

VLR- 3/10/94 NRHP- 5/19/94

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name WALLACETON

other names/site number DHR File # 131-379

2. Location

street & number 3509 George Washington Highway South N/A not for publication

city or town Chesapeake N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Chesapeake (Ind. code 550 zip code 23322 City)

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter C. Miller  
Signature of certifying official/Title

March 7, 1994  
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. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WALLACETON  
Name of Property

Chesapeake, VA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls WOOD: Log  
WOOD: Weatherboard  
roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

WALLACETON

Name of Property

Chesapeake, VA  
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

ca. 1853-1919

Significant Dates

ca. 1853-1863

ca. 1866

1910-1919

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Va. Dept. of Historic Resources  
221 governor St., Richmond, VA 23219

WALLACETON  
Name of Property

Chesapeake, VA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 2.8 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	8	3	76	7	2	0	4	0	5	2	7	0	0
Zone	Easting		Northing										

3 

Zone	Easting		Northing										

2 

Zone	Easting		Northing										

4 

Zone	Easting		Northing										

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Dianne Pierce

organization Consultant date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 10056 Hobbyhill Road telephone (804) 272-5502

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23235

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name John G. Wallace, IV

street & number 3509 George Washington Highway telephone (804) 421-0729

city or town Chesapeake state VA zip code 23322

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Wallaceton is a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival house on the Dismal Swamp Canal. The original section of the one-and-a-half-story house, built between 1853 and 1863 as a company store, has very rare vertical hand-hewn log construction. A one-story dining room wing was added when the store was made into a house immediately following the Civil War. A decade after the canal was widened in 1898-1899, Wallaceton was relocated approximately one hundred feet to the east to remove it from canal property. At this time, a new dining room was added and the old one made into a kitchen appended to the east. Wallaceton is the sole surviving inhabited building of what was in the mid- to late nineteenth century an important farming and milling business owned and operated by the Wallace family. The house, along with a two-room kitchen building and a dairy, comprise the contributing buildings on the property. Three noncontributing farm sheds (largely built after 1932) are also on the site.

## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Wallaceton was built by George T. Wallace and his son and business partner, John G. Wallace, in the years immediately before the Civil War. The two-room structure functioned as the company store for the Wallace Company, the family lumber and farming business. The store was built of unchinked vertical hand-hewn juniper logs, approximately six inches square, mortised into the sill and collar beams. The logs are covered with wooden weatherboard. The roof rafters are peeled logs, approximately six inches in diameter; floor joists are larger peeled logs, flattened and notched onto the sill. The one-and-a-half-story building has a gable roof with the ridge running north-south, parallel to the road and the canal. Windows in the original section of Wallaceton are six-over-six double-hung sash on the first floor, and four-over-four double-hung sash on the second floor, all of pegged construction. Two windows on each floor flank the two interior end chimneys on the north and south ends of the building. The windows on the first floor are larger than those on the second floor. All exterior window casings are narrow and flat, set almost flush with the weatherboarding, with square sills and no aprons.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Architectural Analysis (cont)

The five-bay front (west) facade has two doors flanked by three windows in a symmetrical arrangement. The southernmost door is the simplest in design, being a four-indented-panel mid-nineteenth-century door with a three-pane rectangular transom, the whole surrounded by simple flat moldings flush with the weatherboarding. A twelve-pane wooden storm door now covers the door. The door on the northern end has a more residential quality and may have been added when the store was converted to a residence around 1866. The door itself has four heavily-molded indented panels. Three-light sidelights with indented panels below flank the door; a rectangular transom surmounts the whole. This door has the same flat, flush molding as the other door. The screen door with corner spindle-sunburst designs dates to the early twentieth century.

Between the two doors on the west facade, the center window opening retains the wooden louvered shutters that once were found on all the first-floor windows. These shutters conceal the fact that this window is actually a half-window, being a narrow two-over-two sash window on the left (northern) side, with the log-construction wall revealed on the right side.

The exterior detailing of the original section of the building reveals simple Greek Revival design. The corners have flat pilasters, and a heavy box cornice runs under the eaves, with wide returns on the gable ends. Narrow boards with spaces between them clad the under-eaves; because the roof rafters rest on extended ceiling joists, this allows for ventilation. The two chimneys have simple stepped caps. The roof, originally clad in wood shingles presumably from the Wallace Company mill, is now asphalt shingle.

A five-bay porch spans the front facade of the original section of the building. The porch has slightly tapered square wooden posts with simple caps and no railing. A plain wide entablature and overhanging cornice surmount the posts. The low-pitched shed roof is now standing-seam metal.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Architectural Analysis  
(cont.)

Interior detailing in the original section of the house is very simple. On the first floor, the windows have mitered graduated casings, with bullnose sills extending the width of the casings. Doors have the same moldings as the windows. Baseboards are flat with beveled tops.

