

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY
OF
JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Draft by
Stephen Del Sordo
Preservation Planner, MAAR Associates

Final Edits by
Thomas W. Bodor
and
Erin Moyer
The Ottery Group, Inc.

Submitted To:



Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Submitted By:



The Ottery Group
1810 August Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

May 2008

ABSTRACT

Beginning in late 2006, and extending to 2007, by The Ottery Group on behalf of James City County and the State of Virginia conducted a comprehensive survey of historic structures within James City County, Virginia. The project involved editing and completing previously compiled documentation forms, checking maps and photographic labels, and completing the final survey report. The project also included the documentation of a minimum of twenty historic resources. The final task is a scripted PowerPoint presentation about the history and architecture of James City County.

The previous survey was conducted between 1999-2001 by MAAR Associates, Inc. whose research staff surveyed a total of 180 historic properties located throughout the county. Of these, twenty were recorded to the Intensive level. In addition, structures over the age of fifty years were circled on topographic maps, but not recorded on DSS forms. A number of architectural sites were recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as was the Toano Potential Historic District. Recommendations for further study and for preservation planning in James City County are also presented.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Principal Investigator and Project Manager for the survey project was Thomas Bodor, Director of Cultural Resources for The Ottery Group, Inc. Rebecca Howell Crew served as Senior Architectural Historian, completing and correcting the DSS files of previously surveyed resources, performing survey activities, and producing the survey report. Erin Moyer also served as Architectural Historian, completing and correcting DSS files of previous surveyed resources, performing survey activities, and producing the survey report. Aaron Levinthal also assisted with the projecting, assessing the status of VDHR's files on each property. Camille Agricola Bowman, Architectural Historian, was our project liaison from the Tidewater Regional Office of the VDHR. Susan Smead, Cost-Share Manager, also assisted us from the VDHR offices in Richmond. Quatro Hubbard, Jeff Smith, and Drury Wellford in the VDHR Archives also provided technical assistance. Jason Purse, Assistant County Administrator, served as our local contact and identified the resources to survey in this phase of the project.

Principal Investigator and Project Manager for the survey project was Ronald A. Thomas, President of MAAR. Mr. Stephen Del Sordo, AICP, Preservation Planner, was in charge of all data gathering, and research and survey activities. Ms. Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Architectural Historian, was our project liaison from the Tidewater Regional Office of the VDHR. Margaret T. Peters, Survey Manager, also assisted us from the VDHR offices in Richmond.

A number of other individuals were cited by their contributions by MAAR. Jessica Billy, assisted by Diane Puleo, undertook computer inputting on survey forms. Ms. Puleo, graduate student at the University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Design, also ably helped with historic site evaluation and analysis. Ms. Billy and Mr. Thomas edited the various project documents. Richard L. Green and Robert F. Hoffman assisted with mapping, graphic rendering, and production tasks.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	v
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	6
1.2 Survey Coverage and Study Area	6
1.3 Survey Methodology	7
1.3.1 Background Research	7
1.3.2 On-Site Survey.....	7
2.0 HISTORIC CONTEXTS.....	9
2.1 Introduction to Historic Contexts.....	9
2.2 Native Americans (to 1607).....	9
2.3 European Settlement to Society (1607-1750)	10
2.4 Colony to Nation (1750-1789)	13
2.5 Early National Period (1789-1830).....	15
2.6 Antebellum Period (1830-1860).....	17
2.7 Civil War (1861-1865).....	18
2.8 Reconstruction (1865-1880).....	19
2.9 Modern James City County (1900-1950).....	21
3.0 REPRESENTATIVE BUILDING TYPES OF JAMES CITY COUNTY.....	23
3.1 Introduction.....	23
3.2 Domestic/Residential Buildings.....	23
3.3 Non-Residential Buildings and Structures.....	27
3.3.1 Education.....	27
3.3.2 Government/Law/Political.....	28
3.3.3 Religious/Social Structures	29
3.3.4 Commerce/Trade.....	32
3.3.5 Industry/Processing/Extraction	32
3.3.6 Health Care/Medicine	35
3.3.7 Recreation/Arts	35
3.3.8 Transportation/Communication	35
3.3.9 Technology/Engineering.....	36
3.3.10 Subsistence/Agricultural.....	36
4.0 SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS	39
4.1 Survey Background.....	39
4.2 National Register of Historic Places Criteria	39
4.3 Previously Identified Resources	41
4.4 Survey Findings.....	42
4.5 VDHR Architectural Styles.....	42
4.6 Periods of Construction	44
4.7 Properties Surveyed at the Intensive Level	44
4.8 Recommendations for Proposed National Register Properties.....	45
4.8.1 Toano Historic District.....	46
4.8.2 Properties Surveyed at the Intensive Level.....	46
4.9 Proposed Historic Contexts for Specific Property Types/Thematic Evaluations:	48
4.10 Preservation Planning Recommendations for James City County.....	50
4.10.1 Land Use Issues.....	50
4.10.2 Historic Preservation Plan or Element.....	51
4.10.3 Additional Financial Incentives for Historic Preservation.....	51
4.10.5 Local History Center and Historic Study Topics.....	52
4.10.6 Geographic Information System (GIS).....	52
4.10.7 Archaeological Data Base	52
5.0 REFERENCES CITED	53

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A: Basic Inventory List of Properties Surveyed in James City County by The Ottery Group

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

- Figure 2.1: Portion of John Smith's 1607 Map
Figure 2.2: Portion of Augustine Herman 1673 Map
Figure 2.3: Map of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in James City County
Figure 2.4: Location of Grove
- Figure 3.1: Oakland (047-5243)
Figure 3.2: Col. William Allen House (047-0022)
Figure 3.3: Breezeland (047-5156)
Figure 3.4: Colonial Revival House (047-5147-0014)
Figure 3.5: Brick Bat School (047-5246)
Figure 3.6: Grove School (047-5121)
Figure 3.7: Olive Branch Christian Church (047-0026)
Figure 3.8: Giles Hazelwood Cemetery (047-5184)
Figure 3.9: Masonic Lodge (047-5147-0013)
Figure 3.10: Slater's School (047-0062)
Figure 3.11: Menzel's Fish House (047-5256)
Figure 3.12: Chickahominy River Bridge (047-5247)
Figure 3.13: CSX Highway Tunnel (047-5175)
Figure 3.14: Warrens Mill Farm (047-5102)
Figure 3.15: Gilley House (047-5115)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Purpose and Survey Goals

In July 2006, the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) commissioned The Ottery Group, Inc. to complete architectural documentation of a previously-conducted survey and to conduct new survey of at least twenty resources at the reconnaissance level.

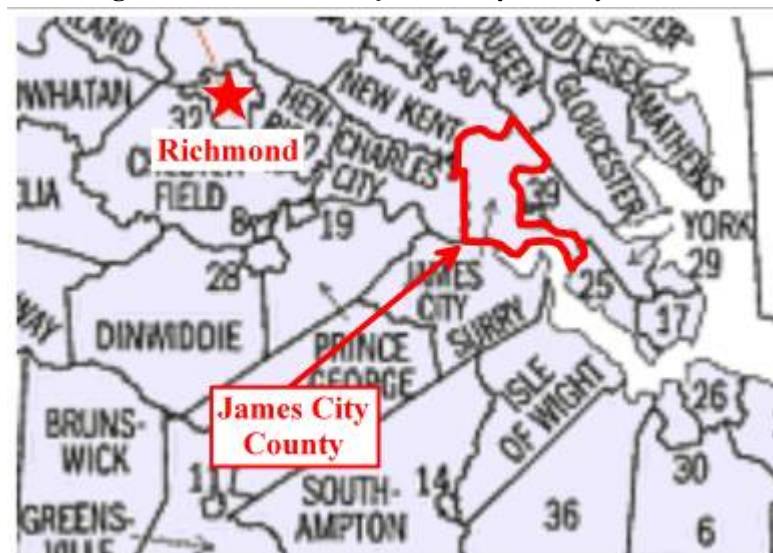
In October of 1999, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, commissioned MAAR Associates, Inc. to conduct a cultural resources survey of James City County, Virginia. The primary goal of the project was to conduct an architectural survey of standing historic resources within the community. All buildings over fifty years of age were surveyed. Of these, approximately 180 structures were recorded at the reconnaissance level and at least twenty at the intensive level. The remaining buildings over fifty years of age were circled on topographic maps in order to be used in the future for planning and surveying purposes. Survey products were to include DSS survey data on computer disks, a report, computer-generated reconnaissance and intensive-level survey forms, black and white photographs with negatives and color slides, and USGS topographic maps with site locations, as well as a scripted slide show, and public presentations.

This report, the final product of the survey, is intended to serve as a planning tool for making land-use decisions, and planning for future survey, evaluation, and treatment of historic architectural resources within the county.

1.2 Survey Coverage and Study Area

James City County occupies the middle portion of the peninsula that extends from the city of Richmond south and east to Hampton and Newport News (Figure 1.1). The county is bounded on its southern side by the James River and on the northern side by York County and the York River. The land is mostly flat with some higher elevations in the northern section of the county.

Figure 1.1: Location of James City County.



Prior to the twentieth century, the county had been mostly a rural area. However, with the construction of an interstate highway from Hampton to Richmond and an increase in local professional employment opportunities, the area around the city of Williamsburg has grown into an extensive suburban community, attracting commuters from the larger neighboring metropolitan areas. The last three decades of the twentieth century alone, have brought an abundance of growth to the county with the development of a large theme park and the marketing of

Colonial Williamsburg and the surrounding area as a recreational destination for heritage tourism, shopping, golf, and other family-oriented activities.

Most of the modern development has taken place in the central and southern portions of the county. The northern section remains mostly rural and retains its agricultural landscape. The principal urban area of James City County is Williamsburg. Founded in the eighteenth century, Williamsburg was Virginia's capital until it was moved to Richmond at the end of the eighteenth century. Beyond Williamsburg, there were a number of small rural communities and crossroads villages that provided goods and services to the rural populations. Among those that have survived today are Grove, Lightfoot, Norge, and Toano.

Although there is a tendency to view geography by way of modern road systems, they are actually influenced by the original topography of the land. The settlement and development of James City County have been greatly influenced by its water system, particularly by the York River and the James River, both of which are a part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In James City County, both rivers are wide and navigable. These rivers and smaller tributaries throughout the county, have served not only as a transportation system but as a source of food. The most significant of the James River tributaries is the Chickahominy River. The Chickahominy River was once the site of several early shipyards. Today, it provides access to the upper interior of James City County and is a popular boating and fishing route. The river is also an important commercial fishing area, continuing to serve as a source for the County's remaining commercial fish house. The marsh lands associated with the river serve as a constraint with regard to future development in that portion of the county.

1.3 Survey Methodology

A kick-off meeting was held August 1, 2006 in Newport News with Lyle Torp and Rebecca Howell from The Ottery Group; Jay Randolph, Assistant County Administrator for Southampton County; and Camille Agricola Bowman, Architectural Historian for the Tidewater Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Rebecca Howell and Erin Moyer received training in the VDHR's Data Sharing System (DSS) on August 23, 2006.

1.3.1 Background Research

Archives consulted by MAAR included the archaeological and architectural files of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) and the Library of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia; Swem Library at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia; the Rockefeller Library at Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg, Virginia; the Morris Library at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware; and the in-house library at MAAR Associates, Inc. Appropriate on-line resources were also consulted.

It should also be recognized that the principal objective of the historical research undertaken as part of the resources survey was not to compile a comprehensive and detailed cultural history of James City County. Rather it was to provide a general overview of the city's development over time to facilitate the dating, identification, and evaluation of potentially significant resources.

1.3.2 On-Site Survey

After holding initial county meetings and conducting preliminary background research, MAAR studied the James City County survey area through a windshield survey. This was followed by a reconnaissance survey, which required visiting individual properties, filling out survey forms and taking exterior photographs. Finally, an intensive survey was conducted for twenty buildings, whereupon interiors of buildings were photographed, described, and sketched as floor plans.

The MAAR survey was a comprehensive survey, meaning that every road within the survey area was driven in

order to locate buildings that were over fifty years of age. Modern subdivisions and recently developed areas were also subjected to the windshield survey. All buildings which appeared to be at least fifty years of age or older were circled on United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps (7.5 minute series). In addition to using the *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior=s Standards and Guidelines* (U.S. Department of Interior 1983), the project also utilized *Guidelines for Conducting Cultural Resource Survey in Virginia*, published by Virginia=s Department of Historic Resources (1999). The survey team then chose examples of a wide range of cultural resources to record on survey forms. This involved returning into the field to complete the forms, taking black and white photographs, and then sketching site plans for each property.

For the 2006-2007 survey, the Ottery Group received recommendations of properties to survey from Jason Purse, Planner for James City County, in consultation with Fred Boelt, a local historian. Assistance in identifying areas came from Camille Bowman, VDHR Tidewater Office, Quatro Hubbard, VDHR Archivist, and Martha McCartney, historian and author of a book on James City County. Additional resources were identified while looking for the recommended properties.

2.0 HISTORIC CONTEXTS

2.1 Introduction to Historic Contexts

A historic context is a guide to understanding the relationship between historical events and patterns, geographic features and influences, and the effect of time on the development and change in the physical patterns that mark a region's history and culture. Historic Contexts have become an important tool to aid planners, government officials, interested citizens, and other groups in order to develop a better understanding of the forces that have shaped the growth and appearance of a given area. Historic contexts may be prepared for a small neighborhood or community, for municipal government areas or counties, and/or for states and extensive regions of our country. They can also be prepared for the entire nation and beyond. The preparation of a historic context can help people better understand the significance of architecturally undistinguished buildings and ruins or the seemingly unrelated events that helped to cause a specific industry or ethnic community to locate in one area rather than elsewhere.

The VDHR has adopted the historic context as a specific method to better understand the physical patterns of development and as a means of determining the significance of historic buildings, structures, sites, and objects that mark the growth of a community and/or region. VDHR utilizes the historic context and the criteria used to establish significance as determined by the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register in order to evaluate the impact of government projects or government-regulated projects on properties that might have historical or cultural significance.

In James City County, historic contexts have been prepared to help organize the historic property survey and to combine the various properties that were identified in order to facilitate and encourage the recognition of James City County's history and heritage. The historic contexts and the properties that were inventoried in the survey are extant representations of properties that have managed to survive the impacts and effects of both time and development. The results of this survey can and should be incorporated into James City County's planning process as one method of encouraging the incorporation of the county's history and architecture into future development projects.

2.2 Native Americans (to 1607)

The human occupation of the land that is now considered James City County dates to more than 10,000 years ago. The land was first used by Native Americans who migrated east and south toward the waters that flow into the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Over time, the Native Americans developed an agricultural based system and began to establish settlements which were separate from other groups of Native Americans. During the late sixteenth/early seventeenth century, the Native Peoples situated along the Coastal Plain of Eastern Virginia regrouped as a method of reducing internal warfare. Known as the Powhatan Chiefdom, they represented more than 150 separate villages of Algonquian-speaks and included between 14,000 and 21,000 individuals (Egloff 1992:43). The Powhatan Chiefdom later greeted the first Jamestown settlers in 1607.

Europeans began to appear off the Atlantic Coast during the sixteenth century as the nations of Europe began to vie with one another for control over the "New World." Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, French, and English ships sailed along the coast looking for trade and trying to determine the extent of their European rivals' interests in this new land. These early explorers were also looking for economic opportunities in the form of gold and silver. This century was marked by not only warfare and open hostility among the differing European nations; it was also plagued by political turmoil stemming from the King of England.

There are no above-ground physical remains from this early period; however, the archeological record is extensive for the later fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Among the artifacts and features found are worked tools and pottery, temporary camp sites, work sites, and permanent camps and villages. Almost all of the permanent

villages and encampment sites are located along watercourses. Much of the archeological record for this early period has been recovered in the course of environmental clearance activities before government-financed development project. One result of the extensive archeological record and the oral traditions has been the realization that the Native Americans, at the time of first contact with the Europeans, had a thriving and well-developed culture and social system which had served them well for thousands of years.

2.3 European Settlement to Society (1607-1750)

Although at the end of the sixteenth century a small group of Spanish Jesuits did establish a short-lived mission on the Richmond-Hampton Peninsula north of Hampton, (the area that is now York County), the first active and successful European settlement in the English-controlled portion of the future United States of America was the Jamestown Colony of 1607. Consisting mostly of English colonists, they landed at Cape Henry at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay before they moved inland to the island of Jamestown along the James River; within the current boundary of James City County. During their short stay at Cape Henry, the colonists dispatched small groups of men to explore the Chesapeake Bay and the neighboring York and James River. These expeditions found that the area was occupied by a number of Native Americans who had been living in the region for many thousands of years.

The settlement site at Jamestown Island was chosen because it was considered defensible from attack by the local native peoples and was sufficiently far enough upriver from the Chesapeake Bay that the colony would have sufficient warning as to a potential military threat from Spain. In addition to the construction of dwellings, support buildings, and a fortified structure, the leaders of the colony organized a mapping expedition which was commanded by Captain John Smith. Smith's map from 1607 shows the Jamestown colony as being some distance from the closest Indian village (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Portion of John Smith's 1607 Map



As European settlement began to grow and expand along the coast and the navigable waterways of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, relations between the Native Americans and the colonists slowly began to deteriorate. Incidents of theft and murder can be traced to both sides, but the increasing size of the English colony soon began to encroach upon native lands. Native villages were overtaken by the colonists. Many Native

Americans were decimated by disease and those that managed to survive were forced to move further westward, a movement which would continue for generations to come. The Native Americans did however make several efforts to hold on to and take back their land. The first uprising was in 1622 when local tribes attacked the English settlements along the James River, killing many of the colonists. A number of English women were taken as hostages. The colonists withdrew to Jamestown Island and retaliated with a number of raids on the Indian villages. Eventually, an uneasy peace was made between the colonists and the Indians. However, sporadic attacks would continue from both sides. The settlers fortified their outlying plantations, built several forts, and even erected a palisade or fence across the peninsula spanning from the James River to the York River (McCartney 1997: 74).

In spite of their poor relationship with the Indians, years of poor harvests, foul weather, and a number of governmental and administrative changes, the Virginia Colony did prosper. By 1634, the original colony at Jamestown had spread throughout the Chesapeake Bay region, requiring that counties be formed to manage and control the ever spreading colonists (Figure 2.2). In that year, eight counties were formed. James City County had the largest population with 886 people (McCartney 1997: 77).

Figure 2.2: Portion of Augustine Herman 1673 Map



Tobacco is often considered the first and principal crop in the southern American colonies. In Virginia, John Rolfe is credited with planting the first tobacco crop in 1612—a sweet variety he imported from the West Indies (Dabney 1971: 25). The cultivation of tobacco increased every year and was the basis for most of the wealth in Virginia. However, not all of the land in the Colony was used to cultivate tobacco. Legislation was passed that established markets and trading days for each of the counties. In James City County, there appears to have been an extensive market place in Jamestown, which provided an opportunity for local farmers to sell their produce to other colonists and to the ships that were docked in Jamestown, the principal port of entry for the Virginia Colony. In addition to a broad market for food crops, colonists also began to specialize in craft production. (McCartney 1977: 81 - 82).

The rapid expansion of the colony during the 1640s, the pressure to cultivate new lands for tobacco and other crops, as well as a desire to construct plantations and farmsteads along the navigable waterways, caused a series of new problems for the Native Americans. After the 1622 war, the government made it illegal to provide the Indians with guns and discouraged trade with the Indians altogether. As time went by, many of those laws were altered or ignored but the friction remained. The local tribes attacked the outlying settlements and farms of Virginia in 1644, killing between 400 and 500 settlers. In retaliation, the colonial government sent troops into the Indian villages to burn their crops and to kill innocent Indians. (McCartney 1977: 84 - 85)

As the Virginia Colony grew and matured into its second and third generations, efforts were made by local elected leaders, merchants, and the Crown to develop order in the colony and to recreate English institutions and systems. A number of laws were passed, with varying success, to establish boundaries for towns and to force people to live within these towns rather than on outlying farms. The English Crown also tried to regulate commerce between England and the colonies through a series of Navigation Acts and restrictions on local manufacturing. As a result of these restrictions, Native Americans and angry colonists challenged the legal authority of the colony and of the Crown. The most notable internal dispute was Bacon's Rebellion of 1677. Jamestown, the colonial capital, suffered greatly during Bacon's Rebellion as the Statehouse, other government buildings, and a good portion of the town were burned by the rebels.

After the political turmoil of the 1660s and 1670s subsided, the Virginia House of Burgesses passed the Town Act of 1680. The Town Act required that each of the then twenty counties nominate one town which would serve as the location for the government-sanctioned tobacco warehouse. Even though Jamestown was in poor condition as a result of the rebellion, it remained the capital of the Colony. Government buildings, private dwellings, shops, and warehouses were all rebuilt. New regulations required that the majority of the buildings be constructed of brick. Jamestown continued to thrive as a capital and as Virginia's principal trading port until 1699, when a fire in the town destroyed the Statehouse once again and the jail, along with a number of other buildings. This time, there was a universal call for a new location of the capital. Several years prior to the fire, the College of William and Mary had been established in an area known as Middle Plantation, which bordered James City County and York County. The House of Burgess authorized the move of the capital to this location and changed its name to Williamsburg.

By the beginning of the eighteenth century, the landscape of James City County had been formed on the basis of appearance and traditions of the rural English countryside. The colonists who settled Virginia and whose families continued to grow and prosper ranged from second and third generation colonists to those who had just arrived from England, Africa, and a variety of European and Caribbean nations. For these people, the buildings they erected and the agricultural patterns that they followed were mostly based on English precedents and traditions. The development pattern in Virginia was one that emphasized the rural farmstead or plantation over settled towns. Unlike the New England colonies, Virginians preferred the countryside. As a result, there were few villages in James City County or elsewhere in Virginia.

The "Englishness" of the landscape is especially true with regard to the construction of dwellings. In the first years and for some time thereafter, the colonists built lightly-framed dwellings that resembled rude huts. As time and labor permitted, the colonists and settlers slowly began to build small one and two room dwellings and agricultural buildings typical of an English community. For many, these early buildings were made of hewn or sawn frames which were joined by mortise and tension joints to create a sturdy structure. Most of these buildings were built on the ground, without the benefit of a foundation. Due to their construction, the houses and buildings from the sixteenth century in the middle colonies have been lost, except for some rare extant buildings that are contained within enlarged or improved structures (Carson 1981). Log buildings were not prevalent in the middle colonies during the first half of the eighteenth century and it is unlikely that any such buildings were constructed in Virginia. The African Americans who were brought to the colony as slaves were housed in quarters constructed or designed by their masters. As a result, the early buildings inhabited by African

Americans reflected English traditions. However, over time, African Americans were able to exert greater influence over their housing. (Vlach 1993: 231)

Even though regulations enforced after the middle of the seventeenth century required brick construction for buildings in towns, the majority of the buildings were of frame construction. There is the occasional exception and the most notable one was the palatial home that Governor Sir William Berkely, built during the 1640s. The large brick house was under construction by 1645 at his rural estate, Green Spring. Construction on the house continued for many years as improvements and enlargements were added to the original dwelling. Berkely developed Green Spring into an extensive plantation with orchards, gardens, and vast agricultural fields. His slaves were housed about the plantation in smaller frame buildings common to the colony during the last half of the seventeenth century and into the early eighteenth century. There are only vague descriptions of Green Spring, but a seventeenth-century image does survive which shows a large and extensive plantation house (McCartney 1997: 139). The house site was excavated by the National Park Service in 1955 (James City County 1977: 3).

Almost all of our knowledge regarding the physical remains of the built environment in James City County up until the 1750s has been documented as a result of archaeological excavations. There is an extensive written record which includes government documents and church records, as well as travelers' accounts and descriptions. In addition, genealogical records and family papers detail life in and around Virginia's colonial capital. Today, there are almost no surviving original buildings which were constructed prior to 1750. Portions of Hickory Neck Church (047-0008) include materials dating from 1733 - 1738. Lombardy Farm (047-0029), located near Toano, has been ascribed by some as having been constructed in the first quarter of the eighteenth century. There are several buildings within the historic area of Colonial Williamsburg which have portions of original material but have otherwise either been reconstructed or restored. Among them is the Powder Magazine, whose central tower is mostly original, but whose wall has been rebuilt, the Public Records Office, and the Prentis Store.

2.4 Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

By the middle of the eighteenth century, James City County was a mature community that had been occupied by English settlers for almost 150 years. The county had firmly established an agricultural and architectural pattern of settlement that reflected a shift from tobacco to wheat and other grains and emphasized the importance of Williamsburg as a political and cultural center. The route from Richmond to Hampton Roads passed through the county. Grist mills, taverns, and small villages filled the landscape. Tobacco remained an important crop but the larger plantation owners in the area had already shifted to cultivating wheat and corn, which required less labor and was easier to manage than tobacco. The profits gained from growing tobacco, wheat, and corn enabled wealthy plantation owners to erect significant houses, such as Carter's Grove (047-0001) which was begun around 1750.

The planters and farmers of James City County continued to acquire wealth at a steady pace during the 1750s and 1760s. A rise in tobacco prices in Europe and expanding markets for wheat and other grains from the region helped maintain an active building program throughout the county and in Williamsburg. Even though the French and Indian War, which began in 1752, disrupted trade with Europe, it did not appear to have a significant impact on the county's prosperity. There were no Indians remaining on the York-James River peninsula and the area did not suffer any direct attacks. The period after the end of the French and Indian War and the beginning of the American Revolution was marked by continued prosperity in James City County. This continued into the Revolutionary War Period as the demand for grain and tobacco remained high. The planters, especially those at the upper end of the economic and social scale, relied heavily on Scottish and English trade to provide the cash needed to manage their farms and to maintain their lifestyles in between harvests. This created a dependent system for both sides which was to be disrupted by the Revolution and by the efforts of the English government to control its colonies in America.

As new counties were formed below the James River and west towards the Piedmont and into the Shenandoah Valley, James City County was already a settled area. The areas to the south and west provided an outlet for growing tobacco and for the children of the farmers and planters of the older Tidewater counties to start a new life on fertile soil. Because of the long period of European settlement along the James River, there was no new land available and large farms could only be created either through marriage or by the outright purchase from those whose families no longer wished to be tied to the land. In 1768, 70 percent of the 268 households in the county owned land, the average landholding being 210 acres. Land ownership appears to have been at its highest level in the colony and remained so through the end of the Revolutionary War (Kulikoff 1986: 135).

While the Anglican Faith was the acknowledged “state” religion of the colony, it was not the only religious choice for those in James City County. A small number of Quakers had been reported meeting in the county as early as 1699. They built a meetinghouse in York County a few miles east of Lightfoot by 1767. Members of the Quaker community such as Fleming Bates, Benjamin Bates, Jordan Harrison, and William Ratcliff were named trustees of the meetinghouse in a 1767 deed. In the 1750s and onward, Methodist and Baptist preachers organized small groups of followers and held services in private homes or used Anglican Churches. A small Presbyterian meeting was organized in Williamsburg in 1765 (McCartney 1997: 543). Bruton Parish was the main Anglican parish for Williamsburg and the surrounding areas.

From 1704 to 1780, the capitol of the colony of Virginia was located in Williamsburg, on land deeded by John Paige of Middle Plantation. The colony’s business was conducted from this location. John Blair Sr., owner of the Taskinas Plantation, was involved in building the first Capitol building in 1699 and also took part in the subsequent rebuilding of the capitol building after the fire of 1747. James Blair, uncle of John Blair Sr, was instrumental in the establishment of the College of William and Mary in 1693 and was its first President. Leaders of the colony had all been involved, in one way or another, with the business of the colony while in Williamsburg. George Washington, while a burgess, was applauded at the Capitol for his role in the French and Indian War and later Patrick Henry gave his defiant speech protesting the Stamp Act. It was also at the Capitol where George Mason’s *Virginia Declaration of Rights* was passed. At the Capitol assemblies meet, laws were enacted, and cases were tried.

As the 1770s brought increased difficulties between the American Colonies and Great Britain, the politics of the period had a direct impact on life within James City County. Tobacco inspection laws and restrictions on domestic manufacturers were important issues facing a region that was trying to create a more diverse economic base that was not tied directly to agriculture. However, they were heavily dependent upon agricultural success in order to substantiate an industrial and social base which was beginning to develop in the county.

When war and rebellion occurred in 1775, Virginia played an active role in supporting the revolutionary effort. They contributed numerous well-known military leaders to the cause in addition to George Washington. They led the political aspects of the rebellion through the contributions of individuals such as Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry; both of whom served as Virginia’s Governor during the Revolution. Additionally, Virginia contributed a large number of troops, equipment and ships for both the Continental Army and the Navy. They also maintained an active militia force that was used for many of the campaigns in the southern states toward the end of the Revolutionary War.

James City County soon became a battleground for independence. The shipyard that had been established in 1777 on the Chickahominy River was burned by the British in 1781 as part of the British effort to defeat the Continental Army in Virginia. While the British were successful in burning this shipyard and in holding other lands along the James and York Rivers, they lost the war at Yorktown when the American and French forces forced the British Army and Navy to surrender (Ward 1952: 770 - 776). The Siege of Yorktown took place in the fall of 1781 and although it was the last great confrontation of the war, there were two battles that occurred earlier that year in James City County. One of these was the Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary, which took place near

the intersection of Centerville Road and Longhill Road on June 26, 1781. The other was the Battle of Green Springs Plantation.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, James City County was a very different place than it was in 1776. Because of concerns that Williamsburg could potentially be invaded by the British, the Capitol was moved to Richmond in 1780 (McCartney 1997: 219). With Williamsburg no longer the physical center of Virginian politics, merchants and politicians began to leave the city. The population plummeted and governmental buildings were abandoned, destroyed, or converted to other uses. Throughout the war and afterwards, James City County remained agriculturally based on grain and wheat as their principal crops and tobacco remaining an important cash crop. Because of the amount of wealth generated by these crops, there is a significant amount of architecture that has survived from the mid-eighteenth century. Carter's Grove (047-0001) is an excellent example of a large plantation house that was typically found in James City County during this time period. While it has been somewhat altered and renovated during the twentieth century, it still remains a significant and elaborate rural property.

While plantation houses such as Carter's Grove are admired and visited often, the more typical structure was a braced-frame building set on a brick foundation. Generally, these structures, both private and public, were one or two stories high. Some were constructed of brick, while others were frame and clad with weatherboard. Many of the structures built during this period most likely resembled post-in-the-ground housing common to the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in the Tidewater Counties of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. These structures had no permanent foundation and were supported only by posts set into holes in the ground. This form of housing would have a life expectancy of twenty to thirty years before it would need to be repaired or replaced altogether. An alternative to the post-in-the-ground would have been a braced-frame example which was set on wood or stone piers. This would have been slightly more permanent and was a common foundation system used in James City County for agricultural buildings and for dwellings that were constructed during the nineteenth century.

2.5 Early National Period (1789-1830)

A census taken in 1790, found that James City County was one of the smallest counties in Virginia, with a population of only 4,070. Of that number, 2,405 were slaves and 146 were listed under a heading identified as all "other free" (Indians and free blacks). From 1790 to 1830, James City County shrank in both its white and slave population. The reduction, more than 5 percent, can be directly tied to the fertility of the soil in the Tidewater counties of Virginia and the older communities of the Middle Atlantic States. Like many other Tidewater counties, farmers in James City County had shifted to cultivating grain and wheat by the middle of the eighteenth century, but their prior agricultural practices continued to drain the soil of its ability to produce high or even modest yields of almost any crop. Most of the farmers did not follow a diversified crop rotation system; rather, if they rotated at all, they might plant crops using a three-crop system that rotated grains and grasses over and over again for generations. Although there was recognition that soil exhaustion was the chief cause for the decline in crop productivity, little effort was made to correct this during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Individuals such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson did experiment with different crop rotation systems and with fertilizers. Others such as Edmund Ruffin began to write extensively for agricultural newspapers and to local agricultural societies about the need to improve soil fertility and crop rotation systems, but much of their advice and guidance went unheeded for many years (Bruce 1932 : 3-13).

The early years of the new nation was complicated by the relationship between the newly created United States of America, Great Britain and France. Tensions between the United States and Great Britain had never truly been resolved by the end of the American Revolution. Great Britain tried on several occasions to halt American trade with the West Indies, the remaining British Colonies, and trade with Europe. Among its tactics of fear and intimidation were the stopping of American ships and the removal of sailors that it claimed to be British subjects or deserters from the British military. These confrontations and assaults on American freedom and commerce

were part of a larger battle between Great Britain and France for military and trade supremacy and were part of the larger Napoleonic Wars being fought in land battles in Europe and by naval battles across the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

These conflicts had a number of impacts on James City County. Because American sailors and ships were at risk from being stopped and searched by the British Navy, the lucrative trade with the West Indies and Europe was disrupted. One serious blow to the economic fortunes of Tidewater Virginia was the Embargo Act of 1807. This act was conceived by Thomas Jefferson as a reaction to the seizure of sailors from the American Naval vessel the *Chesapeake*. While many in Congress and across the United States wanted to go to war with Great Britain, Jefferson persuaded Congress to pass the Embargo Act which forbade the exportation of American goods and prevented the importation of a number of listed British goods. Jefferson hoped that the embargo would boost the fortunes of American manufacturers and farmers; but it was a failure and was soon repealed, but not before the economic damage had been done to the region's farmers (Dabney 1971:200). Not only was the United States dealing with conflicts abroad but things were heating up on the home front as well. Over time, the slavery issue would significantly impact Virginia and the nation as a whole.

There were periodic requests in the General Assembly to abolish slavery or to develop a mechanism that would reduce farmers and planters reliance upon slave labor. Some individual planters did free their slaves, however most did not. For example, Benjamin Bates and his wife freed their slaves in 1785, possibly providing for an early start to a free black community in the area. The owner of Green Spring Plantation freed his slaves and gave them land to build homes on the Hot Water tract near Centerville and Longhill roads. Other planters, while not freeing their slaves, expressed their feelings about the treatment of these individuals and made specific instructions in their wills about how the slaves should be treated (Traver 2002). Schemes such as gradual emancipation and state-sponsored purchases of slaves were suggested. Others offered to provide the means to repatriate slaves back to various regions of Africa. While those who sought a solution to slavery had a multitude of motives, the main concern was the potential for slave revolts. There had been periodic revolts of slaves throughout the South and the slave-holding states of the Caribbean for many years. However, an extensive uprising planned by two slaves in 1801 called for the murder of white residents of Richmond and for the capture of arms and supplies in the city. Gabriel's Insurrection was short lived and was halted almost before it started. However, it frightened many slave owners and citizens throughout the South. Although only a few of the ringleaders were hung, the uprising would harden the attitudes of the state's leaders, prompting the passing of harsh and more restrictive laws to control both slaves and African American freedmen.

The issue over slavery and the reaction to the institution, helped to shape the county's landscape. When the owner of Green Spring (047-0006) died in 1803, his will required that his slaves be freed. The will instructed that the younger former slaves were to be educated in the northern states and that the older slaves were to be provided with housing at his Hot Water Plantation near the present town of Centerville (McCartney 1998: 258). It is almost impossible to determine the appearance of this town from the records identified. In many respects, the last years of the eighteenth century and the first few decades of the nineteenth century were very interesting ones in terms of the development of dwelling house patterns and styles.

The large brick or frame plantation houses and the in-town homes of the planter elite often received the most attention. However, they do not represent the average dwelling in James City County or much of the Middle-Atlantic states. During the first 200 years of European settlement in America, the house styles copied the traditional or vernacular patterns brought from Europe. For the most part, these tended to be small one-and two-room plans that could be one to two-stories high. Most of the rooms in the dwellings were used for a combination of purposes such as service work, cooking, crafts, and family spaces. There was little private space. Slowly, this changed with the introduction of hallways into the spaces to create floor plans that expanded to be organized around a central passage or a side passage plan. This permitted a measure of privacy and also began to encourage households to designate single-purpose rooms. Some of the service functions such as kitchens were moved to separate buildings near the main house. Later these service functions would be moved up close to the

main house and actually joined or incorporated into the main house. This pattern became the new traditional form of dwelling for most of the Middle-Atlantic States and a common housing form throughout Virginia. The most common type of building encountered during this survey was generally frame or brick, one-and-one-half stories (one-story with loft and/or dormers), with a chimney on one or both ends. These dwellings would have had two rooms on the main floor, with a center passage hallway, or a parlor and hall, with additions often made in the form of added rooms with a lean-to roof.

Some examples of this type of housing include the Colonial William Allen House (047-0022) and the Whitehall Farm (047-0041). An example of the detached kitchen form that was common domestic architecture includes a structure located on the grounds of the James City County Bible and Horticultural School (047-5113). The main house burned in the early 1970s and was ordered removed by the National Park Service because it did not conform to the landscape that they had planned for the Jamestown Parkway. The kitchen wing has a central chimney and a half story on the second floor. This upper level might have been used as quarters for the kitchen staff.

2.6 Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

The era from 1830 to 1860 did not change the agricultural base or the landscape of James City County. The county's population rebounded from the low of 1820 because of new settlers that were attracted to the tobacco and grain crops that were producing large yields with high profits during this period. A large number of new and large properties were erected and many older buildings were enlarged and upgraded. Master craftsmen were kept employed in these construction projects for most of this time. The increase in population and the building boom helped to improve the small villages and towns of James City County. The economy of tobacco and grain also attracted the railroads to push their lay their tracks in and around James City County.

The most significant change in James City County during the Antebellum period was in the number of farms. In 1850, there were 129 farms throughout the county. In 1860, there were 149 farms. It is unclear at this time why there was an increase in the number of farms. There was an increase in the white population that might account for the realignment of some of the existing farms to accommodate newly arrived farmers or children of existing farmers who decided to remain in the county and operate their own farms. In addition, a portion of the increase might have resulted from improvements in agricultural practices which made it practical for small farms to operate when larger farms became somewhat counterproductive. The census figures for 1850 would also indicate that there were often two or more families living in separate dwellings on the farms or that there was a sizable population of farmhands and tenants that did not live on a farm as there were 396 families reported for 1850 and there were 396 dwellings for those families. This indicates that there were two to three houses on each farm as the number of dwelling units in the towns of James City County was not extensive.

Agricultural reform began in Virginia in the 1820s. Lead by such men as Edmund Ruffin (Turner 1952: 81), a number of local and state agricultural societies were formed across the Commonwealth throughout the Antebellum period. While Ruffin was not the first American to advocate the use of a crop rotation system and to insist that farmers use fertilizers and improved agricultural equipment, he was one of the most vocal Virginians to do so. The results of his pioneering work across the state and throughout the South helped to improve the productivity of all manner of crops.

One of the reasons for the increase in the value and productivity of James City County farms was a direct result of the teachings of Ruffin and the agricultural societies that flourished in the 1820s and beyond. In James City County, the Middle Plantation Agricultural Society was formed in 1854 (McCartney 1999: 277). In addition to the direct efforts of the agricultural societies, new methods for tilling and farming were spread by a number of agricultural newspapers and magazines. The most popular in the Tidewater Region appears to have been the *Southern Planter*. This periodical was published into the twentieth century.

As word of the success of the improved farming techniques spread throughout Virginia and the other Atlantic Coast states, there were dramatic improvements in agricultural profits. The profits were put back into the farm through investments in fertilizer, fences, equipment, and tools. As the Antebellum period moved towards its end a new tool for harvesting wheat, the mechanical reaper, was developed by Virginian Cyrus McCormick and placed into commercial production in the 1850s. The reaper was expensive and was only profitably used on large farms, rather than on the average small farm in James City County. Agricultural profits could also be realized through increases in land value. There is no available specific information on land values in James City County in relation to other regions for the Antebellum period but a general trend can be reported. For instance, lands in the older Tidewater counties of Virginia ranged from \$3 to \$20 per acre with land south of the James River selling for about \$8 per acre. The regions along the Virginia-North Carolina border in the central piedmont area often found prices that started at \$25 per acre and ran as high as \$50 per acre. Lands in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia often sold for this amount and for higher prices (Gray 1958: 644 - 645).

With the high price of land in James City County, most of the residents remained farmers. The only need for towns and rural villages was to provide courts, a few commercial centers, and gathering places for churches. Accordingly, there were few villages or towns in James City County. In 1845, Howe's *Historical Collections of Virginia* provided a map that showed only Williamsburg and no other towns or villages. Williamsburg is described as a town of about 1,000 people and house cites the College of William and Mary as providing the main support of the town.

The architectural landscape of the Antebellum period in James City County was not markedly different from the late eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century. The large homes that had been established during the eighteenth century remained but many changed ownership as the agricultural economy shifted. In addition, there were changes in the amounts of acreage associated with the large plantations as new owners acquired lands to support their agricultural activities. As development has increased within the county over the past thirty years, many Antebellum properties have been replaced with modern residential and commercial developments. This is especially true for the lower portion of the county. The area north Norge and Toano and especially north of Forge Road continue to include the bulk of the vintage properties from all of the various periods of development in James City County and especially for the Antebellum Period.

One historic development pattern that has left no above-ground record has been the creation of several free black communities. It appears that the area around Grove developed as a small Freedmen's community during the early nineteenth century but the events of the later nineteenth century and the gradual improvement of the community has led to the removal or replacement of the first generation buildings from that community. The same pattern applies to the Freedman's community which developed along Ware Creek in the northern portion of the county. Land and tax records indicate that this was a well established community of freedmen who practiced an extensive number of skilled trades or who were farmers (McCartney 1999: 295). However, the same pattern of removal or replacement at Grove has had the same impact along Ware Creek.

Among the European-American community, the Antebellum period is represented by architectural patterns that reflect the traditional styles that evolved during the nineteenth century. Most of the extant dwellings tend to have a center entrance which, in most cases, led into a central hall. Most of the dwellings have an upper floor and some form of service wing on the rear or side of the dwelling. Among those buildings from this period are the Martin House (047-0013) on Forge Road, the Waverly Farm dwelling on Richmond Road (047-0056), and the Browning House on Jolly Pond Road (047-5207). An example of an ecclesiastical building from the period is the 1835 Olive Branch Christian Church located on Richmond Road (047-0026).

2.7 Civil War (1861-1865)

The Civil War completely devastated the Tidewater Region. Several battles and major skirmishes were fought in and around James City County and York County. In 1862, a siege was laid on Yorktown which ultimately ended

with the withdrawal of Confederate forces on May 3, 1862. On May 5 1862, a major battle occurred in Williamsburg. The results of that battle were inconclusive. On May 7, 1862, Union General George McClellan sent four divisions up the York River to Eltham in New Kent County, where they encountered Confederate forces. The battles of Seven Pines and Fair Oaks began on May 31, 1862, when Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston launched a major offensive against the Union forces. Confederate General Robert E. Lee launched an offense against McClellan on June 26, 1862, causing the federals to retreat on June 27, 1862. McClellan moved his operations to the James River on June 28, 1862, destroying supplies, damaging railroad equipment, and burning railroads. Other military actions in James City County were generally skirmishes: one in January 1863 at Burnt Ordinary; another at Olive Branch Church in February 1864; another at 6 Mile Ordinary two days later; and attempts by Confederates in March and April 1863 to recapture Fort Magruder. In 1865 there was another skirmish at Burnt Ordinary.

The effects of the Civil War were felt throughout James City County. The area consisted of long-term occupation by Federal forces; raids, burning of residences, mills, and bridges; farms stripped of food, livestock, and tools; abandonment of farms and other properties; and so forth. Sentiments of the citizens of the county were expressed: "By the unholy & cruel war much has been lost. May God pardon those who forced it upon us. May we of the South learn to be 'righteous' that we may be exalted" (Church Book for James City Chapel: 1865-1866). Nearby Olive Branch Church (047-0026) was occupied by Union soldiers, who reportedly slept in the gallery and used the sanctuary to stable their horses. During the Civil War, the windows were broken and the pews and flooring were used for firewood, while the communion silver was pillaged. The church was restored to usable condition in 1866. Primary historic resources associated with this time period in James City County are surviving earthworks that were built by Confederate forces in 1861 near Williamsburg (047-0047-047-0052) and the existing Confederate fortifications at Jamestown Island.

2.8 Reconstruction (1865-1880)

James City County's recovery from the devastation of the Civil War was not immediate. As an agricultural community with an extensive reliance on the labor of slaves and an economy that depended on financial assistance based on productivity, the county was not in a good position after the end of the Civil War. Poverty and the cost of reconstruction resulted in the deterioration of older houses and plantations as well as the mass exodus of young people from the county. Much of the farm land had not been tilled during the war years and had to be replaced. Much of the labor force had vanished and there was little or no cash with which to finance the start of farming activities. The newly freed slaves were able to rely on the assistance of the Freedmen's Bureau, a unit of the U.S. War Department, for financial assistance and training. The Freedmen's Bureau and a number of missionary and philanthropic groups provided education, food, and clothing for the former slaves. They also helped them to acquire small farmsteads where they could grow their own food. Some of these properties were on lands that had been confiscated from Confederate officials and sympathizers and were returned to their original owners several years later. Other farms were created on properties that were sold for back taxes or just abandoned by their owners.

For many, the years immediately following the Civil War were a test of survival. Those who owned property in the county and who had been Southern supporters found that their lands had been confiscated for a variety of reasons including the non-payment of taxes. Some property owners abandoned their farms and homes and the Union Army had rented to tenants during the Civil War. Other property owners found that squatters had occupied their lands and could not be forced to leave without significant effort and/or legal intervention. Many of the original landowners did eventually receive their land back due to changes in tax and confiscation laws, but for many it was either too late or they had lost interest in the land that they had owned. Due to the loss of slave labor and manpower many farmers had to reduce the number of acres tilled. Although these lands still tended to remain in the family, many were eventually broken up and subdivided.

In general, the pattern of depression and negative growth in James City County was reflected across Virginia and especially on the Richmond-Hampton Peninsula. Roads were not maintained. The railroads avoided the region

because of lack of commodities to be shipped by rail and because of the historic reliance on the James and the York Rivers. Hampton was in ruins, due to fires, and Newport News was slowly being rebuilt with money from Northern interests, such as bankers and businessmen who saw an opportunity for profit in the depressed economy. With the aid of northern capital, shipping on the James River slowly shifted to steam-powered boats, although sail ships would be in the majority for a great deal of the last half of the nineteenth century because of their reduced cost of operation and because they were cheaper to construct and maintain than steam ships. They also did not require a mechanically-inclined crew for the engine room.

Steamships did help improve the economy of James City County in that once farm produce arrived in Newport News, Norfolk, or Hampton, it could be loaded on a steamship for transportation to the urban markets of Philadelphia or New York. The speed and convenience of steam helped to boost prices for local farm goods but the advance in prices was not sufficient to help farmers in James City County to escape their massive debts and roadblocks to prosperity. For example, Leslie Sunderland acquired Green Spring Farm in 1871 but quickly fell victim to his debts and lost his property. However, one of the items that was acquired by the mortgage holder and original owner of the property was a steam-powered sawmill (McCartney 1999: 349). This was an expensive purchase and probably helped to push Sunderland over the edge because there was not a sufficient market for local lumber. However, the example highlights the effort that James City County farmers and property owners were making to diversify their income.

One of the largest economic benefits to the northern portion of James City County came with the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, which had been completed from Richmond to Newport News by 1881 (Figure 2.3). For the first time, passengers and farm products could go from Newport News to Richmond by train. Stops along the railroad produced a variety of new communities. The village at Burnt Ordinary (near Route 60 and present-day Old Forge Road) became a village and was later renamed Toano. Norwegian families migrated from Minnesota to the area around Lightfoot and established the village of Norge (along Richmond Road).

Figure 2.3: 1881 Map of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in James City County.



There is little architecture that survives from this period. There were some changes and improvements made to older houses of this period but the lack of cash did not permit extensive construction. There were at least three log structures from this period known to exist, indicating that financially, it was desirable to utilize natural resources available for dwelling construction. Nathan Batchelder built one of the three log structures (047-5001).

This was a log structure with a clapboard covering and a fireplace on the end. The interior of the house was described as standing on brick piers, with a heated ground floor room and a passage and enclosed staircase on the west end of the house. The ground floor room had wood lathes and was plastered with only two windows. Other housing constructed in this area resembles houses popular throughout the country. Some houses built during the later part of the nineteenth century consisted of mail-order types, or styled after this type. Other popular styles included the Colonial Revival four-square type, either one or two stories, and also the vernacular single and two story gabled styles, sometimes with added wings. The national style house with a side gable and extended wing was also popular. An example of this was the building used as a funeral parlor in Toano (047-5147-0003). An example of a Colonial Revival four-square house is on Croaker Landing Road (047-5143).

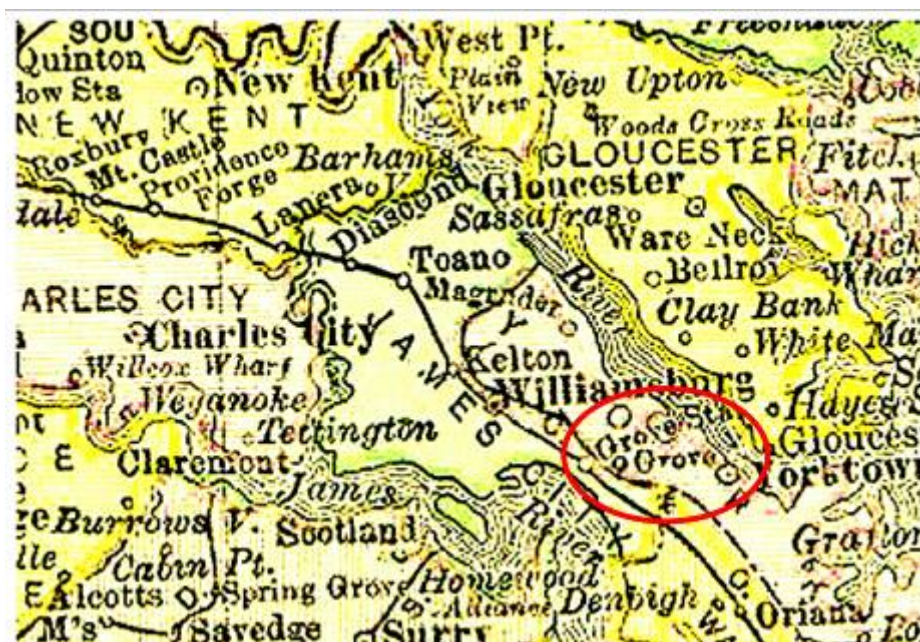
For the newly freed slaves (and the poor whites) in need of housing, the most expedient course of action was to construct inexpensive and small dwellings that were not likely to last more than a short period. Because of the recent development patterns in the lower portion of James City County, the buildings that would have been constructed around the newly established African American settlements do not appear to have survived as most of the buildings in communities such as Grove, date from the early twentieth century.

Although, the freed slaves benefited from Reconstruction because they were now able to own their own lands and homes, they were now confronted with a new phenomenon--racial segregation. Blacks responded to segregation by creating their own institutions, such as independent black churches, corporations, education institutions, and fraternal and social organizations.

2.9 Modern James City County (1900-1950)

The African-American community in Grove has its impetus during this period. By 1918, the Federal government had been purchasing land in order for the Naval Weapons Station at Yorktown to be constructed. The government displaced a large number of black families and many of them relocated to the area of Grove, in James City County (Figure 2.4). The name Grove was given to this community because of its association with the Carter's Grove Plantation. The Grove School (047-5121), a one to two-room structure was established in 1893 and served as a school until 1943. The John Henry Lee House (047-5256) is utilized as a Grove residence but was constructed as a farm dwelling house in the period between 1863 and 1873, and is the oldest structure in Grove besides Carter's Grove Plantation.

Figure 2.4: Location of Grove, Virginia



The community of Toano was reaching its peak with the construction of brick commercial buildings during this period. Frame, one-story commercial buildings were also being built. By 1905, stores and banks were established in brick commercial buildings. The two-story brick bank building (047-5147-0012) was constructed in 1903. Adjacent was a brick, two-story store which was built in 1905 (047-5147-0011). The latter store was ninety-one feet long by twenty-six feet wide at the front, with a large open front section, and an entrance vestibule flanked by two pairs of large pine windows on each side. The parapet on a gable style front was utilized for many of the commercial buildings in Toano, whether brick or frame. Along with stores, the community also had a funeral home and a two-story high school that was open until 1954. The building once used as the gymnasium for the school is now the Woman's Club, a brick structure located on Old Forge Road. A barrel factory (with 70-80 employees) and a canning factory were also present in Toano during this time period. With the coming of the automobile, Toano also had a gas station to service travelers. Toano had become a thriving village.

Another community that prospered during this time period was Norge. Located on the Stage or Richmond Road, it has a train depot (047-0034) on the C&O Railroad. In 1928, Norge had about 200 residents and a total of forty farms. Norge has a Community Hall that was built in 1907. Students were bused to the elementary and high schools in Toano, located two miles west. Churches in Norge consisted of Our Savior's Lutheran (built in 1904), Zion Evangelical, and Bethany (built in 1908). There is a two-story frame store building that remains standing today.

Williamsburg during the early twentieth century was also another growing village. The idea of restoring Williamsburg to its colonial image was presented to John D. Rockefeller by the rector of Bruton Parish Church. Rockefeller then contributed personal funds to establish a restored Colonial Williamsburg. This, with the close proximity of the nearby Jamestown settlement and Yorktown Battlefield, was the beginning of the tourist industry for the region. The National Park Service responded by purchasing land in order to build a parkway linking these three important destinations. It is called the Colonial Parkway.

Not only did communities flourish and expand but so did the various industries in James City County. It was during this time period that the population became more urbanized and the number of working farms began to decline. In 1895, August Menzel purchased property along the Chickahominy River at the location of the old Revolutionary War shipyard. Here he established a fish business, the Menzel Fish House (047-5256). During the early twentieth century, two fish processing businesses were in operation, one at Menzel's and the other at a fish house on the James River, near what is now Governor's Land. Both businesses were thriving by 1950. A third fish industry, Hazelwood Brothers, was established in 1950 at Hick's Island on the Chickahominy River. It is currently the only fish business still in operation.

In 1917, the Chesapeake Pulp and Paper Company added a mill for manufacturing paper board at nearby West Point, in King William County. This mill was purchased by the Chesapeake Corporation in 1918. By 1925, they were purchasing large tracts of unimproved land in James City County for the harvesting and replanting of timber. The Chesapeake Corporation is the owner of the historic "Stone House" (DHR# 047-0036) and at one point harvested the timber, leaving a large sawmill site, which was cut into a hill at the Hot Water tract, near Centerville. Other timber companies also owned land within the county. One of the older historic resources, Pinewoods (047-0014), is situated along one of these lumber tracts.

By 1925, the steam industry also expanded. The Chesapeake Steamship Company operated two steamers, the *City of Richmond* and the *City of Annapolis*. The Southern Railway operated a special steamer train, with a parlor car, between Richmond and West Point.

3.0 REPRESENTATIVE BUILDING TYPES OF JAMES CITY COUNTY

3.1 Introduction

The following sections concerning domestic/residential dwellings and non-residential structures (such as educational, commercial, agricultural, social, religious, and governmental, etc) will be addressed by highlighting specific building types and styles within the chronological temporal period defined within Chapter 2.0. Together, these sections provide an overview of the built environment that is or was present in James City County.

3.2 Domestic/Residential Buildings

Residential structures are by far the most numerous building types observed in the course of the James City County survey. This section describes the residential architecture according to VDHR's chronological historic periods. Like churches, early dwellings share a common reliance on traditional forms and materials brought by settlers from England. However, stylistic nuances became important and remarkable features to people with the financial means to embellish their homes, especially in the post-Civil War years. In James City County, the residences that were surveyed consisted of primarily one sub-type, single family homes. High-density housing, such as apartment buildings and complexes, which are prevalent in urbanized areas such as Richmond and Norfolk, were not observed during the survey. That does not mean that there are no apartment buildings within James City County, but only that they were not documented during this survey. Prior to and following the Civil War, style often dictated house plans. On a county-wide level, the most popular form of housing during the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century was bungalows with its Craftsman variations, the American four-square, Queen Anne and Colonial Revivals.

Residences intended to house a typical family ranged from rectangular to irregular plans that, with the Queen Anne and other high Victorian styles, allow space to break with the confines of the traditional block. Although style becomes a significant factor, especially after the Civil War, family houses are essentially meant to serve simply as shelters for living. Choice as to plan and form, and subsequent cumulative patterns, are important factors as well. Plans before 1840 relate various arrangements of spaces into room/passage relationships. Other plans result from adding sections to the original block of the house.

Academic house forms appeared on the landscape as early as the European Settlement to Society Period (ca. 1607-1750). A number of these early historic properties in James City County have either been demolished or deteriorated significantly, allowing them to become archaeological sites. Many of the sites no longer in existence have been recorded on site forms at VDHR. As the early colonists in James City County were of English descent, their traditions and cultures heavily influenced their dwellings. For almost half of the seventeenth century, architecture was a low priority for the new colony, as the primary focus was on the acquisition of land and the cultivation of tobacco (Brownell et al. 1992:1). Archaeological evidence indicates that these early dwellings were small, frame, one-room, open-plan structures (Lanier and Herman 1997:30). The most popular form appears to have been the post-hole house built of wood.

By the 1660s, Virginia society had matured sufficiently for a wealthy class of planters to begin to emerge. The houses during this period were larger and were constructed with more substantial brick and masonry foundations. A brick variation of the post-hole house became a popular choice for the aristocracy of the colony. The single-room house plan gradually gave way to the hall-parlor plan and paved the way for the Georgian style. The Georgian style is defined by a formal arrangement of parts utilizing a symmetrical layout, with classical detailing. Georgian houses persisted throughout the eighteenth century and in some cases into the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

The Colony to Nation Period (1750-1789) was characterized by the dichotomies of upheaval and prosperity as a result of the Revolutionary War and the wealth generated by tobacco. The earliest extant dwelling surveyed dating from this time period is Oakland (047-5243). Located at 10088 Holly Fork Road, Oakland was built circa 1780, and is a one-and-one-half story, three-bay, side-gable dwelling. Originally it featured a side passage floor plan, which was a very popular house plan in the county during this time period (Figure 3.1). Today however, the house is arranged as a center-hall plan. A shed roof dormer with an asphalt shingle covering protrudes out of the front elevation of the roof, while a brick chimney is located on the western end of the structure. The chimney features original hand-made brick on the exterior and a Chippendale wood mantle fireplace on the interior. A second fireplace is found in the basement. The shed-roofed wraparound front porch with chair railing is a more recent addition. The porch rests on brick piers to allow light to filter into the English basement where original hewn beams are present. Entrance to the interior of the dwelling is accessed through a central hall, with a single original room and parlor with original Chippendale fireplace and close on the right, and a 1930s kitchen addition on the left. There is a bathroom off the porch behind the kitchen. The center hall of the dwelling retains much of its original woodwork, floors, and doors. The prevalence of decorative moldings indicates that a wealthy individual built the house. Additionally, there is a smokehouse and 1930s barn located behind the main dwelling.

Figure 3.1: Oakland (047-5243)



Agriculture, specifically the production of wheat and grain, remained the most important industry in the James City County during the Early National Period (1789-1830). The Col. William Allen House (047-0022) located at 7528 Little Creek Dam Road dates to circa 1795 and reflects the favored house plan of ‘polite society’ during this period. Similar to Oakland, the Col William Allen House is a one-and-one-half story, three-bay, center-passage plan dwelling (Figure 3.2). A shed-roofed addition containing the kitchen was added to the rear soon after the dwelling’s original construction. This addition indicates an increased important once on the separation and hierarchy of space. A large, shouldered brick chimney was originally located at each gable end of the house, although the left chimney collapsed during a recent hurricane. The interior of the house still exhibits some of its eighteenth century hand-hewn wood flooring and wooden doors. Another home of this period is Breezeland (047-5156). Located at 6993 Richmond Road, this house was built circa 1795 (Figure 3.3). Its English basement, steep hipped roof, shouldered chimneys and other features give the impression of a plantation “Big House.”

Figure 3.2: Col. William Allen House (047-0022)



The Antebellum Period (1830-1860) was characterized by growth and prosperity, mostly in the form of agriculture, although a few residential buildings were constructed in order to accommodate the growing population. During the mid-nineteenth century, the established plantation-oriented colonial settlement patterns remained largely intact. However, public funding began to flow and internal improvement projects succeeded. A systematic network of transportation, including canals, turnpikes, railroads, and riverboats shrunk the travel time necessary to move goods and people around the Commonwealth. Populations in the towns and counties increased and urban commercial and industrial centers flourished.

After the Civil War (1881-1865), the Reconstruction and Growth Period (1865-1917) embodied a broader diversity of styles than earlier periods. In James City County, some houses built during this period were mail-order types, or styled after this type, and were extremely popular throughout southeastern Virginia. Other popular styles included the Colonial Revival four-square, either single or two-story, and also the vernacular single and two-story gabled styles, sometimes with added wings.



Figure 3.3: Breezeland (047-5156)

Around the turn of the century, Queen Anne architectural features, such as cross-gable plans with projecting bay windows were being incorporated into dwelling construction. James City County has only two good examples of this style. They are located in Toano (047-5147-00002) and Croaker (047-5141). In the early twentieth century, during the historic context referred to as World War I and World War II (1917-1945), bungalows and one-story cottages became popular throughout the area. A very nice example of a brick Craftsman bungalow was the home of Ms. Hazelwood (047-5158). Colonial Revival style homes were equally popular at the beginning of the twentieth century. As its name implies, it refers to a revival of styles that were popular during the Colonial Settlement (1630-1750) and Colony to Nation (1750-1789) period. Colonial Revival houses incorporate nearly every type of roof shape, including variants of gable, hip, pyramidal, and gambrel roofs; such styles persist to the present day 'neo-colonial'. The large four-square style Colonial house was well represented in the county. Two good examples are the old teacher's residence for the Five Forks School located on Ingram Road (047-5178) and a farm residence located at 6667 Richmond Road (047-5155). This resource has a pyramidal style hipped roof and the format resource has the hipped roof with a flat deck. The Colonial Revival house which has a gambrel roof was also popular. The brick two-story home located at 102 Chesapeake Avenue in Toano (047-5147-0014) exemplifies this style (Figure 3.4). The proposed Toano and Norge Historic Districts have several structures that are representative of both the Craftsman style bungalow and Colonial Revival house.

Figure 3.4: Colonial Revival House (047-5147-0014)



3.3 Non-Residential Buildings and Structures

The following sections describe non-residential buildings. Since the non-residential buildings that were surveyed constitute only a small percentage of the total properties inventoried, these resources are sub-divided by building type/function.

3.3.1 Education

Education was important to the early residents of James City County, as evidenced by the founding of the College of William & Mary in 1693 and the construction of a variety of schoolhouses and educational facilities over the last three hundred years.

One of the earliest types of schools to appear was the one-room schoolhouse. Because the population of the county was sparse during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a one-room schoolhouse was all that was needed to accommodate a broad range of age groups. The Brick Bat School (047-5246) (Figure 3.5) is located in a densely wooded area on Brick Bat Road. It is a rare extant example of a one-room schoolhouse which dates to 1885. The Brick Bat School is a one-story, front gable, central passage building with a cupolaed bell tower with a pyramidal roof. It is thought that the Brick Bat School once served as a school for black children. The building is in a deteriorated conditions, however, it is one of two or three one-room schools that remain standing in the county.

Older schoolhouses, such as the Brick Bat School, are extremely rare because many of these resources have been severely neglected and now lie vacant within the county. There are however, a number of former schoolhouses are still in existence because they have been adaptively reused in order to serve another purpose such as a private residence, a business, a social gathering, or as a barn. The Five Forks School (047-5177), originally constructed during the 1890s, exhibits several Italian Renaissance features such as a shallow-hipped roof, overhanging eaves

Figure 3.5: Brick Bat School (047-5246)



supported by decorative brackets, and tall paired windows on its side elevations. It is the only stone school structure that remains in the county. Today the school is currently used for offices and is part of a professional office complex. Peach Park School (047-5239) was constructed in 1820 and is part of an agricultural complex that includes a main house, outbuilding, kitchen, and a possible slave cabin. The original location of the school is unknown but it is thought that school consisted of only two rooms. The school is in very poor condition with most of the walls either collapsing or broken altogether. It seems as though the school at some point was converted into a barn. The Grove School (047-5121) is a one- to two-room frame structure which was established in Grove in 1893 (Figure 3.6). It served as a schoolhouse until 1943, when it became the headquarters of a hunt club. Last, but not least, is the Diascund School (047-5239). Built in 1920, the Diascund School is a one-story, three-bay, central-passage Colonial Revival building. It once served as a one-room schoolhouse, however now it is a private residence.

3.3.2 Government/Law/Political

This section includes properties such as public administration buildings, service buildings, town halls, customs houses, and public works projects. Most of the buildings in this category were erected by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and are mirrored after the Colonial Revival style. While the Colonial Revival style was not universal for governmental buildings in James City County, during the twentieth century it was prevalent among post offices and other administrative buildings. While there are a number of administration buildings within the county, none were identified in this survey.

Figure 3.6: Grove School (047-5121)



3.3.3 Religious/Social Structures

Among religious buildings are churches, temples, meetinghouses, ceremonial sites, church schools, religious academies, and convents. Early churches testify to a historic diversity of religious faith and tend to incorporate the same architectural styles and materials used in local design and construction (Lanier and Herman 1997:273). The architecture of the Olive Branch Christian Church (047-0026) is representative of a time of population growth and prosperity (Figure 3.7). With its stone and brick construction and level of interior finish. The interior ceiling is covered with decorative pressed tin panels and the pews are constructed of mahogany or walnut. While the church has undergone a series of additions over the years this only serves as a testament to its dynamic presence in the community of Toano. The Morning Star Baptist Church (047-5129) is another example of a vernacular rural community church. Built in 1930, it is a simple one-story frame church originally clad with weatherboard siding. It resembles a common dwelling house except for a two-story tower topped with a pyramidal roof. Much of the original interior has been lost due to numerous alterations that have take place since 1930. Both the Olive Branch Christian Church and the Morning Star Baptist Church have a long-standing tradition in their respective communities, as evidenced by their upkeep over the years.

Burial practices are another category that falls under religion. Small family burial plots appear to be a common way to bury the deceased. Many burials located on private property, such as the Jamison Cemetery (047-5252), Richardson Family Burial Ground (047-5150), and Russell Cemetery (047-5255) are often not recorded on maps and are abandoned as families die or move. Early grave markers were sometimes nothing more than a piece of wood or a large stone, both of which would deteriorate quickly without the proper maintenance. As a result, unmarked grave sites are common and hidden within the landscape of the county. The Giles Hazelwood Cemetery (047-5184) (Figure 3.8) is an excellent example of small, unmarked family plots that were discovered during the excavation of the Jones Cemetery at Stonehouse. Cemeteries maintained by church have a greater survival rate, as witnessed by the St. John Baptist Church (047-5186). Founded in 1900, this burial ground for the black community is still active.

Figure 3.7: Olive Branch Christian Church (047-0026)



Figure 3.8: Giles Hazelwood Cemetery (047-5184)



Examples of ‘social structures’ include granges, union halls, fraternal and political organizations, garden clubs, civic clubs, community centers, and hunt clubs. The Italian Renaissance style Masonic Lodge (047-5147-0013) located within the potential Toano Historic District represents a fraternal/fellowship hall (Figure 3.9). The Diascund Hunt Club (047-5100), built in 1870, was used as a hunting cabin, as was the Happy Hollow Hunt Club (047-5108), built in 1880.

3.3.4 Commerce/Trade

In rural parts of James City County, single-pile, one-story country stores appear to have been the predominant market for obtaining goods. There are a few country stores dating to the first half of the twentieth century which remain standing today. They are all utilitarian, frame, gable-front structures clad with weatherboard siding. The Diascund Road store or Slater’s Store (047-0062) is the oldest store, built circa 1900 (Figure 3.10). It is currently vacant and in poor condition. It is also currently for sale. Directly across this street from this resource is another old store which was built around the same time period (047-5097). It too is in poor condition. Lee’s Grill (047-5130) was originally built in 1930 as a country store, but was later converted into a restaurant by the addition of two side wings. The gable roof of the original store is still visible underneath the pedimented, overhanging roof.

3.3.5 Industry/Processing/Extraction

These types of properties include quarries, mills, factories, shipyards, forges, kilns, power plants, and dams. James City County's close proximity to the York, James, and Chickahominy Rivers made it an ideal location for a seafood industry, but only two fish-processing houses remain in the county today. Both were mostly used for the processing of catfish. The Menzel's Fish House (047-5256), is located on the Chickahominy River near the Colonial Shipyard, and is the oldest surviving example of this property type (Figure 3.11). It is composed of three, one-story structures, with the earliest two dating to the early 1940s, and located on wood pilings that extended them directly over the river. Docking space for boats was provided on the piers. In the 1950s, a structure used for cold storage was built on concrete blocks. The complex is divided into a cold storage building, equipment storage, and fish cleaning spaces. In addition to catfish, the Menzel plant processed turtles and other river fish when they were in season. Although the Menzel Fish House closed in the mid-1990s, the Hazelwood Brother's Fish House (047-5104), located on both sides of Hicks Island Road, also on the Chickahominy River,

Figure 3.9: Masonic Lodge (047-5147-0013)



Figure 3.10: Slater's Store (047-0062)



Figure 3.11: Menzel's Fish House (047-5256)



has been in operation since 1946. It consists of two concrete block, one-story structures. It also includes areas for cleaning, processing, and packing fish for shipment. Fish houses represent a specialized property type formatted to accommodate specific regional needs.

3.3.6 Health Care/Medicine

This category of the built environment would include such structures as hospitals, doctor's offices, clinics, personal care homes, and medical research facilities. None were surveyed during this project.

3.3.7 Recreation/Arts

This category includes property types such as movie theaters, playhouses, music facilities, dance halls, fairgrounds, parks, campgrounds, sculptures, and auditoriums. No examples of these property types were surveyed during this project.

3.3.8 Transportation/Communication

This group includes roads, canals and locks, railroads, airports, wharves, piers, lighthouses, and boats/ferries. One unusual communications structure that survives in James City County is the James City Fire Tower No. 3 (047-5185). Extending 70 to 100 feet (seven stories) above the ground, the rectangular fire tower was erected in 1930 to observe and monitor forest lands. It is a steel structure exhibiting open-beam construction. An enclosed steel box-like room at the top of the tower has windows on all four sides, and is capped with a metal pyramidal roof. A steel staircase with wood platforms at each landing provides access to the top of the tower.

With the increased use of automobiles in the 1920s and 1930s, ferrying traffic across rivers via boats became inefficient. A system was needed that would allow both river traffic and road traffic to pass freely. In order to accomplish this, moveable bridges were built that could be raised and lowered according to the density of traffic. The two-lane, single-span Chickahominy River Bridge (047-5247) carries Route 5 over the river, and is an example of Pratt-truss swing-bridge with a bridge tender shack in the superstructure (Figure 3.12).

Figure 3.12: Chickahominy River Bridge (047-5247)



The Pratt truss design was patented in 1844 by Thomas and Caleb Pratt and offered simplicity of design made economical by uniformity in metal manufacturing (Delaware's Historic Bridges 2000:71). Although stationary truss bridges fell out of favor to metal girder bridges in the mid-1910, movable swing-span truss bridges continued to appear on the landscape well into the early-twentieth century. Swing span bridges rotate on a horizontal plane around a vertical axis to a position parallel to the marine channel. The Chickahominy River Bridge illustrates this type of engineering, as it is balanced on a stationary pier in the riverbed and turns by mechanical means.

3.3.9 Technology/Engineering

While very few structures exist to illustrate the influence of technology and engineering on the built environment of James City County, the Route 601 CSX Highway Tunnel (047-5175) is one example (Figure 3.13). The arched tunnel, measuring 10.5 feet in clearance, was erected in 1915 under the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. The presence of boards in the interior arch indicates that they were used to shore up the concrete when it was originally poured. Reinforced concrete was used for construction in Europe as early as the mid-nineteenth century, and introduced to American engineers by about 1870, although it was not widely used in bridge construction until the early twentieth-century (Delaware's Historic Bridges 200:150).

Figure 3.13: CSX Highway Tunnel (047-5175)



3.3.10 Subsistence/Agricultural

Subsistence/Agricultural properties are those that relate to procurement, processing, and food storage. Some specific types include family farmsteads, large plantations, farm outbuildings, tobacco warehouses, greenhouses, and gardens. During the Early National Period (1789-1830), plantations were still in existence, but there were probably more small farms in James City County during this period than the earlier colonial period. Two farmsteads included in this survey date to the years 1790 to 1795: the Whitehall/Geddy Farm (047-0041) located at Rochambeau Drive, and the Breezeland Farm (047-5156), located at 6993 Richmond Road. Both farms contain three-bay Colonial-style main dwellings, although the Whitehall/Geddy Farm is slightly larger with two-and-one-half stories, a side-hall plan, and two massive exterior shouldered chimneys on the northwest elevation.

The Breezeland Farm house consists of two-stories and is unusual in that it is capped with a steeply-pitched hipped roof. The house rests on a brick foundation and has an English basement. It features two exterior end shouldered chimneys. The interior of both farmhouses retains much of its original decorative woodwork. Additionally, they both feature gambrel-roofed barns and chicken houses. Chicken houses started appearing on the landscape during the early 1900s and were usually low, lightly framed structures with shed roofs.

During the Antebellum Period (1830-1860), the primary occupation of James City County was agriculture, mainly the production of tobacco and grains. Advances in farming technology and fertilization methods allowed many farmers to prosper. The Warrens Mill Farm (047-5102) in Apsen Grove dates to this period (Figure 3.14). Significant features of this property include a windmill and the used of breezeways to connect domestic service buildings to the two-story frame farmhouse. Originally constructed as a single-pile, center passage building, the farmhouse has evolved with rooms being added in the form of a back wing as needed.

Figure 3.14: Warrens Mill Farm (047-5102)



The Civil War devastated most of the lower peninsula and surrounding areas, so most of the farms that survive in James City County date to well after the war, specifically to the years between 1860 and the first decade of the 1900s. In a community that relied heavily on slave labor, traditional agricultural practice faced a restructuring of the labor market. The farmhouses erected during this period were mostly two or two-and-one-half story frame structures with central or side passage plans. Rear wings have been added to some dwellings over the years to provide families with more space. Examples include the Hazelwood Farm House (047-5160), the Diascund Farm (047-5098), and the Gilley House (047-5115) (Figure 3.15). The addition of a rear wing has given these structures an L or T shaped floor plan.

In recent years, farmland has been subdivided and sold while the owner has retained the actual dwelling for private residential use. This has caused many associated outbuildings to be lost to development. The Hill Pleasant Farm (047-5157) is unique in that it contains outbuildings that predate the main house. A sweet potato house is among the surviving outbuildings at the Taylor Farm (047-5106). Sweet potato houses were usually constructed

on a center aisle plan with storage bins located either in a singular center aisle or two side aisles (Lainer and Herman 1997:216).

Figure 3.15: Gilley House (047-5115)



4.0 SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Survey Background

The identification and documentation of historic properties has been an active project in James City County for several generations. The process dates back to the 1930s with the notion of the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg as an outdoor museum and memorial to the history of Virginia and to its eighteenth-century residents who helped move the American colonies to form together as the United States of America. From the 1930s and onward, scholars and researchers associated with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the College of William and Mary, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and others have walked all over the James City County landscape looking for examples of eighteenth-century architecture and design. However, no properties within the City of Williamsburg were included in this survey project because Williamsburg is an independent city and not considered a part of James City County.

One result of these individual and loosely coordinated efforts is that information on the historic properties of James City County is located in a number of institutions. The files at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation contain information on the restored and reproduced buildings owned and maintained by the Foundation. The College of William and Mary has documentation of historic buildings and archaeological properties in its archives and research centers. The Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service has additional materials housed in the Library of Congress. The James City County Department of Planning has some documentation and survey materials on properties in the county and has made an effort to gather information on current and destroyed historic properties. The most comprehensive files regarding historic properties in James City County are held by the VDHR. These files contain information gathered by both the VDHR and by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

VDHR was established as the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in 1966 by the Commonwealth of Virginia as part of a nationwide system of State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) under the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This act provided for federal funding as matching grants to the states to establish a unified and systematic historic property survey and evaluation in the United States. The SHPO offices would work with federal agencies, especially highway departments and urban renewal and housing agencies, to develop mechanisms to provide for the protection of historic properties that might be impacted by federal projects or by projects that received federal monies or approvals. In Virginia, VDHR uses state funds to encourage the counties and incorporated cities of the Commonwealth to participate in a Cost-Share Program that includes survey and documentation projects, preservation planning and educational programs, and other projects which contribute to the understanding of the history and development of Virginia. This survey project in James City County is one example of a common Cost-Share project.

The National Historic Preservation Act also established the National Register of Historic Places. The goal of the National Register is to create a list of properties that have been judged as “worthy of preservation” based upon the criteria set forth in the language of the Act. The responsibility for maintaining the National Register is held by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. In common with other SHPO’s, VDHR uses the National Register criteria to evaluate properties that were documented during the survey process. In addition, VDHR maintains a companion register known as the Virginia Landmarks Register. Like the National Register, the Virginia Landmarks Register recognizes properties that are significant to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to the communities in which they are located. However, listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register does not confer automatic inclusion on the National Register. There are numerous properties across the state that are listed on one register but not listed on the other.

4.2 National Register of Historic Places Criteria

There are a wide variety of properties that are either eligible for listing or have already been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The most common properties listed on the National Register are residential and/or commercial buildings. Also included on the register are industrial properties, boats, archaeological sites, and landscapes. Not all properties are listed individually though. Some properties are part of a larger collection and are included in historic districts. Historic districts are often found in villages, towns, and cities, but extensive collections of rural agricultural buildings and farm complexes have been listed as historic districts. In addition to buildings and building ruins, properties associated with the traditional culture of a community have been listed on the National Register as well.

To be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, a historic property must first be at least 50-years old prior to being listed. However, exceptions to this rule have been granted for buildings or properties associated with exceptional events of local, regional, or national importance. Next they must possess the quality of significance in American History, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture that is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and that are:

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

There are several criteria considerations. Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance, or
- b. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event, or
- c. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his/her productive life, or
- d. a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or
- e. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived, or
- f. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historic significance, or
- g. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

The overall physical characteristics and historic significance of a property are examined when performing National Register evaluations. While a property in its entirety may be considered eligible based on Criteria A, B, C, and/or D, specific data is also required for individual components therein based on date, function, history, and physical characteristics, and other information. Resources that do not relate in a significant way to the overall property may contribute if they independently meet the National Register criteria.

A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because:

1. it was present during the period of significance, and possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is capable of yielding important information about the period, or
2. it independently meets the National Register criteria. A non-contributing building, site, structure, or object does not add to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because:
 - i. it was not present during the period of significance, or
 - ii. due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is incapable of yielding important information about the period.

4.3 Previously Identified Resources

At the beginning of this Cost-Share survey, VDHR generated a list of properties in James City County for which any information had been placed in its survey files. A total of 181 properties were found representing an extensive range of resources. For instance, Carter’s Grove is the first property on the survey list and is listed as 047-0001. This large eighteenth-century plantation property is owned by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and administered as a museum property. Other properties on the survey list include archaeological sites associated with the Confederate defense of Williamsburg during the Civil War’s Peninsula Campaign (047-0047 to 047-0052). Still others that have been documented represent a range of eighteenth and nineteenth-century agricultural buildings. Rural country stores, railroad stations, churches, and mill sites were also represented in the survey files. Of the 181 properties for which information was already known, sixteen are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Of that sixteen, fifteen are also listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register with one additional property on the Virginia Landmarks Register but not on the National Register of Historic Places.

The properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Virginia Landmarks Register are:

047-0001	Carter’s Grove	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0002	Colonial National Historic Park	National Register	
047-0006	Green Spring Site	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0008	Hickory Neck Church	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0009	Jamestown Island	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0010	Kingsmill Plantation	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0014	Pinewoods	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0016	Powhatan Farm	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0021	Windsor Castle	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0025	Riverview	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0033	Tutter’s Neck Site		Virginia Landmark
047-0036	Stone House Site	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0078	Chickahominy Shipyard Site	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0082	Governor’s Land District	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0093	Croaker Landing Site	National Register	Virginia Landmark
047-0098	Paspahugh Settlement	National Register	Virginia Landmark

Carter's Grove has also been declared a National Historic Landmark. This special category is for properties that have extreme national significance and is rarely bestowed on properties. There are several properties in Williamsburg that are declared National Historic Landmarks.

The level of documentation for each of the properties varies. For those properties that were listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the Virginia Landmarks Register, there was a good deal of information concerning the history and appearance of the property, along with maps and photographs. Other properties were only documented by a photograph or a reference to a map location. For this Cost-Share Project, MAAR Associates was instructed to document 180 properties at a basic level, better known as the reconnaissance level. MAAR Associates was also instructed to add an additional twenty properties to the database at a higher level, the intensive level. At the end of this survey, MAAR Associates had added a total of 210 properties to the inventory at the reconnaissance level. Of that number, twenty were further documented at the intensive level. The list of properties added to the database is included as an appendix along with the list of properties that had already been in the VDHR files prior to the Cost-Share project. While most of the properties documented are individual properties or related complexes, one historic district was identified and recorded. This proposed historic district is in the Village of Toano located along Richmond Road and includes forty-five properties.

The difference between the two levels of survey work is in the amount of information recorded and entered onto the survey forms. Documentation at the reconnaissance level requires black and white photographs of the exterior of the building and other structures that may be located on the property, a sketch plan of the historic resource showing its location on the property as well as outlining the architectural elements of the resource(s), a topographic map that shows the location of the property, and the completion of a survey form. The form contains information on the property's address, relevant historic themes and contexts, architectural style, date of construction, description, and a narrative statement on the significance of the property. The information on the forms is entered into the Integrated Preservation Software system (IPS) which has since been converted to the Data Sharing System (DSS), an electronic database. The use of the IPS/DSS allows VDHR and other agencies and researchers to quickly search for a wide range of fields of information. Common searches are for dates of construction, architectural styles, historic themes, materials of construction, and locations.

4.4 Survey Findings

The MAAR Associates field team made every effort to locate those properties which were contained in the VDHR survey files. VDHR provided MAAR Associates with copies of the topographic maps which showed the locations of those properties. These were carried into the field as a means to locate properties and to ensure that previously recorded properties were not resurveyed as part of the reconnaissance survey.

Based upon the field survey, the following previously surveyed properties were found to have been destroyed:

047-0007	Harris House
047-0019	Slater House
047-0057	Binns Place Site
047-0064	Diascund Railroad Station
047-0066	Site on Taskinask Creek
047-0072	James City High School
047-0077	Lutheran Parish House

In addition, one property, DHR# 047-0070, The Major Barn, was relocated to York County during the survey of that county by MAAR Associates.

4.5 VDHR Architectural Styles

Architectural style is one of the principal markers or identifiers of historic buildings. While not always the most diagnostic label, style does provide a method to organize and categorize dwellings and commercial buildings. However, it is often common for a building, especially those constructed during the late nineteenth century, to exhibit the design elements of one or more styles. For this reason, the use of larger categories such as “Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement” helps to provide a place for these buildings with multiple styles or where the stylistic details are very minor elements of the building.

A more appropriate approach to the categorization of historic dwellings is to refer to the floor plan or layout of the principal floor. In this system, buildings that have multiple stylistic elements or that have been altered over the course of time can be labeled by the relationship between their principal rooms and passageways. For example, early buildings of the seventeenth and eighteenth century tended to be built without hallways or passageways and are described by the number of rooms; single cell or double cell, etc. With the general adoption of the principles of Georgian Architecture, which occurred at the end of the eighteenth century and continued into the nineteenth century, halls and passageways were inserted into older plans in order to create center passage and side passage dwellings.

Of the architectural styles available in the database system, the most frequently occurring styles were the vernacular and vernacular derivatives of late nineteenth and twentieth century styles. These are classified as Late Victorian, Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements, and Other. An additional set of popular styles are mostly twentieth century in usage. The Colonial Revival style and Bungalow/Craftsman style have their roots in the revivalism and classical revival styles of the late nineteenth century. The earliest (chronological) styles such as Colonial, Early Republic, Georgian, and Federal up to distinctive mid-nineteenth century styles such as Gothic Revival and Italianate styles occurred the fewest number of times during the survey.

The architectural styles identified for those properties added to the survey database include:

<u>VDHR/IPS Architectural Style</u>	<u>Number of Occurrences</u>
Colonial	4
Early Republic	1
Federal	1
Gothic Revival	1
Italianate	6
Mid 19th Century	8
Queen Anne	18
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals	5
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements	59
Classical Revival	1
Colonial Revival	48
Shingle Style	1
Tudor Revival	1
Bungalow/Craftsman	16
Dutch Colonial	3
Prairie School	1

Other	18
No Style Listed	9

4.6 Periods of Construction

The date ranges for the buildings included in this cost-share program reflect the survival rate of buildings in the county. Even though James City County was one of the first places settled by the Europeans, little has survived from the time period prior to the middle of the nineteenth century. Most early buildings tended to be hastily and poorly constructed and only lasted for a short time. During the eighteenth century, a number of large brick dwellings were constructed in the county and in Williamsburg, but the general trend was to build in frame for the common architecture. As a result, many buildings did not last into the present time. In addition, the county was the scene of heavy fighting during the Civil War and many buildings were destroyed during that time. Because of the depressed agricultural economy after the Civil War, many of the destroyed buildings were not able to be rebuilt until some time after the War ended. In addition, changes in the population and the general suburbanization of the county during the twentieth century meant that there were more dwellings constructed during that time period than in earlier years.

<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Number of Occurrences</u>
AD 1680 - 1689	0
AD 1700 - 1709	0
AD 1750 - 1759	0
AD 1760 - 1799	4
AD 1800 - 1809	2
AD 1820 - 1829	1
AD 1830 - 1839	1
AD 1840 - 1849	1
AD 1850 - 1859	4
AD 1860 - 1869	1
AD 1870 - 1879	1
AD 1880 - 1889	5
AD 1890 - 1899	9
AD 1900 - 1909	38
AD 1910 - 1919	38
AD 1920 - 1929	41
AD 1930 - 1939	40
AD 1940 - 1949	15
Modern	2

4.7 Properties Surveyed at the Intensive Level

MAAR Associates met with the James City County Planning Staff and the members of the county’s Historic Preservation Committee to review the survey results and to discuss those buildings that should be included in the Intensive Survey Phase of this project. The consensus that resulted from that meeting was for MAAR Associates to intensively document those buildings on the reconnaissance survey list that were constructed in 1860 or before. That represented eleven properties. The following properties were documented at the intensive level:

VDHR ID #	Name	Address	Date
047-0013	Martin House (also 047-5147-0046)	2996 Forge Road	c1850
047-0022	Co. Wm Allen House	7528 Little Creek Dam Road	c1795
047-0024	Old Edwards Place	8799 Barnes Road	c1850
047-0026	Olive Branch Christian Church	7643 Richmond Road	1835
047-0041	Whitehall (Geddy Farm)	3200 Rochambeau Drive	c1790
047-0056	Waverly Farm	8350 Richmond Road	c1845
047-5102	Warrens Mill Farm/Aspen Grove	2235 Forge Road	c1850
047-5104	Hazlewood Fish House	8650 Hicks Island Road	c1946
047-5113	JCC Bible & Horticultural School	1801 Treasure Island Road	c1820
047-5121	Grove School	8744 Pocahontas Trail	c1900
047-5129	Morning Star Baptist Church	9320 Pocahontas Trail	c1930
047-5147-0013	Masonic Lodge	7886 Richmond Road	c1930
047-5147-0015	Mt. Vernon Methodist Church	7837 Church Lane	c1884
047-5147-0038	Marston House (also 047-00120)	Depot Street	c1860
047-5156	Breezeland	6993 Richmond Road	c1795
047-5207	Browning House	2756 Jolly Pond Road	c1850
047-5243	Oakland	10088 Holly Fork Road	c1780
047-5254	John Henry Lee House	122 Ron Springs Road	c1800
047-5256	Menzel Fish House	6575 Menzel Road	c1930

4.8 Recommendations for Proposed National Register Properties

MAAR Associates suggests that the following properties be considered for listing on the National Register:

1. Toano Historic District (047-5147)
2. All those properties included in the intensive survey

4.8.1 Toano Historic District

The Toano Potential Historic District is located within the town limits of Toano, Virginia. Toano is composed of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century residential and commercial buildings. The district contains eighty-eight buildings built between 1870 and 2002, of which forty-four were newly identified during this survey. There are twelve non-contributing buildings.

State Route 60, a four-lane highway, runs through the middle of the district with commercial development, both old and new on either side. The north side of Route 60 is industrial/commercial in nature due to an adjacent railroad that influenced development within the area. The south side of Route 60 is typified by light commercial and residential development. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings are scattered throughout the district with the heaviest concentration of dwellings south of Route 60. The residential dwellings are situated on large yards with mature trees and plantings.

The older sections of Toano reflect the rural character and architectural traditions of late nineteenth and early twentieth century life in James City County. The residential dwellings are typically situated on large lots, many of which were originally farmsteads. In the Toano potential Historic District, dwellings are typically two-and-one-half story, three-bay, side-gable, central passage plan, frame buildings on raised brick foundations. Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Late 19th and 20th Century Revival style homes are typically represented in the district. Porches with turned posts and balusters and sawn brackets are a common feature as well. Numerous outbuildings were also associated with these dwellings. The Marston House (047-0012), built circa 1860, is the earliest extant building in the district. It is a two-story, three-bay, side-gable, central passage plan frame dwelling with a rear cross gable addition. The building was relocated to its current location at some point in the past. The dwelling at 7849 Church Street is a typical example of a Queen Anne style architecture found in Toano. It is a two-and-one-half story, three-bay, side passage plan frame dwelling with a front gable and a cross gable wing. The gable ends are decorated with spindle work and brackets and they have decorative wood saw tooth shingles. The saw tooth work is also applied to the gable ends and dormer extensions. There is a second story front bay window. The wraparound porch has spindle work posts, decorative brackets, and a spindle work balustrade.

The commercial buildings which face Route 60 and back to the C&O rail line, consist of tightly grouped, brick or frame buildings, most with Italianate-style brick facades. Typical of the commercial buildings is the Old Bank Building (047-5147-0012), built circa 1903. The bank building is a two-story, three-bay, gable roof, central passage plan, Italianate-style brick building with a stepped front parapet. There is a Roman arch central entrance foyer. The windows have arched lintels and stone sills. The rectangular stepped parapet has modillion cornices and brick foliate brackets. The wood frame entrance has a transom and sidelights.

4.8.2 Properties Surveyed at the Intensive Level

Ewell House

Ewell Hall (047-0005), a ca. 1858 Greek Revival with an English-style basement, was once a plantation mansion house. In 1863, it was home to Col. Joseph Ewell, President of William and Mary College. It was one of the first houses to have an “indoor” toilet.

Col. William Allen House

This Colonial-style home (047-0022) was built ca. 1795 and is one of the oldest standing structures in James City County. Much of the interior is original, featuring a large shouldered fireplace chimney constructed with handmade brick.

Olive Branch Christian Church

Dating to 1835, this church (047-0026) was occupied by Union soldiers during the Civil War. They reportedly slept in the gallery (balcony) and used the sanctuary to stable horses. The pews and flooring were used for firewood. Two adjoining cemeteries include the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers.

Whitehall (Geddy Farm)

Once the Whitehall Tavern, this farmhouse (047-0041) and associated outbuildings have been in the same family for eight generations. Built ca. 1790, the property also includes a horse barn, privy, storage buildings, chicken houses, cattle barn, and a corncrib. It is now listed on National Register.

Waverly Farm

The Waverly Farm (047-0056), built ca. 1845, features a handmade brick English basement and original blown glass windows. A descendent of George Hankins, who lived here during the Civil War, stated that there is a slave graveyard and a family graveyard on the property.

Diascund Hunt Club

This hunting cabin (047-5100) was built ca. 1870 by the great-grandfather of the owner and is basic in its design.

Warren Mill Farm/Aspen Grove

This ca. 1850 house (047-5102) features breezeways to connect the main house to several wings. One, connecting the old summer kitchen, has since been enclosed. Much of the interior retains original materials.

2820 Forge Road

The hall and right side of this Queen Anne house (047-5103) were built in 1888; the left side, with the front bay windows, was added in 1906. An old summer kitchen is now incorporated into the house.

Hazelwood Brothers' Fish House

This fish processing plant (047-5104) is built on the banks of the river and dates to ca. 1946. It is one of only two fish houses remaining in James City County and the only one still in active use.

Grove School

Now called the L.L. Hunt Club, the former Grove School (047-5121) dates to ca. 1900 and is on property that was once part of Carter's Grove Plantation.

Morning Star Baptist Church

Founded in 1888, this Classical Revival church (047-5129) is an example of a 'country' church serving the community of Grove and the surrounding rural areas.

The Sporting Horse

This commercial building (047-5147-0006) is a well preserved example of a small grocery/dry goods store which dates to the early twentieth century.

King William Antiques

This ca. 1905 Italian Renaissance-style building (047-5147-0011) retains much of its architectural integrity. It is one of three remaining large brick commercial/fraternal structures making up the core of the old Toano business district.

Martin House

Also recorded as (047-0013), the Martin House (047-5147-0046) was built ca. 1850 and is in good condition. An associated family cemetery is nearby.

Hazelwood Farm House

This vacant ca. 1885 farmhouse (047-5160) was once the residence for the Hazelwood family, who were well represented in James City County.

Browning House

This old miller's house (047-5207) sits on a high bluff overlooking the milldam. Built prior to 1850, it features as its front step an original gristmill stone.

Oakland

Dating to ca. 1780, this Colonial structure (047-5243) retains much of integrity, including an original Chippendale mantel, a smokehouse, barn and tomb of Robert Hazelwood (1865-1925) are in the rear.

John Henry Lee House

This ca. 1800 Early Republic-style house (047-5254) may have been an overseer's house. It sits on property once belonging to the Carter's Grove Plantation.

Menzel Fish House

Now closed, this 1930s fish house (047-5256) once processed catfish, fish, and turtles from the Chickahominy River. It is one of only two fish houses left in James City County.

4.9 Proposed Historic Contexts for Specific Property Types/Thematic Evaluations:

Neighborhoods: African-American Communities

There are two historic African American communities that were identified during the field work. The first is Grove at the southern end of James City County and mostly located along Pocahontas Trail. The second is Chickahominy, which is a widespread community along Chickahominy Road, Little Creek Dam Road, Berkeley Town Road, Diascund Road, and Cranston's Mill Road. Both communities are located near "Contraband Camps" established during the Civil War by freedmen and escaping enslaved peoples once the northern armies had established themselves on the peninsula above Williamsburg. These temporary camps eventually evolved into viable communities that provided a labor force for the county's agricultural and industrial sectors. There are only a few buildings that remain from the early years of the twentieth century in these two communities. Within both communities, there appears to be a concerted effort to replace substandard housing with modern dwellings.

However, one result of that positive movement is that there is no collection of historic properties in either community which might be considered an historic district. There are sufficient older and vintage buildings in both communities that help to mark them as older settlements. These older buildings and the sense of community that they provide should be encouraged. One method that might be considered by James City County is the creation of a conservation district which would provide some oversight on development plans which might have a negative impact on either of the two communities.

Subsistence/Agriculture: Historic Farmsteads

For most of its history, James City County was a rural agricultural region. Since the end of World War II, the county has changed to a more suburban and increasingly urban area. There are many reasons for this change. Among them are the completion of Interstate 64 from Richmond to Norfolk, Hampton, and Newport News. This makes James City County an accessible commute for workers in those large cities to homes in James City County and in neighboring York County. Another trend has been the growing recreational nature of the county and an increase in a local demand for new housing for timeshare vacations, second homes, and for retirement communities. In addition, Busch Gardens and Colonial Williamsburg attract huge numbers of people every year and there is a continued demand for hotels, restaurants, and shopping opportunities.

As a result, farmland has been converted into housing, roads, and commercial and professional centers. The 1997 U.S. Census of Agriculture found only fifty-eight farms in James City County. This number was down from the 61 farms recorded in 1992 and the sixty-eight farms documented in 1987. In addition, the land devoted to agriculture has fallen from 12,357 acres in 1987 to only 8,861 acres in 1997. On many of these farms, the older buildings have been slowly removed. The dwellings have been by modern dwellings and many of the agricultural support buildings have been removed and not replaced or replaced with modern pole buildings.

James City County does recognize this downward trend in its agricultural sector. The 1997 Comprehensive Plan identifies the trend and makes several recommendations to protect the remaining farms, farm families and workers. In addition to those economic development steps, the existence of the rural landscape, especially in northern James City County, suggests that some additional steps should be taken to reward landowners who keep their properties in agricultural production. The exact steps and processes which the county might use for that purpose already exist as part of the county's land-use laws and regulations. In addition, there are several state and federal programs that provide assistance to family farmers. Because the focus on this project is on the historic aspects of rural life and agriculture, recommendations on agricultural preservation are directed at the maintenance of community character and the placement of historic agricultural buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Accordingly, those agricultural properties that were documented at the intensive level should be nominated to the National Register and to the Virginia Landmarks Register. In addition, the county should consider the adoption of a conservation zone in areas of the county where there are concentrations of historic buildings. This includes major portions of Forge Road, Treasure Island Road, and Stewarts Road.

Domestic: Vernacular Housing Types

The majority of properties documented during this survey post-dated the Civil War. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, typical house forms included buildings that were one room deep and that were defined as having either a side passage entrance or a central passage entrance. These floor plan descriptors relate to the location of the principal entrance on the front of the house. These patterns evolved during the end of the eighteenth century and matured into specific house forms throughout the nineteenth century. As architectural style changed over the course of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, these basic floor plans could be updated by changing the design elements of dormers, windows, porches, and building trim. With most

of these plans, service wings tended to be located on the rear of the building but there is a persistent tradition in Virginia of attaching service wings to the sides of a dwelling and creating a “telescope” house.

In the twentieth century, the traditional floor plans began to unravel under the influence of Queen Anne and Late Victorian architecture and under the influence of architectural writers and designers who published design manuals for modern homes. Among two forms of housing that became popular and common in James City County were the Four-Squares and bungalows. Although not usually thought of as a continuation of the traditional plans of the nineteenth century, their floor plans relate directly back to the traditions of side passage and center passage buildings.

Industry/Processing/Extraction: Marine Resources

The marine resource theme is important to James City County. The county once had a large number of fish processing plants along the James River and its tributaries. However, they have mostly disappeared and only two remain in the county. One, the Hazelwood Fish House, is on Hicks Island Road. It is an active business with a large local business. The other, Menzel’s Fish House, in on Menzels Road, is no longer in use and is in danger of demolition. Interestingly, Menzel’s is directly adjacent to the Chickahominy Shipyard Archaeological Site which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The county should encourage the continuance of the Hazelwood Fish House through programs that are already in place for general economic development. In addition, consideration should be given to placing both fish houses on the National Register of Historic Places as one method to encourage and ensure their preservation.

4.10 Preservation Planning Recommendations for James City County

4.10.1 Land Use Issues

Extensive development, primarily residential in the form of subdivisions, has been taking place in James City County in recent decades. This factor has posed and will continue to pose a threat to historic buildings in the county, most of which are residential. Privately-owned farms also have substantially diminished in the county. Tourism has developed into a major industry in James City County. Both Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens attract tens of thousands of visitors every year. The demand for tourist housing and recreational support has been tremendous and has had a significant impact on the central and southern portions of James City County. In fact, there is very little available land in those areas to which development could be directed. The county’s 1997 comprehensive plan recognizes the heavy development and addresses the need to have some management of the landscape to ensure that the county’s historic development patterns are not lost amid uncontrolled growth and development.

For instance, the Comprehensive Plan recommends that Community Character corridors and zones be established as one method to ensure that appropriate growth occurs in the county. A modern technique that other government areas term conservation zones, the intent of Community Character corridors is to develop a set of specific development and design standards and guidelines to ensure that new development is compatible with the scale and massing of the existing architectural landscape. Community Character corridors and zones are not historic districts and are not designed to function to the extent that historic districts are generally established. Rather, Community Character corridors and zones will enable the county to make determinations as to what is appropriate growth and design for a particular area.

For instance, a Grove Community Character Zone would have a set of guidelines that would recommend that new residential construction be of one or two stories and that the houses be smaller in size and located on small lots. The Community Character Zone should also recognize that some neighborhood-oriented commercial

services are needed in that area. Therefore, the zoning should permit a limited number of retail and service outlets that are of a scale which suites the Grove community.

Along Forge Road, a Community Character Zone would recommend that new residential housing be larger buildings on large tracts of land with significant amounts of open space between units or that they be clustered in such a way that open space is preserved and that the residential units are sufficiently set away from the road that the visual impacts are reduced along Forge Road.

4.10.2 Historic Preservation Plan or Element

Although the county has a comprehensive plan, it should also consider adopting a Historic Preservation Plan or element to be amended into the county's current comprehensive plan. The overall Historic Preservation element would be applicable to all historic sites in the county outside of Williamsburg. Since the format of the comprehensive plan uses separate subject areas as "elements" this would be an ideal way to easily incorporate a historic preservation component to the existing plan. Among objectives to be included in this plan should be:

1. Define local preservation issues and goals;
2. Integrate preservation goals with other goals of the County Comprehensive Plan;
3. Identify strategies and actions necessary to achieve the preservation objectives;
4. Explore tax and other financial incentives for historic rehabilitation;
5. Develop historic zoning and conservation district zoning; and
6. Establish a plan for implementation.

4.10.3 Additional Financial Incentives for Historic Preservation

Virginia, the nation, and some local governments have a variety of financial incentive programs in place that help encourage preservation. While there are some outright grants available, such funds are limited and many state and federal historic preservation incentives come in the form of tax credits and tax abatements that may be used by property owners when rehabilitating a historic structure. As part of the preservation plan, James City County should explore these untapped programs. Information is available from VDHR which has a booklet entitled "Financial Incentives Guide," and additional general information is available from the Regional Office of VDHR. MAAR Associates, Inc. has recently completed an economic development plan for Falmouth, Stafford County, Virginia, which examined a variety of financial incentives for historic preservation.

4.10.4 Certified Local Government and Historic Preservation Ordinance

The county should consider developing a historic ordinance that would allow for the designation of locally-significant sites. This should provide regulations and an advisory board to evaluate requests for development of historically significant properties. One of the county's Land Use Objectives is to "[p]reserve, protect and enhance cultural, environmental, and historic areas", and this would be in keeping with that objective. Local, state, or nationally-listed historic properties could become eligible for a number of rehabilitation tax incentives, which need further exploration for James City County.

Through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, established in the mid-1980s, local governments may become partners with VDHR. As CLGs, local governments benefit from technical assistance, training, and information from VDHR and from the National Park Service, and they have a more formal role in the state's National Register process. CLGs are eligible to apply for federal matching grants from Virginia's CLG fund. There are now thirty-one CLGs in Virginia. The grants may be used as seed money to attract funding from a local government as well as from the private sector.

4.10.5 Local History Center and Historic Study Topics

James City County should allocate or seek funds to create and maintain a local historic archive at a repository. Historic photographs of the county, when available, should be stored here and solicitations should be made to local citizens for donating such materials. For future surveys or studies, watermen, fishing, and boating are among the historic themes that have emerged from the present survey. In addition, the agricultural community and the African American community have special needs for historical studies as one method of ensuring that their contributions to James City County are preserved. Especially important for both of those communities would be an active oral history program.

4.10.6 Geographic Information System (GIS)

James City County's GIS system should be updated to show the location of all inventoried historic architectural and archaeological resources. The county should seek this data from VDHR (or subscribe to the VDHR DSS system) for use in making land use and other planning decisions. This information is available through the Data Sharing System (DSS), administered by the VDHR.

4.10.7 Archaeological Data Base

Because of the research institutions in James City County, along with the National Park Service and the Virginia Department of Parks, there has been a significant amount of archeological investigation performed in the county.

However, most of the work has been undertaken to answer specific research needs or for compliance with federal and state historic preservation regulations. There has not been a systematic archaeological survey of the county. While much of the county has been heavily developed, there are extensive tracts of open area in places that might have a high degree of archaeological potential. The county should undertake the preparation of an archeological sensitivity study that identifies areas of high potential to contain intact archaeological remains. These maps and studies should be incorporated into the county's planning process in a manner that ensures that the archeological record is recognized and protected but that does not allow the mapping project to become a tool for clandestine and unauthorized collecting and looting of archeological sites located on private or public property.

The following suggests four principal goals for the identification and protection of archaeological resources in James City County:

1. Identify areas of the county where archaeological resources are most likely to exist;
2. Describe anticipated resources and assess their potential significance;
3. Assess the integrity of the projected archaeological database; and
4. Suggest research priorities that will provide the data needed to formulate archaeologically sensitive management strategies.

5.0 REFERENCES CITED

- Allmendinger, David, F., Jr.
1990 *Edmund Ruffins Autobiographical Essays*. The Virginia Historical Society and the University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- Andrews, Matthew Page
1937 *Virginia, The Old Dominion*. Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., New York.
- Beeman, Richard R
1984 *The Evolution of the Southern Backcountry: A Case Study of Lunenburg County, Virginia 1746 - 1832*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.
- Boye, Herman
1827 *A map of the State of Virginia, reduced from the nine-sheet map of the state, in conformity to law*. Engraved by H. S. Tanner and E. B. Dawson. Copyright 31 October 1827 by W. B. Giles. Governor of Virginia. 26-1/2 by 47-1/4 inches.
- 1859 *A map of the state of Virginia, reduced from the nine-sheet map of the state, in conformity to law*. Corrected by order of the executive by L. V. Buchholtz.
- Bradshaw, Nancy Smith, ed.
1993 *Tales from James City County, Virginia Oral Histories*. The James City County Historical Commission, James City County, Virginia.
- Brownell, Charles E., Calder Loth, William M. S. Rasmussen, and Richard Guy Wilson
1992 *The Making of Virginia Architecture*. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond.
- Bruce, Kathleen
1932 *A Virginia Agricultural Decline to 1860: A Fallacy of Agricultural History*. Volume VI, Number 1, pp. 3 - 13.
- Carr, Lois Green, Philip D. Morgan, and Jean B. Russo, ed
1988 *Colonial Chesapeake Society*. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.
- Carson, Cary, Norman F. Barka, William M. Kelso, Gary Wheeler Stone, and Dell Upton
1981 *Permanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies*. *Winterthur Portfolio*. Volume 16, # 2/3, p.135-178.
- Chernichowski, Beth-Anne
1974 *Legislated Towns in Virginia, 1680-1705: Growth and Function, 1680-1780*. Masters Thesis, Department of History, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Craven, Avery Odelle
1926 *Soil Exhaustion as a Factor in the Agricultural History of Virginia and Maryland, 1606 - 1860*. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Illinois
- Dabney, Viginus
1971 *Virginia, The New Dominion: A History from 1607 to the Present*. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville.

- Daniel, Pete
1986 *Breaking the Land: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco, and Rice Cultures Since 1880*. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Illinois.
- Darby, William and Theodore Dwight, jr.
1832 *A New Gazetteer of the United States of America; containing A Copious Description of the States, Territories, Counties, Parishes, Districts, Cities and Towns - Mountains, Lakes, Rivers and Canals - Commerce, Manufacturing, Agriculture, and the Arts Generally, of the United States; embracing also the Extent, Boundaries, and Natural Production of the Principal Subdivisions, the Latitude and Longitude of Cities and Towns, and their Bearing and Distance from Important Places; including Other Interesting and Valuable Geographical, Historical, Political, and Statistical Information; with the Population of 1830*. Edward Hopkins, New York.
- Egloff, Keith & Deborah Woodward
1992 *First People: The Early Indians of Virginia*. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- Forman, Henry Chandlee
1957 *Virginia Architecture in the Seventeenth Century*. Virginia 350th Anniversary Celebration Corporation. Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Glassie, Henry
1969 *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.
- 1975 *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia; A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts*. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.
- Gray, Lewis Cecil
1958 *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860*. Two Volumes, Carnegie Institution Press of Washington, Washington, D.C.
- Greene, Jack P. and J.R. Pole
1984 *Colonial British America: Essays in the New History of the Early Modern Era*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.
- Howe, Henry
1845 *Historical Collections of Virginia; containing a collection of the most interesting facts, traditions, biographical sketches, anecdotes, &c relating to its history and antiquities, together with geographical, and statistical descriptions. To which is appended, an historical and descriptive sketch of the District of Columbia*. Babcock & Co., Charleston, South Carolina.
- Hudson, Charles
1976 *The Southeastern Indians*. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- Isaac, Rhys
1982 *The Transformation of Virginia: 1740-1790*. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.
- James City County
1977 *Heritage and Historic Sites: An Inventory and Description of Historic Sites in James City County*. James City County Department of Planning and Development, James City County, Virginia.

- Jefferson, Thomas
1787 *A Map of the Country between Albemarle Sound and Lake Erie, Comprehending the Whole of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.* John Stockdale, London.
- Jordan, Ervin L., Jr.
1995 *Black Confederates and Afro-Yankees in Civil War Virginia.* University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- Kulikoff, Allan
1986 *Tobacco and Slaves: The Development of Southern Cultures in the Chesapeake, 1680 - 1800.* University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.
- Kupperman, Karen Ordahl
2000 *Indians & English: Facing Off in Early America.* Cornell University Press, Ithaca.
- Lanier Gabrielle M. and Bernard L. Herman
1997 *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes.* The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Low, W.A.
1951 The Farmer in Post-Revolutionary Virginia, 1783 - 1789. *Agricultural History.* Volume 25, Number 3, pp. 122 - 128.
- Loth, Calder, ed
1995 *Virginia Landmarks of Black History.* University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- Lounsbury, Carl, ed.
1994 *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape.* Oxford University Press, New York.
- McCartney, Martha W.
1977 *James City County: Keystone of the Commonwealth.* The Donning Company, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- Middleton, Arthur Pierce
1984 *Tobacco Coast: A Maritime History of Chesapeake Bay in the Colonial Era.* The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Morgan, Edmund S.
1975 *American Slavery, American Freedom; The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia.* W. W. Norton & Company, New York.
- Nicholls, Michael L.
1972 *Origins of the Virginia Southside, 1703 - 1753: A Social and Economic Study.* Ph.D. Dissertation, College of William and Mary, Department of History, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Sobel, Mechal
1987 *The World They Made Together: Black and White Values in Eighteenth-Century Virginia.* Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- St. George, Robert Blair, ed

- 1988 *Material Life in America: 1600-1860*. Northeastern University Press, Boston.
- Turner, Charles W.
 1952 Virginia Agricultural Reform, 1815 – 1860: A *Agricultural History*. Volume 26, Number 3, pp. 80 - 88.
- Upton, Dell
 1982 Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Virginia. A *Wintertbur Portfolio*. Summer-Autumn: 95-119.
- 1997 *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia*. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- 1998 *Architecture in the United States*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, ed
 1986 *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. The University Press of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia.
- Vlach, John Michael
 1976 The Shotgun House: An African American legacy. *Pioneer America: Journal of Historic American Material Culture*. January-July: 47-70.
- 1993 *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Walsh, Lorena S.
 1999 Feeding Eighteenth-Century Tidewater Town Folk, or, Whence the Beef? In *Agricultural History*, Volume 3, number 3, summer 1999, Pages 267 - 280.
- Ward, Christopher
 1952 *The War of the Revolution*. The Macmillan Company, New York.
- Waterman, Thomas Tileston
 1945 *The Mansions of Virginia: 1706 - 1776*. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Yetter, George Humphrey
 1999 *Williamsburg Before and After: The Rebirth of Virginias Colonial Capital*. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia.

APPENDIX A- BASIC INVENTORY LIST- JAMES CITY COUNTY

<u>DHR#</u>	<u>Property Name/Address</u>	<u>Quad Map Location</u>
047-0034-0011	7358 Richmond Road	Norge
047-0034-0012	7301 Richmond Road	Norge
047-0034-0013	Pohawtan Motor Lodge, Richmond Road	Norge
047-0034-0014	7435 Richmond Road	Norge
047-0034-0015	7355 Richmond Road	Norge
047-0034-0016	Farmville Road	Norge
047-0062	Slater's Store, 8351 Diascund Road	Toano
047-5097	8477 Diascund Road	Toano
047-5106	Taylor Farm, 8491 Richmond Road	Toano
047-5147-0027	108 Bush Springs Road	Toano
047-5147-0041	Rising Sun Villa, 3110 Forge Road	Toano
047-5239	Diascund School, 9043 Diascund Road	Walkers
047-5246	Brick Bat School, 3743 Brickbat Road	Norge
047-5253	6798 Cranston Mill Pond	Norge
047-5254	John Henry Lee House, 122 Ron Springs Drive	Hog Island
047-5292	Interstate 64 and Route 30	Toano
047-5295	Centerville Road	Norge
047-5296	Centerville Road	Norge
047-5298	Peach Park School, 2235 Forge Road	Toano