

VLR-2/26/79 NRHP-6/22/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

William H. Trusty House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Trusty House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

76 West County Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Hampton

VICINITY OF

First (Paul S. Trible, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

(in city)

CODE

650

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Hampton c/o Mayor

STREET & NUMBER

Hampton City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Hampton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23669

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Hampton City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hampton

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Trusty House is sited on a spacious lot at 76 West County Street in the Phoebus section of Hampton. Surrounded by small, one-story cottages, the two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame structure is distinguished stylistically from its neighbors. Erected by William Trusty in 1897, the house is an eclectic example of late 19th-century Victorian architecture, mainly combining features characteristic of the Eastlake and Queen Anne modes.

The main (south) elevation is dominated by a two-story, spindle-and-bracket porch. The porch, covered by a tent roof and capped by a finial, shelters the main entrance, consisting of a recessed-paneled double door framed by a transom-light surround. A second-story balcony entrance is composed of a single recessed-paneled door. A projecting bay of two stories completes the facade. One-over-one, hung-sash windows are framed by simple wood surrounds. The elevation is covered by imbricated wood shingles with Stick Style ornamentation in the gable.

The east elevation contains a two-story bay window similar to that found on the south elevation. The bay is divided by a band of imbricated shingles, which continues from the facade. The fenestration is comprised of one-over-one, hung-sash windows with simple wood surrounds. A gabled dormer containing a two-over-two, hung-sash window defines the attic story.

The north (rear) elevation is dominated by a one-story ell containing a rear entrance. Fenestration consists of one-over-one, hung-sash windows in simple wood surrounds. A pedimented dormer with two-over-two, hung sash defines the attic story. The elevation is covered with weatherboards.

The west elevation contains a shallow two-story addition, constructed circa 1920 to house new plumbing facilities. The walls are sheathed with weatherboarding. Projecting from the roof is a single brick chimney with a fancy corbeled cap.

The interior of the Trusty House retains most of its original embellishments. Unfortunately the principal mantels have been vandalized. Dominating the side hall is an open-well stair featuring a paneled newel post, a molded handrail, and turned balusters. The doorways in the hall have symmetrically molded architrave trim with turned corner blocks. Openings throughout the house are similarly treated. The original sliding doors serve to connect the first-floor parlor and dining room and second-floor front bedroom and hall. Some original brass hardware survives.

Two vertical board outbuildings remain in a ruinous state to the rear of the house.

RCC

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The present lot, of one-half acre, that the house sits on was acquired by Bera and William Trusty in 1897 for their future house. The lot has remained with the house and retains its fronting on County Street. The property is bound on the south by West County Street, on the east by land belonging to Alice M. Miles, on the west by land belonging to James H. Burrell and E. G. Pickin, and the north by a pipeline and ditch.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1897                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the decades immediately following Emancipation, the Virginia black enjoyed a new sense of political, social, and economic freedom. Blacks were admonished, by such leaders as Booker T. Washington, to improve themselves economically through thrift and hard work. When in 1897 William H. Trusty, an entrepreneur and Phoebus's first black council member, built his Queen-Anne-style residence at 76 West County Street, he was erecting a symbol of his political, social and economic success within the post-bellum community of Phoebus.

William H. Trusty was born of freed parents in Prince George County in 1862. In 1871 the family moved to Hampton, where Trusty secured employment in the James A. Watkins General Store at Fort Monroe. Through thrift and diligence, Trusty earned the capital to begin purchasing property in the Phoebus neighborhood of Hampton. This area, along with most of Hampton, differed demographically and socially from the rest of Virginia.

Because of its proximity of Fort Monroe, the Hampton area was considered of great strategic value to the Union forces at the time of the Civil War. At the start of the conflict, the area was burned by its own residents, who fled from the Federal troops. Occupied by the Union Army, the area became a haven for emancipated slaves, who came to the area from all parts of Virginia. In the decades following the War, the Hampton area had a large population of black immigrants and few native-born Southerners. The white population consisted largely of accommodationists, carpetbaggers, and many first-generation Americans. None of the groups was experienced in Virginia politics.

While the Democratic Party controlled the election machinery and many of the blacks had been effectively (if not yet legally) disfranchised, in Hampton the black still retained political strength, the population in Warwick County being more than 62% of that race in 1900. It was under such conditions that Trusty was elected to the Phoebus Town Council from the Fifth Ward in the first election following the incorporation of Phoebus as a town in 1901. At the time of his election, Trusty was self-employed, operating his own bar on property he owned on Mallory Street. He owned his business property, residential property throughout Phoebus, and the rather substantial home that he erected for himself on County Street in 1897.

Built at a time when Trusty was at the height of his business activity, the house is an adaptation of the conspicuous and elaborately decorated Eastlake and Queen Anne-style dwellings popular from the 1870s to the early 1900s. It was in a proud and assertive vein that this black entrepreneur erected his stylish residence, characterized by its lively porches and many textured surfaces. Unfortunately, Trusty's occupancy of the house was brief. He died in 1902. A substantial law suit ensued, with Trusty's widow, Bera, buying the house at auction. In 1907 Bera married her next-door neighbor, John Myles, who continued to live in the house after Bera's death in 1940. Myles died in 1968, and the property was then occupied by his sister until 1976. It is presently owned by the City of Hampton.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Conversation with Mrs. Hamilton Evans, 12-14-78.  
 Evans, Hamilton H. "The William H. Trusty House," unpublished paper, 1977.  
 Jackson, Luther T. Phoebus-A Pictorial History. Hampton, 1976.  
 Morton, Richard L. The Negro in Virginia Politics. Spartanburg, S.C., 1973 (reprint).  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission archives.  
 Wynes, Charles E. Race Relations in Virginia, 1870-1902. Charlottesville, 1961.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Hampton, Va.

UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

A 18 382150 4097880  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on NE side of West County Street, 307.90' SE of intersection of Frissell Avenue with said street; thence extending 461.69' NE; thence extending 69.85' S; thence extending 411.94' SW to NE side of West County Street; thence extending 48.15' NW along said street to point of origin. (Hampton City Deed Book 40, p. 582)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE FEB 26 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

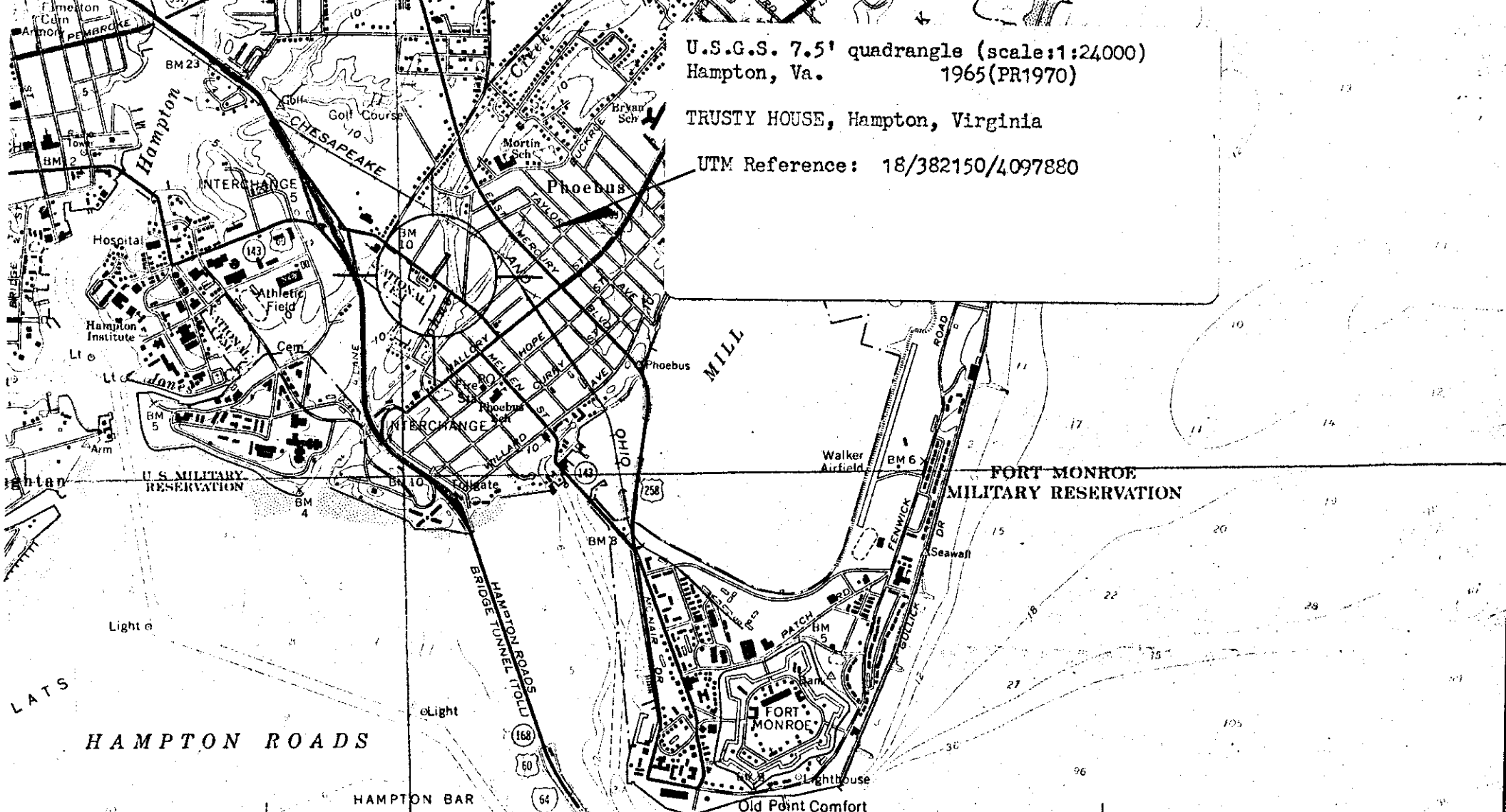
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Hampton, Va. 1965(PR1970)

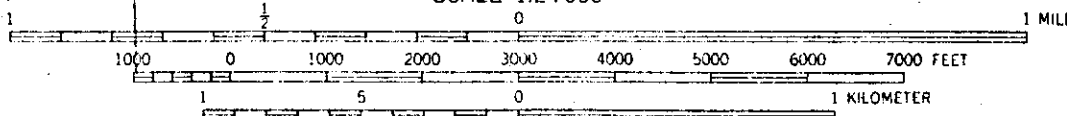
TRUSTY HOUSE, Hampton, Virginia

UTM Reference: 18/382150/4097880



2630 000 FEET 20' 382 NORFOLK (U.S. 460) 6 MI. (NORFOLK NORTH) 5757 IV NE 384 17'30" 386 000m E.

SCALE 1:24 000

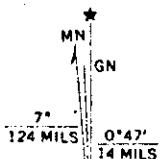


CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.5 FEET

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



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photograph taken 1970. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET