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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART II

ARCHITECTURAL

RESTORATION

OF THE

DUDLEY DIGGES HOUSE

(formerly called the West House)  
Lot 77, Main Street, Yorktown, Virginia

COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Yorktown, Virginia

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May 1960

by

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Date 6-1-60

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction

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I. FOREWORD

This report is an expansion of the Architectural Data Section, Historical Structures Report, Part I, approved February 17, 1960. As such, it deals with recent findings, a re-evaluation of earlier findings, together with revised proposals for restoration, cost estimates, and preliminary working drawings. This report is prepared and submitted to allow the restoration of the exterior to proceed. It will be followed by a supplement or supplements as needed to cover various interior features.

None of the recent findings substantially change the original proposals for restoration, but they do shed additional light on the house history and the first occupant, Dudley Digges.

Despite the damage suffered during the Yorktown Sieges of 1781 and 1962, despite the alterations, "updating," and more recent stabilization, we still possess a fabric which is largely intact. Where original exterior parts are missing, clues help to bridge the gaps. Only with respect to the rear porch, and cellar entrance, do we lack a positive basis for an accurate exterior restoration.

In re-evaluating proposed work, the writer has taken a point of view closer to preservation of the original, rather than reproduction of the original, that is, if the original can possibly be repaired and re-used. Since there are no how-to-do-it manuals on restoration, the line between preservation and restoration is not clearly established. The problem is further complicated by

damage beyond our control, in this case: bombs, termites, beetles, rot, normal wear and tear, plus man-made changes. Each situation calls for a different approach.

The Dudley Digges House represents a high point of Colonial Virginia formal frame architecture. As such, the writer believes that every effort toward preservation is justified.

LEE H. NELSON  
Yorktown  
Virginia  
April 1960

II. ADDITIONAL FACTORS INFLUENCING DATING OF THE DUDLEY DIGGES  
(WEST) HOUSE, LOT 77, YORKTOWN, VA.

The Digges' family connection with this property begins with Cole Digges (father of Dudley Digges), who bought Lot 77 from William Stark, Merchant, in 1730. The property already had buildings on it, the extent of which are present unknown. It is rather unlikely that Cole Digges erected additional buildings on this property, since from 1713 he had owned the small house, long called the "Digges House" which still stands on Lot 42. Furthermore, he served on the Governor's Council from 1720 to 1744, the year of his death. During those "public times" he apparently lived at Williamsburg, for he bought two lots there in 1723. Cole Digges died owning the "E.D." (later Bellfield) Plantation in York County, "Denbigh" Plantation in Warwick County, plus town lots in Williamsburg and Lots 39, 42, 76, and 77 in Yorktown, and other scattered properties.

Cole Digges left a will, which has not been located, but is referred to in a deed. He had three sons living at the time of his death and division of the estate was apparently as follows:

1. Edward - being the eldest son and heir of Cole Digges, inherited the most valuable "E.D." Plantation in York County and though his father never gave him a deed to the plantation, Edward had been living on it some years prior to his father's death. Edward was of age at the time of his father's death and entered into a suit

against his two underage brothers for undisputed title to the plantation.

2. William - second oldest son, inherited "Denbigh" Plantation in Warwick County and maintained his interests there throughout most of his life.

3. Dudley - third son of Cole Digges, inherited the least important of his father's holdings, the Yorktown lots (39, 42, 76, 77) and the Williamsburg lots (17, 18). Wills at that time usually provided for inheritance either at time of majority or marriage, whichever came first. Dudley married when he was about 18 years old (ca. 1747) and, therefore, would have received his share of the estate at that time.

In 1755 Dudley was apparently consolidating his real property holdings. He leased his two Williamsburg lots, and he sold lot 39 in Yorktown, but kept lots 42, 76, 77. At the same time (1755), he purchased lot 79, which is adjacent to the Dudley Digges House on Main Street. The fact that Dudley Digges' outbuildings were built on Lot 79 makes it possible to date their erection as 1755 or later. It is also possible that a larger house was either under construction or planned, which necessitated the acquisition of the adjacent lot so that outbuildings could be placed conveniently with respect to the house.

It is important to bring out the fact that Dudley Digges owned the property in question through the entire period when,

architecturally, the house appears to have been built. He acquired it after his father's death in 1744 and retained it until 1787, when he gave it to his daughter, Elizabeth Nicholson. In that transaction, reference is made to the three lots (76, 77, 79) "whereon the said Dudley Digges formerly resided."

III. PROPOSED WORK - EXTERIOR

Masonry: A. Foundation Walls

Excavation around the exterior foundation walls reveals that, with one exception, they are in good condition. Brick and mortar are sound; and drainage around most of the house is sufficiently good, that waterproofing of the below grade masonry is unnecessary. The rear foundation wall is the only exception to these findings. Static water pressure and a large tree root have buckled that wall inward 3 1/2".

It is obvious that the rear wall has the poorest natural drainage and that most of the difficulties stem from this problem. There are at least two methods of correcting this worsening structural condition. (1) Take the masonry down; salvage the brick, and re-build the wall using the old brick by matching the mortar and craftsmanship. This solution was recommended in the Part I report. It involves "shoring" of the entire rear portions of the superstructure. (2) Excavate along the existing wall; remove the tree root; repoint inside and out where necessary; and provide for an underground footing drain and an 18th century type of surface brick gutter to carry away surface water. This solution has the advantage of retaining the 18th century masonry, and improving the existing drainage problems.

After careful consideration, the writer believes that the latter method is desirable in terms of preservation. A brick ground gutter would be provided in either case, matching the original fragments recently discovered. The 18th century brick ground gutter is the predecessor of our modern eave-gutters and downspouts which carry away the rain runoff from a roof, in this case an area of 2,650 square feet.

B. Chimneys:

The chimneys, regrettably, are another problem altogether since the problem is visual rather than structural. In recent years the chimneys were re-pointed in such a way as to deprive them of their 18th century appearance. This is particularly true of the southeast chimney. It is not possible to remove the widespread modern mortar without also removing the hard burned surface of the brick. This would subject the brick to rapid spalling and deterioration caused by rain and freezing.

The chimneys ought to be preserved despite their anachronistic appearance. This recommendation represents a re-evaluation of the proposal in the Part I Report.

C. Stone Steps:

Foundations for the original stone steps have been uncovered, together with two fragments of the steps themselves. The steps appear to be of English origin, probably Purbeck stone,

and can be closely matched with Indiana limestone, a substitute frequently used by Colonial Williamsburg in this way.

D. Ground Gutters;

Fragments of the original brick ground gutters have been unearthed, a rare find in colonial buildings because of their vulnerability to damage, and the tendency to replace them in the 19th century with saw-gutters. The reconstructed ground gutters should be provided with a grating at each end for disposing of rain water into a storm sewer.

E. Bulkhead;

The existing cellar bulkhead is a 19th century addition. Its original design is unknown. It should be reconstructed following 18th century prototypes as to its general form and detailing.

Carpentry: A. Weatherboarding

All weatherboarding should be replaced with new material. This will enable a much more accurate restoration of the exterior, especially since the weatherboarding is a most conspicuous feature. Replacement involves the correct beading, hand-planing, application with T-headed nails, and spaced to match the original. A few of the original weatherboards remain, and should be preserved because of their antiquity.

B. Cornice and trim:

Where original parts remain, they should be preserved. This is especially true of modillion blocks and mouldings. All crown moulding must be replaced because that portion of the cornice is now occupied by a bed moulding, inadvertently applied in 1954.

C. Window sash and trim:

Some of the sash is original and should be retained. New sash for 5 windows are required on the first floor. All second floor sash dates from the 19th century, and must be replaced. Some original trim survives, but most of it is later, and must be replaced.

D. Doors:

No original exterior doors survive. Existing doors must be replaced with 18th century types.

E. Roof:

The present asbestos roof is 30 years old, and cannot be matched since the product is no longer manufactured in the same design. The roof leaks in many places because there is no flashing on the ridges or valleys. The house should be re-covered with a roof of cedar shingles, to match the original.

F. Rear Stoop:

Nothing is known of the rear step arrangement. A conjectural design is proposed using a stoop arrangement

as developed by Colonial Williamsburg.

#### IV. EXTERIOR PAINT COLORS

Recent discoveries make possible the identification of original paint colors. The old window frame at the stairway has been blocked off since an early date, say since 1800, as evidenced by the hand wrought lath nails used when the opening was sealed and plastered. The exterior surface of this window frame has been covered by weatherboarding for an equally long time. There are but two coats of paint on this frame: (1) Iron oxide red (Spanish Brown) on the wood, and (2) a white paint over that. The iron oxide red was a common primer coating, used inside and out, not only in the Dudley Digges House, but in most of the houses at Williamsburg. We take it that the latter (white) would be the color to paint the exterior trim.

Microscopic tests have shown that not only was the window trim painted white, but that all exterior parts were white, including the cornice and weatherboarding. That the building remained white throughout the colonial period is evidenced by the fact that exterior patchwork (resulting from the 1781 Siege) in the cornice was also painted white to match the then existing color.

Microscopic tests further reveal that the exterior white probably persisted well into the 19th century, since it nearly

weathered away in many places. This accounts for the red color discerned by former Architect Bennett, when the 19th century front porch was removed. Where the weatherboarding had some protection from the weather, there are still conspicuous traces of the white paint immediately above the red primer. This is also true of the cornice.

Pigment studies should be made to determine the intensity of the original white paint, but the microscopic tests leave no doubt as to the white color. Color sequences are listed as follows working from the wood to existing colors. Colors believed to be original are underlined.

Weatherboarding: wood, iron oxide primer, white, ochre, cream, gray, buff, several coats white.

Bedmoulding (front cornice): wood, iron oxide primer, white, ochre, off-white, ochre, red, several coats white.

Bedmoulding: (patches resulting from 1781 bomb damage): wood, white, ochre, off-white, gray, buff, several coats white.

Fascia board (front cornice): wood, iron oxide red, white, ochre, red, several coats white.

Fascia behind modillion blocks (rear cornice): wood, iron oxide red, white, red, several coats white.

Modillion Blocks (front cornice): wood, iron oxide red, white, ochre, cream, gray, several coats white.

Exterior window trim (window by stairway): wood, iron oxide red, white.

## V. EXTERIOR SIEGE DAMAGE

The exterior surface of the house suffered a number of direct hits during the Sieges of 1781 and 1802, but especially during the earlier siege. Damage to the roof is not dateable because the interior plaster patches are not available for inspection due to the 1958 stripping.

Both the front and rear exterior cornices were damaged in the 1781 Siege. The front cornice was damaged at a point 19'6" from the west corner of the house. The patchwork utilizes whipsawn material and is secured with handwrought nails.

The rear cornice was badly damaged at a point 10 feet from the north corner of the house. The damaged parts were removed sometime shortly after the 1781 Siege, for they were replaced with whipsawn material, primed with iron oxide red, and secured with hand wrought nails. When the rear cornice was repaired, approximately 20 modillion blocks were omitted from the cornice, and were not replaced until the 1954 stabilization.

Interior siege damage will be discussed in a supplement to this report.

## APPENDIX I

SCREENING OF THE CELLAR FLOOR

Over the years, the sandy cellar floor had become so befouled with garbage bones, broken bottles, cans, trash, and especially rotted wood, that termite control was virtually impossible. Furthermore, the highly irregular surface of the floor could not be leveled smooth because of the heavy concentration of trash present in the sand.

From December 21-29, 1959, the cellar floor fill was screened using 1/2" x 1/2" wire-mesh, stretched on a wooden frame. The loose sandy fill was screened to undisturbed sand.

As a result of this process, many objects and fragments (related to the entire past occupancy of the house) were recovered and separated from the trash. With the removal of some three cubic yards of trash, over two hundred objects or artifacts were preserved, the bulk of which are 19th century in origin. About twenty 18th century artifacts or fragments were found, and they failed to shed light on the 18th century occupancy of the house. This is probably explained by the fact that the cellar originally had a wooden floor, an easily maintained feature, but which was probably removed by mid-19th century, perhaps by the Union troops for use as firewood.

Since there is little doubt as to the Federal occupancy of the house in 1862 and its probable use as General McClellan's

headquarters for an unknown period of time during the Peninsular Campaign, the artifacts relating to that occupancy would be of particular interest.

All of the objects were deposited in the Colonial National Historical Park Museum Collection housed in the Jamestown Visitor Center building.

## APPENDIX II

INTRODUCTION

The writer herewith includes entries from the well-known Humphrey Harwood Account Books. These books, now owned by Colonial Williamsburg, constitute a valuable record of 18th century carpentry, masonry, and plastering work in York and James City Counties.

Unfortunately, it is not certain where Dudley Digges maintained his place of residence at the time Humphrey Harwood billed him for work performed. There is nothing to prove or disprove that the work was executed in Digges' Yorktown house. The accounts themselves are not revealing to that extent. Since Dudley Digges probably resided in Williamsburg more often than in Yorktown, it is perhaps only reasonable to assume that the following entries are related to his Williamsburg residence. Because of the doubt involved, the writer includes them in the hope that future evidence will clarify the problem.

Humphrey Harwood Account Books, 1776-1794, Book B, p. 46  
Accounts of a Williamsburg contractor and brick-mason, who did work for a number of Williamsburg citizens, as well as for inhabitants of York and James City Counties.

Dudley Digges Esq<sup>r</sup>

1777				£
October	8	To 1 bushel of Lime 1/ mending a back 2/6 & labor work 6/ .....	0	4 3
	18	To white washing poarch & passage 7/6 .....	-	7 6
		To Mending Kitching floor & D. <sup>o</sup> wall 5/ .....	-	5 0

1782  
 Decemb<sup>r</sup> 7 To 2 Grates & barra weight 55 lb. at 1/3 &  
 10 bushels of Lime @ 1/6 ..... 4 3 9  
 To 3 Days labour @ 4/ & setting up 3 Grates @ 11/3 2 5 9  
 To Mending plastering 3/9 & 40 bricks @ 2/ ..... 0 5 0

1783  
 May 8 To Whitewashing 1 Room & the Passage up &  
 down Stares 5/ ..... - 15 -  
 8 To 1/2 bushel of Whitewash 1/ ..... - 6 -  
 To D.<sup>o</sup> 1 room 5/. & a Closet 2/6 & 40 lathes 9<sup>d</sup> - 8 3  
 To 6 bush.<sup>s</sup> of Lime @ 1/. & mending plaster<sup>m</sup> in  
 wash House 12/6 & hair 9<sup>d</sup> ..... - 19 3  
 To Whitewashing 2 Porches 2/6 & 3 Days labour  
 @ 3/ ..... - 14 -  
 To 1 Bushel of Whitewash 2/. ..... - 2 -  
 August 21 To Repairing Steps & Mortar 1/6 ..... - 1 6

1784  
 March 1 To a pair of Shoes (for Davey) 6/. ..... - 6 -  
 19 To 1 barrel of Corn 25/. ..... 1 5  
 30 To 1 barrel of Corn 22/6 (April 7th) 1 Barrel  
 d<sup>o</sup> @ 22/. ..... 2 5 -

1785  
 April 23 To 1 half a barrel of Corn 7/6 ..... - 7 6  
 May 14 To Cash paid Thomas Gale on your order ..... 7 7 6  
 Sep 20 To 2 bushels of 2/ & repairs, plastering 4/6 &  
 Hair /6 ..... - 7 -  
 To whitewashing 2 Rooms & 2 passages @ 4/6 ..... - 18 -  
 To 1/2 bushel of whitewash ..... - 1 -

26 4 6

Credits

1784  
 January 1 By One Year hier of Davey £12..0..0 ..... 12  
 1785  
 January 1 By One Year of ditto £10...0.0 ..... 10  
 22 - -

[Note: On pages 86 and 89 of the same account book there are additional charges and credits on Dudley Digges' account, but they are mostly for foodstuffs.]

## APPENDIX III

TAX RECORDS FOR THE DUDLEY DIGGES' HOLDINGS  
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

The following entries are taken from the York County Land Books, Virginia State Library, Richmond. Their primary value, of course, is the indication of land values, including improvements. The usefulness of this data, however, is limited unless the reader has access to the Land Books; for the relative values are the real key to learning the economic value of a given building at a given time. Fluctuations in currency value must also be considered.

Unfortunately, the Land Books do not describe any physical improvements. The records are neither complete or consistent, but are included here simply because there are so few 18th century sources pertaining to this property.

<u>Land Book Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Annual Rental Value</u>	<u>Annual Tax</u>
1782	Yorktown	Dudley Digges	3 lots	£30	-18-
1784	"	"	1 lot	£30	- 9-
1785	"	"	1 lot	£30	- 9-
1788	[not listed. Dudley Digges devised this property to his daughter, Eliz. Nicholson, in 1887/				
1789	[not listed. Eliz. Nicholson's husband was Robt. Nicholson. see following entries/				
1791	Yorktown	Robt. Nicholson	3 lots	£28	- 8-0
1792	"	"	"	"	"
1793	[Not listed/				
1794	[Not listed/				
1795	Yorktown	Robt. Nicholson	3 lots	£28	1-8-0
1796	Yorktown	Robt. Nicholson	3 lots	£28	1-8-0
1797	Yorktown	Robt. Nicholson	3 lots	£28	1-8-0
1798	Yorktown	Robt. Nicholson	3 lots	\$93.34	\$1.16
		Estate			
1799	Yorktown	Robt. Nicholson	3 lots	\$93.34	\$1.46
		Estate			

## APPENDIX IV

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE OF COL. DUDLEY DIGGES, LAWYER  
of Yorktown and Williamsburg, Virginia

- ca. 1728 : Born<sup>1</sup>
- 1744 : Death of father, Cole Digges<sup>2</sup>
- 1744 : Received Yorktown Lots 39, 42, 76, 77 and Williamsburg properties via will of his father, Cole Digges (see n. 44)
- 1745-1746 : Litigation: Edward Digges vs. William and Dudley Digges, for possession of "E.D." Plantation (later called Bellfield)<sup>3</sup>
- ca. 1747 : Married: Martha Armistead<sup>4</sup>
- 1748 : Appointed Colonel of horse and foot, York County Militia<sup>5</sup>
- 1748 31 Dec. : Issue; a son, Cole<sup>6</sup>
- 1749 : Appointed Receiver of Military Fines for York County<sup>7</sup>
- 1750 : Death of mother, Elizabeth Digges (Dudley appointed administrator of estate together with brother, William)<sup>8</sup>
- 1750 2 Nov. : Appointed Justice of the Peace, York County<sup>9</sup>
- 1752 30 Apr. : Appointed Justice of the Peace, York County<sup>10</sup>
- 1752 : Burgess for the Assembly<sup>11</sup>  
(Digges served continuously until 1776)
- 1755 21 April: Purchased Lot 79, Yorktown (outbuildings for Dudley Digges House were located on this lot)<sup>12</sup>
- 1755 21 July : Leased Lots 17-18 in Williamsburg (Lot 18 apparently passed to Dudley Digges via will of Cole Digges)<sup>13</sup>
- 1755 21 July : Sold Lot 39 in Yorktown (formerly devised to Dudley Digges by will of Cole Digges)<sup>14</sup>
- 1757 10 Aug. : Issue; a daughter, Patsy (or Patty who in 1780 married Capt. Nathl. Burwell)<sup>15</sup>
- ca. 1757 : Death of wife (perhaps in childbirth)
- ca. 1759 : Remarried: Elizabeth Wormley<sup>16</sup>

- 1761 17 May : Issue; a daughter, Elizabeth (later married Robt. Nicholson)<sup>17</sup>
- ca. 1763 : Issue; a daughter, Mary<sup>18</sup>
- 1764 : Appointed a member of the Board of Visitors, College of William and Mary<sup>19</sup>
- 1765 6 Apr.: Issue; a son, Dudley<sup>20</sup>
- 1768 : Death of "eldest son" (Cole?) by smallpox in Williamsburg<sup>21</sup>
- 1770 15 Jan.: Comptroller of his Majesty's Customs for Port of York River<sup>22</sup>
- 1771 20 July: Appointed to committee for erecting Botetourt Statue, Williamsburg<sup>23</sup>
- 1771 13 Oct.: Issue; a daughter, Lucy<sup>24</sup>
- 1775-76 : Member of the Committee of Safety for the Colony of Virginia<sup>25</sup>
- 1776-81 : Member of the Council of the State of Virginia<sup>26</sup>
- 1777 5 Sept.: Issue; a daughter, Judith<sup>27</sup>
- 1780 : Known to be residing in Williamsburg<sup>28</sup>  
Letter: D.D. to Gov. Jefferson, written from Ruffin's Ferry, extract, "I am thus far on my way to Williamsburg to collect the scattered remains of my property, which was hastily distributed in such places as were deemed the most secure."<sup>29</sup>
- 1781 17 Jan.: Letter: D.D. to Gov. Harrison, written from King's Mill, extract, "Altho' I had hopes of remaining at this, my temporary Asylum..."<sup>30</sup> Perhaps this indicates inability to occupy his residence due to Oct. 1781 Siege damage.
- 1781 12 Dec.: Letter: D.D. to Gov. Harrison, written from King's Mill, re: claim of a Mary Harris of Gloucester for damage done by French Troops.<sup>31</sup>
- 1781 31 Dec.: Letter: D.D. to Gov. Harrison, written from Williamsburg, re: movement of French.<sup>32</sup>
- 1782 11 Jan.: Letter: D.D. to Gov. Harrison, written from King's Mill re: claim of Mary Harris of Gloucester.<sup>33</sup>
- 1782 8 Feb.: Letter: D.D. to Gov. Harrison, written from King's Mill re: claim of Mary Harris of Gloucester.<sup>33</sup>

- 1782-84 : Appointed Rector of the College of William and Mary<sup>34</sup>
- Letter: D.D. to Gov. Harrison, written from King's  
 1782 18 Oct. : Mill, Returning a warrant for Specie.<sup>35</sup>
- 1784 12 Jan. : Letter: David Jameson to D.D., re a claim.<sup>36</sup>
- Letter: D.D. to the Executive, written from Williams-  
 1784 14 Jan. : burg, Encloses Jameson's letter and claim.<sup>37</sup>
- 1784 : Appointed President, Board of Directors, Lunatic  
 Asylum, Williamsburg.<sup>38</sup>
- 1784 27 March: Sold Lot 42, Yorktown (site of traditional  
 "Digges House").<sup>39</sup>
- 1784 19 April: Appointed Justice of Peace, James City County.<sup>40</sup>
- Letter: D.D. to the Governor written from Williams-  
 1784 29 Sept.: burg, re: Lunatic Asylum.<sup>41</sup>
- 1786 13 Oct. : Letter: D.D. to Hon. J. Ambler, Esq., written from  
 Williamsburg, re: funds to support Hospital for  
 Lunatics.<sup>42</sup>
- 1787 8 Jan. : Letter: D.D. to his Excellency, Ed. Randolph,  
 written from Williamsburg, (Digges is President of  
 Court of Directors, Asylum). re: Asylum could not  
 receive patients for want of money to support them.<sup>43</sup>
- 1787 3 April: Gave lots 76, 77, 79, Yorktown "whereon the said Dudley  
 formerly resided," to daughter, Elizabeth Nicholson.  
 Dudley had acquired lots 76, 77 by will from his father  
 Cole Digges. Cole acquired lot 76 from his mother,  
 and had purchased lot 77 from William Stark.<sup>44</sup>
- 1790 : Sheriff of James City County.<sup>45</sup>
- 1790 3 June : Died, "On Monday, the 3rd instant departed this life  
 at Yorktown, Dudley Digges in the sixty-second year  
 of his age."<sup>46</sup>

FOOTNOTES TO BIOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE

- <sup>1</sup> William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Papers, vol. 1, Jan. 1893, no. 3, 150-51. Cited hereafter as WMCQHP. Birth date approximated from quoted obituary stating that Digges died in 1790, age 62.
- <sup>2</sup> Ibid., 144.
- <sup>3</sup> Wills and Inventories, No. 19, 1740-46, York County Records, 406, 409, 414, 420, 427, 437, 443, 451, 464, 472, esp. 492.
- <sup>4</sup> WMCQHP. loc. cit.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>8</sup> Warwick Minutes, 1748-62, Warwick County Records, 81.
- <sup>9</sup> Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, vol. V, 1739-54 (Richmond; 1945), 339.
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid., 395
- <sup>11</sup> Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia (Richmond; 1806-09), see following vols., 1752-55, 1756-58; 1759-61; 1761-65; 1766-69; 1770-72; 1773-76.
- <sup>12</sup> Deeds, No. 6, 1755-63, York County Records, 17-19.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid., 26, 333.
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid., 27-29.
- <sup>15</sup> WMCQHP., loc. cit.; see also Virginia Gazette, Dixon & Nicholson, eds., 11 Mar. 1780.
- <sup>16</sup> WMCQHP., loc. cit.
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Catalog, College of William and Mary, 1874, 76.

<sup>20</sup> WAMCQHP., loc. cit.

<sup>21</sup> Virginia Gazette, Purdie & Dixon, eds., 28 Ja 1768, 4 Feb. 1768; William Rind, ed., 4 Feb. 1768.

<sup>22</sup> Judgements & Orders, 1769-70, York County Records, 399.

<sup>23</sup> Journal of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1770-72 (Richmond; 1906), 138.

<sup>24</sup> WAMCQHP., loc. cit.

<sup>25</sup> Calendar of Virginia State Papers...1652-1781, vol. 1 (Richmond; 1875), 276, cited hereafter as Calendar... See also Journals of the Council of the State of Virginia, vol. 1, July 12, 1776-Oct. 2, 1777 (Richmond; 1931); vol. II, Oct. 6, 1777-Nov. 30, 1781 (Richmond; 1932), for numerous references.

<sup>26</sup> Journals of the Council of the State of Virginia, vol. 1, July 12, 1776 - Oct. 2, 1777 (Richmond; 1931), Vol. II, Oct. 6, 1777 - Nov. 30, 1781 (Richmond; 1932), for numerous references.

<sup>27</sup> WAMCQHP., loc. cit.

<sup>28</sup> Virginia Gazette, Dixon & Nicholson, eds., 11 Mar. 1780.

<sup>29</sup> Calendar,...vol. 1, 444.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., vol. II, 653-54.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., vol. II, 680

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., vol. III, 16.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., vol. III, 86.

<sup>34</sup> Virginia Gazette or the American Advertiser, James Hayes, ed., 10 Aug. 1782, 10 May 1783, 28 Feb. 1784.

<sup>35</sup> Calendar...., vol. III, 345

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 554

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid., 558

<sup>39</sup>Deeds, No. 6, York County Records, 223-24. See also "Wills and Inventories Relating to Lot No. 42," Research Files, Colonial National Historical Park.

<sup>40</sup>Journals of the Council of the State of Virginia, Dec. 1, 1781-Nov. 29, 1786 (Richmond, 1952), 337.

<sup>41</sup>Calendar...., vol. III, 612.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid., vol. IV, 178.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid., 224-25.

<sup>44</sup>Deeds, No. 6, York County Records, 353. See also Deeds, No. 4, 1729-63, 66-68. See also Carneal, Russell M., "Abstract of Title to Lots 76, 77, 79 and two-thirds of 78, Property of R. Nelson Smith and Virginia S. Smith," October 24, 1952. See also "Wills and Inventories Relating to Lot No. 79," "Wills and Inventories Relating to Lot No. 78," Research Files, Colonial National Historical Park.

<sup>45</sup>Calendar...., vol. V, 163.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid. See also W&MQUHP., loc. cit.

## APPENDIX V

ILLUSTRATION No. 1

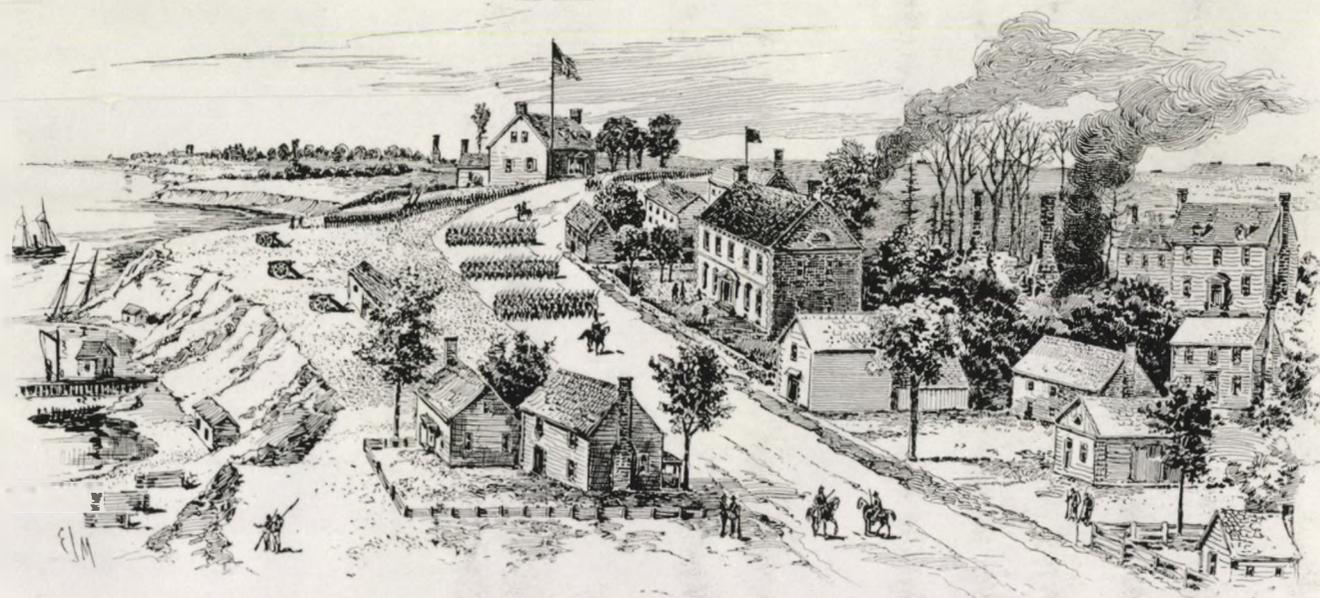
A Civil War sketch (redrawn for publication) which clearly identifies the Dudley Digges House as Gen. McClellan's headquarters during the Peninsular Campaign. A large flagpole was situated near the west corner of the house. See also illustration No. 5 in *Historic Structures Report, Part I*, for further corroboration of this flagpole location.

For additional evidence of occupancy of this house by Union troops, see Appendix I, "Screening of the Cellar Floor."

Photo copied from Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, vol. II, 173, originally published in book form ca. 1887.

THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN.

173



WHARF, YORK RIVER.

M'CLELLAN'S HEADQUARTERS.

NELSON HOUSE.

VIEW OF MAIN STREET, YORKTOWN, THE UNION TROOPS MARCHING IN. FROM A SKETCH MADE MAY 4, 1862

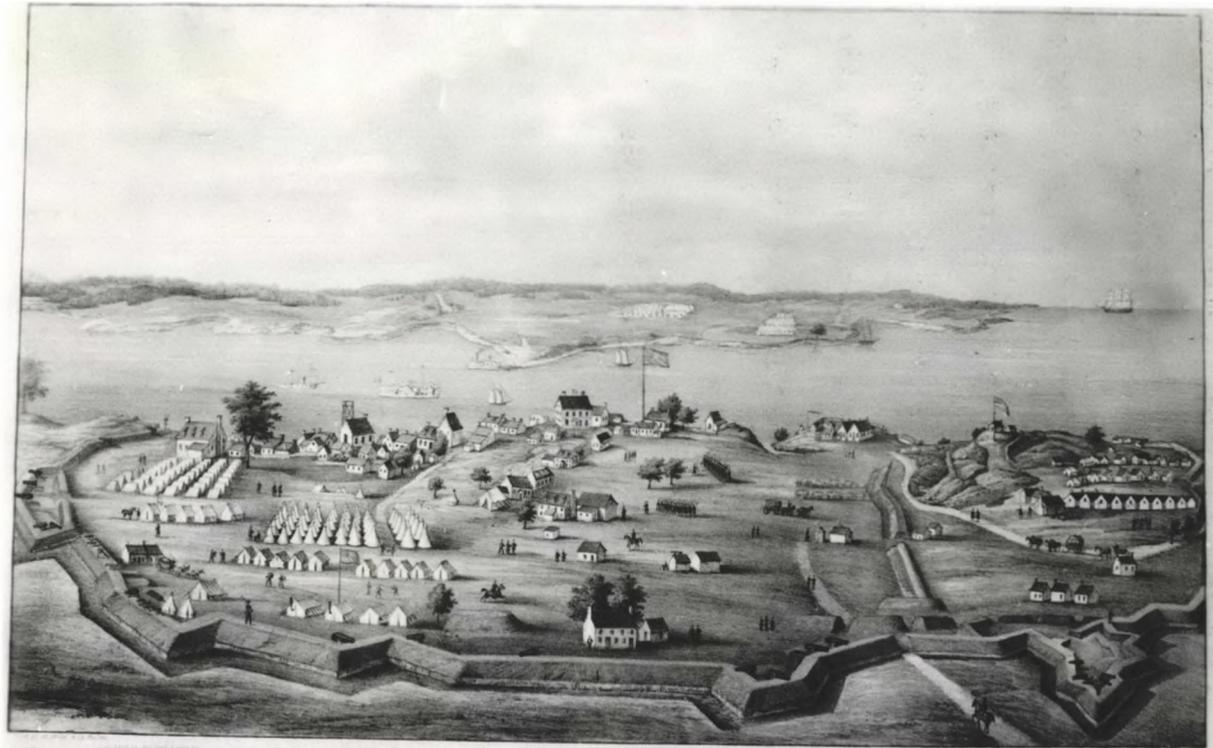
House, Hooker and Kearny near Roper's Church, and Richardson and Sedgwick

S'5

ILLUSTRATION No. 2

A Civil War (ca. 1862) lithograph of Yorktown. Despite a reasonable precise rendition of the earthworks, this lithograph, architecturally, leaves much to be desired and is subject to a variable interpretation. The large flag presumably marks the site of General McClellan's headquarters which was almost certainly the Dudley Digges House (see arrow), but the drawing lacks the convincing sense of authority to be of any architectural assistance.

Courtesy The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Va.



YORKTOWN, VA

ILLUSTRATION No. 3

Earliest known photograph of the house. Original portions visible here are the front-wall weatherboarding, cornice (except for gutter and crown mould), dormer cheeks, and verge boards. Noticeable changes are the end-wall weatherboarding, porch, shutters, downspout, corner board, and dormer trim. The verge board was probably re-used after re-weatherboarding of the end wall. Photograph taken before 1912, courtesy R. Nelson Smith, Yorktown, Attorney, and former owner of the house.



ILLUSTRATION No. 4

Incorporated into the 19th century porch, were several stone steps, most of which appear to have been salvaged from other colonial structures. Two of the steps, however, are very likely survivors of the original construction. Beneath one of these steps, is a complement of 18th century stone mason's marks, shown in this photograph. The practice of marking such stones has its roots in antiquity and was elaborately regulated by the late Middle Ages. Masons marks (also called banker's marks) served to identify individual craftsmen and quarriers, to provide for compensation on a "piece" basis. The reader is referred to the following sources for further information about mason's marks and merchant's marks"

Country Life (English periodical) March 15, 1956, 485

Country Life, September 4, 1958, 491

Cussans, John E., Handbook of Heraldry (London; 1869)

Gould, R. P., The History of Freemasonry...(New York; ca. 1884), vol. 1.

Koch, Rudolf, The Book of Signs (Dover publication, n.d.)

Salzman, L. P., Building in England...(Oxford; 1952)

Photo by Lee H. Nelson, November, 1959.



## APPENDIX VI

FINANCES AND COST ESTIMATE TO COMPLETE EXTERIOR WORK

EXTERIOR MASONRY	: Repair, repoint rear foundation wall and provide footing drain; reconstruct bulkhead footings; repair bulkhead steps; reconstruct brick ground gutters; reconstruct stone steps . . . . .	\$ 2,500.00
EXTERIOR CARPENTRY	: Replace dormer cheek boards; replace fascia boards and crown moulding; repair bed moulding; replace cornice cover boards and verge boards; repair and replace door and window trim; replace corner boards; new exterior doors; remove and replace existing siding; replace roof covering replace modern window sash; provide new cellar window grilles; reconstruct rear porch; replace dormer sills . . . . .	<u>13,500.00</u>
		\$16,000.00

The present project will have to close down this year for lack of funds to complete it. The situation is as follows:

Total Appropriation . . . . .	\$28,200.00
Already spent (3-31-60) . . . . .	<u>10,624.56</u>
	\$17,575.44
Reserved for Archeology . . . . .	<u>3,600.00</u>
Balance . . . . .	.\$13,975.44

In reply refer to:  
H30

APPENDIX VII

Chief, EODC

April 8, 1960

Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

Digges House Restoration

On Thursday April 7 I visited the Digges House and reviewed various problems of restoration with Architects Judd and Nelson and BRS Whittington. Superintendent Abbott and Assistant Superintendent Emery were with us part of the time. I read this memorandum to them and Historian Hatch before leaving and they approve it in general.

The previous day Mr. Judd and I had conferred at the Richmond Office as to finances. Money seems to be very scarce.

Finances

The present project will have to close down this year for lack of funds to complete it. The situation is as follows:

Total appropriation	\$28,200.00
Already spent (3-31-60)	<u>10,624.56</u>
	\$17,575.44
Reserved for archaeology	<u>3,600.00</u>
Balance	\$13,975.44

The funds set aside for archaeology are to be replaced at some future date (Reese Smith to Superintendent, 1-21-60). The PCP is being revised to include this item. It seems that the whole PCP system is tightening up and that they should be kept up to date even after construction has started.

The way things look at present, there will be just barely enough money to complete the exterior. It seems unlikely that funds for resuming the project and completing it will be available before July 1, 1961.

Priorities

The first construction priority should be to complete the exterior. The second should be to fasten down permanently all pieces of the interior which have been removed and which might get lost. A certain amount of indoors work will have to be done off and on as an adjustment to weather conditions.

### Reports

The Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data, Part I was approved February 17, 1960. The second report has been drafted by Mr. Nelson and will soon be completed for review.

### Drawings

The drawings considered necessary for early submission are to include the following:

1. Two floor plans.
2. Two elevations
3. Front steps (cut stone)
4. Rear steps (wooden)
5. Cellar entrance (shed type)
6. Brick gutters
7. Basement window grilles
8. Exterior doors
9. Window sash
10. Cornice end boards
11. W.I. shutter dogs
12. W.I. footscraper

All important discoveries in the fabric are to be recorded on HABS sheets sooner or later.

As far as possible HABS drawings will be prepared by Mr. Nelson to record the archaeologist's findings. These, however, will be limited in scope.

### Miscellaneous

#### 1. Chimneys

It was agreed that the tops of the chimneys should not be taken down,

even though they are somewhat disfigured by the gray Portland cement repointing of 1954.

### 2. Rear Basement Wall

It was agreed that the rear basement wall should not be taken down at this time. It is hoped that an underground tile drain and a surface brick gutter will end the further bulging of the old wall.

### 3. Shutters

An old photograph shows former movable slat shutters hung on cast iron butt hinges. During the day some of the present shutter stops were removed revealing definite proof that earlier shutters were hung on pintles driven into the frames (except for the window at the stairway). A pair of the panelled 1954 shutters were brought out. It was felt that they would be adequate (including the H-hinges now on them which would not be seen with the shutters fastened back against the siding).

### 4. Paint Color

The old window frame at the stairway, covered with siding for a long time (say, since 1800) shows two coats of paint--iron oxide red on the wood and a stone color or off-white over that. We take it that the latter would be the color to paint the exterior trim. Further microscopic tests should be run on the siding, cornice, etc. The house may have been finished in more than one color.

### 5. Heating

The heating and cooling arrangement will be by a heat pump. This, however, cannot be included in the present project.

### Archaeology

Excavation of the old foundation between the Digges House and Main Street started this week under the direction of Archaeologist G. Hubert Smith. It is hoped that the study will extend to the other lots in the immediate vicinity. It would be impossible to design an authentic period layout for the Digges House grounds without knowing where the various lanes, fences, gates, etc. were located.

/s/ Charles E. Peterson  
Supervising Architect  
Historic Structures

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One  
Superintendent, Colonial NHP  
Chief Architect - 2  
Mr. Nelson

APPENDIX VIII

PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAWINGS, 6 sheets





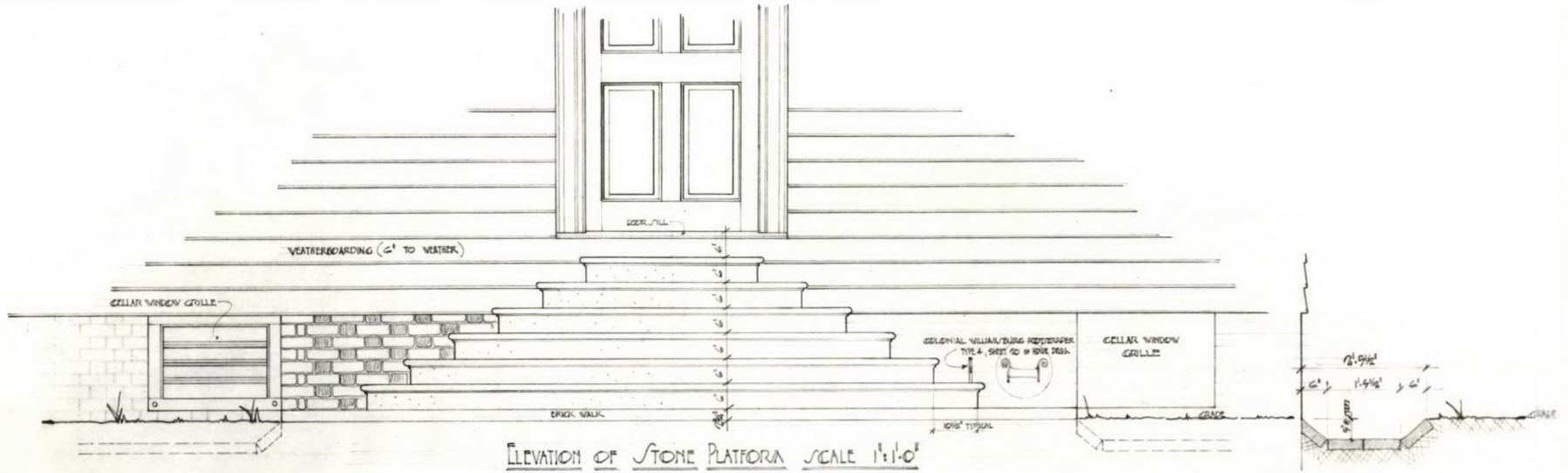




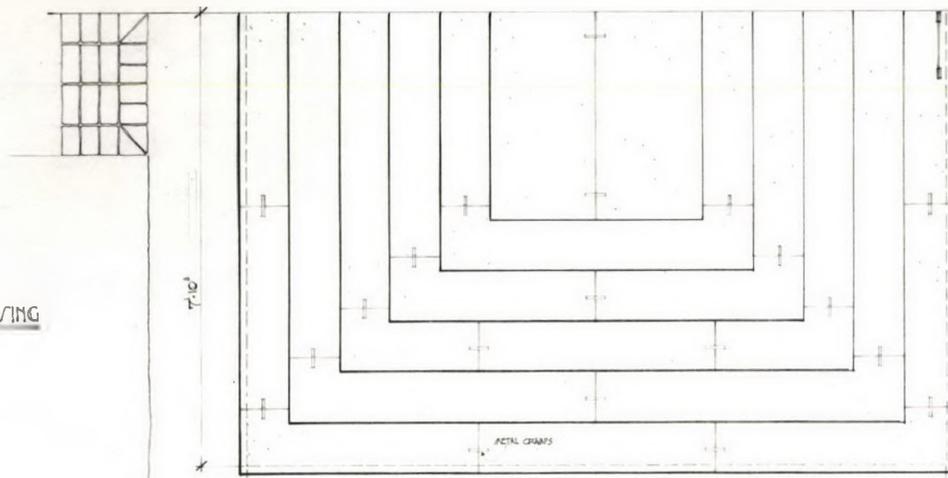
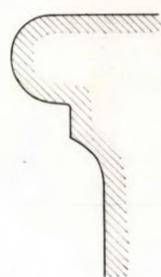








CROSS SECTION THRU GROUND CUTTER SCALE 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



NOTES:  
 STONE SHALL BE OF QUALITY, LUGGED SHALL BE AT SAMPLES OF STONE WHICH MATCH APPROXIMATE COLOR AND TEXTURE OF EXISTING PURRACK STONE. CONTRACTOR SHALL FURNISH AND INSTALL ALL MATERIAL, INCLUDING DETAILS OF STONE, CORNER, AND REGISTRATION, FOR A COMPLETE INSTALLATION THROUGH GROUND CUTTER AND WEATHERING RESISTER.

APPROVED	SCALE - 1/2" = 1'-0"	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	DATE	INITIALS
	DATE	REVISION			
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION WASHINGTON, D. C.		PREPARED BY DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY		DATE INITIALS DATE INITIALS DATE INITIALS	

BASIC DATA EXISTING PLATFORM FOR STONE PROJECTS, 8 CUTTER FRAGMENTS

Property of  
National Fish Service  
Southeast Regional Office