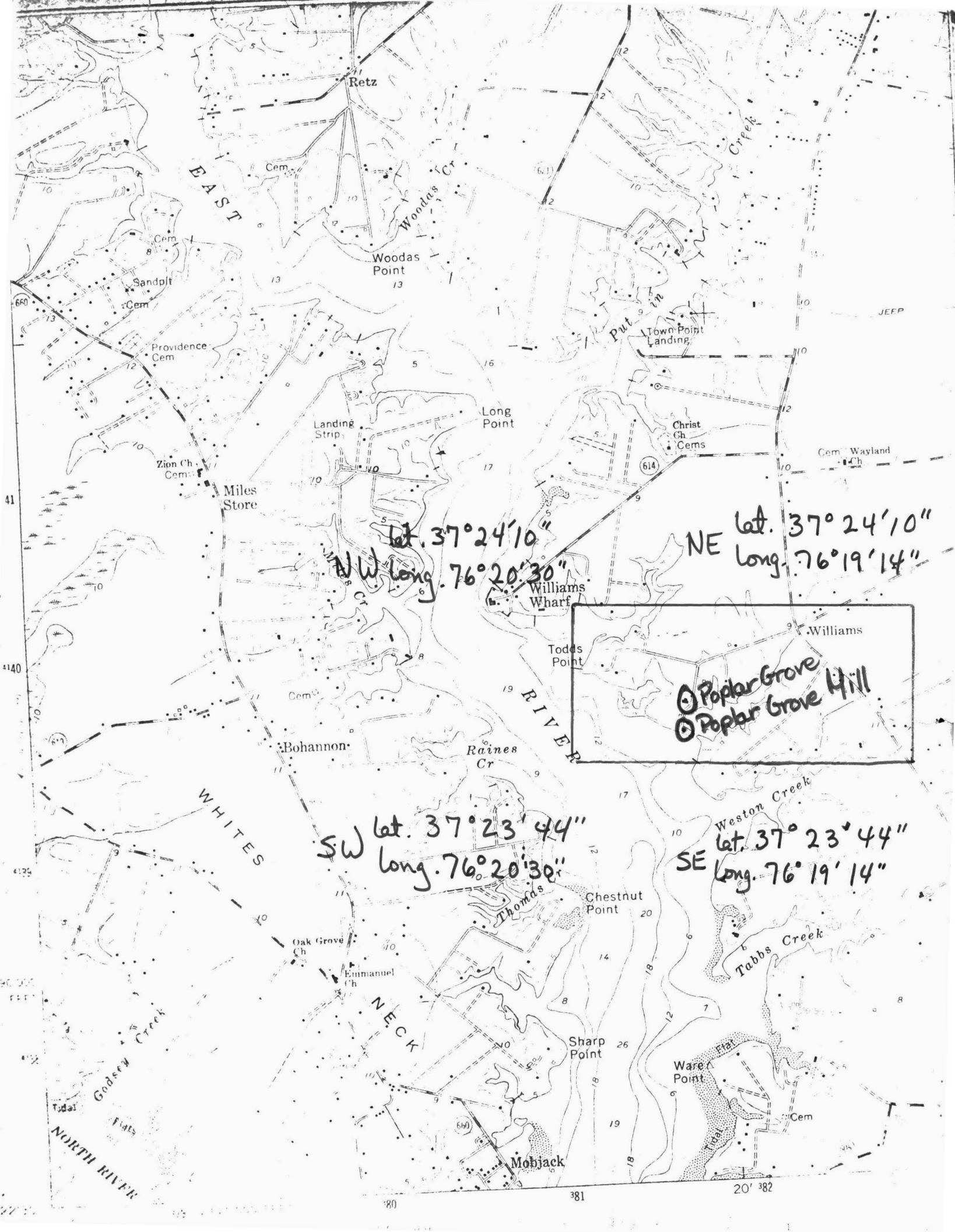
SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7½, quadrangle Mathews
SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1965

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NW Lat. 37°24'10"
Long. 76°20'30"

NE Lat. 37°24'10"
Long. 76°19'14"

SW Lat. 37°23'44"
Long. 76°20'30"

SE Lat. 37°23'44"
Long. 76°19'14"

Poplar Grove
Poplar Grove Hill