

VLR-10/21/80 NRHP-6/21/82

**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

1. Name

historic Kendall Grove

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 674 not for publication
city, town Eastville vicinity of congressional district First (Paul S. Trible, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 The Benjamin W. Mears, Sr. Estate c/o Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Turner, Jr.
street & number 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

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1969, 1972, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A Northampton County residence, Kendall Grove is located off Route 674 approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Eastville on Mattawoman Creek. The Federal-style residence was built ca. 1813 with improvements made to the property ca. 1840. Cross-shaped in plan, the two-story, wood-frame house has two-story projecting pavilions on the front and the rear and smaller two-story wings on each end. The main house is joined by a long passage to a wood-frame kitchen-laundry. A small complex of original outbuildings also includes a dairy, storage shed, and smokehouse. Two necessaries are parallel to the kitchen.

The main house is constructed on a brick foundation and is covered with weatherboarding. The principal entrance is located on the main (east) elevation of the projecting center pavilion. A replacement glass and wood-paneled front door is contained within a simply executed architrave. The entry is sheltered by the original flat-roof porch which consists of four slender Doric columns on a brick podium supporting an entablature with modillions and applied stylized decoration. A ca. 1880-90 photograph shows a Chinese-style lattice railing above the porch, which has since been removed. The original marble steps remain in place. The treatment of the entrance and portico is repeated on the rear (west) elevation; where the portico has been glassed in. The main entrance is flanked by entrances on each of the end wings, added to the house as part of the 1840 improvements. Replacement glass and wood-paneled doors topped by three-light transoms are contained within a simply executed architrave. The entrances are sheltered by dwarf pedimented porticos that are distinguished by modillions and applied star decoration. Similar porticos are on the rears of the wings. Modillions and applied star decoration are also found on the main cornices. Fenestration consists of 9/9 hung sash on the ca. 1813 block and 6/6 hung sash on the later wings. Louvred shutters flank the windows. The cross gables in the main block have semicircular fan windows in rectangular frames with fan-like spandrels. The house features interior end chimneys, one at each end of the original section and one on the end of the rear pavilion.

Kendall Grove has a distinguished interior in an excellent state of preservation. At the time of the improvements, ca. 1840, modifications were made to the principal first-floor rooms, resulting in Greek Revival detailing. A lateral entrance passage on the first floor provides access to the parlor, dining room, and a former bed chamber now used as a study. The entrance passage contains a lateral stair to the second floor. The curved, open-well stair has a scroll newel, a rounded handrail, scroll-sawn brackets, and square balusters, three to a tread. The door frames are embellished with symmetrically molded architrave trim with turned corner blocks. The ceiling is also bordered with symmetrically molded trim and turned corner blocks executed in plaster. The woodwork in the hall is completed by a paneled pedestal-type wainscot and a molded chair rail. The parlor, dining room, and former bed chamber have early Greek Revival-style mantels. Applied Wellford ornamentation and King of Prussia marble surrounds enhance the mantels. The rooms also have pedestal-type wainscots, symmetrically molded architrave trim with turned corner blocks, and molded ceiling cornices. The 1840 wings include cross passages, small sitting rooms, and each a school room and pantry. The rooms are less elaborately treated than those in the main block of the house.

The second floor contains the bed chambers. The mantels on the second floor are executed in a Federal style. The rooms have symmetrically molded architrave trim, turned corner blocks, and paneled pedestal-type wainscoting.

(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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1813; ca. 1840 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kendall Grove was built ca. 1813 by George Parker, a member of the Virginia Convention of 1788 and later judge of the Virginia General Court. The house is one of a group of prominent Federal-style houses on Virginia's Eastern Shore that includes Grapeland, Wharton Place, Kerr Place, and Brownsville. Kendall Grove's notable interior, which features fine plaster moldings, King of Prussia marble fireplace surrounds, Wellford ornamentation, and Greek Revival mantels, illustrates how the Eastern Shore gentry adapted styles and fashions from the metropolitan centers of Boston, Baltimore, and Philadelphia to make architecturally sophisticated country residences. The long, low passage connecting the dwelling house to the kitchen is an indigenous feature of the Shore's vernacular architecture, as is the organization of its outbuildings. Kendall Grove is also significant as the home of George Parker's only child, General Severn E. Parker, a delegate and senator to the Virginia General Assembly and a member of the U.S. Congress, 1819-21.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Kendall Grove was built on property owned by George Kendall, who died in his twenties in 1784. The land was eventually inherited by his fiancée, Margaret Eyre, daughter of Severn Eyre of Eyre Hall. She married George Parker in 1786, and they erected their house on the Kendall property, naming it in honor of George Kendall. The Kendalls, who were one of the Eastern Shore's leading colonial families, had settled in the region by the mid-17th century. Although not among the original patentees of the county, they owned substantial tracts of land in both Accomack and Northampton counties by the beginning of the 18th century. According to tradition, George Kendall was engaged to Margaret Eyre when he contracted a fever and died, and it was because of his great affection for her that he left her his property, after the death of his mother.

George Kendall's will, recorded 14 December 1784, states: "I give unto my loving mother the use of all my lands and slaves...I heretofore bequeath the same after my mother's death to Margaret Eyre Daughter of Severn Eyre dec. to be enjoyed in fee simple." Kendall's gravestone on the property records that he died on November 22, 1784, at the age of 25 years and that the stone was erected "by his friend George Parker," who would marry Kendall's fiancée two years later.

George Parker, the builder of Kendall Grove, was a member of an old and prominent Eastern Shore family. Parker's father, also named George, headed the Revolutionary committee for Accomack and was an active layman of St. George's parish. The younger George Parker is first recorded in an act of the legislature dated October 11, 1786, as one of the trustees who were authorized to establish an academy on the Eastern Shore to be named the Margaret Academy. It appears that nothing came of this effort, but it is interesting to note that on the following day Parker married Margaret Eyre, suggesting that the proposed academy may have been named for her. Parker voted in favor of the Federal constitution as a member of the Virginia Convention of 1788 and was elected a judge of the Virginia General Court in December 1815.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Benjamin, Asher. Practical House Carpenter. Boston, 1830.
Forman, H. Chandlee. The Virginia Eastern Shore and Its British Origins. Easton, 1975.
Northampton County Tax Books, Will Books, Deed Books (1782-1853).
"Severn Eyre Parker", Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress, 1774-1971. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, p. 1511. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 34 acres

Quadrangle name Franktown, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1,8</u>	<u>4,1,6,7,0,0</u>	<u>4,1,3,7,6,9,0</u>	B	<u>1,8</u>	<u>4,1,6,7,6,0</u>	<u>4,1,3,7,3,8,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1,8</u>	<u>4,1,6,4,1,0</u>	<u>4,1,3,7,2,2,0</u>	D	<u>1,8</u>	<u>4,1,6,2,2,0</u>	<u>4,1,3,7,5,8,0</u>
E	<u>1,8</u>	<u>4,1,6,5,0,0</u>	<u>4,1,3,7,7,4,0</u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on E side of SW inlet of Mattawoman Creek, about 550' W of NW termination of State Route 674; thence extending about 2100' NW along shoreline of said creek (W side of peninsula); thence continuing about 1900' NE along shoreline (N side of peninsula); thence continuing about 1300' S along shoreline (E side of peninsula) to a point about 700' NE of NW termination of Route 674; thence extending about 1250' SW across neck of peninsula to point of origin.

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date October 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

Tucker Hill, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date

OCT 21 1980

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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**

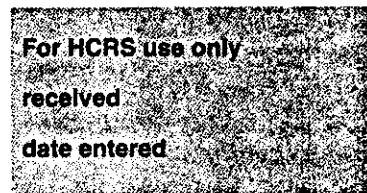
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Kendall Grove, Northampton County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7,8

Page 1



7. DESCRIPTION

Kendall Grove retains many of its original ca. 1840 outbuildings. The long, low passage or "colonnade" extends from the north wing of the main house to the kitchen-laundry. Although now rare, it was at one time an indigenous feature of Eastern Shore architecture. The wood-frame structure is set on a brick foundation that is composed of multiple brick round arches. The floor consists of bricks laid in a herringbone pattern. Sliding sash as well as louvred shutters mark the fenestration. An original storage closet is found on the west wall. A covered walkway connects the passage to the kitchen-laundry which is also a wood-frame structure set on a brick foundation. The interior has a wood floor and wide horizontal pine sheathing. The building is covered by a gable roof. The dairy, storage shed, and smokehouse are wood-frame edifices, all with shiplap siding, set on brick piers, and covered by pyramidal roofs. Their linear plan is suggestive of a plantation "street."

