VLR- 12/11/91 NRHP- 2/26/92

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National **Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name HEATHSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number DHR File No. 66-101

2. Location

street & number US 360 at jct. with SR 634 and SR 201 N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Heathsville N/A ☐ vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Northumberland code 133 zip code 22473

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
[x] private	☐ building(s)	84	37	buildings
[x] public-local	[x] district	12	1	sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	4	1	structures
☐ public-federal	☐ structure	4	0	objects
	☐ object	104	39	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 8

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 38 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [x] meets ☐ does not meat the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Leigh C. Miller — 2 Jan 1992

Signature of certifying official — Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. a see continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register,

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Anton

8. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: Single dwelling	DOMESTIC: Single dwelling
Secondary structure	Secondary structure
Hotel	
see continuation sheet	see continuation sheet

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
see continuation sheet	foundation see continuation sheet
	walls
	roof
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Heathsville Historic District encompasses most of the town of Heathsville, the county seat of Northumberland County. Located in central Northumberland, Heathsville is an unincorporated town of less than two hundred hundred residents. The district is essentially a linear one, following Rt. 360, the main artery linking the east and west ends of the Northern Neck. The district includes a broad range of early architecture, much of it vernacular in character, but some showing the influence of such major national styles as the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic, Eastlake, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. Heathsville's brick courthouse, built in 1851 and heavily remodeled in 1900-01, combines elements of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Set in a landscaped square centered on a Confederate monument, the courthouse stands near an 1844 brick jail and a large frame antebellum tavern. Indeed, Heathsville is significant for having the largest assemblage of antebellum buildings in northeastern Virginia. These range from elegant brick farmhouses and their outbuildings, located at the periphery of the village, to small frame dwellings that line the streets near the courthouse. The district also includes three handsome nineteenth-century churches, nine early cemeteries, and several institutional and commercial buildings. The district comprises one hundred and four contributing resources, including eighty-four buildings, four structures, four objects, and twelve sites. Noncontributing resources number thirty-nine, but intrusive modern buildings are few. Surrounded on all sides by cultivated fields and woodland, and by five former antebellum plantations, the village retains the ambiance of a traditional Virginia courthouse community.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: LANDSCAPE AND ARCHITECTURE

Heathsville is located along Rt. 360 at its intersection with Rt. 201 in north central Northumberland County. It was established as the county seat in 1681, and laid out into town lots in 1798. It lies about a mile south of Rowes Landing on the Coan River, a large estuarine tributary of the Potomac River. Occupying a level ridge about one hundred feet above sea level, Heathsville is surrounded on all sides by agricultural land rimmed by forest. Six early plantations, each retaining its original dwelling, define the outer limits of the town; these include Roanoke on the west-northwest[1], Springfield on the northwest, Belleville on the north, the Wall-Lackey-Rowe House on the southeast, Sunnyside on the southwest, and Oakley on the west. Land from all these farms was subdivided to create the lots on which most of the town's present buildings stand.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	ca. 1700–1941	1798
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		1851
COMMERCE		

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: see continuation sheet

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Heathsville Historic District encompasses the majority of the present-day town of Heathsville, including all its significant early public, religious and commercial buildings. Established in 1681 as Northumberland Court House, Heathsville has remained the county seat for over three centuries. The town is a linear one centered on the county courthouse and surrounded by five antebellum plantation complexes. The present two-story brick courthouse, erected in 1851 and remodeled 1900-01 in the Queen Anne style, replaces two earlier courthouses on the same site. The courthouse is set in a shady square punctuated by a Confederate monument and surrounded by a pre-Civil-War jail, tavern and church. The town, which numbers under two hundred residents, retains the scale and ambiance of a typical early-twentieth-century Virginia courthouse town. It is distinguished architecturally by its numerous antebellum buildings, the largest assemblage in any town on the Northern Neck.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

The Heathsville Historic District is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A because its founding and development is representative of courthouse towns in Virginia during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Buildings such as the courthouse, jail, stores, bank and tavern relate to the town's association with the historical themes of politics/government and commerce. The courthouse itself has served as the focal point of the county's political life for over a century. Under Criterion C the district is eligible because it contains a variety of buildings, structures, objects and sites that well represent the diversity of architectural types and styles employed by the town's inhabitants during most of the community's three-hundred-year history. Of exceptional interest is the town's antebellum buildings, which constitute one of the largest assemblages in the state for a town its size.

The period of significance extends from ca. 1700 (the approximate date of the earliest contributing object, a gravestone with a 1697 death date) to 1941, or fifty years ago. The village is significant for its surviving material culture from the turn of the eighteenth century to the fifty-year-old limit set by National Register guidelines.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Booker, J. Motley. "Historical Highlights of Heathsville," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* 19 (December 1969), pp. 1908-11.

Burgess, Robert H. and H. Graham Wood. *Steamboats out of Baltimore*. Cambridge, Md.: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.

Cote, Richard C., and Margaret T. Peters, "Springfield" (Northumberland County, Va.), National Register nomination, 1979. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

Graham, Willie. "Genteel Punches and Drunken Balls: The Creation of a Recognizable Form for Early Chesapeake Taverns," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society*, Vol. XXVII (1990), pp. 4-11.

Hall, Virginius Cornick, Jr. "Virginia Post Offices, 1798-1859", *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 81, No. 1 (January 1973), pp. 49-97.

Jett, Carolyn H. *Heathsville, Yesterday & Today*, Heathsville, Va.: The Woman's Club of Northumberland County, 1980. Rev. ed. 1989.

_____. "Index: Heathsville, Yesterday & Today," unpublished typescript, Heathsville, Va., 1991.

Latrobe, Benjamin. *The Virginia Journals of Benjamin Henry Latrobe 1795-1798, Vol. 2, 1797-1798*, ed. Edward C. Carter II. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977.

[x] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository:
Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources
221 Governor St., Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 112 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	370720	4198000
B	18	370720	4197800
C	18	370640	4197800
D	18	370640	4197720

[x] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[x] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

[x] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeff O'Dell, architectural historian
organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date December 1991
street & number 221 Governor Street telephone 804-786-3143
city or town Richmond state Virginia zip code 23219

★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

Historic Functions

COMMERCE/TRADE
business
specialty store
financial institution

SOCIAL
meeting hall

GOVERNMENT
courthouse
correctional facility

RELIGION
religious structure
church-related residence

FUNERARY
cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE
monument

AGRICULTURE
processing
storage
agricultural field
animal facility
agricultural outbuilding

LANDSCAPE
garden
unoccupied land

TRANSPORTATION
road-related

Current Functions

COMMERCE/TRADE
business
professional
financial institution
specialty store
warehouse

SOCIAL
meeting hall
clubhouse

GOVERNMENT
courthouse

RELIGION
religious structure
church-related residence

FUNERARY
cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE
monument

AGRICULTURE
storage
agricultural field
agricultural outbuilding

LANDSCAPE
parking lot
garden
forest
unoccupied land

TRANSPORTATION
road-related

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Architectural Classification

NO STYLE
Vernacular

EARLY REPUBLIC
Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY
Greek Revival
Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN
Italianate
Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS
Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER
I House
Foursquare

Materials

WOOD
Weatherboard
Shingle

BRICK

METAL
Iron
Tin
Aluminum

CONCRETE

ASPHALT

SYNTHETICS
Vinyl

STUCCO

STONE

Like many Virginia county seats, Heathsville is a small community, having grown little over the past century. There has been minimal suburban development over the past fifty years; the town is still compact. Growth has concentrated along Routes 360 and 201, gradually spreading out from the old village core. Rt. 360, which serves as the main street of the village, extends (via Routes 202 and 3) to either end of the great peninsula known as the Northern Neck; it connects Heathsville with Reedville to the east, and with Callao, Warsaw, Montross, and Fredericksburg to the west. Rt. 360 intersects with Rt. 201 near the south end of town; the latter road connects Heathsville with Lancaster Court House and Kilmarnock in the southeast section of the peninsula.

Today, as always, the town focusses on the county courthouse, which stands in a small square on the west side of Rt. 360. Most of the office and commerical buildings in Heathsville--including two banks, several law offices, an insurance office, one or two stores, and the post office--face onto the courthouse square or are located near it. A modern service station and a convenience store stand within a block of the courthouse square, to the southeast, these being the only intrusive buildings in an otherwise harmonious, traditional setting. The only industrial establishment in the village is Alliance Fertilizer, a distribution concern, located one block north of the courthouse. (This business was established in the 1950s on the site of several early dwellings previously demolished).

The general ambiance of Heathsville is that of a quiet courthouse village of the pre-World-War-II era. In this respect, Heathsville contrasts with other county seats in the region. It is smaller and less developed than Warsaw, Montross, or Tappahannock, the seats of three neighboring counties. It has always been larger than Lancaster Court House to the south, and while it is similar in size to King George Court House at the western end of the peninsula, it has considerably fewer modern intrusions.

Heathsville boasts an architecturally diverse collection of pre-1940 buildings, structures and sites. Most significant, however, is its group of twenty-seven antebellum buildings; these constitute the largest concentration of pre-1860 structures in the Northern Neck, and probably anywhere else in northeastern Virginia. Only Fredericksburg (and possibly Port Royal) to the west and Richmond to the south have more extant buildings erected before the Civil War.[2]

Antebellum buildings with good integrity include the main dwellings at Springfield, Belleview, Sunnyside and Oakley, the four largest plantation houses in the Heathsville Historic District. Each of these former farm complexes retains some early outbuildings, including kitchens, smokehouses, dairies, and granaries. In addition, the district contains ten smaller antebellum dwellings, some with outbuildings. A few of these buildings have been altered, but most retain their original form with few intrusive additions. Antebellum public or quasi-public buildings include the courthouse (1851; remodeled in 1900-01); the old county jail (1844); the former Methodist Protestant Church (ca. 1855-60); and Rice Hotel (ante 1795 and later). Rice Hotel, formerly known as Hughlett's Tavern, stands directly behind the courthouse; it is the quintessential courthouse tavern, having grown in stages from the late eighteenth century to the

mid-nineteenth century. Distinguished by its twelve-bay front and two-tier wooden piazza, this building is perhaps the largest traditional tavern in any Virginia town east of Fredericksburg and north of Gloucester Court House.

While the big plantation houses and public buildings of Heathsville all exhibit stylish decorative detailing, most of the town's earliest buildings follow a strictly traditional, vernacular form. (It is instructive to look at two turn-of-the-century photographs of Heathsville published in Wilson's history of the Northern Neck[3]; these show a settlement consisting entirely of plain, one-story frame buildings with shed-roofed front porches and large brick end chimneys--buildings of traditional eighteenth- and early- nineteenth-century Virginia form.) Indeed, Heathsville around 1900 resembled in many respects such well-preserved colonial Virginia towns as Yorktown and Port Royal.

Heathsville, like other localities and regions in Virginia, experienced a period of significant rebuilding in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, particularly in the 1830s. Indeed, over half of the present pre-Civil-War structures surviving in the town today appear to have been built in the 1830s. On the other hand, relatively little building appears to have taken place in the period between 1860 and 1900.[4]

Plain but well-constructed single-story and story-and-a-half dwellings in Heathsville dating between 1825 and 1850 include the Harding House, the Jones House, the Harding-Elmore House, the Wall-Lackey-Rowe House, the Moss House and the Bailey-Rowe House. All are of frame construction covered with weatherboards, and most follow standard Virginia hall-parlor or side-passage plans. Exceptions include the Wall-Lackey-Rowe House, which has a hall-and-rear-chamber plan served by a huge end chimney and corner fireplaces; and the Harding House (measuring 16'x 27'), with an oddly proportioned two-room plan combining features of both the standard hall-parlor and side-passage plans. The smallest of the town's early dwellings is the Lawson-Headley house, whose main block measures only 16' x 24'. Undoubtedly many houses of similar or smaller size once stood in the village, but they have all disappeared.

Two somewhat larger single-story houses, both of brick and both with central-passage plans and tall basements, are The Academy and Chicacoan Cottage. Located on the same lane about fifty yards apart, these dwellings were built around 1830 as rental properties by William Harding, owner and builder of nearby Springfield plantation. Both houses exhibit perfectly symmetrical proportions, handsome Flemish-bond brickwork, and formal interior end chimneys, but their Federal-style interior detailing is quite plain.[5]

Heathsville's larger antebellum dwellings, all formerly farmhouses on the periphery of town, feature two-story elevations and central-passage plans. These early examples of the I-house form--a house type which became much more widely used in the late nineteenth century--have five-bay fronts, single-pile plans, and gable roofs. Two of them--Springfield and Sunnyside--are of brick construction, and two--Oakley and Belleville--are frame. The most elaborate of these

is Springfield, built in 1828 for William Harding, a wealthy merchant and planter. The two-and-a-half-story main block was enlarged ca. 1849-50 by the addition of two symmetrical flanking one-story wings, bringing the entire house to roughly twenty-eight by eighty feet. On the exterior, the house is distinguished by a handsome two-tier Roman Doric portico, and by stepped parapets and Gothic windows in the wings. The interior features a handsome curving stair and Federal-style mantels, but its crowning features are the superbly executed plaster ceiling medallions probably modelled after plates in Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture* (1833). The plasterwork, the portico and the wings were almost certainly designed and executed by the same unknown master builder who erected two other of the county's finest dwellings: Wheatland and Cloverdale, both completed around 1850.[6]

The rural character of Heathsville's surviving plantation houses is underscored by their extant outbuildings. Those at Springfield, all of brick construction and antedating 1850, include an office, dairy, carriagehouse, and rare three-unit slave quarters. Belleville Farm retains its original detached frame kitchen with massive brick end chimney. Sunnyside has a similar kitchen, but it has been slightly enlarged to serve as a guesthouse. Also standing at Sunnyside are a pair of matching brick dependencies (a smokehouse and a dairy), as well as an unusual ca. 1830-50 granary with brick root cellar. Late-nineteenth-century outbuildings include a corncrib and carriagehouse, both embellished with distinctive wave-form bargeboards.

Graveyards were a common feature of most antebellum Virginia farms, and those at Heathsville at no exception. (The only church-related cemetery in town is that at St. Stephen's Church, established in 1881). Sunnyside, for example, has a well-preserved Smith family cemetery with early stone markers. Other family cemeteries remain elsewhere in the district, three of them associated with dwellings that no longer stand.[7] The most interesting of these is the Haynie Cemetery, located on the north side of the village. Several grave markers date to the first half of the nineteenth century. The earliest gravestone there carries a death date of 1697, making it one of the half-dozen oldest gravestones known on the Northern Neck. Dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Haynie (1665-1697), this sandstone slab marker is decorated at the top with two rather crudely inscribed fleur-de-lis flanking a central skull-and-crossbones.[8]

Heathsville's public buildings are typical of their respective eras. The present 1851 courthouse, heavily remodeled in 1900-01, is a substantial two-and-a-half-story brick structure set on a tall raised basement. The original builder was John Donohoo, who erected a two-story brick building that looked more like a typical plantation dwelling than like a public building. (A photo of the courthouse before remodeling is reproduced in a recent publication.)[9] The courthouse enlargement and remodeling was undertaken by Bartholomew F. Smith of Alexandria, who specialized in building jails, courthouses and public-records buildings. The main facade of the building in its present form is closely similar in appearance to the Northampton County courthouse, also designed by Smith and erected by his construction firm, The B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company, in 1899.[10]

Somewhat plainer than most of Smith's documented courthouses, the Northumberland County courthouse blends elements of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The facade features an oversized, decorative front dormer which rises directly from the wall plane below. This dormer features a brick parapet and a small, central, round-headed window. The main body of the courthouse is deeper than it is wide, featuring a three-bay front and four-bay sides. Plain pilasters define the corners of the building, and the eaves are embellished with a heavy wooden cornice with oversized modillions. The central doors on both first and second floors have semicircular fanlights, and the large flanking windows have segmental-arched heads.

The building is bisected by a central passage leading to offices on the main floor; the second floor accommodates the courtroom and a broad lobby. The courthouse underwent several changes following the 1900-01 rebuilding. The present veranda with upper deck may be a somewhat later remodeling of the original. The two-story rear wing, inset somewhat from main block, may have been constructed after 1901. The flanking one-story wings date to 1964 and 1974, respectively, but they blend nicely with the original building. The interior, too, has been considerably remodeled since 1901, but a handsome plaster ceiling medallion probably dating to 1851 remains in the central passage.

The county jail, located just southwest of the courthouse, is a plain three-bay, two-story building with gable roof and corbelled cornice. An inscribed stone lintel over the doorway reads "1844". The interior of the jail remains as it was when the county transferred inmates to the new jail, completed in 1960 on a parcel fifty yards south. Now vacant and essentially unaltered, the old jail is owned by the Northumberland Historical Society, which intends to preserve it.

Located directly behind (south of) the courthouse, and long associated with it, is Rice's Hotel (aka Hughlett's Tavern or Shirley Hotel). The tavern, which began as two-story, two-room-plan frame building in the last decade of the eighteenth century, was greatly expanded in the 1830s. The northern two bays were added some time after the Civil War, and the two-bay south end wing was erected in the 1920s.[11] Much Federal style interior detailing remains from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The hotel housed visitors to the court for over a century and a half. By the middle of this century it served a variety of other functions: downstairs rooms were leased as office space, and one of these served as a polling station until the 1970s. Upstairs rooms were let to long- and short-term boarders and tenants. The building finally closed in the late 1970s, and has deteriorated for want of maintenance ever since. In 1990 the building was donated to the Northumberland County Historical Society, whose intent is to stablize and rehabiitate it. Directly behind the hotel, stand the ruins of two antebellum outbuildings: a smokehouse and a detached kitchen.

Another quasi-public building in the village is the Heathsville Masonic Lodge No. 109, located a block west of the courthouse. Built in 1894, it is a typical two-story frame building of its type, with a narrow front and considerable depth. Still used as a Masonic lodge, it has lost much of its original architectural character by the addition of brick veneer in the early 1980s.

Three early churches--all dating to the second half of the nineteenth century--stand in the district. The earliest is the Methodist Protestant Church, an extemely fine example of its type and period. The two-story brick structure displays a mix of Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate decorative elements. The facades are articulated by plain brick pilasters with white-painted capitals, by stone panels between the upper and lower windows, and by round-headed upper windows. Elaborate brick corbelling creates the base of an entablature, and a round window with elaborate cast-iron grate provides a focal point in the pedimented front gable. In 1903, the church was converted for business use by inserting an additional floor, but it remains largely intact on the exterior.[12]

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, erected in 1881 to designs by Baltimore architect T. Buckler Chequiere, is one of the finest examples of the Carpenter Gothic style in Virginia. Probably inspired by illustrations in Richard Upjohn's *Rural Architecture* (1852), many of its decorative elements and interior fittings were shipped by boat from Baltimore. This highly picturesque building features board-and-batten siding, a steeply pitched roof with overhanging eaves; bargeboards terminating in carved drops; and extremely narrow lancet windows filled with stained glass. A delicate, airy porch shelters the front entry, and a rose window and wooden cross provide focal points at the gable.[13]

The Heathsville United Methodist Church, erected in 1894, is typical of large, well-built churches in small towns throughout eastern Virginia, and was probably designed by a local builder. It features an ell plan with a tower in the corner of the ell. Various sized pointed-arch windows, some with angled tracery, signal the continued popularity of Gothic-style elements in local vernacular church buildings.

Heathsville boasts three public monuments: a Confederate monument erected in 1873; a monument to Womans Missionary Society president Juliana Gordon Hayes, erected around the turn of the century; and a monument commemorating the veterans of World War I, erected in the 1920s. The Confederate monument, which stands in the center of the courthouse square, was designed and carved by Gladdes Brothers of Baltimore. Constructed of white marble, it features a plinth carved with military symbols, and a tall obelisk-form shaft surmounted by an allegorical female figure holding an anchor. The female figure, which represents the role of Northumberland's women as anchors of the home during the war, is perhaps the only one of its type in the state. Erected at a cost of $2,540 (paid by local contributions), it is an unusually refined monument for its place and period. The Hayes and World War I monuments, though less elaborate, are well made and attractive additions to the streetscape. The Hayes monument, a simple obelisk on a plinth, stands in front of the United Methodist Church; the World War I monument, erected in the mid 1920s, stands along Rt. 360 at the north edge of the courthouse square, in front of the Bank of Northumberland.

Heathsville exhibits a typical range of twentieth-century domestic buildings illustrating various national styles. Several houses dating to the first two decades of this century are similar in form

to dwellings from the 1880s or 1890s found in larger, more progressive Virginia communities. Examples from this period in the historic district are generally of I-house form, some with front ells. Among the finest is the Basye-Snow-Tingle House, which was enlarged from a one-story antebellum house in 1900. Dating from the 1920s are several Foursquare and Bungalow style residences. The Bastine Williams House and the Elizabeth Hall Hurst House are particularly fine examples of bungalows, and the Howard Martin House and Methodist Parsonage are typical of foursquares. The majority of Heathsville's early twentieth-century dwellings, however, are in the Colonial Revival style. The most impressive example is Westlawn, a two-and-a-half-story frame dwelling set on a very large lot near the south end of town. It retains its original story-and-a-half garage with dormers and balustraded roof deck. Other handsome Colonial Revival dwellings include the Henry Walker House, Brent-Neale House, and Lillian Hatton House, all built between 1926 and 1941.

Few early stores or other commercial buildings have survived in the district. Most general merchandise stores built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were plain one- or two-story frame buildings, and only one or two remain. (Examples of such structures can be seen in turn-of-the-century photographs of the town). Two early commercial buildings have been demolished in the last five years, one was a store just north of the courthouse, and the other the was the old Northumberland Echo office on Rt. 360. The Colonial Revival style Bank of Northumberland is today both the the least altered and most architecturally distinguished commercial building in Heathsville. Erected in 1924 on the site of an early tavern that had been demolished about twenty years previously, it features a pedimented front gable with modillion cornice. Discounting the 1860 Methodist Episcopal Church, which was converted to business use in 1903, it is probably the first brick commercial building erected in the town.

Today Heathsville seems more a residential than commercial center. Well-kept, medium-sized homes line the town's two main streets. About a third of those in the historic district are of post-1940 date, and thus are listed in the nomination as noncontributing. Most of these, however, follow traditional styles, blending quite well with the older houses. Yards are large, with broad front lawns and mature shade trees. Indeed, trees are so numerous that it is often impossible to see more than two or three houses at a time during the warm months of the year.

Heathsville is a remarkably coherent, primarily residential historic district. Residents are proud of their town, and many are committed to preserving its historic character. In the late 1980s a community leader purchased a vacant lot in the town with the express purpose of preventing it from being developed. More recently, the Northumberland Historical Society accepted the donation of the badly deteriorating Rice Hotel with the intent of rehabilitating it. Such concern for the early buildings and the ambiance of the town may help preserve its historic character for decades to come.

Jeff M. O'Dell

ENDNOTES

1. Roanoke is outside the limits of the historic district; it could not be included because too many noncontributing buildings separate it from the historic center of the town.

2. The Port Royal Historic District contained roughly 30 or 35 pre-Civil War buildings when the National Register nomination was written in 1969. (This report contains no inventory of contributing structures.) Unfortunately, a number of those buildings have been destroyed since the register report was written. Port Royal's buildings, unlike those of Heathsville, are mostly urban: the district includes only one former plantation complex, and its outbuildings have disappeared.

The Tapphannock Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1972, has eleven pre-Civil War period buildings, many dating to the eighteenth century. The Urbanna Historic District, listed in 1990, has seven pre-Civil War buildings, the majority dating to the eighteenth century.

3. John C. Wilson, *Virginia's Northern Neck, A Pictorial History*, (Norfolk, 1984), pp. 127-28.

4. Building dates cited in this report are based, for the most part, on research undertaken by Carolyn H. Jett and published in her book *Heathsville Yesterday & Today* (Heathsville, 1980; rev. ed. 1989). Mrs. Jett has generously shared other research through all phases of the Heathsville survey and subsequent National Register nomination project.

5. The dormers on both houses are later additions; they were originally single-story dwellings with finished lofts.

6. See a discussion of these houses and their similarities in the 1986 National Register nomination for Wheatland, Northumberland County, Virginia.

7. These include the Haynie, DeShields and Basye cemeteries.

8. Only three other gravestones of this period (late seventeenth century or eighteenth century) are known to survive in the county. Two are located in the same graveyard off Lewisetta Road near Cypress Farm. Both are slab stones similar to the Haynie example. One memorializes William Keene, who died in 1684, and the other memorializes Thomas Banks, who died in 1697. Like the Haynie stone, they were probably erected within a decade or two of the persons' deaths, but not necessarily in the year of death. See Isabel Gough, "Tombstone May Be Oldest Relic in Northumberland County," *The Northumberland Echo*, Heathsville, Va., May 1, 1991. The other stone is a slab stone that covers the earlier, original stone marking the grave of the Rev. David Lyndsey, who died in 1667. Near his grave is that of his grandson, Thomas Opie, who is said to have ordered the present stone for Lyndsey's grave.

9. See photo on p. 96 of John Wilson, *Virginia's Northern Neck* (reproduced in the Supplementary Photos section of this report). The courthouse was a plain two-story brick structure with gable roof and longitudinal five-bay front. The small one-story, one-bay porch contrasted with the monumental porticos employed on most Virginia courthouses of the period.

10. Personal communication, John E. Wells, Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va., October 11, 1991. The reference for the remodeling of the Northumberland Courthouse is from the *Manufacturer's Record*, 13 September 1900, p. 129.

In its present form, the Northumberland Court Courthouse is almost identical to the 1899 Northampton County Courthouse at Eastville, located directly across the Chesapeake Bay on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Differences include the larger and finer veranda at Heathsville; the use of slightly different window treatments in the two buildings; and the use of decorative belt courses at Eastville versus pilasters at Heathsville. Moreover, the main floor of the Heathsville courthouse is entered via a flight of steps, rather than at grade level, as at Eastville.

Bartholomew Smith, founder of the B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company in Washington, D.C. specialized in the design and construction of fireproof public buildings between about 1897 and 1912. Smith designed and erected courthouses in King George, Franklin, New Kent and Accomac counties in Virginia, as well as in at least three North Carolina counties. He also remodeled the Westmoreland County Courthouse

at Montross in 1900, the Princess Anne County Courthouse in 1909, and the Essex County Courthouse in Tappahannock in 1912. Wells's research shows over forty such public-buildings projects between 1897 and 1912.

According to the records of the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors for the years 1900-1901 (photocopies provided by Carolyn H. Jett), the B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company signed a contract for $6,500 with the county "for remodeling & repairing the courthouse, and making completely fire proof the Clerk's Office furnishing same with metal furniture, acccording to plans and specifications filed with clerk of board . . . ." (Supervisor's Book 3, p. 279, 23 Oct. 1900). The county levied special taxes and issued bonds to pay for the enlargement and remodeling job. Work commenced in autumn 1900, but by February 1901 the construction company had fallen behind schedule. Perhaps burdened by more jobs than his firm could complete, B. F. Smith arranged for the Pauly Jail Building Company of St. Louis, Mo. to complete the structure. Accordingly, Pauly received the final payment of $2,390.50 upon satisfactory completion of the job in March 1901.

Pauly Jail Building Company, which was active between 1870 and 1927, designed and built jails all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico. In Virginia, it erected jails at Newport News and Portsmouth, as well as at nearby Montross, in Westmoreland County, in 1911.

11. Willie Graham, "Genteel Punches and Drunken Balls: The Creation of a Recognizable Form for Early Chesapeake Taverns," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society*, Vol. XXVII (1990), pp. 8-10. The tavern was carefully recorded in 1990 with measured drawings by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation staff members Carl Lounsbury and Willie Graham. Graham's article focuses on Rice Hotel as an example of broader regional trends in tavern architecture.

12. The cornerstone from the 1833 Methodist Protestant church that stood on the present site of the Confederate monument was built into the back wall of the present church, where it can be seen today. After 1903, the building was variously used as a bank, drugstone, funeral parlor and town hall; in more recent years, it has been used for offices.

13. The rose window is said to have been taken from the old St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, which stood in the Lottsburg area. (Personal communication, Carolyn Jett, Oct. 1991).

INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

Notes on format and organization of inventory:

Properties are numbered and mapped in regular order by roads, and are so keyed to the accompanying USGS Heathsville quad map. Numbering (and listing) of resources begins in the northeast corner of the district and continues in a clockwise order. Specifically, numbering starts at the point of origin and proceeds south along the east side of Rt. 360. Numbers then continue on the west side of Rt. 360 proceeding north to the intersection with Rt. 201. Numbers continue south along the east side of Rt. 201, then north along the west side of Rt. 201. Numbering then continues north along the west side of Rt. 360 to a property opposite the point of origin.

The first number for each entry is the reference number for this report; these numbers correspond with those on the real-estate map accompanying this report. Some properties have a second, DHR file number. This two-part number has a prefix of 66, representing Northumberland County; the second number denotes the particular property within the county.

Historical references are to Carolyn H. Jett, Heathsville Yesterday & Today (Heathsville, Va., 1980, rev. ed. 1989).

Names for dwellings are in many cases assigned by the author, based on the original or long-term owners.

Rt. 360, West side (list begins w/ properties at north edge of district running southeast)

*# 1 (66-11) **Springfield Farm**. Listed on NRHP in 1979.*
Dwelling. Brick (Flemish bond); 2 1/2 stories; 5-bay front main block; gable roof with 4 dormers; 1 1/2-story, 1-bay symmetrical flanking wings (1850) with stepped-parapet shed roofs.; ca. 80' x 28' including wings; 2-story, 2-tier pedimented front portico (1850); Federal and Greek Revival styles; built 1828-30, enlarged ca. 1850. Contributing building.
Office. Brick; 1 story; 2-bay front; gable roof; vernacular; ca. ca. 1830. Contributing building.
Dairy. Brick; 1 story; 1-bay front; decorative vents; gable roof; vernacular; ca. 1830. Contributing building.
Slave quarters. Brick; 1 story; 3-bay front; gable roof; vernacular; ca. 1830. Contributing building.
Carriage house. Site; demolished late 1980s. Formerly brick; 1 1/2 stories; gable roof; ca. 1830-50. Contributing site.
Garage. Frame; 1-story; gable roof; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 44-46, Jett.

#1A Brent-Neale House Lot 102
Dwelling. Brick 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay front with projecting central bay creating vestibule; gable roof with dormers; side porch and side wing; Colonial Revival; 1951. Noncontributing building.

Historical data, p. 47, Jett.

 # 2. Brent-Neale House. Lot 101.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 1/2 stories; 3-bay front; gable roof with 3 front dormers; 1-bay front porch; Colonial Revival; 1941. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; ca. 1941. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 47, Jett.

 # 3. Chilton House. Lot 100.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 1\2 stories; 3-bay front main block; clipped gable roof with monitor dormer; side porch; Colonial Revival; 1938-39. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 47, Jett.

 # 4. Downing-Taliaferro House (aka Tolnitch House) Lot 99.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 stories; asymmetrical 5-bay front; L-shaped plan; gable roofs; wraparound front veranda; Victorian vernacular; 1906. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; pyramidal roof; 1-bay front; probably built as a smokehouse. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 46-47, Jett.

 # 5. T. Boyd Taliaferro House (aka Kisser House) Lot 98.
Dwelling. Brick veneer (Flemish bond); 1 story; 4-bay front; gable roof; attached garage; ranch style; 1948. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 47, Jett.

 # 6. Lillian A. Hatton House (aka Coggin House, Jones House) Lot 97.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 1/2 stories; asymmetrical 4-bay front; gable roof with 4 front dormers; end bay recessed to appear as a wing; Colonial Williamsburg style; 1936. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1-story; ca. 1936. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 47, Jett.

 # 7. Charles Cowart House (aka Delano House) Lot 96-A.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 story; 3-bay front; L plan; ranch style; 1958. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 46, Jett.

8. **Eichelberger-Hall House** Lot 95.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 stories; 3-bay front; gable roof; Colonial Revival; greatly remodeled from a Victorian-style house built ca. 1892-93 for E. W. Eichelberger.; remodeled to present appearance ca. 1938-39 for T. Edward Hall. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 46-47, Jett.

9. **Virginia Gimpel House** (aka Cowart House) Lot 94.
Dwelling. Frame; 1-story; asymmetrical 5-bay front; gable roof; ranch style; 1959. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 46, Jett.

10. (66-48) **The Academy** (aka The Quarter) Lot 93.
Dwelling. Brick (Flemish-bond front, American-bond sides and rear); 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay front; raised basement; gable roof with 3 front dormers; Classical portico; vernacular with Federal details; ca. 1830-50. Originally part of Springfield plantation; built as rental property. Contributing building.
Smokehouse. Brick (American bond); 1 story; 1-bay front; gable roof; decorative vents; ca. 1830-50. Contributing building.
Barn. Frame; 1 1/2 stories; gable roof; gable-end front; side shed; late 19th c.; Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 49-50, Jett.

11. **St. Stephens Church Rectory.** Lot 93A
Dwelling. Brick veneer; 1 story; 5-bay front; gable roofs of varying heights; ranch style; 1967-68. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 51, Jett.

12. (66-49) **Chicacoan Cottage.** Lot 93-B
Dwelling. Identical to The Academy, listed above (# 10). Brick (Flemish-bond front, American-bond sides and rear); 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay front; raised basement; gable roof; mid-20th c. Classical portico (copied from Smith-Warren House in Surry County); vernacular with Federal details; ca. 1830-50. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1 story; gable roof; 1980s. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, pp. 51, 94, Jett.

13. (66-103) **Belleville.** Large parcel; parcel # 16-(1)-51.
Dwelling. Frame (beaded weatherboarding); 2 stories; 5-bay front; gable roof; exterior end chimneys, main block; early rear shed addition; late 19th c. front porch; vernacular with Federal detailing; early 19th c.; 1849 addition. Contributing building.
Kitchen. Frame (German siding); 1 story; 3-bay front; gable roof; large brick end chimney (5-course American bond); rear shed addition; early 19th c. Contributing building.
Windmill. Metal frame; wooden water tank; wheel intact; early 20th c. Contributing object.

Garage. Frame; shed roof; early to mid 20th c.; altered. Noncontributing building.
Vehicle shed. Frame; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Poultry house. Frame; early 20th c. Contributing structure.
Historical data, p. 53, Jett.
Betts Cemetery. Eight or more graves dating from 1840s to early 20th c., including 3 C.S.A. markers. Located in open field to west of entry lane. Contributing site.

 # 14. Basye-Rowe Cemetery. Lot 91.
Cemetery. Located in an open field. Several markers, early 20th c.; earliest grave marker is dated 1908. Located in open field to east of Bellville entry lane. Contributing site.

 # 15. (66-27) St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Lot 1. Listed on NRHP, 1979.
Church. Frame (board & batten siding); 1 story; 3-bay gable-end front; 4-bay sides; original front porch; original rear vestry wing; decorative detailing intact; Gothic style; 1881. Architect: T. Buckler Checquiere, of Baltimore. Contributing building.
Bell stand. Freestanding support for bell; open, post-in-ground wooden frame, tapers inward toward top; supports large bell. Bell is inscribed: "Henry McShane & Co./ Baltimore, Md./1882". Late 19th c. or early 20th c. Contributing structure.
Cemetery. Lot 89. Late 19th c.; most grave markers are 20th c. Contributing site.
Historical data, p. 36-37, Jett.

 # 16. Parish House of St. Stephen's Church (aka H.C. Rowe House). Lot 2.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 1/2 stories; 3-bay front; hipped roof with single hipped-roof dormer; original front veranda with decorative trim; Foursquare style; 1907. Property was acquired by St. Stephen's Church in 1957. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 37, Jett.

 # 17. DeShields Cemetery. Lot 90.
Cemetery. 19th c.; several grave markers. Contributing site.
Historical data, p. 36, Jett.

 # 18. H. C. Rowe House (aka Simmons House). Lot 88.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 stories; 4-bay front; gable roof; front veranda; ca. 1909. Contributing building.
Storage shed. Frame; 1 story; gable roof; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 37-38, Jett.

 # 19. First Virginia Bank Lots 85, 86, 87.
Bank building. Brick (possibly veneer); 1 story; gable roofs; front facade divided into 3-bay and 2-bay sections; Colonial style; 1980-81. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, pp. 38-39, 94, Jett.

The following 2 properties are approached from Rt. 634:

 # 20. Harrison-Boone House. Lot 63-A.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 story; gable roof; 1972. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 95, Jett.

 # 20A. Haynie Cemetery. Lot 63-D.
Cemetery. Oldest grave marker is a stone slab with 1697 death date. This stone, one of the oldest on the Northern Neck, is inscribed with fleur-de-lis and skull motifs. Other stones date to 18th and 19th centuries. Located in the yard of the present house, the cemetery is partially surrounded by a low brick wall erected in 1959; it incorporates a brick dated "1795" found nearby (presumably from the ruins of an older house). Contributing site.
Historical data, p.72, Jett.

Rt. 360 properties continue below:

Alliance Fertilizer. Lot 83.
Vacant lots.

#20B. Basye Cemetery. Lot 84.
Cemetery. Mid 19th c. Includes grave of Hannah Martin Taliaferrro Basye (d. 1841); gravestone has ornate scrolled head with carved floral motifs. Located on a small knoll on back of lot. Contributing site.
Historical data, p. 55, Jett.

 # 21. (66-70) Heathsville Masonic Lodge No. 109. Lot 82.
Masonic Hall. Frame (brick veneer added in 1980s); 2 stories; 1-bay gable-end front; gable roof; prominent chimneys with corbelled caps; 1894. Contributing building.
Cast-iron fence. Late 19th c.; unaltered. Contributing object.
Historical data, p.56, Jett.

 # 22. Alliance Fertilizer Company. Lots 81, 79a.
Office and Transport Building. Cement block (part is brick veneered); 1 story; flat roof; built in two sections; mid-20th c.; altered. Noncontributing building.
Storage Building. Cement block; 1 story; gable roof. Mid-20th c. Noncontributing building.
Storage Building. Frame (metal-sheathed); built into side of hill; 1 story; shed roof. Mid-20th c. Noncontributing building.
Pumphouse. Sydnor Pump Well. Cement block; 1 story; shed roof; large metal liquid-storage tank adjacent. Noncontributing structure.
Note: These structures were built on the old Nelm's Hotel lot.
Historical data, pp. 38-39, Jett.

✓ **# 23. Lawson-Headley House.** Lot 79.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 story; full brick basement; 3-bay front; approx. 16' x 24' main block; 1-bay pedimented front porch; rear shed addition; vernacular; ca. 1820-60; possibly moved, after 1848, to present site. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1 story; gable roof; metal siding; built ca. 1977. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 86, Jett.

✓ **# 24. Traylor Building.** Lot 78.
Office building. Concrete block (stucco); 1 story; asymmetrical 8-bay front; false mansard roof parapet; built ca. 1942 as a filling station; remodeled in 1961 to serve as an office building. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 90, Jett.

✓ **# 25. Betts-Anderson-Lawson House.** Lot 77.
Dwelling. Frame; asymmetrical 5-bay front; gable roof. Began as a small 1 1/2-story house; enlarged in mid-19th c. by having a bale house which stood in front of it moved back and joined to the house as a wing on the left side. The roofs of both sections were raised to 2 stories in the late 19th or early 20th century. Ante 1848; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame (metal-sheathed); 1 story; gable roof; built 1970s. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 85, Jett.

✓ **# 26. Harding-Elmore House** (aka Mothershead House, Bradford House) Lot 76.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 story & loft; raised brick basement; 3-bay front; gable roof; exterior end chimney; Victorian veranda; rear shed addition; ca. 1825-50. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 69, 95, Jett.

 # 27. Texaco Service Station. Lot 75.
Automobile service station. Concrete block (with brick veneer); 1 story; hipped roof; 1950 with later alterations. Noncontributing building.
Fertilizer storage building. Concrete block; 1 story; set on side of hill, with crawlspace below; 2-bay gable-end front; loading platform; ca. 1956. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 65, Jett.

✓ **# 28. The Northumberland Echo Office.** Lot 74.
Newspaper office. Frame (weatherboards, with later brick veneer on front); 1 story; 3-bay gable-end front; gable roof; ca. 1930 with later addition. Considerably altered. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 65, Jett.

✓ **# 29. Little Sue-The Buoy.** (Formerly Exxon Station) Lot 73.
Convenience food store. Concrete block (brick veneer on front); 1 story; plate-glass windows; false-mansard roof; ca. 1965 with later alterations. Built on the site of a 19th-c. coach-building shop and blacksmith shop. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 66, Jett.

 # 30. Women's Club. Lot 72.
✓ **Club meeting hall.** Frame; 1 story; 3-bay gable-end front (main block); side addition; small front porch; 1927. Originally an automobile showroom; later a grocery store; the Women's Club bought it in 1953, making few changes to the building. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 67, Jett.

 # 31. Allen R. Bryant House (aka Spaven House). Lot 71.
✓ **Dwelling.** Frame; 1 story; 3-bay-front main block; gable roof; side wing and side porch; Colonial Revival; 1936. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; 1-bay front; gable roof; ca. 1930s. Contributing structure.
Historical data, p. 68, Jett.

✓ **# 32. Prosser Rowe House** (aka Saville House; Smith/Baldacci House) Lot 69.
Frame; 1 story; 5-bay front; gable roof with 2 front dormers; Colonial Revival; ca. 1948. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, pp. 68, 95, Jett.

 # 33. Wall-Lackey-Rowe House. Lot 68. (66-54)
✓ **Dwelling.** Frame with weatherboarding; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay front, main block; gable roof with 2 front dormers; large exterior end chimney serving corner fireplaces; 1-story shed-roofed wings with front parapet; vernacular; ca. 1832. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 68, Jett.

76 ✓ Vacant lot. Lot 66.

✓ **# 35. Swann House.** Lot 65.
Dwelling. Frame with weatherboarding; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay front; gable roof with wide central dormer; 1938. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; altered; ca. 1938-50. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 72, Jett.

36. S. Roland Hall House (aka Daniel Lawson House) Lot 64.
Dwelling. Frame with asbestos shingles; 2 stories; L-plan with 3-bay front; gable roofs; wraparound front veranda; late 19th c.; built ante 1908; moved to present site ca. 1911. Contributing building.
Stable. Frame; 1 story; gablae roof; built ca. 1938-40 as a garage; converted to stable in recent years. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, pp. 71-72, Jett.

The following properties are located on the east side of Rt. 360 running SE to NW:

37. (66-55) Sunnyside. Parcels 119R and 119L.
Dwelling. Brick (Flemish-bond); 2 stories; 5-bay main block, 2-bay north wing; gable rof; interior end chimneys; tetrastyle front porch; Federal style detailing; ca. 1825-45. Contributing building.
Smokehouse. Brick (Flemish-bond); 1 story; 1-bay; gable roof; decorative vents; ca. 1825-45. Contributing building.
Dairy. Matches the smokehouse. Brick (Flemish-bond); 1 story; 1-bay; gable roof; decorative vents; ca. 1825-45. Contributing building.
Kitchen/Cottage. Frame; 1 1/2 stories; asymmetrical 3-bay front; gable roof with one dormer; Began in second quarter 19th c. as a 2-bay, 1-room-plan kitchen; expanded in early 20th c. by the addition of an end wing and a taller second story. Contributing building.
Barn. Frame; 1 story & loft; 1-bay gable-end front; brick basement; gable roof; added side sheds; ca. 1825-45. Contributing building.
Corncrib. Frame; 1 story; 1-bay gable-end front; piers; gable roof; late 19th c. Contributing building.
Carriagehouse. Frame; 1 story; 1-bay gable-end front; piers; gable roof; late 19th c. Contributing building.
Cemetery. Early grave markers of Smith family et al.; 19th c. Contributing site.
Historical data, pp. 56-58, Jett.

38. Westlawn. Lots 61 and 61A.
Dwelling. Frame with weatherboarding; 2 1/2 stories; 5-ba front; gable roof with 3 front dormers; small, 1-bay classical front porch; original wing on south end; Colonial Revival; 1934. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; 2-bay central block 1 1/2 stories, with flanking 1-bay, 1-story wings; gable roof with 2 front dormers (central block); flat-roofed wings with balustrade; Colonial Revival; ca. 1934. Contributing building.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 story; 6-bay front; gable roof; ranch style; mid-20th c. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 58, Jett.

 # 39. Northumberland School Board Office (now County Extension Office) Lot 60.
Office building. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 1\2 stories; symmetrical 7-bay front; gable roof with 3 front dormers; 1-bay porches on front and south end; Colonial Revival. Ca. 1940. Contributing building.
Shed. Frame (metal-sheathed); 1 story; mid-20th c. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 64, Jett.

 # 40. Heathsville United Methodist Church. Lot 59.
Church. Frame (originally weatherboarding and shingles; now vinyl siding); 1 story plus tower; cruciform plan; front bell tower with octagonal spire; decorative pointed-head windows with tracery; Gothic style; 1894. Contributing building.
Historical data, p.62, Jett.

Juliana Gordon Hayes Monument. Granite obelisk commemorating Juliana Gordon Hayes, born May 3, 1813 at Font Hill, Northumberland Co., Va.; died June 2, 1895 in Baltimore, Md.. Monument stands at front corner of triangular lot, near the intersection of Rts. 360 and 201. Inscription on north face of plinth reads: "APPOINTED FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE WOMANS MISSIONARY SOCIETY M.E. CHURCH SOUTH BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA, GA. MAY 23, 1878." Contributing object.

The following properties are on the east side of Rt. 201 running N to S:

 # 41. Heathsville United Methodist Church Parsonage. Lot 59.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 1/2 stories; 3-bay front; hipped roof with central hipped-roofed dormer; Foursquare style; 1929. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 63, Jett.

 # 42. Braxton Dawson House (aka Heath House). Lot 58.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 story; asymmetrical 5-bay front; 1948. (Built on site of Dr. Joseph Basye house.) Noncontributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1 story; ca. 1948. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 63, Jett.

 # 43. Straughan House. Lot 57.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 1/2 stories; gable roof with wide central dormer; front veranda recessed beneath main roof; Bungalow style; 1929. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1 story; ca. 1930. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 63, Jett.

The following properties are on the west side of Rt. 201:

 # 44. Lawrence McNeal House. Lot 46.
Dwelling. Frame with vinyl siding; 1 story; intersecting hipped roofs with gablets; glassed-in front porch; ca. 1932; remodeled 1965. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; gable roof; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 19, 20, 93, Jett.

 # 45. Bastine Williams House (aka Swann House). Lot 45.
Dwelling. Frame with weatherboarding; 2 1/2 stories; 2-bay-front main block; 1-bay, 1-story side wing; hipped roof with single hipped dormer; front veranda; Foursquare style; built 1929. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 19-20, Jett.

 # 46. Grace Williams House. Lot 44.
Dwelling. Frame with brick veneer; 1 story; asymmetrical 4-bay front; end carport; gable roof; ranch style; ca. 1960s. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, pp. 42, 94, Jett.

 # 47. Balderson House. Lot 43.
Dwelling. Frame with vinyl siding; 1 story; L plan; gable roof; ca. 1950-65. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 42, Jett.

 # 48. Basye-Snow-Tingle House; aka Heathsville Inn. Lot 42. (66-52)
Dwelling; bed-and-breakfast inn. Frame with weatherboarding; 2 stories; 3-bay front; projecting central bay extends over veranda; late Victorian stylistic details, including scrollsawn apron in gable; ca. 1830-45, enlarged to present form ca. 1890s. This house is said to have originally been a twin to the Jones House (#49). Contributing building.
Smokehouse. Frame; 1 story; 1-bay front; pyramidal roof; 19th c. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 41-42, Jett.

 # 49. Patrick A. Jones House (aka Daniel House; Froncois/Kinsey House). Lot 41B
Dwelling. Frame with weatherboarding; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay front; gable roof with 2 front dormers; exterior end chimneys; early shed addition at rear; N. end screen porch; neo-Colonial-style front porch; ca. 1830-45. Contributing building.
Anderson Cemetery. Located in back yard of house; dates to 19th and early 20th c. Contributing site.
Historical data, pp. 40-41, Jett.

 # 50. Haislip Building (aka Heathsville Market). Lot 41A.
Commercial building. Concrete block with brick veneer on front; 2 stories; symmetrical 7-bay front; mid 1940s. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 84, Jett.

The following properties face on the Courthouse Square beginning at south end and running west and north:

 # 51. Heathsville Methodist Protestant Church. Lot 38. (64-71)
Originally a church; now an office building. Brick (stretcher bond front; 6- and 7-course American bond sides and rear); 2 stories; pedimented gable-end front; asymmetrical 5-bay front; gable roof; brick pilasters on front and sides; marble name placque on front; circular window in tympanum; decorative corbelled brick cornice; round-headed second-story windows; Classical revival detailing; ca. 1855-60. Second floor inserted ca. 1903, after which it served as an opera hall, town hall and movie house. In 1905 the lower floor was used as a bank; it has housed a number of other businesses since. Altered on interior when converted to offices; minimal alterations on exterior. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 82-83, Jett.

 # 52. Dawson Building. Lot 37.
Office building. Concrete block with brick veneer on front; 1 story; flat roof with front parapet; 3-bay front; built 1962 on site of and early-19th-c. house that was demolished in 1961. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, pp. 79, 81-82, Jett.

 # 53. United States Post Office, Heathsville, Va. Lot 35.
Post office. Brick veneer; 1 story; plate-glass windows in front; flat roof; built ca. 1960 on the site of Robert Hogan's tailor shop, an antebellum 1-story frame building, which was demolished that same year. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p.78-79, Jett.

 # 54. Swift House. Lot 34.
Dwelling. Concrete block; 1 story; L plan; enclosed front veranda; 1953. Noncontributing building.
Mausoleum. Marble two-crypt burial vault believed to have been purchased from a mausoleum company in 1936, but never used as such; a small stone building erected over it; today it serves as a storage building. Rubblestone walls; 1 story; 3-bay front; gable roof; projecting vestibule; 1936. Contributing building.
Storage shed. Frame, clad with metal; 1 story; modern. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 78, Jett.

55. Rice-Richardson-Robertson House. Lot 33
Dwelling. Frame with weatherboarding; 2 stories; 3-bay-front main block; gable roof with decorative front gable; Colonial Revival front porch; 1-story west wing; probably built ca. 1825 as a one-story house; roof raised ca. 1890-1910; remodeled 1930s. Contributing building.
Rock wall and gate. Rubblestone; forms entry to main house; early 20th c. Contributing structure.
Historical data, pp. 77-78, 80. Jett.

56. Rice Hotel (aka Hughlett Tavern). Lot 32. (66-9)
Tavern/hotel. Frame with weatherboarding; 2 stories; asymmetrical 12-bay front; full-length 2-tier front veranda; gable roof; interior chimneys; early rear shed creating double-pile structure. Evolved over a long period, from late 18th c. to early 20th c., with most of the present structure dating to the 1830s; the north wing was added after the Civil War and the south two bays in the 1920s. The building is in poor condition, but was acquired in 1990 by the Northumberland County Historical Society, which intends to stabilize and rehabilitate it. Contributing building.
Smokehouse ruins. Ruinous antebellum frame smokehouse, missing roof. Contributing site.
Kitchen ruins. Ruinous antebellum frame kitchen, missing roof. Contributing site.
Historical data, pp. 34-35, Jett, and other sources.

57. Old Northumberland County Jail. Lot 2. (66-16)
Jail. Now used for storage. Brick (American bond); 2 stories; 3-bay front; gable roof; corbelled brick cornice; interior end chimneys; iron barns at windows; stone lintel over front door is inscribed "1844."; early 20th-c. front door hood; no additions; 1844. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 35-36, Jett.

58. Northumberland County Courthouse. Lot 31. (66-8)
Courthouse. Brick (painted white); main block is 2 stories with 3-bay front, hipped roof; oversize front dormer with parapet; classical wooden entablature; plain corner pilasters; arch-headed central front entries on both stories. Present form of courthouse dates to remodeling and enlargement in 1900-01 by architect B. F. Smith. Front veranda may have been added somewhat later. One-story side wings added, respectively, in 1964 and 1974. As originally constructed in 1851 by master builder J. Donohoo, the courthouse was similar in form to an I-house, with 5-bay front, single-bay, 1-story porch, gable roof, and Greek Revival detailing. Only surviving interior detailing dating from this period is a Greek Revival plaster medallion in central passage. Some interior fixtures from 1900-01 remodeling remain. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 7, Jett, and other sources.
Confederate Monument. Located in center of greensward in front of courthouse. More elaborate than many Virginia courthouse Confederate monuments, this white marble structure features a tall base surmounted by an obelisk with a carved marble figure at the top; the allegorical figure is of a woman holding an anchor. The plinth features scrolled pediments and carved reliefs of military symbols. Designed and carved by Gladdes Brothers, Baltimore, and erected at Heathsville in 1873. Contributing object.
(66-8-1)

 # 59. World War I Monument. Lot 31 (northern part).
Monument. Granite monument in the form of a miniature Roman Doric temple, with central inscribed tablet; stepped podium. Erected ca. 1920-26 Contributing object.
See Supervisor's Book 8, p. 2 (Sept. 1926)

 # 60. Bank of Northumberland. Lot 27.
Bank. Brick; one story; 3-bay main block flanked by later wings; pedimented gable roof; 1-bay porch with pedimented roof; Colonial Revival; built 1924; 1-story wings added 1957 and 1974; enlarged 1987 by additional wing. (Bank built on or near site of 18th or 19th c. tavern demolished ante 1907). Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 75, Jett.

 # 61. Herman Walker Building (aka ABC Store) Lot 24.
Store. Built as a state Alcoholic Beverage Control retail store, following the exact form and style of scores of others around the state. Concrete block; limestone cladding in front; symmetrical 3-bay front with plate-glass windows flanked by glass-block panels; greenstone cladding below windows; flat, parapet roof. Built 1950 on site of mid-19th-century building known as the Palmer Hotel. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p. 28, Jett.

 # 62. Moss House (aka Rittenhouse House). Lot 22.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 story plus loft; raised brick basement; asymmetrical 3-bay front counting north wing; originally one-room-plan main block; gable roof; exterior end brick chimney; front window altered in mid-20th c.; ca. 1845. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 29, Jett.

Vacant Lot. Lot 19.
Site of old "Northumberland Echo" office building, demolished late 1980s. This was a small, one-story frame building with stepped parapet front.
Historical data, p. 30, Jett.

 # 63. Middleton-Rowe House (aka LoPorto Office). Lot 19.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 stories plus raised brick basement; 3-bay front; gable roof; interior end brick chimney; side-passage plan; later rear 2-story addition and front porch. Built ca. 1851. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 31, Jett.

 # 64. Hundley Office Building (aka Hathaway Law Office). Lot 18.
Frame; 1 story; 3-bay front; gable roof; built ca. 1957 as an addition to a metal-clad garage. Noncontributing building.
Historical data, p.33, Jett.

14

Vacant Lot. Lot 18A.
The Sydnor Booth House (ca. 1906-07) stood here until it burned in the late 1980s.

 # 65. Heathsville Animal Hospital Lot 18A.
Brick and frame veneer; 1 story; gable-front; gable roof; Modern style; built 1962. Noncontributing building
Historical data, p. 33, Jett.

 # 66. Oakley. Lot 17. (66-53)
Dwelling. Frame; 2 stories; 5-bay main block; brick basement; interior end chimneys; gable roof; tetrastyle, 1-story Greek-style front porch; 2-story rear ell; built ca. 1838-41; rear ell added 1898. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; catslide roof; late 19th or early 20th c. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1 story; shed roof; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Summerhouse. Frame; pyramidal roof; lattice siding; 20th c. Noncontributing building.
Tennis court. Mid 20th c. Noncontributing site.
Barn. Frame; 2 stories; 6-bay longitudinal front; gable roof; late 19th or early 20th c. Contributing building.
Cemetery. Inscribed 19th-c. stones. Contributing site.
Constitution Oak. Planted 1902 to commemorate Virginia's Fourth Constitutional Convention. More than a hundred were planted, but only a few survive. Not counted as a resource.
Historical data, pp. 21-23, Jett.

 # 67. Henry M. Walker House (aka Bly House). Lot 16A.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay-front main block with flanking 1-story wings; gambrel roof with monitor dormer on front; eyebrow-arched door hood; Colonial Revival; built 1927. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 23, Jett.

#10 Vacant Lot. Lot 16.

#11 Vacant Lot. Lot 15.

 # 68. Robert A. Brent House (aka Griffith House). Lot 14. (66-65)
Brick; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay-front main block with flanking inset wings; gable roof with dormers; projecting central bay creating vestibule; Colonial Revival; built 1941. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 23, Jett.

 # 69. J. Snowden Hudnall House Lot 13.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 stories; 3-bay main block; gable roof; exterior end chimneys; projecting central entry bay with pedimented roof; flanking original 1-story wings; Colonial Revival; built 1938-39. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 23, Jett.

 # 70. Elizabeth Hall Hurst House (aka Pusey House) Lot 12.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay front; hipped roof with oversize front hipped-roof dormer; inset front veranda; Bungalow style; built 1925.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; ca. 1925. Contributing building.
Outbuilding. Frame; 1 story; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 23, Jett.

 # 71. Kilduff House Lot 11.
Dwelling. Frame; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay-front main block; gable roof with 2 front dormers; Colonial style; built 1950. Noncontributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1 story; gable front; double-leaf doors; ca. 1900-10. This garage was built on North Courthouse Square, then was moved to the Neale property, then to this site. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 25, 27, 96 (C-8) Jett.

 # 72. A. Howard Martin House. Lot 10.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 1/12 stories; asymmetrical 2-bay front; hipped roof with oversized hipped-roof front dormer; paired or triple front windows; original front veranda; Foursquare style; built ca. 1926-28. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1 story; mid 1920s. Contributing building.
Summerhouse. Frame; 1 story; early 20th c. Contributing building.
Historical data, p. 25, Jett..

#79 Vacant Lot. Lot 9.

 # 73. Campbellton. Lot 8.
Dwelling. Frame; 2 1/2 stories; symmetrical 3-bay front main block; gable roof with 3 front dormers; side porches; Colonial Revival style; built 1937. Contributing building.
Garage. Frame; 1 story; ca. 1937. Contributing building.
Historical data, pp. 24-25, Jett.

ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS

Gladdes Brothers, stone carvers (ca. 1873), Baltimore, Md.

Chequiere, T. Buckler, architect (ca. 1880), Baltimore, Md.

Donohoo, John, builder (1851), Northumberland County

Smith, Bartholomew F., architect (ca. 1900), Washington, D.C.

B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company, builder (ca. 1900), Washington, D.C.

Pauly Jail Building & Manufacturing Company, builder (ca. 1901) St. Louis, Mo.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Established in 1681, Heathsville is both the oldest county seat on Virginia's Northern Neck and its second-oldest continuously inhabited town.[1] Located near the geographical center of Northumberland County, Heathsville began as a courthouse town; indeed, that was its sole purpose during its first century of existence. Gradually, during the second half of the eighteenth century, it became a small commercial center as well as the seat of local government, and in 1798, at the direction of the General Assembly, it was surveyed and laid off into town lots. Heathsville grew rapidly in the early nineteenth century, and incrementally over the remainder of the century; by the early twentieth century it was rivalled in Northumberland by only Reedville, a fishing town that enjoyed a boom between 1880 and 1920 and then declined.[2] Today, Heathsville continues to serve as the county's principal town, though it is not a commercial center: most residents do their shopping and business in the larger towns of Kilmarnock or Warsaw in neighboring Lancaster and Richmond counties. Partly because Heathsville never became a regional commerical hub, a relatively large proportion of its pre-twentieth-century buildings have survived to the present. Limited development has left the town with the rural ambiance typical of a Virginia courthouse village of the early twentieth century.

Northumberland County was created about 1645 (the exact date is subject to interpretation) from the district of Chickacoan, the early-seventeenth-century name for the area between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. The county's first courthouse, built ca. 1660-63, stood in the Hull Neck area. In 1679 the court decided to move to a more central locale. (They may have been prompted in part by Governor Thomas Culpeper's and others' interest in creating towns in the colony; a year later the governor and General Assembly recommended establishing a town called Coan along the Coan river, only a short distance from the present site of Heathsville.[3])

The following year the justices signed a contract with John Hughlett to build a courthouse and jail at the newly chosen site (the future site of Heathsville), a "in Mr. Hughlett's Indian field," located about a mile south of the head of navigation on the Coan River. The specifications for the courthouse called for a plain framed building 35 feet long by 22 feet wide, with arched ceiling and plastered interior; it was to contain a "decently made" bench for the magistrates, as well as two small chambers, one for the jury and one for the witnesses. The prison was to be a ten-by-fifteen-foot wooden structure; a pillory and "strong, well made" pair of stocks were to stand nearby. By late 1681 the courthouse and jail were complete. The county justices paid John Hughlett 20,000 pounds of tobacco for the building, plus additional remuneration for the four acres on which it stood, and for the temporary use of his tobacco house.[4]

That same year, Phillip Shapleigh and John Haynie received permission to "set up and keep an ordinary near the new court house." This, no doubt, was the first of many ordinaries or taverns that stood adjacent to the courthouse. These buildings--often humble structures that also housed the tavern-keeper and his family--accommodated visitors during the monthly court days, when the hamlet swelled to the size of a true village.

Heathsville's first building following the 1681 construction campaign was a twelve-foot-square clapboarded jury house, erected in 1693. By 1703, only twenty-two years after John Hughlett had built the first courthouse, the court ordered up a new brick one--at least in part because the county's population had grown so much in the intervening years that the old courthouse was simply not big enough to accommodate the sessions. In December of that year, the justices reached an agreement with Joseph Humphryes to build a new courthouse near the old one for 70,000 pounds of tobacco. The project was delayed for over two years, but by May 1706 the building was complete. That same year, a new brick prison was ordered; it was to be sixteen feet square with foundations three feet deep, and was to have an iron-barred window and a "substantial door lock."[5]

Like most Virgina county seats, Northumberland Court House (it was not known as Heathsville until the late eighteenth century) remained little more than a clearing in the woods for the first decades of its existence. The total number of buildings probably never exceeded a dozen until after the Revolutionary War. During the eighteenth century, buildings there included the courthouse, a jail, and a clerk's office, as well as several small taverns and dwellings and perhaps a retail store.

Most of these buildings crowded immediately around the courthouse on the four acres of public land. As early as 1714 the court gave Sylvester Welsh permission to build "a public house of entertainment" within the courthouse bounds. Thus began the precedent, which continued until 1852, of allowing businesses to operate on the public square with the court's permission. All or nearly all these requests were to erect ordinaries, but in 1782 Samuel Denny asked and received permission to erect a dwelling house with an outhouse and garden.[6]

Beginning in the 1760s, requests to build near the courthouse increased, suggesting that the place was then on its way to becoming a full-fledged village. Like most Virginia settlements of the period it was characterized by small wooden houses, many of them probably of cheap, earthfast construction, poorly maintained, and short-lived. The expedient methods of construction employed and the ramshackle state of the older buildings is suggested by a 1784 court order for a committee "to view the old houses" on the square and to report "of such as are a public nuisance."[7]

Permits to build on the courthouse square in the 1790s reveal the miniscule size (by present standards) of these houses. Most appear to have been one- or two-room-plan structures only sixteen feet deep and averaging 400 to 500 square feet.[8] Dwellings like these were typical of Virginia housing of the period, and no doubt represented the kind of structure Thomas Jefferson had in mind when he issued his blanket condemnation of Virginia housing in 1789: "It is impossible to devise things more ugly, or uncomfortable, and happily more perishable."[9]

In 1796 several influential local residents tried to promote the growth of Northumberland Court House by designating it an official town. One of the leading figures in this project was John Heath, after whom the town was later named. Born in Wicomoco Parish in 1758, Heath was

among the five William and Mary College students who organized Phi Beta Kappa, the first Greek letter society in America, and he served as its first president. Heath later fought in the Revolutionary War, became a lawyer, and practiced law in Northumberland County. He filled the office of Commonwealth's Attorney between 1781 and 1793, and in 1791 he moved to the county seat, where he built a house and purchased a store. He was elected to Congress in 1792, serving two terms between 1793 to 1797. Declining renomination at the end of the fourth Congress, he returned home to Northumberland.[10]

On 11 December 1797 a petition was presented to the General Assembly in Richmond requesting passage of an "Act for the Establishment of a Town at Northumberland Courthouse". Signed by sixty-five persons, the petition stated that a town would provide better accomodations for those attending court, and would "encourage immigration of the most useful kind, such as mechanics and manufactures [sic]." [11]

The Assembly passed the proposed act, thus officially establishing Heathsville as a town in 1797. John Heath served as one of its seven trustees. The following year Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the noted English-educated architect, engineer and naturalist, was pursuaded to travel to Northumberland from Richmond to lay out a plan for the town. Latrobe surveyed the town and laid off forty half-acre lots in a grid pattern.[12] During his brief stay at Heathsville, Latrobe made watercolor drawings of a natural oddity there that caught his fancy: an old mulberry tree with a young cherry tree growing from its crotch. Latrobe described this tree in detail in his journal. He also recorded a story "too notorious to admit of the smallest doubt". It concerned an old Irish physician of the town named Dr. McCurdy, who declared that a young woman's illness was the result of bewitching by her seventy-year-old aunt. McCurdy prevailed on the local residents to carry the elderly woman to the courthouse "to be ducked according to the good old method of discovering witches." Lacking a pond deep enough, the doctor resorted to another time-honored method of foiling a witch: he cut a cross in her forehead.

> He performed . . . this cruel operation with a pruning knife, to the utter disgrace of the people present, who permitted it. In a few days however the more respectable inhabitants of the neighborhood took the matter up and the necromancer was obliged to compound with the old woman in a large sum of money and with the public in the loss of all his business. This story which is of recent date, I had from an inhabitant of the place and it is singular that at the very time it happened, Congress were 20 days engaged in debating, at the expense of $12,000 to the country, whether or no we are the most enlightened nation under heaven."[13]

Latrobe's plan for the town of Heathsville was executed on paper, and lots were subsequently sold. The town appears to have enjoyed a boom in the first third of the nineteenth century, for Joseph Martin describes a sizeable community in his 1836 *Gazetteer of Virginia*. At that time Heathsville and its environs boasted sixty dwelling houses, four mercantile stores, an academy, and a large Methodist meeting house. Craftsmen and manufacturing concerns included a gig

maker, a hatter, a saddler, two tailors, two boot and shoe factories, one tanyard, one manufacturing flour mill, and one confectionary.[14] The following year a post office was established at Heathsville.[15]

Thanks to new technology, better farming practices, and improved transportation, Northumberland rode a wave of agricultural prosperity in the second quarter of the nineteenth century that helped drive the growth of Heathsville. Many of the town's present buildings were constructed or enlarged between the 1820s and 1850s. These included the courthouse (1851), jail (1844), and all surviving buildings on the five plantation complexes surrounding the town. Springfield, the grandest farmhouse of them all, was built in 1828 and enlarged in 1850; the Wall-Lackey-Rowe House was built in 1832; both Sunnyside and Oakley appear to have been built in the 1830s; and Belleville was enlarged to its present form in 1849. Rice Hotel (originally Hughlett's Tavern), which began as a small frame structure prior to 1795, was enlarged to approximately its present form in the 1830s. In addition, several medium-sized dwellings were built in the town in the late antebellum period; these include The Academy, Chicacoan Cottage, Harding-Elmore House, Harding House, Patrick Jones House, and Moss House. These dwellings originally had one- or one-and-a-half-story elevations, two main-floor rooms, a finished loft, and in most cases a basement. Measuring roughly eighteen or twenty feet deep and thirty or thirty-five feet long, they contrasted dramatically with the tiny dwellings that had been erected in the town a half-century earlier.

The building boom of 1825-50 mirrored a similar development in other areas of Virginia. For the first time buildings were being erected that were large and well-constructed enough to stand the test of time. Many of these were of brick, but the majority were of frame construction. The most impressive structures from this period in Heathsville are the 1851 courthouse and the 1860 Methodist Protestant Church. The courthouse, erected by master brickmason John Donohoo, looked remarkably similar to the area's large plantation houses, having a two-story, five-bay front; a one-story, single-bay porch; and Greek Revival detailing. The Methodist Church, one of the handsomest church structures on the Northern Neck, replaced a smaller frame structure built in 1833. The new church was comparable in size to the courthouse, but featured a mix of Federal, Greek and Italianate decorative elements. Both these buildings proclaimed the community's pride and prosperity during the late antebellum era.

The Civil War and the economic disruption that followed it appear to have slowed the town's growth. No military campaigns took place in the region, but many breadwinners were killed or wounded in the war, while others faced bankruptcy on their return home. In the decade or two following the war, many local farmsteads changed hands in rapid succession. Hundreds of newly-freed blacks fled north, but others settled on small farmsteads of their own, or worked as laborers, tenant farmers or sharecroppers on former plantations. Some no doubt settled in Heathsville to work as mechanics, domestic servants, or other wage earners, but no count exists of their numbers.

By 1880, Heathsville appears to have largely recovered from the effects of the war. State business directories indicate that a broad range of commercial concerns was operating in the town and its vicinity in 1880-81. These included six general merchandise stores, two carriage makers, one shoe maker, one drugstore, one milliner, and one harness maker. A dentist and two physicians served the town, as did two lawyers. Visitors had their pick of two hotels (one was Rice Hotel, which the Rice family purchased in 1866 and enlarged soon afterwards). Thirteen "principal farmers" lived in or near the town, indicating that the population may have fallen from its 1830s level.[16]

Although the Northern Neck was somewhat isolated from the rest of the state--particularly Richmond, the closest city--it was linked to Baltimore and Norfolk by water. Commercial steamboat traffic on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries steadily increased following the Civil War, and by the 1880s there were regularly scheduled, several-day-a-week stops for passengers and freight at Northumberland wharves. Although Heathsville was not a port town, it was situated only a mile from the head of navigation on the Coan River, a tidal feeder of the Potomac. The nearest landing was Rowes Landing, a mile north, but the closest one used by steamboats was Coan Wharf, about three miles away by road. Goods could also be shipped via Sampson's Wharf on the Great Wicomoco River, about four miles southeast of town.[17]

Surviving buildings erected in Heathsville in the last quarter of the nineteenth century suggest the town was increasingly open to outside architectural influences. Perhaps the most handsome embodiment of urban influence on the town during the postbellum era is St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, a delicate Gothic style building erected in 1881 to designs by Baltimore architect T. Buckler Chequiere. The nicely articulated Heathsville Methodist Church, erected in 1894, also shows the influence of mainstream American architecture rooted in popular urban taste. Although the majority of Heathsville's dwellings in the late nineteenth century were plain and stylistically conservative, several dwellings, including the Basye-Snow-Tingle House, exhibit imported decorative elements such as scrollsawn trim on porches and eaves. This inexpensive embellishment was produced in Baltimore factories and shipped to the Northern Neck where it was freely employed by local carpenters.

When a group of women in Northumberland formed a society to memorialize the county's fallen Confederate soldiers, they contracted with Gladdes Brothers in Baltimore to design and produce a marble monument for the courthouse square. Rather than choosing a statue of a soldier, as was the norm, they chose a design featuring an obelisk capped by an allegorical female figure holding an anchor, symbolizing how the women of the county had served to "anchor" the community while their husbands, brothers and sons were away at war. This monument is one of the more sophisticated Civil War monuments in a Virginia courthouse town. Other evidence of Heathsville's increasingly outward-looking attitude during the postbellum years is suggested by the monument to Juliana Gordon Hayes, located on the grounds of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Hayes, who was of a local family, was the organizer and first president (in 1878) of the Womans Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

In the 1890s the town of Heathsville gained several public facilities, including the aforementioned Methodist Episcopal Church building in 1894. In 1892 a Baptist congregation erected the Kirkland Grove campground about a mile south of town. This facility, used during summer revival meetings, featured an impressive wooden tabernacle--the largest in the Northern Neck--as well as a hotel and four radiating streets of wooden cottages.[18] And, in 1894, the local Masons erected a new lodge near the courthouse that still serves its original function.

Business directories show that by the turn of the century the range and number of business and professional people operating in Heathsville had not changed appreciably from 1880. There was one more attorney than there had been twenty years earlier, but there were still five general merchants. For the first time a land agent is mentioned, as well as a fertilizer agent, and two wool dealers. J. W. Anderson & Brothers served the community as undertakers. Outside of town, local entrepreneurs operated several grist- and sawmills, as well as three distilleries. The most dramatic change in Heathsville during the last two decades of the nineteenth century appears to be the number of "principal farmers" living in the town--up from thirteeen in 1880 to twenty-five in 1890, and forty-one in 1897.[19]

When the county magistrates decided in 1899 that the old courthouse was in desperate need of repair and improvement, they turned not to a local builder, as they had in 1850, but to a large, specialized construction-and-design firm in Washington, D.C. The B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company was hired for the sum of $6,500, remodeling it into a larger, fire-resistant building in a simplified version of the fashionable Queen Anne style. This firm was soon to become widely known in the state for its work designing courthouses and other public buildings; Northumberland's was among their first Virginia commissions.

Heathsville's population appears to have declined slightly in the first decades of the twentieth century. By 1910, however, Heathsville had a bank of its own (The Bank of Northumberland), as well as a newspaper ("The Northumberland Echo"); both firms still serve the town. Other businesses operating in 1910 include two blacksmiths and wheelwrights, a carpenter shop, a livery stables, and a milliners shop run by a local woman, Lillian A. Anderson. There were also two churches in town--the same two that serve residents today--as well as a number of churches in the surrounding rural areas. In addition, a large new frame high school served the community's white children, and segregated one- or two-room schools served elementary-age children.

As in other rural Virginia towns, the pace of change quickened in Heathsville as the new century progressed. With the 1920s and 1930s came automobiles, the first paved roads, electricity, and telephone service. Many residents prospered, erecting substantial new houses in the Craftsman or Colonial Revival styles on large lots bordering the roads leading out of town. Meanwhile, nationwide technological advances in agriculture reduced the need for labor on surrounding farms, and young people migrated to cities or larger towns for jobs. Northumberland lost population, as did its county seat, and the Depression accelerated this trend.

Except for saw-milling, longstanding local crafts and industries such as grist-milling, distilling and wagon-making died out as city manufactured goods replaced local ones. Heathsville's relative importance as a retail center also declined; county residents, increasingly mobile, travelled by car to shop in the larger towns of Kilmarnock, Warsaw, and Tappahannock. In 1937, the last steamboat departed Coan Wharf, and Heathsville's link with the water and Baltimore was severed.

By 1940, the Heathsville community was more than ever dependent on the courthouse. The town lacked manufacturing and retail businesses, but it retained its bank, newspaper, schools, and churches, as well as its professional, legal and government offices. It remained the nerve center of the county. And largely because it did not grow, Heathsville has retained much of its historic architectural fabric, as well as the ambiance of an earlier era.

Jeff M. O'Dell

ENDNOTES

1. Montross, the county seat of Westmoreland County (and originally known as Westmoreland Court House), was established in 1675, six years before Northumberland Court House. (John C. Wilson, *Virginia's Northern Neck* [Norfolk: The Donning Company, 1984], p. 32).

No viable towns were created on the Northern Neck when the General Assembly passed the 1680 Act for Cohabitation and Encouragement of Trade and Manufactures. One town site in Northumberland, named Coan, was called for in the act, but it never reached fruition; the colony was not able to gain title to the land from its owner, Spencer Mottrom. (Carolyn H. Jett, phone interview with author, Nov. 19, 1991.)

The 1680 act called for another town, named Queenstown, to be established in neighboring Lancaster County. The land was not acquired until 1692, however, and although the county erected a courthouse there in 1698, the town failed to achieve its hoped-for growth. In 1771 Lancaster court abandoned the site for the present county seat. The earliest surviving town on the Northern Neck established by legislative fiat is Kinsale in neighboring Westmoreland County, founded in 1706. (John W. Reps, *Tidewater Towns, City Planning in Colonial Virginia and Maryland* [Williamsburg, Va: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1972].)

2. Located in eastern Northumberland County, on an inlet of the Chesapeake Bay, Reedville is the county's only other National Register historic district. Reedville became the center of Virginia's menhaden fishing industry after New Englander Elijah Reed built a processing factory there in 1875. The town boomed for several decades, and by 1910 had a population of over 500--perhaps twice that of Heathsville's. Reed's factory burned in 1925 and was never rebuilt, and Reedville's population declined dramatically. For a brief history of the town, see the 1984 National Register nomination report by David Edwards and Steven Kay, "Reedville Historic District," (VDHR archives, Richmond, Va.). The only other village of consequence in Northumberland County today is Callao, which is somewhat smaller than Heathsville; smaller hamlets include Burgess, Wicomico Church, and Lottsburg. The largest town on the Northern Neck is Kilmarnock, with a population of about two thousand.

3. Carolyn H. Jett, phone interview with author, Heathsville, Va., Nov. 19, 1991. Mrs. Jett has conducted extensive research on the subject of the aborted town of Coan, but has not yet published her findings.

4. Carolyn H. Jett, *Heathsville Yesterday & Today*, rev. ed. (Heathsville: The Woman's Club of Northumberland County, 1989), p. 4. The majority of the historical data included in this report is based on Jett's exhaustively researched book. The spelling and capitalization in the quoted material has been modernized in this report; the original, in full detail, is given in Jett.

5. Jett, *Heathsville*, pp. 5-6.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 6.

7. *Ibid.*

8. *Ibid.*

9. Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, ed. William Peden (New York, 1972), p. 52.

10. J. Motley Booker, "Historical Highlights of Heathsville," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, Dec. 1969, p. 1909.

11. Jett, *Heathsville*, 13.

12. Unfortunately, this plat does not survive.

13. Benjamin Henry Latrobe, *The Virginia Journals of Benjamin Henry Latrobe 1795-1798, Vol. 2, 1797-1798*, ed. Edward C. Carter II (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977), pp. 522-523.

14. Joseph Martin, *Gazetteer of Virginia* (Charlottesville: Joseph Martin, 1836), p. __.

15. Virginius Cornick Hall, Jr. "Virginia Post Offices, 1798-1859," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 81, No. 1 (January 1973), p. 69.

16. *Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-1881.* (Richmond: J. W. Randolph, 1880), p. ____.

17. See Robert H. Burgess, *Steamboats Out of Baltimore* (Cambridge, Md.: Tidewater Publishers, 1968), pp. 4, 85, 88, 99, 106, 108. The Weems Steamboat Company launched a steamer named "Northumberland" from a Philadelphia shipyard in 1900; the ship ran for over three decades, first under the Weems flag and later the banner of the Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Railway Company (Burgess, pp. 26, 29, 112, 126-28).

18. John C. Wilson, *Virginia's Northern Neck, A Pictorial History* (Norfolk: The Donning Company, 1984), pp. 88-89, and Carolyn H. Jett, "Camp Meetings in the Northern Neck," unpublished typescript, p. 6. The Tabernacle, preacher's tent, and one cottage remain at Kirkland Grove Campground, which is still used for summer revival meetings. This property is being individually nominated for listing in the National Register.

19. *Virginia State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1890-1891* (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1891), pp. ___; *Virginia State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1897-98*, pp. ____.

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UTM References:

E 18/370620/4197560
F 18/370750/4197380
G 18/371020/4197320
H 18/371020/4197190
I 18/371050/4197160
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U 18/369820/4198380
V 18/369980/4198380
W 18/369970/4197930
X 18/370500/4197870
Y 18/370540/4198000

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point delineated by UTM reference A proceed south approximately 600' to a point delineated by UTM reference B, then proceed west approximately 300' to a point delineated by UTM reference C, then proceed south approximately 200' to a point delineated by UTM reference D, then proceed southwesterly approximately 800' to a point delineated by UTM reference E, then proceed southeast approximately 850' to a point delineated by UTM reference F, then proceed eastsoutheast approximately 800' to a point delineated by UTM reference G, then proceed south approximately 300' to a point delineated by UTM reference H, then proceed southeast approximately 100' to a point delineated by UTM reference I, then proceed south approximately 50' to a point delineated by UTM reference J, then proceed west approximately 500' to a point delineated by UTM reference K, then proceed northwest approximately 400'to a point delineated by UTM reference L, then proceed southwest approximately 650' to a point delineated by UTM reference M, then proceed northwest

approximately 500' to a point delineated by UTM reference N, then proceed southwest
approximately 300' to a point delineated by UTM reference O, then proceed northnorthwest
approximately 850' to a point delineated by UTM reference P, then proceed north
approximately 300' to a point delineated by UTM reference Q, then proceed northnorthwest
approximately 1600' to a point delineated by UTM reference R, then proceed north
approximately 400 'to a point delineated by UTM reference S, then proceed west
approximately 500' to a point delineated by UTM reference T, then proceed north
approximately 1400' to a point delineated by UTM reference U, then proceed east
approximately 600' to a point delineated by UTM reference V, then proceed south
approximately 1400' to a point delineated by UTM reference W, then proceed east
approximately 1900' to a point delineated by UTM reference X, then proceed north
approximately 600' to a point delineated by UTM reference Y, thence east to the point of beginning.

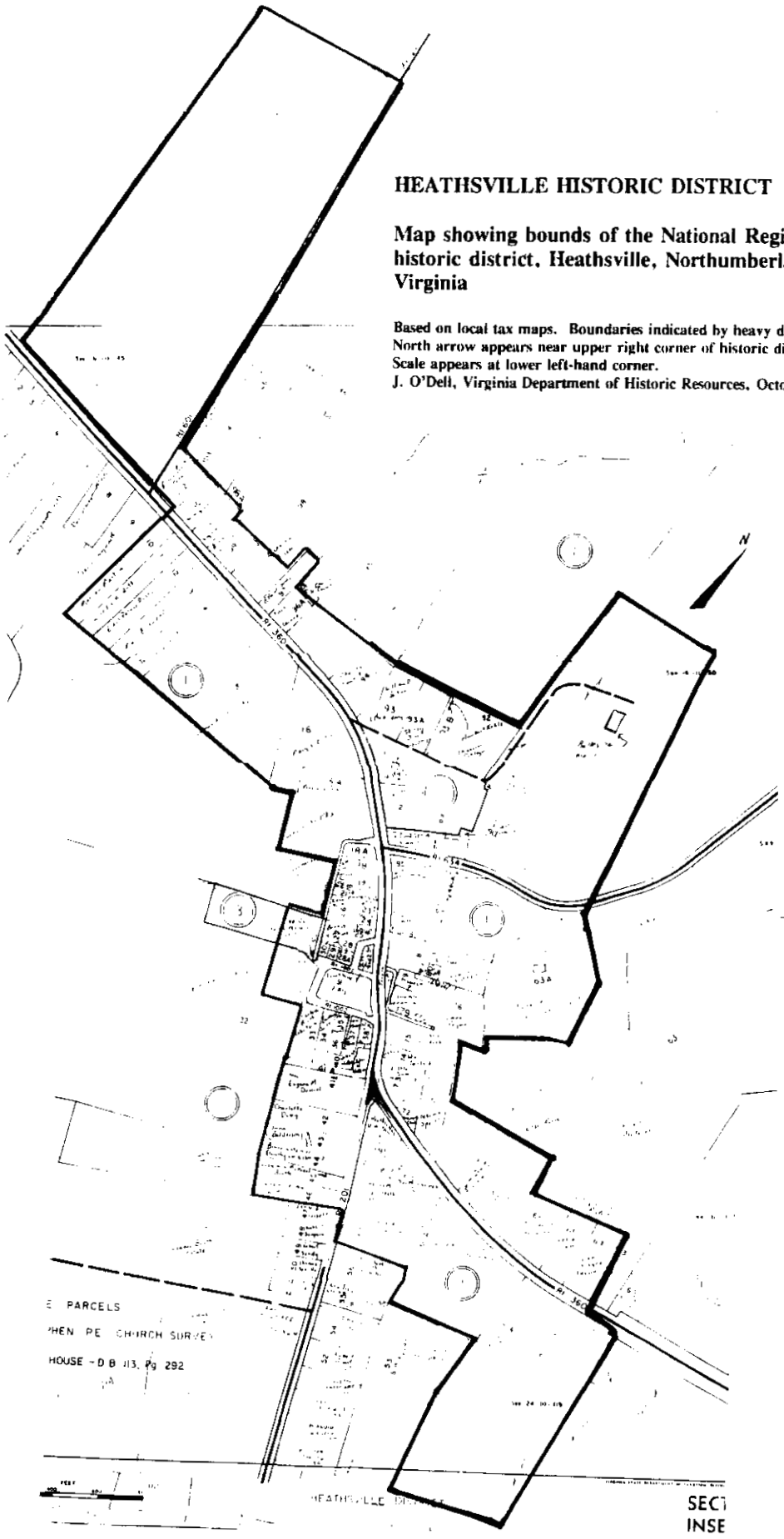
Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Heathsville Historic District were drawn to encompass the single area of land containing the highest concentration of resources contributing to the significance of the district and to exclude properties unrelated to the district's areas and period of significance. All contributing resources are within the area that has historically been considered the town of Heathsville.

HEATHSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Map showing bounds of the National Register historic district, Heathsville, Northumberland County, Virginia

Based on local tax maps. Boundaries indicated by heavy dark line.
North arrow appears near upper right corner of historic district.
Scale appears at lower left-hand corner.
J. O'Dell, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, October 1991.



HEATHSVILLE
HISTORIC
DISTRICT

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B 18/370720/4197800
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F 18/370750/4197380
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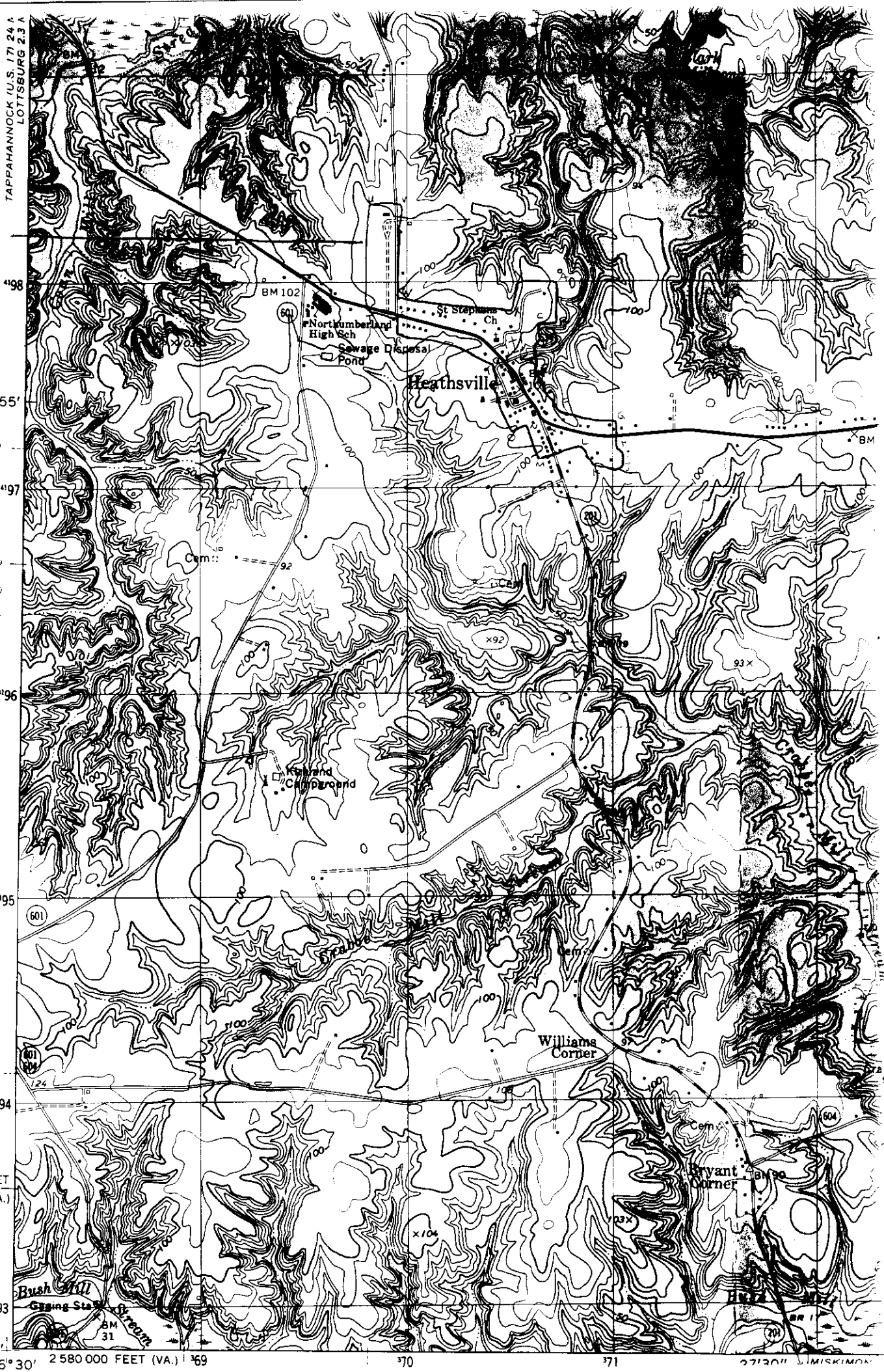
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