In the period immediately after the Civil War, the store building was remodeled for use as a residence. At that time, a room with hewn juniper rafters and framing was appended to the east.<sup>1</sup> (This room is now the kitchen, at the extreme eastern end of the house.) The new dining room had six-over-six double-hung sash windows with flat unmitered casings. The ridge of the low gable roof ran east-west as it does now. This wing has wooden weatherboarding and no eaves or cornice. Its roof is now standing-seam metal. Porches ran the length of the north and south facades originally; the north porch is now screened, while the south porch no longer has its posts, and its roof is supported on knee braces. An exterior chimney on the eastern end has been replaced with a small square stove chimney.<sup>2</sup>

Whether the second floor had been used when the building functioned as a store is not known. If there was a stair, it likely ran east-west along the wall dividing the front two rooms. An historic photograph showing the post-Civil War dining room (now kitchen) indicates a stair in the same position and configuration as the present dining room stair, with square balusters and round handrails.<sup>3</sup>

A kitchen building was built at the time of the post-Civil War remodeling; it is the small two-room structure now just to the east of the house. This building is detailed much as the ca. 1866 wing, with gable roof, exterior-end chimney (north side), wooden weatherboarding, and four-over-four double-hung wooden sash windows. The rear (eastern) room was probably added slightly later; it has a shed roof that continues the line of the original section's rear slope.

Sometime in the period after the Civil War and before the turn of the century, as indicated by historic interior photographs of the house, acetylene lights were added; a few of the fixtures remain today.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

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WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Architectural Analysis  
(cont.)

The widening of the Dismal Swamp Canal, completed in 1899, meant that Wallaceton was then only a few feet from the edge of the canal. When Captain John G. Wallace died on July 4, 1910, the moving of the house to a new location approximately one hundred feet to the east was underway.<sup>3</sup> The move was accomplished by Captain Wallace's son John G. Wallace II, who was living in Norfolk; he and his wife occupied the house from 1919 to 1945..

Several changes were made to the house at the time of the move. Indoor plumbing was added, run by a single-cylinder gasoline-engine pump in one of the farm sheds. The foundation was raised slightly; the house now sits on brick piers approximately two feet wide. A large room was added behind the original section in the location of the older dining room, which was relocated to the east to become the kitchen. The early-twentieth-century room has flat unmitered window and door casings. The interior chimney on the east wall is a stove chimney with a simple mantel shelf on its three faces. The other chimneys in the house are likewise detailed; it is probable that they were changed to stove chimneys in the 1910-1919 period. All the ceilings in the front three rooms on the first floor of the house are unusually high at ten and a half feet. A picture molding encircles these rooms. The wall surfaces of the entire interior of the house were covered with beaverboard after the move. A narrow strip of wood around all the door and window moldings holds the beaverboard in place. All of the pine flooring in the house probably dates from the time of the move.

A stair was added, beginning in the new dining room from a landing three steps above the floor and running east into the old section. The straight run of the enclosed stair is unadorned, with a pipe railing. The landing is very simply detailed, with square posts. What may have previously been a stair landing at the front of the house on the second floor is now a bathroom.

The exterior of the 1910-1919 wing continues the weatherboarding, cornice, returns, and window moldings of the original section. It likewise has six-over-six windows.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 5WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Architectural Analysis (cont.)

The kitchen, which was intended to be a separate structure, was joined to the house at the insistence of John Wallace II's wife. The low one-story hyphen has three six-pane windows in the south wall, and two in the north wall. The exterior weatherboarding of the kitchen wing and dining room addition are both visible in the hyphen. The walls and ceilings of both the hyphen and the kitchen are clad in tongue-and-groove paneling.

The room appended to the south of the house was built in the 1920s or 1930s as an ice cream parlor. Its original location was closer to the road, to the south of the house; ice cream made from fruit grown on the Wallace farm was served there to travelers on the canal. The room, with its band of six-pane windows, gable roof, and door in the south gable end, was moved and connected to the house in the 1940s. The dormer windows on the front of the house were added in the early 1940s. The front porch was screened prior to 1960.

John G. Wallace II enclosed a section of the northwestern room on the first floor for use as a darkroom, probably in the 1940s.

Because both John G. Wallace II and his son John G. Wallace III were avid amateur photographers, hundreds of photographs exist documenting the history of Wallaceton. Photographs taken before the house was moved show that the unscreened porch had a graceful freestanding wooden trellis structure the height of the front facade of the house, between it and the road, possibly to screen the porch from the road. Likely many canal travelers remember Wallaceton by this distinctive feature. Also before the move, the house was encircled by a wooden picket fence. Historic photographs also show that Wallaceton was part of a larger community, also known as Wallaceton, which included the large Wallace Company mill buildings, Glencoe (the original Wallace family estate), workers' housing, and the canal superintendent's house, later run as a tea room by the family. Of these, only the latter (in a very deteriorated state) and Wallaceton itself survive.

In addition to the house and the kitchen building at Wallaceton, a small wooden dairy building is a contributing element of the property. The dairy appears in most historic photographs. It was

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

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WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Architectural Analysis (cont.)

moved to several different locations, but is now situated just north of the kitchen building. The dairy, approximately seven feet tall, has a standing-seam-metal pitched roof and two cabinet-style doors on each side.