Kendall Grove preserves a well-landscaped garden to the rear (west) of the main house. The family cemetery is located to the north of the lawn and contains the gravestones of Severn Eyre Parker, his wife, Catherine Godden Purnell, and later generations of the Costin family. Open fields off Route 674 and an unencumbered Mattawoman Creek preserve the house's 19th-century setting.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property consists of thirty-four acres that encompass a small peninsula of land bordered by Mattawoman Creek and its inlets. The acreage is a small fraction of the original holdings of George Parker who built Kendall Grove on his 370-acre tract in 1813. The nominated property includes the main house, all original outbuildings, the cemetery, and the landscaped lawn. A modern house sits at the end of the point and constitutes an intrusion.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Evidence for the ca. 1813 construction date of the house is given in the county land tax books for 1812-1814. The records of 1812 and preceding years listed no white tithable on the property, which suggests that George Parker was not then a resident. Since the county tax records list a white tithable on the property in 1813 and in every year thereafter until Parker's death, it would seem Parker and his wife took up residence at Kendall Grove in that year, presumably at the house's completion. Parker expanded operations at this plantation in 1814, increasing the number both of his slaves, from eight to nineteen, and of his horses, from six to fifteen. The most detailed portrait of Kendall Grove is given in the personal property tax records for George Parker in 1815. The portrait is also significant as a statement of Parker's wealth and prominence. Valued at \$1,500 in 1815, the house was furnished with two chests of drawers, two mahogany wardrobes, three mahogany dining tables, one sideboard with mahogany doors, a mahogany tea table, two mahogany bedsteads, one mahogany chair, a carpet, one portrait in oil, four mirrors, four plated candlesticks, a mahogany sofa, a silver coffee pot and silver teapot, two silver tankards, and one silver cup.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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Kendall Grove, Northampton County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8,9

Page 2, 1

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Judge Parker died in July 1826 and was buried in St. Paul's graveyard in Baltimore. According to his will the property was left to his third wife, Susan Parker, who granted the property to Parker's son, Severn Eyre Parker, on January 10, 1827, for the price of \$150 per year. The grant is the first reference of record to "Kendall Grove," but it is clear from the context that it had been so named for quite a while.

Severn E. Parker, born in 1787, studied law, was admitted to the bar, and served as deputy clerk of the Northampton County court. He was a member of the state House of Delegates, 1809-17, and served in the state Senate from 1817-1819. In 1819 he was elected to the 16th Congress, where he made one notable speech in opposition to Northern efforts to prohibit slavery in the new state of Missouri. He was again elected to the House of Delegates in 1828, 1834, and 1835. Having briefly seen military action in the War of 1812, he was five times commissioned as a general of Virginia militia from 1831-36. He died in Northampton County on October 21, 1836, and was interred at Kendall Grove, which had served as his dwelling place since 1828. From 1837 to 1844, the property was listed in the tax books as part of the Severn E. Parker estate.

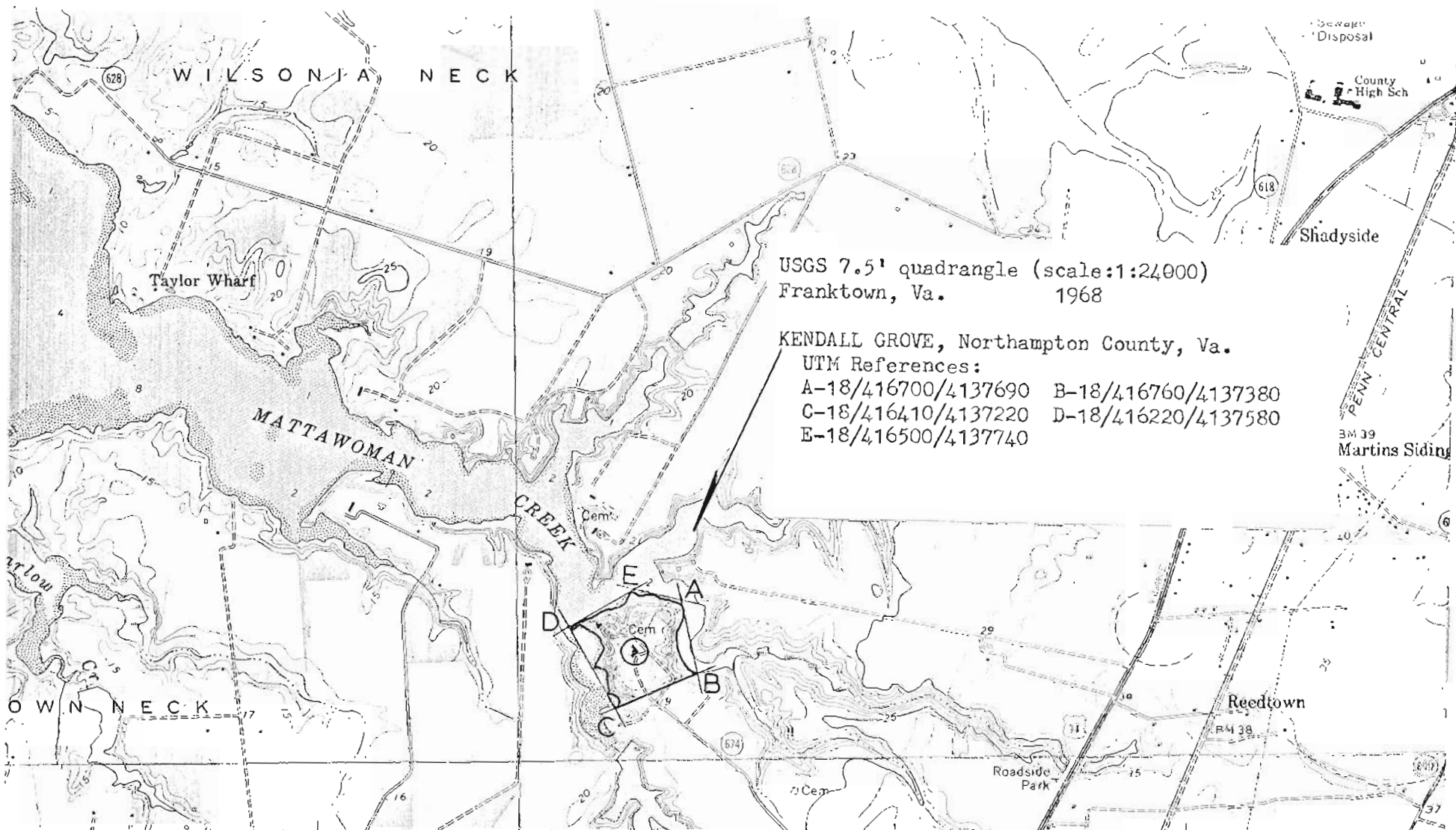
Land tax records indicate substantial additions or renovations to the property ca. 1840, by whom it is unclear. In 1839 the house was valued at \$1,600, and by 1840 it was recorded at twice that value. It was at this time that the house came into its present form. Substantial improvements were made to the interior, the end wings were added, and the outbuildings and long passage were built. The quality and style of the interior architectural treatment demonstrate that the Eastern Shore was quick to imitate the latest architectural trends, due to its location within the commercial shipping radius of Philadelphia and Baltimore.

In 1844 the property was listed under the name of Catherine G. Parker, widow of Severn Parker. It later descended to Catherine P. Parker, who inherited it upon her mother's death in 1848 but could not take full possession until she reached her majority in 1851. In that year it was valued at \$2,500. Following her marriage to Robert S. Costin in 1853, Kendall Grove became taxed as the property of her husband. Since that time, the property has remained in the possession of Costin descendants and is now owned by the estate of Benjamin Mears.

RAC/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Shippen, Rebecca. "The Parker Family of Northampton and Accomack Counties", Virginia Magazine of History and Biography Vol. VI, pp. 412-420.
- Whitelaw, Ralph. Virginia's Eastern Shore, A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties. Gloucester, Mass., 1968, Vol. 1, pp. 311-315.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Franktown, Va. 1968

KENDALL GROVE, Northampton County, Va.
 UTM References:
 A-18/416700/4137690 B-18/416760/4137380
 C-18/416410/4137220 D-18/416220/4137580
 E-18/416500/4137740

(CHERITON)
 5858 IV SW
 SCALE 1:24000

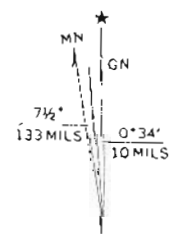


CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET

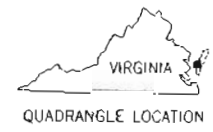
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.8 FEET



UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST