

VLR-8/15/72 NRHP-4/2/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections).

STATE: <b>VIRGINIA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>ESSEX</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**TAPPAHANNOCK HISTORIC DISTRICT**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**See continuation sheet**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Tappahannock (William Lloyd Scott, Eighth District Congressman)**

STATE <b>VIRGINIA</b>	CODE <b>51</b>	COUNTY: <b>ESSEX</b>	CODE <b>057</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as <i>Appropriate</i> ): <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>town</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Multiple ownership**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**TAPPAHANNOCK**

STATE:  
**VIRGINIA**

CODE:  
**51**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Essex County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Tappahannock**

STATE:  
**Virginia**

CODE:  
**51**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

**1934, 1935**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D. C.**

CODE:  
**11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA  
COUNTY: ESSEX  
ENTRY NUMBER: FOR NPS USE ONLY  
DATE:

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tappahannock Historic District is comprised of the balance of those structures in the block bounded by Church Lane, Queen Street, Prince Street and Cross Street, as well as a number of structures whose lots front on Prince Street from Church Lane east to the Rappahannock; the District also includes portions of Water Street beginning with its intersection at Prince Street and paralleling the river for approximately two blocks to the south. The District also includes two structures in the block of Duke Street from its intersection with Water Street extending one block to the west.

The principle axis of the District along Prince Street is characterized by the county government center at the west end, by a commercial district at the center composed of brick and frame shops mostly of recent origin, and by a residential neighborhood at the east end including an old tavern and a custom's house, both now converted into residences. Water Street is dominated by large frame houses that have been converted for use by Saint Margaret's School. The broad green sward on which these eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings are set extends almost uninterrupted along the entire stretch of the school grounds. The brief portion of the district along Duke Street includes both a large Greek Revival house and a picturesque Gothic Revival board and batten Episcopal church.

The following inventory lists the District's more prominent architecturally and historically significant structures:

1. Custom's House, 109 Prince Street. Brick with stucco, 1½ stories with a loft, gable roof, three-bay front, interior chimney, water-table, nine-over-nine sash windows, three-level basement, west entrance porch with scalloped bargeboards, two story porch on east with sawnwork balustrade. Built circa 1750; nineteenth century additions.
2. Scot's Arms Tavern, 123 Prince Street. Frame with clapboarding, gable roof with interior end chimney, five-bay front, entrance with three-light transom and Colonial Revival entrance porch, full basement. Early-nineteenth century; two-bay hipped roof addition on east side.
3. Five Cents and Dollar Store, 200 Prince Street. Frame with clapboarding, 2½ stories, Mansard roof and dormers with Colonial Revival architraves, three-bay front, first floor store front. Late-nineteenth century; possibly incorporates an older building.
4. Ritchie House, 227 Prince Street. Brick laid in Flemish bond with English bond below the beveled watertable on the west end, 1½ stories gable roof with dormers, five-bay front, T-shaped exterior end chimneys. Early-eighteenth century; early clipped gables now filled in with framing and two bays added to the east end of the original structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Captain John Smith attempted a landing at the site of present-day Tappahannock in 1608, and Bartholomew Hoskins patented the first land there in 1645. Soon after this initial patent a small village had developed as a result of the area's fine location. Known to historians as "Hobbes His Hole," the village had, in fact, the less-unusual name of "Hobb's Hold" (meaning land holden under a grant) or so the authorities insist.

The village, whether "Hole" or "Hold", was formally chartered as the Town of New Plymouth in 1682. Since the river was called Rappahannock, signifying "running water," the port soon took on the Indian name of "on the running water" or Tappahannock. The increasingly prominent port-facility was selected as the county seat for Essex when that county was formed from old Rappahannock County in 1692.

Ten years prior to the American Revolution the town witnessed patriotic fervor when four hundred men met in Tappahannock in the state's strongest popular protest against the Stamp Act. The court house of 1728, partially burned during a British attack on the town in 1814, now serves as the Beale Memorial Baptist Church. Parts of the early glazed-header brick work survive today in the church's nave.

Among the more significant pre-Revolutionary buildings in Tappahannock are the early-eighteenth century Anderson and Ritchie Houses. The former was originally a "prize house", that is, the building wherein the "prizing" or compressing of tobacco into hogsheads took place. As such it was located adjacent to the owner's plantation. The Ritchie House, once part of a complex of three buildings, maintains its prominent position on Prince Street. The early days of the Republic are represented architecturally by the Brockenbrough House, the Scot's Arms Tavern and the old Clerk's Office.

The town achieved national prominence during the nineteenth century as the home of three of Jefferson's staunchest supporters. Known as the "Essex Junto" Spencer Roane, Thomas Ritchie and John Brockenbrough were cousins who throughout their diverse professions helped the Republican party maintain its tight control of National politics during the first half of the nineteenth century. Judge Spencer Roane, Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, was a power in the Republican party. He contributed many articles and letters - using various pseudonyms - to his cousin Thomas Ritchie's paper, The Richmond Enquirer. Ritchie, recognized

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ammon, Harry. "The Richmond Junto, 1800-1824," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 1961 (10/53): pp. 395-418.

Showell, Virginia. Essex Sketches, Baltimore: 1924.

Old Homes of Essex County. Essex County Woman's Club, edited and published by.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 55' 49"	76° 51' 42"		0	0	
NE	37° 55' 49"	76° 51' 20"				
SE	37° 55' 32"	76° 51' 20"				
SW	37° 55' 32"	76° 51' 42"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 25 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF**

ORGANIZATION: **VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**      DATE: **August, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond**      STATE: **Virginia**      CODE: **51**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name J. R. Fishburne, Jr.  
 Title Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.  
 Date AUG 15 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Old Clerk's Office, 307 Prince Street. Brick laid in Flemish bond, one story, gable roof, three-bay front with central entrance, slightly projecting interior end chimneys with corbeled caps, quarter lunettes in the gable ends. Built circa 1808; extensively renovated.
6. Essex County Court House, Prince Street. Brick, one story, gable end front with a pedimented portico using the Doric order in a di-style in antis form, central entrance with elliptical fanlight and three light side lights, square belfry supports octagonal cupola, triple hung windows. Greek Revival. Built in 1848; renovated in 1926 by Alfred I. duPont; restored in 1967 after the fire of the previous year.
7. Debtor's Prison, 321 Prince Street. Brick laid in Flemish bond, one story gable roof, three-bay front, central entrance with stone sill. Built circa 1769; addition on the rear.
8. Beale Memorial Baptist Church (Early Essex County Court House), Church Lane. Flemish bond brick nave with glazed headers and beveled water-table, one story, gable roof, round headed windows, central entrance tower with open belfry and transepts. Georgian. Nave built in 1728; changes include bricking-in of arcaded porch for smaller windows and the late-nineteenth century transept and rear additions.
9. Henley House, 314 Water Lane. Frame with clapboarding, 1½ stories, gable roof with dormers, five-bay front, exterior end chimney, three-bay porch with sawnwork, multiple rear projections including hip-on-gambrel roofed ell. Built circa 1718; rear ell addition built circa 1757; nineteenth century rear additions.
10. Anderton House, 314 Water Lane. Frame with clapboarding, 2 stories, gable roof, seven-bay front, wing additions form H-shaped plan, modillion cornice, wings feature pedimented ends with demi-octagonal bay windows, six-over-six and nine-over-nine sash windows. Built circa 1750; nineteenth century wing additions.
11. Brockenbrough House, Water Lane. Frame with clapboarding, two stories, hipped roof, five-bay front, central entrance flanked by two projecting hipped roof pavillions, interior end chimneys, modillion cornice, entrance porch with sawnwork balustrade, pedimented vestibule on east front. Built late-eighteenth century; two story addition on south end.
12. St. Margaret's Hall, 444 Water Lane. Frame with clapboarding, two stories, hipped roof with balustraded deck, five-bay central block flanked by six-bay wings, modillion cornice, Colonial Revival entrance porch, four interior end chimneys. Built late-eighteenth century; nineteenth century wing additions.

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13. Roane-Wright House, 203 Duke Street. Brick with stucco, two stories, hipped roof with four interior end chimneys, modillion cornice, Doric entrance porch. Greek Revival. Built circa 1850.
14. St. John's Episcopal Church, Duke Street. Frame with board and batten siding, one story, gable roof, central entrance tower with modified lancet arched door and quatre-foil window and slender steeple above, modified lancet arched windows. Gothic Revival. Built 1837-49; two-bay addition built on south end in 1972.

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2.

Tappahannock Historic District consists of that block bounded by Church Lane, Queen's Street, Cross Street, and Prince Street, as well as that area particularly described as having the following boundaries: from a point between Prince and Queen Streets on Cross Street being at the rear property line of 227 Prince Street; thence east but paralleling Prince Street to Rappahannock River; thence following shore line of said river to the southernmost boundary of St. Margaret's School, following that line west to its intersection with Water Street; thence north on Water Street to the point marking the rear property line of those lots fronting on the south front of Duke Street; thence west along said property line to Cross Street; thence north along cross Street to the beginning point.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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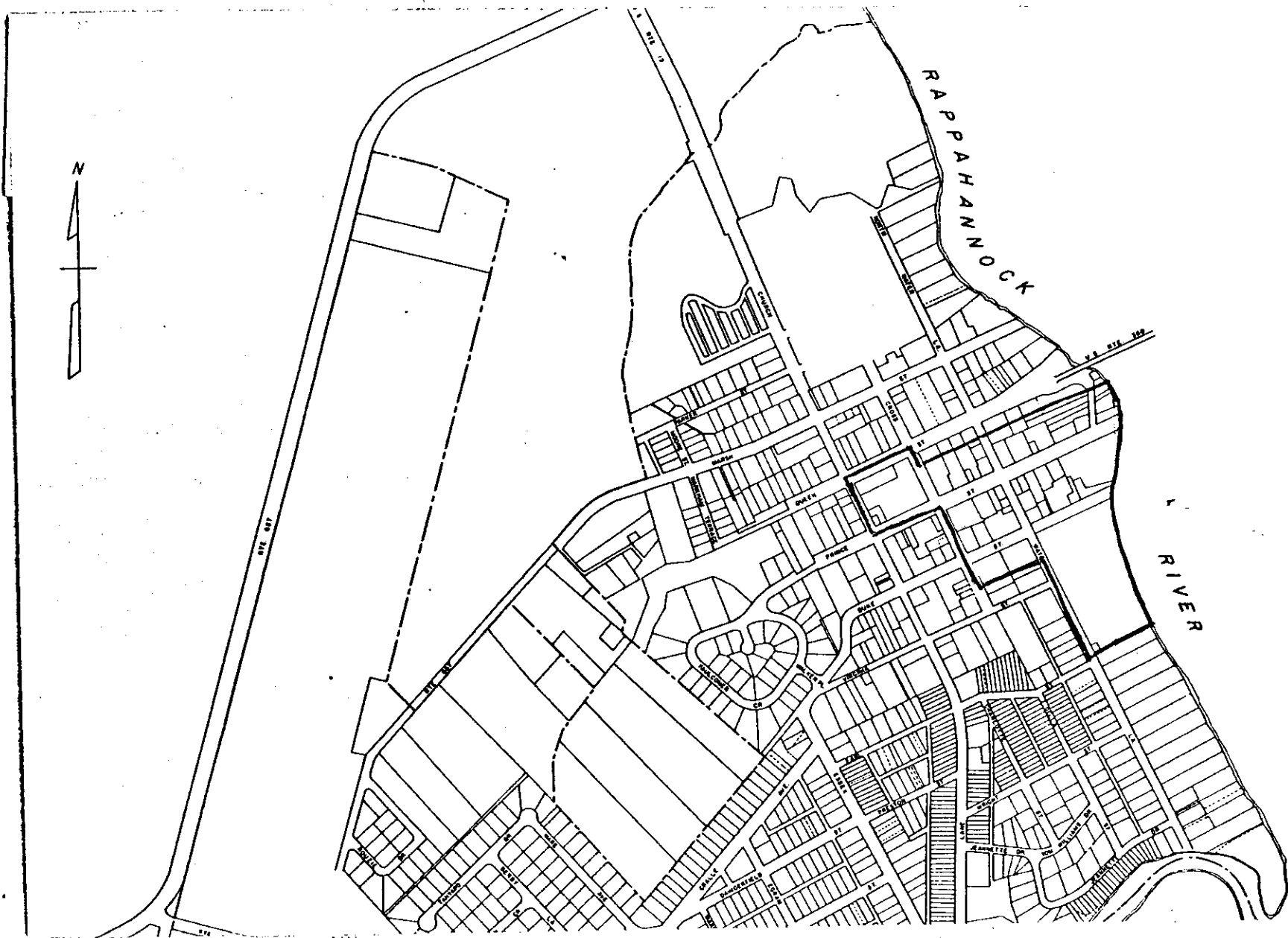
(Number all entries)

8.

as a pioneer in the development of modern journalism, was an editor of national prominence. The third member of the group was Dr. John Brockenbrough, President of the Bank of Virginia. Ritchie's family owned the house on Prince Street and the Roane family built their residence on Duke Street.

This compact district of low-scale structures centers around the three eighteenth century streets of Prince, Duke and Water Streets and contains the balance of those houses and buildings associated with Tappahannock's maritime and political history. The port town's most convincing case for architectural history occurs in the court block where the 1728 and 1848 court houses stand together with their subordinate Debtor's Prison and Clerk's Office flanking and lending scale to the newer structures. Although their dates differ by approximately forty years, the prison and clerk's office exhibit a marked similarity that has been echoed by other court facilities in more recent years. Set to the east of the heavily commercialized Route 360 (Church Lane), the district boasts its own brick commercial activity, tempered by the presence of tree-line residential streets and the broad Rappahannock nearby.





U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Tappahannock, Va. 1944

TAPPAHANNOCK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
latitude longitude  
NW 37°55'49" 76°51'42"  
37°55'49" 76°51'20"  
SE 37°55'32" 76°51'20"  
SW 37°55'32" 76°51'42"

