

"Shepherds' Plain" (Edward Ker House)
Route 718, on Nandua Creek,
southwest of Pungoteague
Pungoteague Vicinity
Accomack County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-631

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

"SHEPHERDS' PLAIN" (EDWARD KER HOUSE)

Address: Route 718, on Nandua Creek, southwest of Pungoteague, Pungoteague Vicinity, Accomack County, Virginia.

Present Owner: James E. Nicolls, Pungoteague, Virginia.

Present Occupant: Vacant, but tenant farmer nearby.

Present Use: Not being used.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a large, interesting example of a mid-18th-century house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: 1654, patent to Major William Andrews; property remained in Andrews family until about 1693 when deeded to John Shepherd. Remained in Shepherd family until 1755 when deeded to Edward Ker. Remained in Ker family until 1852. Followed by different owners: Richard J. Ayres, John L. Warren, Dr. A. T. Kusian, Mrs. Bedford D. Kellam, and finally James E. Nicolls.

B. Date of Erection: Probably ordered to be built by Edward Ker c. 1755-1765.

C. Notes on Alterations and Additions: In original condition except for application of some new floors over old, and modification of cellar for living purposes during 20th century.

D. Sources of Information: Personal inspection; court records, Ralph T. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, a History of North Hampton and Accomack Counties, 2 vols. (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1951).

Prepared by Commander John A. Upshur, Consultant,
Colonial Williamsburg - March 1962

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement: Very interesting rusticated brick end walls, interior paneling; in fair condition.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: two stories with basement and garret; 53' x 34'.

2. Foundations: Brick.

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3. Wall construction: Frame front and back walls covered with clapboards and rusticated brick, gable end walls.

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4. Openings:

a. Doors and doorways: Double doors at each end of central hall that are later than house. Door opening has transom light.

b. Windows and shutters. Modern sash and shutters replace originals.

5. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: Wood, box cornice with consoles.

6. Chimneys: Brick, in end walls. Southwest chimney has corbeled cap; northeast chimney has flat slate cap set on brick wythes.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plan: Each floor has central hall with two rooms on each side.

2. Stairway is in alcove off central hall with chair rail in hall.

3. Flooring: Wood.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings, some rooms having paneled wainscot.

5. Doors: Paneled doors, some six-panel and some four-panel.

6. Trim: Room in north corner and one in south corner of first floor have paneled end walls around fireplaces.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Now on pasture land surrounded on two sides by Nandua Creek. Faces southeast with rear facing the creek.

2. Enclosures: Wood rail fences.

3. Landscaping. Formerly beautifully landscaped, but none now remaining.

Prepared by Archie W. Franzen, Architect
National Park Service
March 1960