Also on the property are three noncontributing buildings: two long sheds (one of which, the westernmost, still houses the pump system for bringing canal water into the house), and a small shed to the north of the larger ones. The latter was built on the foundations of an older smokehouse. All three buildings were rebuilt after the fire of 1932 destroyed their predecessors, along with the Wallace Company mill and many other outbuildings.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   7  

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WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

ENDNOTES

1. Videotaped interview with John G. Wallace III, March 1991.
2. Historic photographs of the house, taken from approximately 1890 on, show the evolution of this wing, along with all subsequent changes. These photographs were taken by family members and many are still in the family's possession.
3. The present owner indicates that the detailing of the stair seen in the historic photograph of Wallaceton was much like the rear stair at Glencoe, the Wallace family home place nearby.
4. Why the moving of the house occurred almost ten years after the widening of the canal is not known; in 1987 John G. Wallace III commented that the move was precipitated by the building of a new road along the canal. (Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks Survey Form, June, 1987.) In any case, the house had to be removed from canal property, which it was, if only by only a few feet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

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WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wallaceton is a mid-nineteenth-century house originally built as a store for the employees of the Wallace Company and for the residents of the settlement on the Dismal Swamp Canal also known as Wallaceton. The original section of the house, built of vertical juniper logs, was made into a residence after the Civil War. Although it was moved approximately one hundred feet in the second decade of the twentieth century, the house and its accompanying kitchen and dairy buildings are significant as the sole surviving inhabited buildings of what was an early and important Norfolk County (now City of Chesapeake) lumbering, milling, and farming settlement that made extensive use of the Dismal Swamp Canal. Wallaceton, which has been in the ownership of one family since its erection, is an extraordinarily well-documented house, due to two early-twentieth-century generations of avid Wallace photographers who thoroughly photographed the house and its environs, including all alterations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The member of the Wallace family who established the extensive family land holdings in the area now known as Wallaceton was George T. Wallace, whose father, William Wallace, was superintendent of the Dismal Swamp Canal in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. George Wallace began buying property in the 1840s on the east side of the canal about halfway down its length at its intersection with the North West Canal. By 1855, Wallace's holdings in the area amounted to almost 14,000 acres on both sides of the Dismal Swamp Canal.<sup>1</sup> His home, a large Greek Revival structure known as Glencoe, was built around 1841 and was the centerpiece of the family estate.<sup>2</sup> Wallace's business interests were primarily farming and timber. He built a sawmill on the west bank of the canal and began milling the abundant juniper on his own land, as well as the logs of other timber barons in the region. The milled lumber, especially juniper shingles, was transported to market via the Dismal Swamp Canal, which had become operational in 1829.<sup>3</sup> The canal had been built largely to reach the vast timber grounds in the swamp area, and the Wallaces were among the first to profit from the combination of available timber and a means of transportation to market.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 9WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Historical Background (cont.)

George T. Wallace's son John G. Wallace (1840-1910) was his business partner; by the early 1860s, the family enterprises were extremely prosperous<sup>4</sup>, and they built a two-room store building on a small parcel of leased land on the east bank of the Dismal Swamp Canal.<sup>5</sup> The building functioned as a company store for workers in the Wallace Company, who lived in the small community known as Wallaceton that grew up around the mill on both sides of the canal. John Wallace's business dealings were interrupted by his service in the Confederate army, in which he was a captain in the 61st Virginia Regiment. After being wounded in the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864, he returned home to Wallaceton and his bride, Veronica McGehee, whom he had brought from Louisa County to Glencoe. Because she was snubbed by the family women, Captain Wallace turned the store building on the canal into a house (called Wallaceton) for her after the Civil War. The store then became housed in the superintendent's house just to the north, the only other Wallaceton building still standing today.

George T. Wallace and John G. Wallace continued their farming and lumbering operations after the war. In May 1888, the Irish poet John Boyle O'Reilly visited the area and commented on the remarkable nature of the Wallace family holdings:

Last night we stopped at Mr. Wallace's, in the Dismal Swamp,--one of the largest and most beautiful farms in America. This was Wallaceton, where, at Captain Wallace's house, we received a most hospitable welcome. After supper it was hard to realize, from our refined surroundings, and the gracious hospitality we were enjoying, that we were within the bounds of, and not very far from the very heart of the Dismal Swamp.

That night we could only see the interior of this charming home; next morning we witnessed with astonishment the extraordinary wealth, fertility, beauty, and wonderful cultivation of Captain Wallace's magnificent farm. Every acre of this land, both east and west of the canal, has been saved within forty years from the Dismal Swamp. Forty years ago, the elder Mr.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Historical Background (cont)

Wallace, a man of high intelligence and indomitable spirit, whose immense farm joins his son's, with his own hands cut down the first trees in the swamp, which marked the beginning of this estate. He and his son, Capt. John G. Wallace, have now, in the first order of cultivation, many thousand acres of land not inferior to the best on the continent. Looking from our window we saw a field like a dream--1100 level acres without a fence--in which it appeared that not one inch was left neglected or unproductive.

This field, called the Dover Farm, lies on the west side of the canal; that is, it reaches into the very depths of the swamp for nearly a mile and a half.

How, then, if Lake Drummond and the canal be higher than the swamp, could this 1100 acres of land be drained? Captain Wallace ran a deep drain around this Dover Farm, bringing the end of it to the canal; there he stopped, and waited until the canal was emptied some years ago, for the purpose of being cleansed from stumps and sand. The indefatigable farmer took advantage of the dry watercourse and dug his culvert under the bed of the canal; bridging it securely. His drain was then several miles long, and he continued it until it emptied into the Northwest River, which runs out of the swamp.

The energy and intelligence of these two gentlemen, father and son, working with such surroundings, are remarkable.<sup>6</sup>

In 1904, another visitor to the area, Charles Stansbury, commented on the Wallace family:

We were passing a pleasant looking homestead on the Eastern bank in front of which stood a gentleman in a cork helmet who hailed us pleasantly and berated us for being late to dinner. ...[we] were heartily welcomed by Captain John C. [sic] Wallace, whose hospitality is known far and wide in Virginia and elsewhere. Here was

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Historical Background (cont.)

refinement and up-to-date comfort and convenience including the telephone. Captain Wallace entertained us with a graphophone of the latest model and in his parlor were the latest books, papers and magazines. His gracious and kindly wife [was] just the kind of a brave optimist to assist her husband in subduing the wilderness and forcing it to blossom as the rose.<sup>1</sup>

Stansbury, returning to the Dismal Swamp later, described the farm again:

But suddenly the launch shoots past a clearing, a house and barn loom large on the bank, and it may be seen that here the ax and plow have won from the swamp broad acres, where man may dwell in comfort and roll up profits from the incomparably rich loam. This farm is Captain Wallace's, one of the pioneer planters of the swamp, who has more than twelve thousand acres, every foot of which has been cultivated.<sup>8</sup>

Bland Simpson, writing about the Dismal Swamp in 1990, commented:

This family [the Wallaces] had, earlier and more grandly than any other, practically realized George Washington's dream of Swamp agriculture. They were widely known for the breadth of their tillage and industry, even more legendary for their hospitality.<sup>9</sup>

In its heyday from the 1850s to the 1880s, the Wallace Company lumber mill consisted of (from north to south) the mill building itself, with a feeder ditch off the canal to load lumber, along with two large storage sheds, a blacksmith/woodworking shop building, the "ranch house," a packing/shipping shed, and a "camp" for laborers, all on the west side of the canal. The ranch house was where the mill- and farmhands had their midday meal and rested. The meal was cooked at Wallaceton and brought across the canal on a "float bridge," a sort of barge on chains.<sup>10</sup> The "camp" was one of several residences for company laborers; several other small houses along the North West Canal housed laborers as well. Across the canal and approximately one-half mile south of the mill, stood a shuck factory where corn from the Wallace farms was shucked to make husk mattresses.<sup>11</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Historical Background (cont.)

Increasingly in the later years of the nineteenth century the Wallace Company timber and milling operations were phased out and the lumber mill was closed in 1889. In 1932 fire destroyed the mill building, along with several outbuildings at Wallaceton.

In 1892 the canal lock on the Dismal Swamp Canal at the intersection with the (by then defunct) North West Canal was eliminated, and shortly thereafter the canal itself was dredged and widened. In 1899 the enlarged canal was reopened, but its prosperity was short-lived, as the rival Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal to the east became Federal property and therefore toll-free. When the Dismal Swamp Canal was also taken over by the U.S. government in 1929, it received the repairs and dredging it required to stay operational.<sup>12</sup>

After the widening of the canal, the house known as Wallaceton stood only a few feet from the bank, and on canal company property. The house was therefore moved approximately one hundred feet to the east, where it was placed on graded soil from the dredging of the canal, only a few feet from the canal company right-of-way line, just off the front porch steps.<sup>13</sup> The moving of the house was begun by John G. Wallace, but after his death on July 4, 1910, the work was completed by his son, John G. Wallace II. John Wallace, who had been living in Norfolk, added a large dining room to the east of the house when it was moved, and made the old dining room into the kitchen, located further to the east. When his wife visited the renovation in progress, she refused to live in the house until the new kitchen was connected with the main house. Thus, a small hyphen was built, within which may be seen the exterior walls of both the main house and the kitchen wing.<sup>14</sup> Acetylene lights and indoor plumbing were also added to the house at that time. The Wallaces moved into the renovated house in 1919.

John G. Wallace II did not make farming his primary occupation. He worked for the Farm Bureau, and also served as a state legislator and later as treasurer of Norfolk County. His amateur interest in photography meant that the moving of the house, along with most other aspects of life at Wallaceton, were photographed from the first decade of the twentieth century until his death in 1945.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 13

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WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Historical Background (cont.)

In the early decades of the twentieth century the hospitality at Wallaceton continued. John G. Wallace III remembered that in his youth there were, in addition to his immediate family of five, two uncles and two schoolteachers living in the three-bedroom house. In addition, an aunt, two cousins, and an uncle came for extended stays in the summers, along with other weekend visitors who arrived by the passenger boat Emma Kay from Norfolk.<sup>10</sup> Continuing with the Wallace tradition of staying up-to-date, John Wallace II owned the first steam locomobile and first automobile in the state, according to family legend.

When John G. Wallace II died intestate in 1945, his wife Mildred inherited the house. Upon her death in 1976, their son John G. Wallace III inherited Wallaceton. He continued his father's interest in photography, even enclosing a section of the northernmost room on the first floor for use as a darkroom. He farmed the family land and also worked in the shipyard in Norfolk. After his death in 1992, his four children jointly inherited the property, which is now rented. One of the owners, George T. Wallace IV, intends to live in and refurbish the house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

## ENDNOTES

1. Land Tax Book, 1855.
2. Eleanor P. and Charles B. Cross, Jr., Editors, The War Comes To Glencoe: The Diary of Elizabeth Curtis Wallace (Chesapeake, VA: Norfolk County Historical Society, 1985). Glencoe burned in 1972.
3. George Wallace's timbering and farming operations were among the first and largest in this section of Norfolk County. His prominence is indicated by his public appointments, first as a justice of the county in 1841, then as a commissioner to superintend the construction of the new courthouse as well as clerk of the school board in 1845, and later as a member of the 1861 convention which decided whether Virginia would secede from the Union (the latter appointment he declined). (Charles B. Cross, Jr., The County Court 1637-1904, Norfolk County, Virginia (Portsmouth, VA: Printcraft Press, Inc., 1964), pp. 84 and 147; and The War Comes to Glencoe, pp. 22-28).
4. Along with the size of the Wallace family land holdings, an indication of their prosperity may be seen in the Personal Property Tax listings for 1860, which show ownership of 86 slaves over the age of 12, along with 14 horses or mules, 3 pleasure carriages, and 40 head of cattle.
5. The exact date of the construction of the store (later house) is unknown. Various historical accounts, including family histories, give dates including 1853, 1855, 1863, 1865, and 1866. Land Tax records show a building on the land with a value of \$500 in 1855; this value jumps to \$1000 in 1859. It is possible that another building was on the site prior to the building of the store. In any case, this building seems to have been constructed between 1853 and 1863. Family records indicate that the designer of the house was Elizabeth Wallace Ferebee, daughter of George T. Wallace and John G. Wallace's sister.
6. Charles Frederick Stansbury, The Lake of the Great Dismal (New York: Albert and Charles Boni, 1925), pages 8 and 63-65.
7. ibid., pages 62-63.
8. ibid., pages 82-83.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Endnotes (cont.)

9. Bland Simpson, The Great Dismal (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990), pages 127-128.
10. Videotaped interview with John G. Wallace, III, March 1991.
11. Also part of the village of Wallaceton were a Post Office and the Wallaceton school, where Maria Mildred Wilson Wallace, wife of John G. Wallace II taught. Nearby to the south was Beechwood, the large home of the Stewarts, another prominent local family.
12. Brown, pages 105-114.
13. John G. Wallace III Interview. Mr. Wallace commented that the house was actually moved first to the northeast and then into its present position, in order to spare a large tree. The mover, who had moved several houses in Princess Anne County, noted that the house was the heaviest he had ever moved, due to the solid log construction.
14. ibid.
15. John G. Wallace III interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 16

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WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

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- Cross, Charles B., Jr. The County Court 1637-1904, Norfolk County, Virginia. Portsmouth, VA: Printcraft Press, Inc., 1964.
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- Stansbury, Charles Frederick. The Lake of the Great Dismal. New York: Albert and Charles Boni, 1925.
- Wallace, George T. IV. Interview. December, 1992.
- Wallace, John G. III. Videotaped interview. March, 1991.
- Works Progress Administration. Historical Inventory: Norfolk County #10, "Wallace Home", October 1937.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 17

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property boundary coincides with the legal parcel boundary of parcel number 092113C (1.2 acres), together with parcel number 092112B (1.6 acres), both in the same ownership.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The legal parcel of 2.8 acres includes the house and two contributing outbuildings; the parcel comprises the land historically associated with the house. Although the house was relocated, it was and remains on property owned by the Wallace family. The house, as moved, is in approximately the same relation to the canal as it was before the widening of the canal which placed the house directly on the canal bank. The 2.8-acre parcel is that which retains its historic integrity and relation to the house and canal.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTO Page 18

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WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

## PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs are of:

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

DHR File #131-379

Negatives Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

1. VIEW OF: House, front (west) facade, looking southeast.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 1 of 14
2. VIEW OF: House, south facade, looking north.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 2 of 14
3. VIEW OF: Exterior detail, window on west facade, showing log  
construction.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 3 of 14
4. VIEW OF: Interior detail, northernmost door, west facade.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 4 of 14
5. VIEW OF: Interior detail, chimney, southwest room, first  
floor.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 5 of 14

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTO Page 19

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Photo Key (cont.)

6. VIEW OF: Interior detail, window casing, west window, southwest room, first floor.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 6 of 14
7. VIEW OF: Interior detail, stair, dining room.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 7 of 14
8. VIEW OF: Kitchen and dairy buildings, east of house, looking northeast.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 8 of 14
9. VIEW OF: Shed (noncontributing), northeast of house, looking northeast.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 9 of 14
10. VIEW OF: Shed (noncontributing), northeast of house, looking northwest.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 10 of 14
11. VIEW OF: Sheds (noncontributing), northeast of house, looking northeast.  
NEG. NO.: 12747  
CREDIT: Dianne Pierce  
DATE: 1993  
PHOTO 11 of 14

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTO Page 20

WALLACETON  
City of Chesapeake, VA

Photo Key (cont.)

12. VIEW OF: House, from canal, before widening of canal and moving of house; view of west facade, looking northeast.  
NEG. NO.: 12748  
CREDIT: Wallace family  
DATE: Early twentieth century  
PHOTO 12 of 14
13. VIEW OF: Wallaceton house (center left), with Wallaceton mills (center right), Dismal Swamp Canal, and Superintendent's House (foreground left); view looking south, before widening of canal.  
NEG. NO.: 12749  
CREDIT: Wallace family  
DATE: Early twentieth century  
PHOTO 13 of 14
14. VIEW OF: Wallaceton house (center) and Superintendent's House (left background) after widening of canal and moving of house.  
NEG. NO.: 12749  
CREDIT: Wallace family  
DATE: 1920-1930  
PHOTO 14 of 14



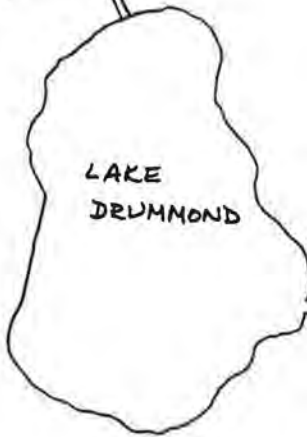
WALLACETON  
SKETCH MAP  
DISMAL SWAMP CANAL

SUFFOLK

PORTSMOUTH

NORFOLK

Jericho Ditch  
Washington Ditch



LAKE  
DRUMMOND

Feeder

CANAL

DISMAL SWAMP

South Mills

Gilmerton

DEEP CREEK

Elizabeth River



North West Canal

Wallaceton

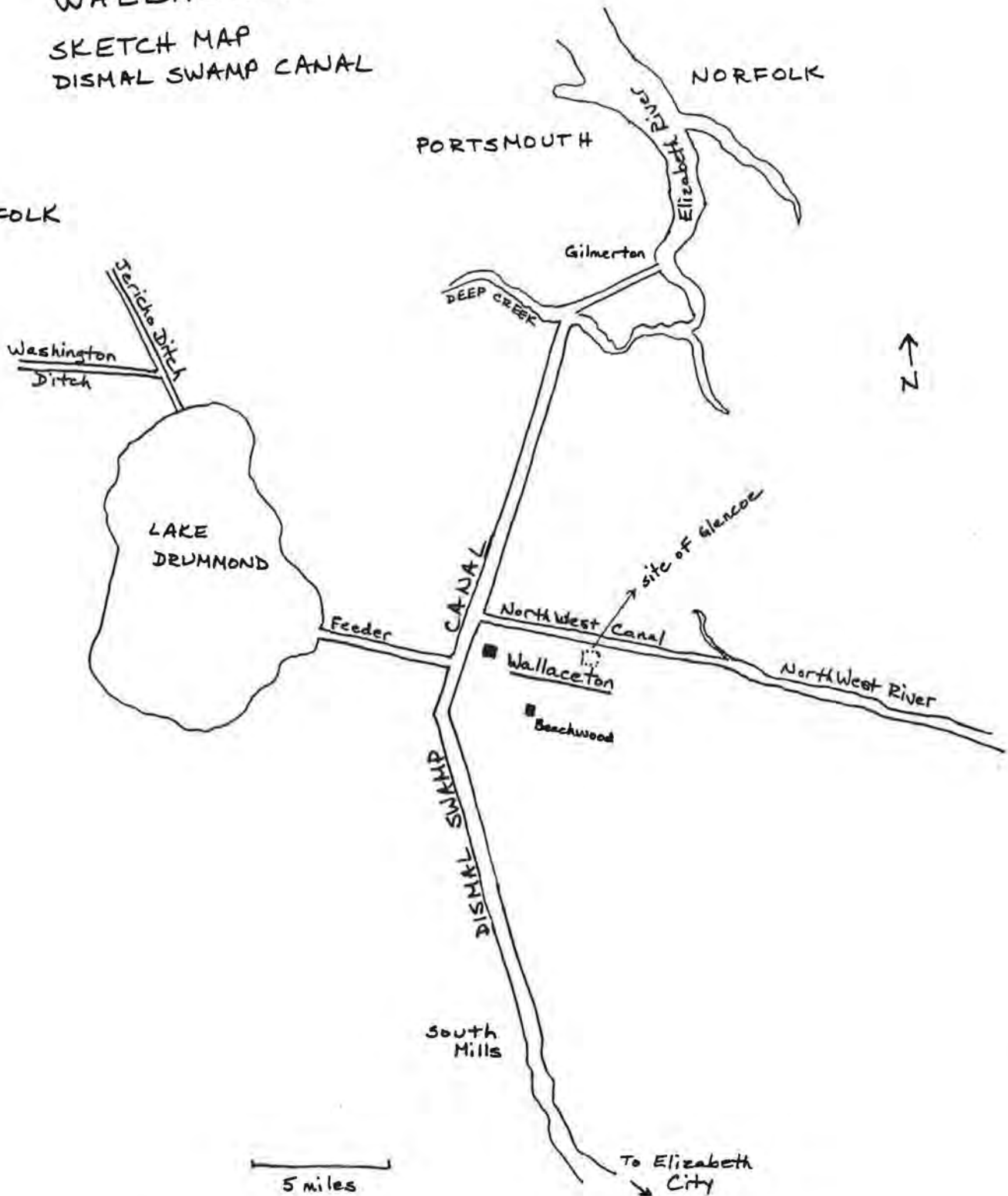
Beechwood

site of Glencoe

North West River

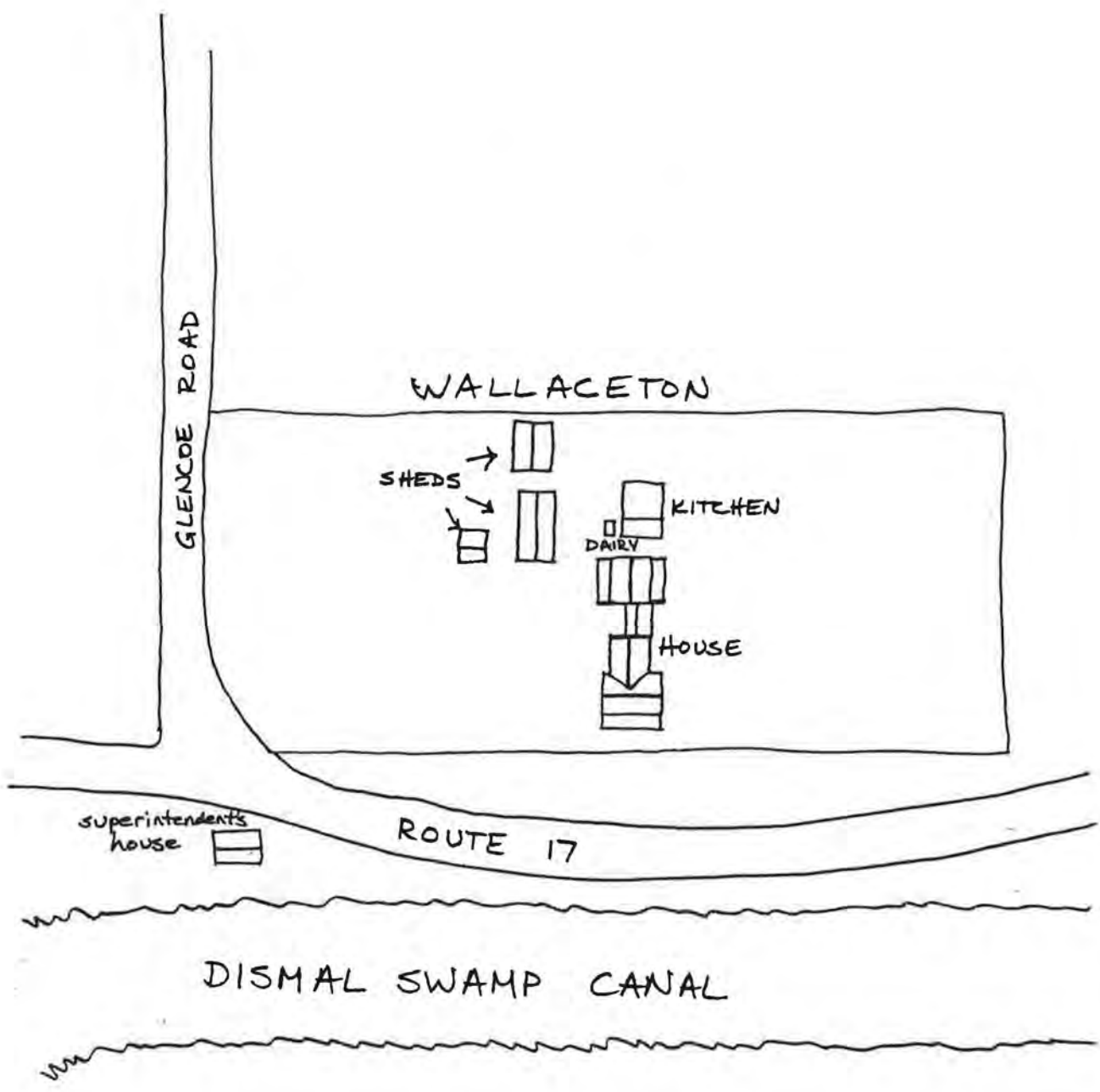
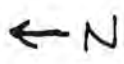
5 miles

To Elizabeth City

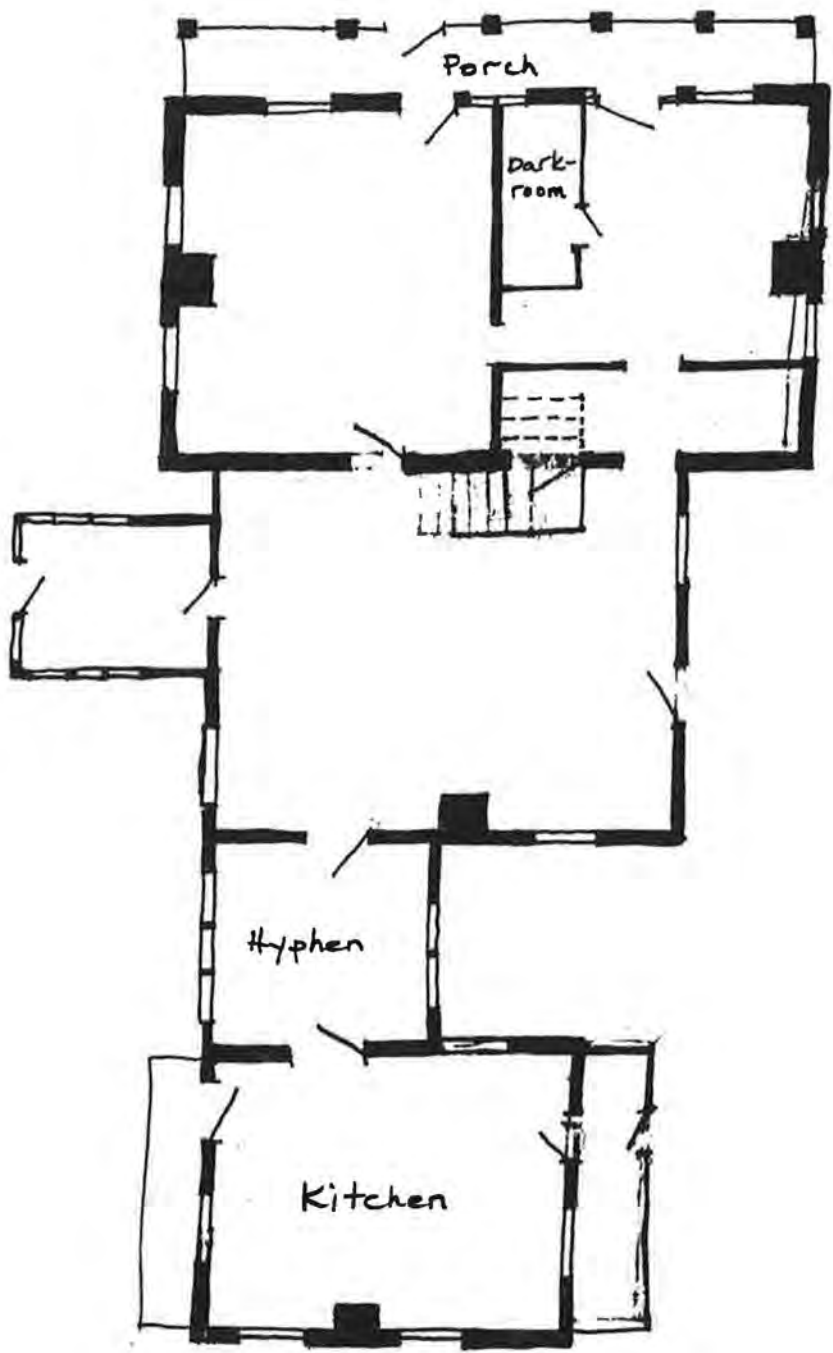


WALLACETON  
SKETCH MAP  
WALLACE PROPERTY

Not to scale



WALLACETON  
Sketch Floor Plan  
(not to scale)



↑  
N

LAKE DRUMMOND QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA—NORTH CAROLINA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5757 III NE  
(DEEP CREEK)

373

25'

374

375

2 620 000 FEET (VA.)

376

PORTSMOUTH 7.6 MI 76°22'30"

DEEP CREEK 8.3 MI 36°37'30"

110 000 FEET  
(VA.)

Wallaceton  
Chesapeake

UTM reference:  
18/376720 4050

4052

4051

4050

35'

4049

Arbuckle Land

20

WASHINGTON  
HIGHWAY

DIS  
HIGHWAY

